



ANNUAL REPORT

2015/16

Thank you for your generous
support for Law Access!



Photo above: Law Access supporters take part in the Inaugural Law Access Walk for justice 17 May 2016.

Photo on cover: Bell Tower photo before the Inaugural Walk: L-R Jess Bayley, Lawyer, The Hon Wayne Martin AC, Chief Justice of Western Australia, The Hon Justice Antony Siopis, Dennis Eggington, CEO of the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA, John Corker, CEO of Australian Pro Bono Centre, Elizabeth Needham, President of the Law Society of Western Australia, The Hon Justice Stephen Thackray, Chief Judge of the Family Court of Western Australia, Rupert Johnson, Head, School of Law, Edith Cowan University, The Hon Justice Robert Mazza, Supreme Court of Western Australia, Professor Doug Hodgson, Dean of Law, University of Notre Dame, Maria Saraceni, Director, Law Access, Alex Lee-Arney, Law Student volunteer.

Contents



About Law Access	2
Board Members	2
Report from the Chairperson Community and Stakeholder Engagement	3
Report from the Manager	4
Thank You	5
Financial Statements	6
Statement of Financial Position	7
Statement of Profit or Loss	8
Statement of Changes in Equity	9
Statement of Cash Flows	10
Notes to the Financial Statements	11
Director's Declaration	15
Independent Auditor's Report	16



The Hon Wayne Martin AC, Chief Justice of Western Australia cutting the ribbon at the inaugural Law Access Walk for Justice 2016

Behind from left to right: The Hon Justice Stephen Thackray, Genevieve Cleary, Elizabeth Needham, Matthew Howard SC, Maria Saraceni, The Hon Justice Antony Siopis, David Kernohan, John Corker and Professor Jürgen Bröhmer.

About Law Access

Law Access Limited (known as Law Access) triages applications for pro bono assistance by conducting a means and merit assessment and matches meritorious applicants with pro bono lawyers.

Law Access advises unsuccessful applicants as to why their matter is not able to be referred, thereby hopefully preventing unnecessary legal costs for the applicant and Courts where an applicant may otherwise pursue an unmeritorious matter.

Law Access is a company limited by guarantee and a public benevolent institution registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission. Law Access Limited was established in December 2014 to implement the recommendations of a Lotterywest funded feasibility study *Doing The Public Good* by Kalico Consulting.

Law Access Limited commenced delivering the Law Access Pro Bono Referral Service, formerly delivered by the Law Society of Western Australia from 1 July 2015.

Board Members

Matthew Keogh, Chair

Senior Associate, Herbert Smith Freehills

Immediate Past President, the Law Society of Western Australia

Helen Creed, Director

Executive Director, Community Legal Centres Association (WA) Inc

Adam Ebell, Director and Acting Chair from 6 May 2016

State Prosecutor, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions of Western Australia

Member of Council, the Law Society of Western Australia

Alain Musikanth, Director

Barrister, Francis Burt Chambers

Senior Vice President, the Law Society of Western Australia

Maria Saraceni, Director

Barrister, Francis Burt Chambers

Past President, the Law Society of Western Australia

Report from the Chairperson Community and Stakeholder Engagement

In its first full year of operation Law Access focused on building community and stakeholder engagement.

Our Stakeholder Advisory Committee with representatives from the profession, the Courts and key stakeholders such as the Community Legal Centres' Association of WA and the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA, the five Western Australian Law Schools met four times to guide the development and direction of the new service.

In April 2016 Law Access established a Research Collaboration group as a subset of the Stakeholder Advisory Committee. This group is comprised of representatives from the five Western Australian universities to help develop the evidence base for improved pro bono service delivery in Western Australia. The group met and agreed on a research agenda and developed a proposal for the first research project addressing the gap in legal assistance for property settlement disputes for those experiencing family violence.

Law Access also participated in the WA Legal Assistance Forum, established by the parties to the National Partnership agreement for legal assistance in Western Australia.

Recruitment and recognition of pro bono lawyers

Law Access supporters recognised the pro bono contribution of lawyers and student volunteers on the inaugural Law Access Walk for Justice held on 17 May 2016. Supporters also raised valuable funds for Law Access.



Craig McKie and Fraser Robertson at the 2015 Thank You Drinks. Both are members of the Law Access Lawyers for Refugees Network who took multiple pro bono referrals in 2015/16.

Law Access continued to recruit and attract pro bono lawyers through a regular segment in the Law Society of Western Australia's weekly newsletter *Friday Facts*, by publications in the Law Society's *Brief Journal* and by establishing and supporting relevant pro bono legal networks.

Our Law Access Pro Bono Coordinators' Committee with representatives from around 20 large and medium sized firms met four times.

The Law Access Lawyers for Refugees Network met twice to discuss emerging legal and policy issues and education and training needs and opportunities. This network of more than 50 barristers, solicitors and migration agents assisted Law Access by accepting meritorious applications for judicial review of migration law decisions.

Law Access established an LGBTI network of pro bono lawyers to assist with provision of legal assistance to financial disadvantaged members of the LGBTI community. Opening Closets Training was delivered to members of the network by Living Proud.

Law Access recognised the contribution of pro bono lawyers via a thank you drinks which was generously hosted by law firm MinterEllison held on 7 December 2015.

Staffing

We started the year with only a part-time Manager and a part-



Law Access staff and law student volunteers from the University of Western Australia: L-R Katrina Williams, Principal Lawyer, Daniel Sutherland (rear) Angela Crombie (front) Dominique Hansen, Manager, Mallika Banerjee, Alex Antoniazzi (rear), Micah Kickett, Aidan Ricciardo and George Onishi.

time Principal Lawyer. Thanks to funding that we attracted through grants and donations we were able to finish the year with an additional part-time administrative officer and part-time lawyer. Fortunately we also received in-kind support via part-time secondee lawyers from Australian Government Solicitor, DLA Piper (first quarter), Jackson McDonald (third and fourth quarters) and MinterEllison. Volunteer law students from the University of Western Australia and student interns from Edith Cowan University provided further in-kind paralegal and other administrative support.

Additional Funding and In-Kind support

Law Access received a one-off grant of \$266,000 from Lotterywest announced in December 2015. On 24 February 2016, Law Access was awarded a triennial Public Purposes Trust grant of \$125,000 per annum for three years from 1 July 2016. Law Access is a Public Benevolent Institution registered with the ACNC with a charitable collections licence. In 2015/16 Law Access progressed the implementation of its fundraising plan attracting \$43,902 in donations including more than \$26,000 from the *Inaugural Law Access Walk for Justice*.

Law Access received in-kind accommodation and facilities from the University of Western Australia and insurances, in-kind communications and corporate services and reception support from the Law Society of Western Australia.

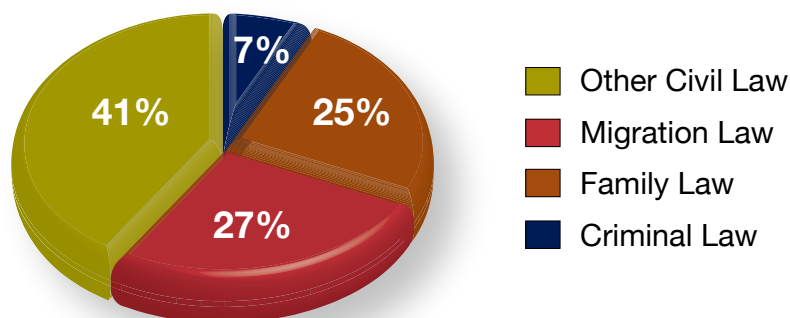
Adam Ebell
Chair

8 December 2016

Report from the Manager

We sincerely appreciate the pro bono referrals undertaken by members of the profession, the work of our volunteers and secondees, the in-kind support we receive and the funds that our Law Access supporters provide.

In 2015/16 we referred 151 matters to lawyers:



Matters we referred included a disabled beneficiary with a trust dispute, a prisoner requiring family law assistance and an Aboriginal Corporation seeking advice on a contractual dispute.

Thanks again to all our supporters for helping Law Access to make a difference.

Dominique Hansen
Manager



460

Applications*
means tested and
merit assessed



239

applicants
were advised why their
matter had no merit



151

matters placed
applicants matched
with lawyers



\$1.5 million

Estimated value of
pro bono legal services
provided during 2015/16

* remaining matters were outside guidelines,
withdrawn as the matter settled, unable to be
placed or are waiting on receipt of further
information to be assessed.

Thank You

Pro bono lawyers

To all the pro bono lawyers who took our referrals and the legal assistance service providers and stakeholders who assisted us.

Law student volunteers and interns

Eric Ai-Kit, Elma Alton-Pratt, Alex Antoniazzi, Mallika Banerjee, Natalie Connor, Angela Crombie, Kylie Hansen, Yew Han Hee, Laila Hughes, Micah Kickett, Surraya Kose, Alex Lee-Arney, Lydia Low, Jeandre Malherbe, Joseph McCormack, Manuela Payet, Aidan Ricciardo, Mhairi Stewart, Gabriela Storey, Daniel Sutherland, Genevieve Teo, Claire Tunney, Phillip White.

Seconded lawyers

Australian Government Solicitor:
David Carroll and Teresa Ling

DLA Piper:
Mathew Brown

Jackson McDonald:
Raj Logarajah and Brenna Riddout

MinterEllison:
Emily Chappelow, Minal Naran and Michael McGown

Funders for 2015/16

Public Purposes  Trust



Principal Supporters in 2015/16

The Law  Society®
— OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA —
The voice of the legal profession in Western Australia



Major Donors in 2015/16

ALLEN & OVERY

CORRS
CHAMBERS
WESTGARTH
lawyers

 Jackson
McDonald
Legal Depth | Breadth | Presence

Donors

To all those who donated to the Law Access Walk for Justice appeal, the Law Access GiveNow appeal and to the Law Society CPD presenters who elected that the Law Society make a donation to Law Access on their behalf.

In-kind supporters

Compu-Stor, Kalico Consulting, K & L Gates, Jackson McDonald and MinterEllison.



Financial Statements



Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2016

	Notes	2016 \$	2015 \$
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	7	63,546	60,000
Trade and other receivables	4	7,420	-
Prepayments		444	-
Total current assets		<u>71,410</u>	<u>60,000</u>
Non-current assets			
Office equipment		6,708	-
Total non-current assets		<u>6,708</u>	<u>-</u>
Total assets		<u>78,118</u>	<u>60,000</u>
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	5	15,002	-
Income received in advance		-	50,000
Provision for annual leave	6	22,583	-
Total current liabilities		<u>37,586</u>	<u>50,000</u>
Net assets		<u>40,532</u>	<u>10,000</u>
Equity			
Retained surplus		40,533	10,000
Total equity		<u>40,533</u>	<u>10,000</u>

The above Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Profit and Loss

As at 30 June 2016

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2016</u> <u>\$</u>	<u>2015</u> <u>\$</u>
Revenue	3	275,453	10,000
Depreciation expenses		(710)	-
Utility expenses		(818)	-
IT support expenses		(4,673)	-
Employee expenses		(211,227)	-
Travel and accommodation expenses		(5,030)	
Administrative expenses		(17,059)	
Other expenses		(5,403)	-
Surplus for the year		<u>30,533</u>	<u>10,000</u>

The above Statement of Profit and Loss should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 30 June 2016

	Retained earnings \$	Total equity \$
Balance as at 1 July 2014	-	-
Surplus for the year	10,000	10,000
Balance as at 1 July 2015	10,000	10,000
Surplus for the year	30,533	30,533
Balance as at 30 June 2016	40,533	40,533

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 30 June 2016

	Notes	2016 \$	2015 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from donations & grants		240,678	60,000
Interest and other receipts		777	-
Payments to suppliers and employees		(230,491)	-
Net cash generated by operating activities		<u>10,964</u>	<u>60,000</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for property, plants and equipment		(7,418)	-
Net cash generated by investing activities		<u>(7,418)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		<u>3,546</u>	<u>60,000</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		<u>60,000</u>	<u>-</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	7	<u>63,546</u>	<u>60,000</u>

The above Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2016

1. General information

Law Access Limited is a company limited by guarantee incorporated and domiciled in Australia. The address of its registered office is Level 4, 160 St Georges Terrace, Perth, WA Australia. The postal address for the principal place of business is M249, The University of Western Australia, 35 Stirling Highway, Crawley WA 6009. The physical address of the Principal Place of business has been supplied to the ACNC but is suppressed for publication on the ACNC website as Law Access' work is conducted remotely and members of the public/applicants are not able to attend the principal place of business in person.

The financial statements were authorised for issue by the directors on 5 August 2016.

Law Access Limited is a public benevolent institution established to coordinate the giving of free, reduced fee, or deferred fee legal advice or representation by the legal profession. The service is targeted at financially disadvantaged individuals and not-for-profits in the community in genuine need of legal assistance who satisfy a means and merits test and are unable to obtain assistance from Legal Aid or a community legal centre.

2. Summary of accounting policies

A) Basis of Preparation

These general purpose financial statements which have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012* and Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

The financial statements have been prepared on the basis of historical cost, except for certain properties and financial instruments that are measured at revalued amounts or fair values at the end of each reporting period, as explained in the accounting policies below.

Historical cost is generally based on the fair values of the consideration given in exchange for goods and services. All amounts are presented in Australian dollars, unless otherwise noted.

B) Significant accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstance, the results of which form the basis of making the judgements. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Useful lives of assets

The entity reviews the estimated useful lives of assets at the end of each reporting period.

C) Revenue

Revenue is measured at fair value of consideration received or receivable.

Revenue is recognised when the amount can be reliably measured and it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the entity.

Grant

Grants are recognised when all conditions attached to the grant have been satisfied and there is reasonable assurance that the grant will be received. When the conditions of the grants have not been satisfied it is recognised as a liability in the statement of financial position.

Donations

Donations collected are recognised when the entity gains control of the funds, usually at the time of receipt.

Interest income

Interest income is recognised on an accrual basis using the effective interest method.

D) Income Tax

Law Access Limited is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

E) Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and in hand and short-term deposits with an original maturity of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

F) Trade and Other Receivables

Trade and other receivables are measured initially at fair value then subsequently at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment.

Trade and other receivable are considered impaired when they are past due or when there are objective evidence that the entity will not be able to be able to collect the amount due.

G) Office Equipment

Office equipment are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation. The assets are depreciated over their useful lives to the entity, commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Gains or losses arising from the disposal of office equipment is the difference between the carrying amount and the disposal proceeds and recognised in profit or loss.

H) Trade and Other Payables

Trade and other payables represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the entity that are outstanding at the end of the reporting period. These amounts are usually paid in 30 days.

I) Employee Benefits

Short-term employee benefits such as annual leave, wages and salaries are expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the reporting period. The amounts are expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled.

Long-term employee benefits such as long-service leave are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the reporting period. The amount is measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made to employees, with consideration to anticipated future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and period of service. Expected future payments are discounted with reference to market yields at the end of the reporting period using corporate bonds with terms to maturity close to the estimated future cash outflows.

As at 30 June 2016, long service leave (contingent liability) totaling \$10,083 has been accrued by Law Access Limited which will not be payable until early 2019.

J) Provision

Provisions are recognised when the entity has a present obligation (legal or constructive) as a result of a past event, it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate can be made of the obligation.

K) Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognized net of the amount of GST except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Tax Office. In these circumstances, the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in are shown inclusive of GST.

3. Revenue

	2016 \$	2015 \$
Donations	43,952	10,000
Grants	230,176	-
Sponsorship	1,000	-
Interest Income	325	-
Total Revenue	275,453	10,000

4. Trade and other receivables

Current		
Trade debtors	600	-
Accrued Income	3,300	-
Other receivables	3,520	-
	7,420	-

5. Trade and other payables

Current		
Trade debtors	5,702	-
Accrued expenses	2,349	-
Other payables	6,951	-
	15,002	-

6. Provisions

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Current		
Employee benefits	22,583	-
	<u>22,583</u>	<u>-</u>

7. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash at bank and on hand	14,269	60,000
Short-term deposits	49,277	-
	<u>63,546</u>	<u>-</u>

Reconciliation of profit for the year to net cash flows from operating activities

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Surplus for the year	30,533	10,000
<i>Non-cash flows in operating surplus:</i>		
Depreciation of non-current assets	710	-
<i>Net changes in working capital:</i>		
(Increase)/decrease in trade receivables	(7,420)	-
Increase in other assets	(444)	-
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	15,002	-
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	22,583	-
Increase/(decrease) in income in advance	(50,000)	50,000
Net cash generated by operating activities	<u>10,964</u>	<u>60,000</u>

Directors' Declaration

The Directors declare that in the Directors' opinion:

- a. there are reasonable grounds to believe that Law Access Limited will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable; and
- b. the attached financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Directors made pursuant to subsection 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Regulation 2013.

On behalf the Directors.

X

Adam Ebell
Director

Date:

20/9/16.

Independent Audit Report

To the members of Law Access Limited

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Law Access Limited which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2016, the statement of profit and loss for the year then ended, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended that date, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the declaration by directors.

The Responsibility of directors for the Financial Report

The directors of the entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with relevant accounting standards and the financial reporting requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. The directors' responsibility also includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report 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 controls. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

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

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

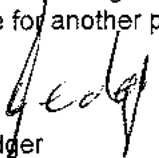
Audit opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of Law Access Limited is in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of the entity's financial position as at 30 June 2016 and of its performance for the year ended on that date.
- b) complying with relevant accounting standards contained in Subdivision 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Regulation 2013;

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describe the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the director's financial reporting responsibility under the Constitution. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.


RG Ledger
Chartered Accountant
Registered Company Auditor

5 AUGUST 2016

GREG LEDGER PTY LTD

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

ABN 63 066 718 134

PO Box 565
Wembley, WA 6913

Suite 3, 20 Altona Street
West Perth, WA 6005

Telephone+(08) 9322 1114
Facsimile + (08) 9322 1134

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

5 August 2016

The Directors
Law Access Limited
4th Floor, 160 St Georges Terrace
Perth WA 6000

AUDITOR INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

This declaration is made in connection with the audit of the financial report of Law Access Limited for the year ended 30 June 2016 and in accordance with the requirements of Subdivision 60-C of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- No contravention of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the audit; and
- No contravention of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Yours sincerely



Ross Gregory Ledger
Chartered Accountant
Registered Company Auditor



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