



community
legal centre

2023
ANNUAL
REPORT

community
legal centre
ity

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands on which we work and live. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as first people. They have never ceded sovereignty, and remain strong in their enduring connection to land, water and culture.

Caring for local people since 1979, Mallee Family Care promotes strong, connected and inclusive communities by embedding diversity and equity practices at the centre of everything we do.



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Community Services Manager & Principal Solicitor's Report

Over the past year, the Mallee Family Care Community Legal Centre (MFC CLC) has experienced a period of significant growth and innovation. Our expanded capacity, capabilities, and outreach to the community has been at the forefront of our focus. Our dedicated team have demonstrated remarkable resilience, and continued commitment and care to serving our clients and the community.

Throughout 2022 and 2023, MFC CLC has continued to integrate the Family Advocacy Support Service (FASS) and the Domestic Violence Unit - Health Justice Partnership - Mental Health Service (DVU-HJP MH) into our operations. We are proud to have secured the opportunity to deliver the Victims Legal Service (VLS), a program supported by the Department of Justice and Community Safety since March 2023. Additionally, our DVU-HJP funding has expanded to include the Early Intervention Investment Framework (EIIF), aiming to assist individuals with complex needs in remote areas to access the justice system, reinforcing our commitment to holistic service provision.

Our Community Legal Educator (CLE) and Community Engagement (CE) Worker have visited numerous towns, engaged in presentations, and provided legal education to various community groups across 8 local government areas, including some outside of our catchment area. We have observed the community uniting in response to the November floods, with certain areas significantly affected and currently undergoing recovery.

Under the guidance of John Tadros, Principal Solicitor, the MFC CLC underwent a significant transformation through the adoption of electronic file management. Since November 2022, we have transitioned to a paperless system, recording all data on the new digital database. While the shift in file management required extensive development, experimentation, and training, it has proved to be a beneficial and successful enhancement, ensuring efficient record-keeping and file management.

Investment in staff development remains a key priority, particularly with the introduction of new programs such as VLS and FASS. Our team has actively participated in advocacy training, conferences, workshops, and internal knowledge-sharing sessions, striving to enhance our capabilities and quality of service delivery. Additionally, the MFC CLC has been involved in several Law reform activities including Family Law Amendment Bill 2023, Coercive Control Consultation, Royal Commission Event - Victorian Veterans Family Service (VVFS) and the Industry Funding Model for Financial Counselling.

MFC CLC further integrated the Outcomes Measurement Framework into the program. This included obtaining client reflections post-support and worker observations being recorded. The process has been extremely beneficial to the program, highlighting areas of improvement and gaining positive and encouraging feedback from clients. Through this process, the MFC CLC is able to measure how effective the services are in improving the capabilities and wellbeing of clients who engage with our services.

The main challenge for the MFC CLC has been recruiting solicitors, especially due to our rural location. However, despite staff shortages and demanding circumstances, the MFC CLC team work hard to consistently deliver results and we remain dedicated to promoting the Mallee as an excellent place to live and work in Victoria.

As we look ahead, we are eager to continue delivering our services to the Mallee communities, to ensure that everyone in our community has access to justice and the legal system.

Corrina Graham, Manager Community Services
John Tadros, Principal Solicitor



Intake

This year, the Mallee Family Care Community Legal Centre (MFC CLC) shifted from using “call backs” for client bookings to implementing a dedicated Intake Worker responsible for thorough assessments. This change has enabled clients to receive comprehensive support during the intake process, allowing our team to identify and address additional support needs beyond legal matters such as, navigating the service system, paperwork completion, and referral pathways.

The introduction of face-to-face intakes on a weekly basis with our Intake Worker has assisted

clients who, lack access to a phone, or reside or work in areas with poor phone signals, as well as those with specific requirements are better suited for in-person assistance. This approach has been particularly beneficial for vulnerable clients who may not have otherwise accessed legal assistance.

Our Intake Worker also facilitates appointments with MFC CLC social workers either in person or through virtual platforms, ensuring continued support regardless of location or circumstances.

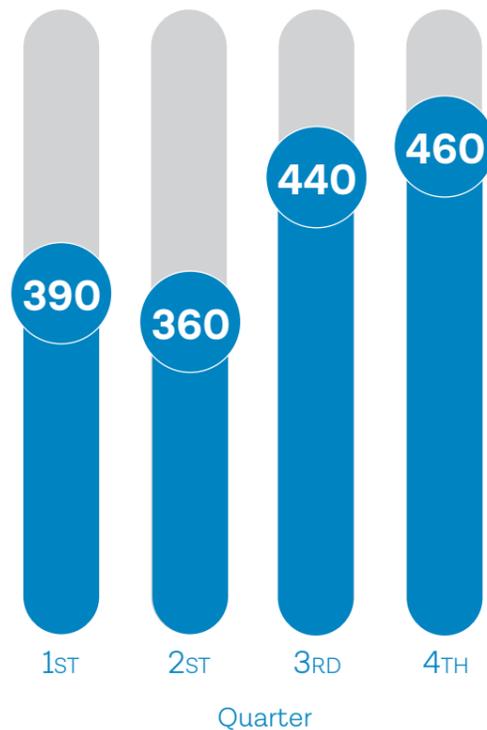
Key Statistics

The average time between the initial contact and the scheduled appointment was as follows:

- 4.2 days from July 2022 to December 2022
- 6.8 days from January 2023 to June 2023

This increase is linked to the notable rise in demand during this reporting period and the shift to a thorough intake process for all service users.

Number of Intakes
Jun 30, 2022 – July 1, 2023



Jayden Seamer, Leanne Bosman, Lauren Moore, Samantha Stitt and Sarah Taha

Intervention Order Support Service (IOSS)

Mallee Family Care Community Legal Centre (MFC CLC) provides an Intervention Order Support Service (IOSS) catering to individuals from diverse communities who face family violence and are initiating a family violence intervention order application in court against their perpetrator.

The MFC CLC offers duty-based assistance at Mildura, Kerang, Robinvale, and Swan Hill Magistrates' Courts.

The service offers a holistic, integrated framework approach which involves a Family Violence Social Worker who provides emotional support during

client appointments and facilitates referrals to other services when necessary.

The service primarily operates in-person, however affected family members can participate remotely through the audio-visual link, overseen by the Magistrates' Court Remote Hearing Practitioner. This remote approach also ensures that victim survivors can engage in the legal process in a secure and less distressing manner. The recent implementation of the Magistrates' Court's new online referral service further supports this initiative.

Key Statistics

- Provided support to 122 individuals
- 86.1% were facing financial challenges
- 13.2% were from Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander communities
- Among those experiencing family violence:
 - 41% sought assistance for family law matters
 - 80% sought assistance for civil or criminal law matters



“10/10 for service. I wouldn’t be where I am if it weren’t for Mallee Family Care Legal, thank you.”

Client feedback

Generalist Service

Mallee Family Care Community Legal Centre (MFC CLC) operates as a generalist service, delivering legal advice, information and representation for a diverse range of legal matters. These include assistance with consumer issues, credit and debt challenges, traffic offences and fines, employment disputes, family law cases and welfare rights.

This year, we have seen transitions within our team, welcoming new, knowledgeable Solicitors to reinforce our commitment and dedication to support people in the Mallee region.

Our generalist Solicitors have been managing a wide range of legal issues and can tap into specialised Community Legal Centre’s (CLCs) throughout Victoria for intricate cases requiring a specific approach. Some of these specialised CLCs include JobWatch, InTouch Multicultural Centre Against Family Violence, Tenants Victoria, Mental Health Legal Centre, and Youthlaw.

In the Northern Mallee, the service maintained regular outreach in the towns of Dareton (NSW) and Robinvale, as well as local organisations in Mildura, including Sunraysia Institute of TAFE, Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council (SMECC), and Mallee District Aboriginal Services (MDAS).

Our Solicitor based in Swan Hill conducted outreach programs into the towns of Kerang, Buloke LGA and Gannawarra LGA. Organisations included local Neighbourhood Houses and Headspace Swan Hill, Mallee District Aboriginal Services (MDAS), as well as attending community events.

Our Solicitors found the primary presenting issues across both the Northern and Southern Mallee to be civil law - others, child contacts or contact orders, property in marriage, parenting plans, and family or domestic violence. As the demand for legal appointments rise, our Solicitors remain dedicated to providing a professional and expert service.

Case Study

The client’s property was affected by flooding, resulting in damage to the carpets and floorboards. Despite the situation, the insurance company rejected the client’s claim. Given the urgency of the matter, the client sought immediate guidance on dealing with the insurer, as there was a time-sensitive Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) reestablishment grant available, with a two-week deadline. With the client’s consent, the Solicitor communicated with DFFH regarding the Grant, and also referred the client to the Financial Counselling team. The client was advised to pursue the DFFH grant, and if unsuccessful, consider the possibility of our team pursuing the insurer on their behalf. The client’s application with DFFH proved successful, covering the costs of the repairs. As a result, we advised against pursuing the insurer, as the client did not incur any out-of-pocket expenses.

Key Statistics

- Delivered 485 discrete legal services
- Facilitated 499 referrals
- Provided ongoing legal support/representation to 43 people

Domestic Violence Unit/Health Justice Partnership (DVU/HJP)

The Domestic Violence Unit/Health Justice Partnership (DVU/HJP), a program within the Mallee Family Care Community Legal Centre (MFC CLC) offers a comprehensive approach to supporting victim survivors of family violence within an integrated practice framework. The specialist DVU team includes a family violence solicitor, family violence social worker, and family violence financial counsellor.

The Family Violence Financial Counsellor aids those adversely affected by family violence, assisting with debt waivers, financial applications, and other necessary support. The Family Violence Solicitor advocates for legal matters, including Intervention Orders and Family Law concerns. The Family Violence Social Worker provides support to victim survivors through advocacy, client coordination, risk management, and safety planning. Additionally, the social worker is available to provide support and assistance in court proceedings and general MFC CLC appointments where family violence is a concern.

Operating within an integrated practice framework, the service caters to victim survivors of family violence in the MFC CLC catchment area, referred through The Orange Door, the Mallee Sexual Assault Unit, Mallee Domestic Violence Services, and other relevant family violence organisations. Adopting a trauma-informed approach, the service offers legal and financial advocacy, addressing the specific needs of victim survivors.

Additionally, the service provides on-site support at the MFC CLC office and conducts regular outreach at The Orange Door Mildura, Mallee Sexual Assault Unit, Domestic Violence Service offices in Mildura and Swan Hill, and the family violence refuge in Mildura.

The DVU/HJP service has experienced significant growth in client advocacy, highlighting the prevalence of financial abuse among victim survivors in the community. This service has efficiently coordinated assistance to support victim survivors who are emotionally and financially vulnerable.

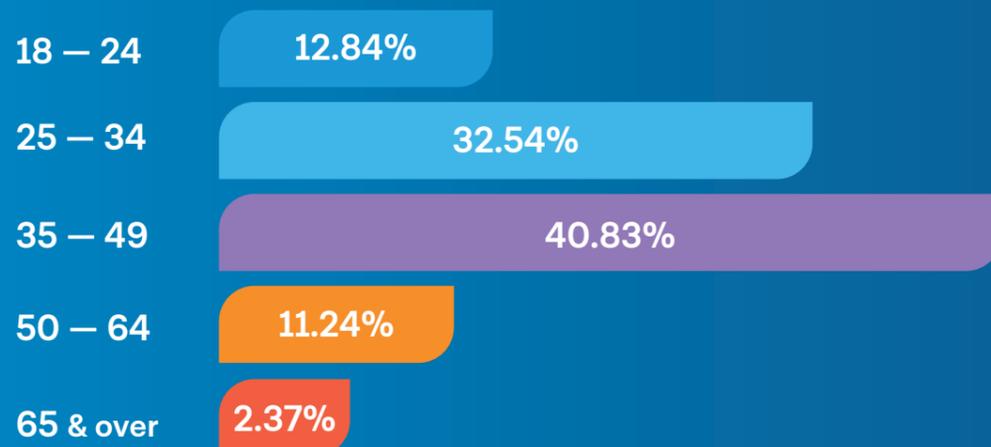


Sarah Taha, Bernadette Brougham and Leanne Bosman

Key Statistics

- Offered 164 legal services
- Provided 132 non-legal services through the Family Violence Social Worker and the Family Violence Financial Counsellor
- Facilitated 139 referrals

Age Range



Case Study

The client recently departed a long-term relationship, taking her two children with her. Throughout the relationship, there was a history of family violence, including physical and verbal abuse, sexual assault, and controlling behaviours, leading to involvement from child protection services and the police. Seeking support, the client approached The Orange Door, where a worker identified both legal and financial issues and subsequently made a referral to the MFC CLC.

Demonstrating the integrated practice framework, the MFC CLC staff utilised their specific areas of expertise.

The Solicitor drafted letters and provided assistance with Court-related matters, including representation, case conferences, and negotiations.

The Financial Counsellor supported the client to have debts waived, which were incurred due to family violence, in addition to providing financial support for daily living expenses.

The Social Worker offered emotional support, ensuring the client felt heard and understood, and identified potential safety concerns during appointments, providing guidance for the client and her children’s well-being. Additionally, the social worker offered insights to the MFC CLC Solicitor, guiding their decision-making in legal matters.

As of now, the client has sought assistance from a private Lawyer to pursue parenting and property issues, has obtained an active Intervention Order for herself and her children’s protection.

“Having the Solicitor and Social Worker helping me made it all that much more bearable. Thank you so much for giving me my life back.”

Client feedback

Domestic Violence Unit/Health Justice Partnership (DVU/HJP) Mental Health Service

In June 2022, Mallee Family Care Community Legal Centre (MFC CLC) expanded its Domestic Violence Unit/Health Justice Partnership (DVU/HJP) to include a Mental Health Social Worker. The support provided by the mental health social worker and the holistic approach of our service delivery has been greatly highlighted. This broader service offering resonates with the findings of the 2021 Victorian Royal Commission into the Mental Health system, highlighting the adverse impact on individuals' mental health and well-being following engagements with the legal and justice system.

The Federation of Community Legal Centre's Mental Health; Integrated Practice Model outlines various factors contributing to these challenges. These include insufficient funding for legal services, a failure to recognise issues as legal matters requiring advice, individuals feeling overwhelmed by

their legal concerns, the perceived inaccessibility of legal action, distrust of legal service providers—especially among those diagnosed with mental health issues—and the physical environment and office procedures of legal services proving inaccessible.

In response to this, the DVU/HJP Mental Health service operates as an integrated practice model, where the Solicitor and Social Worker collaborate with the client on their legal matters. In some cases, clients prefer to meet with the Social Worker before the legal appointment to alleviate anxiety or emotional distress. This proactive approach has proven beneficial, allowing clients to focus more clearly on their legal concerns.

Key Statistics

Supported 63 people

- Female 68%
- Male 32%

Top 5 problem types

- 1 Other civil matters
- 2 Property matters in marriage
- 3 Child contacts or contact orders
- 4 Credit and debt issues (other)
- 5 Neighbourhood disputes and complaints about neighbours



“I felt heard for the first time in a long time. Thank you to my Solicitor and Social Worker, they were wonderful.”

Client feedback

Case Study

A client initially sought assistance from our Solicitor regarding a neighbourhood dispute, but the client's emotional distress hindered clear instructions to the Solicitor during the appointment. With the client's consent, the Solicitor referred the client to our Mental Health Social Worker. An off-site appointment and assessment revealed various issues affecting the client's daily functioning and mental health, including heightened symptoms of anxiety and depression. Together, a plan was created to help the client improve their mental health, so that they had less impact on their day-to-day life.

In a subsequent appointment with the Solicitor, the client requested the presence of the Social Worker. This time, the client effectively discussed their situation, enabling the Solicitor to draft a letter to the neighbour. Recognising the need for ongoing support, a referral was initiated to the Mallee Family Care Community Mental Health Program for the client.



Sarah Taha, Bernadette Brougham, Sarah Merry, Robyne Rundell, Allie Collier, Deb Thompson and Christine Bishop

Family Advocacy and Support Services (FASS)

Family Advocacy and Support Services (FASS) is an integrated duty lawyer and social worker service supporting individuals impacted by domestic and family violence, currently dealing with family law matters in court. This service is also available to extended family members, including carers.

FASS was established in 2017 in major family law court registries around Australia with funding from the Commonwealth Government.

In July 2022, FASS expanded to seven Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (FCFCOA) circuit locations in regional Victoria including Mildura Circuit.

Mallee Family Care Community Legal Centre (MFC CLC) has a dedicated team of three Solicitors who assist with the delivery of FASS Duty Lawyer

Service. The FASS duty lawyers provide essential support by extending legal advice, preparing court documents, and representing clients in select instances. Additionally, they offer assistance to clients involved in ongoing cases, provided they adhere to our casework guidelines.

The service is accessible every alternate Tuesday through remote sessions via Microsoft Teams, as well as during the in-person Mildura Circuit for a week in February, May, and November Circuit lists.

The support from FASS funding resulted in an increase in our intake. Over the course of the year, assistance was provided to 12 clients, 3 of whom were involved in ongoing litigation cases within the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia. Our services covered a diverse range of family law matters, including parenting disputes, airport

watch list matters, divorce proceedings, and property disputes.

The ongoing availability of the FASS service holds immense importance in our region due to the substantial caseload involving family law and family violence issues. FASS operates as a comprehensive service, supporting clients in their journey towards transformation by addressing not only legal matters but also delving into non-legal issues and tackling the root causes of legal problems. Through our integrated approach, our FASS clients have also benefited from the valuable assistance of our social worker, financial counsellor, and housing services, creating a holistic support system for them.

Case Study

We offered crucial support to vulnerable clients in small property matters, often left unfunded by Legal Aid and financially unfeasible for private payment. Through our advocacy, we successfully negotiated favourable property settlements for our clients within a short period. The free nature of our service allowed our clients to retain the entirety of their settlement funds.

Victims Legal Service (VLS)

In 2023, Mallee Family Care Community Legal Centre (MFC CLC) successfully secured the opportunity to deliver the Victims Legal Service (VLS).

The Victims Legal Service (VLS) offers legal advice, casework, and referrals for victims dealing with the Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal (VOCAT). VOCAT, a Victorian government-funded scheme, provides financial assistance to crime victims, offering a platform for them to share their experiences to help them recover.

VOCAT distinguishes itself as a tribunal situated within a court structure, comprising judicial officers with concurrent roles in the Magistrates' Court. This arrangement ensures that victims of crime can receive recognition of their experiences within the criminal justice system, however in a flexible, informal and intimate manner afforded by an administrative tribunal.

In 2024, a new Victims of Crime Financial Assistance Scheme (the Scheme) will replace VOCAT. This scheme allows victims more time to apply, offers increased financial assistance, and acknowledges harm through victim recognition statements.

The VLS is available to victims facing financial hardship or dealing with complex issues like vulnerability, mental health, or homelessness. MFC CLC is responsible for delivering and supporting services to victims of crime in the Loddon Mallee region. This includes the City of

Greater Bendigo, Mildura Rural City, Macedon Ranges Shire, Campaspe Shire, Swan Hill Rural City, Mount Alexander Shire, Central Goldfields Shire, Gannawarra Shire, Loddon Shire and Buloke Shire. MFC CLC also covers areas outside of our catchment including Barwon and Hume Greater Shepparton areas.

While the VLS only started in 2023, it's already making an impact. The service has received a number of referrals from stakeholders and subsequently assisted a number of victims of crime with advice in relation to their rights and entitlements, including information concerning the new Scheme. As a result, several victims have chosen to await the launch of the new Scheme in 2024 due to its benefits. Others have opted to be referred to services nearer to their area code for more suitable assistance, including the option for face-to-face appointments. Additionally, some victims who had already submitted their applications and possessed the capacity to self-manage sought general support or advice regarding the progress of their applications.

The service has also supported victims of crime by offering legal advice to empower them in making informed decisions and providing casework when necessary. Feedback from victims supported by MFC CLC indicates a sense of being heard, respected, validated, and appreciated for the recognition of their experiences.

Key Statistics

- Children or young people: 3
- Older people: 1
- Rural/regional/remote communities: 5
- Clients experiencing homelessness: 2
- Clients with disability: 13
- Clients experiencing family violence: 9
- Clients experiencing mental health issues: 3
- Number of separate applications for children/young people: 2



Sarah Merry, Tania Pearce and Allie Collyer

Community Engagement

The introduction of our Community Engagement (CE) role has greatly strengthened the outreach capabilities of our Mallee Family Care Community Legal Centre (MFC CLC) service, offering essential support to our Community Legal Educator (CLE) in rural and remote areas of the Mallee region. A primary focus of the CE is to strengthen our stakeholder engagement, network, and participate in events, working closely with the CLE and other members of the MFC CLC team.

The CE functions as a key link for MFC CLC outreach initiatives in Dareton, Robinvale, and at the Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council (SMECC). Through active participation in events, networking meetings, and interagency activities, the CE establishes connections for our Solicitors with potential referrals and promoting our services to stakeholders.

Using network meetings as a platform to promote our services and gain insights into our catchment, our CE attended over 30 events where crucial

stakeholder engagements occurred, particularly with new workers and agencies. Stakeholder engagement in the Hindmarsh and Yarriambiack Local Government Areas (LGAs) has been initiated, and opportunities are already emerging in this area.

The collaborative efforts of the CLE and CE roles has been evident in our Neighbourhood House Project. Neighbourhood Houses, as social hubs in rural and remote communities, play a crucial role in connecting disengaged, isolated, and vulnerable individuals to supports. The combined efforts of the CE and CLE, especially in engaging with rural and remote Neighbourhood Houses, have proven highly impactful in discussing our services and promoting our free Community Legal Education sessions to these areas.

The CE remains committed to strengthening our partnerships and relationships with key stakeholders, ensuring an ongoing presence in community is maintained to promote our services.



100 information sessions delivered to **1699** People over **9200** kilometres travelled

Allie Collyer
Community Legal Education Worker

Community Legal Education

Throughout the year, our Community Legal Education (CLE) program has reached a significant milestone, with a record of 100 information sessions delivered to community. These sessions have had a wide reach, connecting with almost 1,700 community members across 29 different postcodes, marking an expansion of our program's presence in not just the Mallee region, but other locations outside of our catchment area.

In response to Victoria's new affirmative consent laws, our Consent Information Sessions saw a high increase of demand. We conducted 45 sessions, addressing consent and legal aspects of sharing intimate images. Positive feedback from the sessions indicated our success in delivering clear, non-judgmental information, meeting the urgent needs of young people in our community.

With a rise in scams, especially affecting the elderly, one of our main focuses was delivering Scam Information Sessions in remote regional areas. 12 information sessions were delivered in remote areas including Donald, Quambatook, Wycheproof, Hopetoun, Boort, and Ouyen, alongside several

sessions in Mildura. The primary objective in these sessions is to help seniors with identifying the increasingly sophisticated scams and prevent them from falling victim. Unfortunately, attendees often shared their own experiences of significant financial losses, highlighting the ongoing need for this CLE initiative.

Community engagement remained a priority, with our participation in events reaching nearly 3,300 individuals. From celebrating LGBTQIA+ communities at IDAHOBIT events to connecting with carers at the Red Cliff's Carers Expo, our presence at events continues to promote our services and assists with establishing informal connections. These efforts contribute to our broader outreach strategy, effectively promoting MFC CLC services.

The combined efforts of the CLE and Community Engagement (CE) team resulted in the successful delivery of 303 activities, including presentations, events, stakeholder meetings, and informal engagements, this collaborative approach reached over 6,600 people.

Key Statistics

- 100 information sessions presented to 1,699 individuals, spanning a distance of over 9,200 kilometers
- Visited 29 postcodes across 9 local government areas.
- Attended 34 events.
- Collaboratively, Community Legal Education (CLE) and Community Engagement (CE) delivered a total of 303 activities, reaching 6,649 people.
- In consent sessions:
 - 86% reported improved or much-improved knowledge.
 - 81% indicated learning something new.

Board of Directors Audit, Finance & Risk Committee



Ross Lake OAM

Chair

Qualifications

Bachelor of Law, Bachelor of Economics, Diploma of Education

Experience

Board member for most of the period since the inception of Mallee Family Care in 1984. Mr Lake holds a number of other Directorships including the Mallee Regional Innovation Centre Strategic Advisory Panel and Institute of Post Colonial Studies.



Jenna Yetman

Deputy Chair

Qualifications

Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting), Bachelor of Laws and Legal Practice, Company Directors Course

Experience

Ms Yetman was appointed Deputy Chair in 2020.



Christine Cottrell

Chair Audit, Finance & Risk Committee

Qualifications

Graduate Certificate in Business Administration

Experience

Ms Cottrell has spent 20 years working in Not-For-Profit Services including Australian Institute of Company Directors, Australian Sonographers Association and Royal Australasian College of Medical Administrators. Ms Cottrell currently holds a Directorship with Mildura Community House.



Geoff Dea

Qualifications

Bachelor of Business (Accounting), CPA

Experience

Mr Dea is the CEO of Sunraysia Institute of TAFE and is a member of the Board and Audit Committee of Mildura Regional Development.



Eelco Vugs

Qualifications

Masters in Mental Health, Masters in Criminology Experience

Experience

Mr Vugs has more than 15 years' experience in child protection and safeguarding roles for both government and non-government organisations in Australia and overseas.



Dr Chelsea Todd

Qualifications

Bachelor of Psychology (Hons), Doctor of Philosophy, and has completed the Advanced Leadership Program with the Australian School of Applied Management.

Experience

Chelsea has worked as a senior researcher and evaluation officer at Universities and Government Departments in South Australia as well as in policy and Management within Victorian Government Departments.



Belinda Hudak

Qualifications

Masters of Leadership & Management, Bachelor of Education, Bachelor of Arts

Experience

Belinda is the Principal of Mildura Senior College. Belinda was appointed Principal in June 2017. She is also on the board of the Northern Mallee Local Learning Employment Network, Independent Chair of Mildura headspace Consortium and the Mallee representative of the State-wide Committee of the Victorian Association of Secondary School Principals.



Dr Suriya Hariprakash

Qualifications

MBBS, DCH, MRCP (Paediatrics), MRCPCH, CCT in Paediatrics and Paediatric Intensive Care Medicine, FPCCM, FRACP

Experience

Dr. Hariprakash is the Senior Staff Specialist in Paediatrics and the Clinical Director of Paediatrics at Mildura Base Public Hospital. He received the Lucas Excellence Award in recognition of his contribution to the health and wellbeing of children in this region. Dr. Hariprakash is a member of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and the Australian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy.



Dr Andrew Kremor

(Resigned June, 2023)

Qualifications

PhD (Engineering Geology), Master of Business Administration, GAIDC

Experience

Dr Kremor has held various executive and non-executive directorships with private and public companies including Zero Emissions Water, Salinity Accountability Advisory Committee, Babcock and Brown Finance, Flinders Power, Sparq Solutions, Alinta Energy, Allgas Networks, Energy Networks Association and Windmill Performing Arts Company. Dr Kremor is a General Manager at the Murray Darling Basin Authority.



Don Wall

Independent Member, Audit, Finance and Risk Committee

Qualifications

A bachelor's degree in business.

Experience

Don has been a member of the Risk and Audit Committee of Mallee Family Care since 2019 and has extensive experience in high-risk industries within the resource sector throughout Australia. Before retiring and relocating to Mildura, Don worked as a Risk Management Officer for a large council in Adelaide.



Greg Gooch

(Retired June, 2023)

Independent Member, Audit, Finance and Risk Committee

Qualifications

A bachelor's degree in business.

Experience

Greg has been on the MFC Audit, Finance and Risk Committee since February 2017. Greg has in excess of 37 years' experience in public practice. He has been a partner of Findex Accountants for the last 29 years and his diverse experience and broad knowledge enables him to create financial strategies for his clients.



2023 International Women's Day
Allie Collyer, Christine Bishop and Tania Pearce

Our Team

Corrina Graham
Manager Community Services

Emily Craig
Generalist Solicitor

Bernadette Brougham
Financial Counsellor

John Tadros
Principal Solicitor

Katie Mliswa
Generalist Solicitor

Allie Collyer
Community Education Worker

Leanne Bosman
Family Violence Solicitor

Sarah Taha
Social Worker

Tania Pearce
Community Engagement Worker

Lauren Moore
Generalist Solicitor

Sarah Merry
Community Services Intern

Robyne Rundell
Intake And Assessment
Coordinator

Jayden Seamer
Generalist Solicitor

Rhianna Vagg-McEwen
Community Services Intern

Debbie Thompson
Administration Officer

Samantha Stitt
Generalist Solicitor

Christine Bishop
Social Worker



2022 16 Days of Activism
Bernadette Brougham, Sarah Taha, Leanne Bosman and John Tadros

Financial Report

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO MALLEE FAMILY CARE LTD

We have audited the accompanying financial statements ("the Statement") of Mallee Family Care Community Legal Centre for the financial year ended 30 June 2023. The Statement has been prepared by management using the basis of accounting as outlined in Note 1 of the Statement.

Managements' Responsibility for the Statement

Management is responsible for the preparation of the Statement in accordance with the basis of accounting as outlined in Note 1, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a Statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

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

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the Statement. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the Statement, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of the Statement in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates, if any, made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the Statement.

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

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO MALLEE FAMILY CARE LTD

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements of Mallee Family Care Community Legal Centre for the financial year ended 30 June 2023 is prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the basis of accounting as outlined in the Note 1.

Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution and Use

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to the terms and conditions of the Agreement between Commonwealth of Australia, Victoria Legal Aid and Mallee Family Care Community Legal Centre, which describes the basis of accounting. The Statement has been prepared to assist Mallee Family Care Community Legal Centre to meet the requirements of the Service Agreement. As a result, the Statement may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for Mallee Family Care Community Legal Centre, Mallee Family Care Ltd and Victoria Legal Aid and should not be distributed to any other parties.



William Buck (SA)
ABN: 38 280 203 274



G. W. Martinella
Partner

Dated this 27th day of September, 2023.

Mallee Family Care Community Legal Centre Consolidated Income and Expenditure Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Consolidated		
<i>Surplus/Deficit From Previous Year</i>		
Surplus/Deficit from previous year	288,590	423,536
Approved Expenditure from Surplus	-	-
Net Surplus Deficit from previous year	288,590	423,536
<i>CLSP Income</i>		
Commonwealth	1,478,238	1,317,583
State	440,748	376,333
Service Generated Income	7,170	750
Total CLSP Income	1,926,156	1,694,666
CLSP General Purpose Income (Total CLSP Income plus Net Surplus /Deficit)	2,214,746	2,118,202
<i>CLSP Expenses</i>		
Salaries	1,315,915	1,199,235
Superannuation	137,801	117,411
On Costs	23,571	15,374
Rent	70,326	66,699
Repairs and Maintenance	4,348	3,469
Other Premises Costs	45,579	44,973
Staff Training	31,393	10,014
Staff Recruitment	3,143	30,290
Communications	4,180	3,392
Office Overheads	17,317	47,179
Insurance	-	-
Finance, Audit & Accounting Fees	-	-
Library, Resources & Subscriptions	15,566	19,772
Travel	49,778	29,770
Programming and Planning	160,111	137,336
Client Disbursements	-	-
Leases	-	5,681
Minor Equipment	-	2,022
Auspicing or Management Fee	84,831	96,995
Salary and Related Expenses	1,477,288	1,332,020
Total Operating Expenses	486,572	497,592
Total CLSP Expenses	1,963,860	1,829,612
Surplus/Deficit for Current Year	(37,704)	(134,946)
<i>Other Income (Not to be added to CLSP Funds Surplus/Deficit)</i>		
Total Funds received from Other Bodies	-	-
Less Actual Capital Expenditure in Current Year	-	-
Surplus /Deficit for Next Year	250,886	288,590

**Mallee Family Care Community Legal Centre
Balance Sheet As At 30 June 2023**

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Current Assets		
National Australia Bank Operating Account	379,322	391,275
Total Current Assets	379,322	391,275
Total Assets	379,322	391,275
Current Liabilities		
Creditors		
- Accrued Wages	27,663	19,119
- Employee Entitlements		
- Annual Leave	51,206	42,705
- Long Service Leave	20,442	18,070
Total Current Liabilities	99,311	79,894
Non-Current Liabilities		
Employee Entitlements		
- Long Service Leave	24,247	17,913
Total Non-Current Liabilities	24,247	17,913
Total Liabilities	123,558	97,807
Net Assets	255,764	293,468
Accumulated Funds		
Retained Surplus/(deficit) at Beginning of Year	293,468	428,414
Surplus/(deficit) for Year	(37,704)	(134,946)
Total Accumulated Funds	255,764	293,468

**Mallee Family Care Community Legal Centre
Cashflow Statement For the Year Ended 30 June 2023**

	2023 \$ Inflows (Outflows)	2022 \$ Inflows (Outflows)
Cash flows from operating activities		
Receipts		
Operating grants from Government	2,110,885	1,863,308
Other income	7,887	825
	2,118,772	1,864,133
Payments		
Payments to employees	(1,451,537)	(1,299,186)
Payments to suppliers and providers	(535,229)	(547,351)
GST paid	(143,958)	(119,707)
	(2,130,725)	(1,966,244)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(11,953)	(102,112)
Net increase (decrease) in cash for the year	(11,953)	(102,112)
Cash at beginning of financial year	391,275	493,387
Cash at end of financial year	379,322	391,275
(a) Reconciliation of net cash from operating activities to surplus from operating activities:		
Net (deficit) surplus for the year	(37,704)	(134,946)
Add (Less):		
Increase (Decrease) in employee provisions	17,207	28,143
Increase (Decrease) in creditors	8,544	4,691
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(11,953)	(102,112)

Mallee Family Care Community Legal Centre
Notes to The Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

NOTE 1: BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

Income in these Income and Expenditure Reports is recognised on a cash basis, while expenses are recognised on an accrual basis.

NOTE 2: Scope of Reporting

The term consolidated is used in the Income and Expenditure Report to indicate that the report includes income and expenses for all programs and projects funded by Victorian Legal Aid.

ORGANISATION'S CERTIFICATION

I certify that:

1. These financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Mallee Family Care Community Legal Centre as at 30 June 2023 and its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Notes 1 and 2.
2. The financial statements are in accordance with the funding agreement, applicable Australian Accounting standards and are based on proper accounts and records.
3. The Organisation has maintained complete and proper accounting records in respect of the Mallee Family Care Community Legal Centre.
4. The funds received by Mallee Family Care Community Legal Centre from Victoria Legal Aid under the funding agreement have been properly spent in accordance with the funding agreement.



NATALIE MORGAN
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER
27/07/2023



Mallee Family Care Community Legal Centre

Telephone 1800 242 002

Email mfc@malleefamilycare.com.au

Website www.mfclegalcentre.com.au

ABN 32 085 588 656

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