

ANNUAL REPORT

2018-19



South Australian
**Community
Legal Centres**

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF
COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES
WWW.CLCSA.ORG.AU

Overview

SACCLS is the peak body representing the independent, community-led community legal centres operating across South Australia, including rural and remote areas.

South Australia's community legal centres (CLC) provide free information, legal assistance and referral, representation and casework, community education and advocacy for vulnerable people in the community who are facing legal and social problems who might otherwise not get the help they deserve.

Each year, over 10,000 people accessed our network of CLC's located across metropolitan and rural South Australia.

CLC's help community legal centres to provide effective, high-quality services to their communities. With a focus on helping disadvantaged and vulnerable people seeking understand their legal and human rights, access legal help and feel heard and respected. Our mission is to work with our centres towards a fair and just South Australia by supporting the network of CLC's keep informed, united and valued.



Acknowledgement of traditional owners

SACCLS affirms that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the Indigenous inhabitants of Australia and acknowledges their unique relationship with their ancestral country.

In particular, we acknowledge the Karuna peoples, the traditional custodians of the land in and around Adelaide and pay respect to their elders, past and present.



Chairpersons Report

SACCLS has had a very busy year these past 12 months with the welcomed addition of our Sector Development Officer. This position was made possible with one-off funds provided by the State Government which has been great. This role has allowed SACCLS to develop strategic goals and be future focused in supporting members.

We hope funding for our sector continues to ensure stability for not only our members but for the community we all serve. A well-funded peak is essential for ensuring sustainability, stability and efficiency for a thriving sector as well as for ensuring access to appropriate services.

Unfortunately, SACCLS did say good-bye to a couple of our members this year with Welfare Rights Centre SA closing their doors and the Domestic Violence Court Assistance Service funding being reallocated to Legal Services Commission.

It is with great sadness that SACCLS members said goodbye to Amanda Tsoundarou from Welfare Rights Centre SA this year. Her passion and commitment to assisting those most vulnerable in the community was incredible and her passing will be a big loss to the sector.

I take this opportunity to thank the executive and members in their support this year. It has been a pleasure to promote and support the fantastic work being achieved in South Australia. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the ongoing support of the National Association of CLC in ensuring our voices are heard nationally.

Catherine McMorris
Chairperson



Sector Development Officer Report

The reporting period highlighted reconnection, reinvigoration and reinvestment as major themes for the peak sector body.

Whilst modest, the funding for the this position this financial year has allowed an opportunity for the SACCLS to deliver on several projects to promote a sustainable community legal sector including:

- develop a strategic plan
- evaluate how clients are currently seeking and connecting with CLC's legal advice and identify emerging trends and gaps.
- connect with staff, volunteers and stakeholders who are part of delivering and referring clients to the CLC ecosystem and promote/support activities that enhances access to justice
- refresh and relaunch SACCLS marketing materials including website, brochures and conduct targeted social media campaigns
- provide opportunities for free Continuing Legal Education for CLC lawyers relevant to their work
- coordinate with the National Peak body to provide database consistency training for individual CLCs across South Australia

As highlighted by past productivity commission reports CLCs offer *“enormous value for money with benefits to individuals and to society far outweighing the public funds CLCs expend”*. CLCs play a crucial role in untangling legal problems and assisting individuals *“to move on without being penalised by their inability to access other forms of legal assistance.”* Needless to say, SACCLS works with and welcomes decision makers who support resource certainty for the sector as our members need this surety to continue to deliver assist South Australians with complex legal needs.

The focus for SACCLS for the coming year will be to continue to actively work with its members and partners to promote sustainable, adequate policy and funding environment to ensure South Australians are able to access the legal help they deserve.

Finally, I would like to thank the SACCLS Board and CLC members that have provided much guidance and support this reporting period along with all the people who work and volunteer within this sector who continue to achieve so much to the community.



Strategic Plan

Community Legal Centres SA Strategic Plan 2019-2021 (to be reviewed by 31 March 2020)

Advancing justice for all

- Advocate for access to justice and the promotion and protection of human rights
- Promote community awareness of the law and community legal centres
- Provide targeted information to members of the public so legal needs are informed by the experience and perspectives of CLC's and their clients
- Promote the provision of equitable legal assistance to disadvantages and vulnerable sections of the community

To achieve this:

Collaborate with key legal and community stakeholders
 Communicate the benefits of Justice Reinvestment and its relationship with CLC activities.
 Identify factors that impact on effective access to justice including cost, demand, practices, structure and community expectations.

Promoting Sustainable, Quality Community Legal Services

- Support CLC's to achieve their purpose and promote their services, value and accessibility
- Promote Best practice in CLC governance, management and service provisions
- Enhance the support and development of CLC staff and volunteers
- Advance the ongoing sustainability of the SA CLC

To achieve this:

Promote online and social media presence to highlight how CLCs assist clients to access justice.
 Apply research knowledge for projects and PD's that contribute to legal skills, knowledge and ethical practices

Values: A strong effective and influential community sector promoting social justice
Purpose: To lead and support our members to high level services to communities, promote the purpose and value of community legal sector, advance a fair and just legal system and unite members | the commitment to social justice

Supporting Positive Relationships

- Support and strengthen collaboration. Communication and coordination between CLC's
- Build Effective relationships and alliances; and engage with government and key sector stakeholders and peak bodies
- Promote collaborative approaches to service planning, service and evaluation

To achieve this

Coordinate consultation by, and with, CLCs and their clients, for timely contribution to policy discussions.
 Enable CLCs to cross promote their local projects and activities.

Positioning CLCSA as a leading peak Organisation

- Identify and respond to the needs of the Community Legal Sector
- Be a respected and leading voice for CLCs
- Promote the purpose and value of CLCs and the CLCSA as the peak organisation
- Model good practice through strong governance, management, workplace practices and organisation

To achieve this:

Support CLCs to maintain certification under the National Accreditation Scheme
 Deliver professional development opportunities, including remote access.

Values: to lead, maximise access, collaborate and value autonomy of members
 CLCSA Acknowledges that we work on Aboriginal Land, traditionally the home of the Karuna People. We pay respect to elders past and present



Strategic Goal: Advocating Justice for all

SACCLS will continue to support and develop the organisational capacity of community legal centres by advocating for continued funding certainty and resourcing emerging areas of legal need including:

- support community legal centre staff to maintain high professional standards through accreditation and professional indemnity insurance management
- cross promote and support each CLC's innovative and collaborative services
- scheduling CLE's for develop community legal centre staff, including volunteers
- continue to support regional service planning in order to better meet the legal needs and expectations of regional areas
- ensure that clients are resourced so that can access support services such as interpreter services including AUSLAN

Strategic Goal: Promoting Sustainable Quality Legal Services

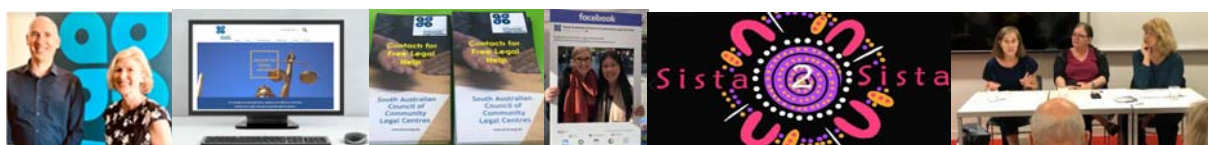
SACCLS hosted several events in the 2018-2019 financial year including regular meetings and forum which saw leaders from community legal centres come together to discuss expectations under the NLAP.

With the support of the National Peak body training was delivered across South Australia on data management and data consistency and compliance across a range of areas including client services, governance, access and inclusion and planning and evaluation that can be critical in demonstrating accountability, mounting a case for ongoing project funding and resourcing and hence, facilitating the sustainability of the service.

Strategic Goal: Supporting Positive Relationships

Throughout the reporting period SACCLS enhanced community access and cross promotion of CLC activities including:

- Facilitating free CLE activities
- Promotional activities including social media
- Contributing at community forums (multicultural organisations, Centrelink, Housing, TAFE, Employment Agencies,)
- Rebuild and relaunch of the website with enhanced search functionality and outreach calendars
- New DL flyer and mass distribution of "Contacts for free Legal Help"



Strategic Goal: Positioning CLCSA as a leading peak organisation

SACCLS worked with the community legal centre sector to ensure all South Australian community legal centres were accredited National Accreditation Scheme and through the support of the National Peak body training was delivered across South Australia on data management and data consistency that provides funding bodies and clients confidence that CLCs are operating according to good practice and industry standards.

Special mention and thanks also go to the all involved who give many hours of their time with the data collection, reviews and cross checks to provide. As a result of this work, South Australian CLC are enhancing compliance capabilities across a range of areas including client services, governance, access and inclusion and planning and evaluation.

Contact

South Australian Council of Community Legal Centres Incorporated

ABN 36 167 746 942

www.clcsa.org.au

projects@clcsa.org.au

chair@clcsa.org.au



RP DUNK & Co.

Chartered Accountant

22 Bridge Street
Salisbury SA 5108
Telephone (08) 8281 9688
Fax (08) 8281 8520
Email: office@rpdunk.com.au

PRINCIPAL

RAOUL P. DUNK B.Bus (Acc) CA

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To the members of the South Australian Council of Community Legal Services Inc.

Scope

We have audited the financial accounts for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019. The Committee of Management is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial accounts and the information contained therein, and have determined that the accounting policies used are consistent with the reporting requirements of the constitution and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We have conducted an independent audit of the financial accounts in order to express an opinion on their preparation and presentation. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to the needs of the members.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to the members for the purpose of fulfilling the Committee of Management's financial reporting requirements under the Club's constitution. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on the report or the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than for which it was prepared.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards and statutory requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the South Australian Council of Legal Services Inc.'s income and expenditure.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly the income and expenditure of the South Australian Council of Legal Services Inc for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019 and its financial position at that date.



Raoul Peter Dunk B.Bus (Acc) CA

Chartered Accountant

Signed at Salisbury this 24th day of September 2019.

Profit & Loss [Last Year Analysis]

July 2018 through June 2019

24/09/2019
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	This Year	Last Year	\$ Difference	% Difference
Income				
AG's Executive Officer Funding	\$42,548.00	\$0.00	\$42,548.00	NA
Interest Received	\$3.63	\$4.20	-\$0.57	(13.6%)
Total Income	<u>\$42,551.63</u>	<u>\$4.20</u>	<u>\$42,547.43</u>	<u>.013,034.0%</u>
Cost of Sales				
Gross Profit	<u>\$42,551.63</u>	<u>\$4.20</u>	<u>\$42,547.43</u>	<u>.013,034.0%</u>
Expenses				
Supplies	\$127.93	\$0.00	\$127.93	NA
Donation	\$0.00	\$250.00	-\$250.00	(100.0%)
Equipment Rental Expense	\$216.96	\$64.54	\$152.42	236.2%
Sponsorship	\$27.27	\$0.00	\$27.27	NA
Internet Costs	\$405.04	\$0.00	\$405.04	NA
Legal & Accounting	\$572.73	\$630.00	-\$57.27	(9.1%)
Employment Expenses				
Superannuation	\$1,779.01	\$0.00	\$1,779.01	NA
Wages & Salaries	\$17,696.13	\$0.00	\$17,696.13	NA
Other Employer Expenses	\$272.27	\$0.00	\$272.27	NA
Total Employment Expenses	<u>\$19,747.41</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$19,747.41</u>	<u>NA</u>
Telephone	\$76.20	\$0.00	\$76.20	NA
Printing	\$345.50	\$0.00	\$345.50	NA
Conferences	\$2,294.13	\$1,416.46	\$877.67	62.0%
Total Expenses	<u>\$23,813.17</u>	<u>\$2,361.00</u>	<u>\$21,452.17</u>	<u>908.6%</u>
Operating Profit	<u>\$18,738.46</u>	<u>-\$2,356.80</u>	<u>\$21,095.26</u>	<u>895.1%</u>
Other Income				
Other Expenses				
Net Surplus / (Deficit)	<u>\$18,738.46</u>	<u>-\$2,356.80</u>	<u>\$21,095.26</u>	<u>895.1%</u>