

**SOUTH WEST  
COMMUNITY LEGAL  
CENTRE  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2018 – 2019**



**SOUTH WEST**

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE INC



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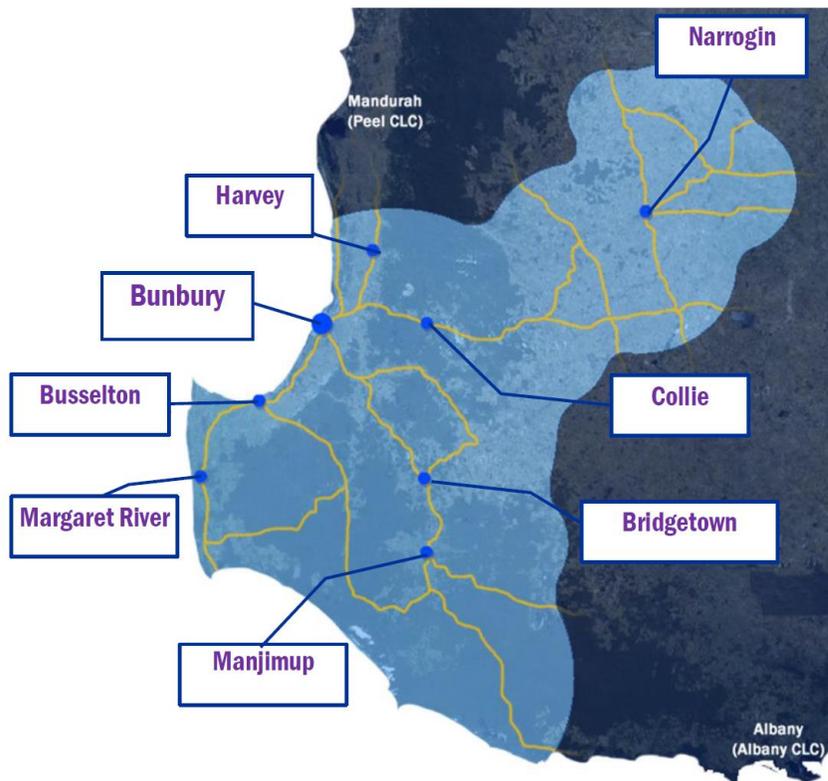
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South West Community Legal Centre Inc. acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the South West and recognises their continuing connection to land, waterways and community. We pay our respect to Elders past and present.

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## ABOUT US

South West Community Legal Centre Inc. ('SWCLC') commenced operation in June 1989 as the Bunbury Community Legal Centre, initially providing an evening legal advice bureau staffed by a panel of local volunteer practitioners. Today, 30 years later, we offer services four days a week from our Bunbury office, duty lawyer services at the Magistrates Court in Bunbury and Busselton, a duty lawyer service at the Family Court Circuit in Bunbury and outreach services across eight locations in the South West Region. Our Board of Management and dedicated staff are committed to achieving our mission which is to bring equal access to justice to our South West community.



# STRATEGIC PLAN 2017 – 2020

## South West Community Legal Centre Inc. Strategic Plan 2017-2020



**SOUTH WEST**  
COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE INC

We have been providing quality free or low cost legal advice, information and mediation services to disadvantaged and vulnerable people across the South West Region of WA for 27 years.

**Our vision**  
Equal access to justice for all.

**Our mission**  
To provide quality legal and associated services to address disadvantage in the South West community.

### Our focus

#### Engage with others

Collaborate with other legal assistance providers to enhance access to justice and respond to priority need.

Partner with community agencies to meet the needs of our clients.

Develop and implement a comprehensive community engagement strategy.

Build our support base and community champions.

#### Deliver quality services

Deliver quality legal, mediation and community education services, prioritising those with greatest need in the South West region.

Review models of service delivery to ensure alignment between outcomes and priorities.

Explore new technologies, resources and associated activities to maximise our impact.

Advocate for social justice on behalf of our communities.

#### Ensure sustainability

Diversify our revenue and resource base.

Maintain a culture of learning that ensures we are responsive to emerging trends and best practices.

Maintain a standard of excellence by investing in our people.

Demonstrate and celebrate the value and impact of our work.

### Our foundations

Excellence in governance, leadership and management.

Valued, supported and well-trained staff and volunteers.

Quality business systems and financial stewardship.

Ethical practice, robust accountability and evidence-based decision making.

### Our values

Respect

Integrity

Dedication

Commitment to equity and social justice.

*SWCLC acknowledges the traditional owners of the South West and recognises their continuing connection to land, waterways and community. We pay our respect to Elders past and present.*

# BOARD OF MANAGEMENT 2018 – 2019

**Carol Reid**  
*Board Chair*



**Jaysen de San Miguel**  
*Treasurer*



**Maggie Kennedy-Piper**  
*Secretary*



**Ntuthuko Mcingolwane**  
*Deputy Chair*  
?



**Jenny Pickworth**  
*Board Member*



**Rosemary Taylor**  
*Board Member*



# CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

## *Dear Valued Stakeholders*

I am pleased to present the Chairperson's report for the South West Community Legal Centre Inc. ('SWCLC') for 2018/2019.

### LOOKING BACK

In March 2019 our CEO Julie-ann Lorca resigned to take up another position. Thank you to Julie-ann for the excellent job she has done during her time at SWCLC.

After extensive research and Board and Staff discussion, we opted to restructure utilising a Managing Principal Solicitor model. We are very fortunate with the quality of our in-house team and we restructured with existing staff. Eleanor Yates was invited to take on the role of Managing Principal Solicitor and Jessica Cartwright was invited to take on the role of Practice Manager. Eleanor and Jess have excelled in their new roles, their first task being to reorganise the legal and administrative areas. The new structure is working very well and I am delighted to see a heightened level of motivation and involvement of all staff.

Unfortunately, from July 2019, we were unsuccessful in obtaining continued funding from the Department of Communities which necessitated a cut in our opening hours to four days a week. As a testament to the high morale of staff and Eleanor's excellent communication skills, this decision was taken after discussion of various options and input from all staff.

### OUR BOARD

This is my first year as Chair of the SWCLC board. Maggie Kennedy-Piper stepped into the role of Secretary. Ntuthuko Mcingolwane ('NT') was voted on to the Board at the last Annual General Meeting and we welcome his legal expertise. This is a welcome back to NT who was previously a board Member in 2016/2017.

At the last AGM Michelle Howes, Helen Hemsley, Steve Reynolds and Paul Chapman retired from the Board and we thank them for sharing their expertise with us, and for their service to SWCLC. Trudi Ruane resigned subsequently, and we thank Trudi for her many years of service to the Board. NT stepped in to the role of Deputy Chair after Trudi's resignation. Sue Della also resigned from the Board and we thank Sue for her outstanding work as Treasurer.

Three new Board members were co-opted: Jennifer Pickworth, Jaysen de San Miguel and Rosemary Taylor. Jenny has taken on the role of Risk Management Coordinator with Rosemary's assistance and Jaysen took on the role of Treasurer after Sue's resignation.

The Board completed a skills matrix at the end of 2018 and our Board is very blessed to have at least two Board Members who are 'Very Skilled' or 'Extremely Skilled' in Leadership, Planning, Governance, Risk Management and Financial Management. In addition we have two practicing lawyers on the Board. We also included a range of behavioural competencies as part of the Skills Matrix and Board Members scored very highly on these areas.

The Board members also completed an evaluation of the Board's performance as a whole, individual performance as a Board Member and an evaluation of the performance of the Board Chair. This evaluation reflected the high performance of the Board in all areas.

I am so grateful to have such a diverse and skilled Board to work with. You are an excellent team and I thank you all for your contribution and support especially during this very challenging year.

#### OUR STAFF

As a Board we are very privileged to have a group of motivated, dedicated, professional and caring staff committed to delivering a high standard of service within our community. We thank those staff who have moved on to new opportunities and warmly welcome the new staff who have joined us this year.

I have already acknowledged the quality of our in-house team and the Board would like to extend its thanks to the team for their outstanding work during the past year.

As a testament to the quality of the team, we achieved accreditation status and were licensed by the National Accreditation Scheme in April 2019. This quality assurance process recognises good practice in the delivery of community legal services and gives funding bodies and our clients confidence that we are operating according to a range of organisational and service delivery standards.

We were also semi-finalists in the WA Regional Achievement and Community Awards 2019. Eleanor and Jess represented the Staff, and Maggie and I represented the Board at the gala presentation dinner in Perth recently.

#### OUR SUPPORTERS

We sincerely thank our major funding bodies: the Federal Attorney General, State Government Attorney General and the Law Society of Western Australia, whose ongoing support continues to make our service possible. We look forward to a continued successful partnership.

#### LOOKING FORWARD

This year we celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of offering legal services to those in need throughout the South West of Western Australia. After the AGM we will be joining invited guests to celebrate with us, to look back to our beginnings and to look forward to the future of our service to the community.

In 2020, Board, Staff and key stakeholders will be embarking on the development of a new strategic plan for the South West Community Legal Centre.

As Board Chairperson I would like to express how privileged I am to work with such a dedicated team of people and I look forward to our continued relationship and to the coming year.

*Carol Reid*  
*Board Chair*



## OUR CURRENT TEAM

### *Our Management Team*



**Eleanor Yates**  
*Managing Principal Solicitor*



**Jess Cartwright**  
*Practice Manager*



**Samantha Bettenay**  
*Senior Solicitor (Job Share)*



**Lauren Howlett**  
*Senior Solicitor (Job Share)*

### *Our Legal Team*



**Angela Wolfenden**  
*Paralegal*



**Michelle Gorham**  
*Solicitor*



**Cléa Turner**  
*Solicitor*

### *Our Administration Team*



**Vicky McAppion**  
*Finance Officer*



**Inge Slottje**  
*Administration Officer*



**Tahleisha Bennell-Mustica**  
*Administration Assistant*



**Crystal Peterson**  
*Administration Assistant*

## SPECIAL THANKS

We would like to thank the following following retiring Board and Staff for their service throughout the financial year:

Michelle Howes (Board Chair)

Sue Della (Board Treasurer)

Steve Reynolds (Board Secretary)

Trudi Ruane (Deputy Chair)

Paul Chapman (Board Member)

Helen Helmsley (Board Member)



Julie-ann Lorca (CEO)

Miranda Good (Solicitor)

Amy Coole (Solicitor)

Rebecca Dennison (Solicitor)



# MANAGING PRINCIPAL SOLICITOR'S REPORT

## *Dear Valued Stakeholders,*

Dear Supporters of SWCLC,

I am proud to report on the South West Community Legal Centre Inc. ('SWCLC') legal services for the 2018-2019 financial year. This year we celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> birthday, and I would like to take this opportunity to particularly thank our forebearers; the dedicated lawyers, mediators and community members whose hard work and generosity founded our centre.

I would also like to reflect upon the growth of our organisation across these thirty years. What started as a humble after-hours pro bono clinic has grown to an organisation employing 11 staff and servicing a region of some 24,000 square kilometres. During 2018-2019 we provided 2129 advice sessions to 1163 clients. We provided advice across a wide range of laws, and across several different outreach locations in the Southwest. In 2018-2019, we strengthened our connections with local agencies, and reinforced our stellar reputation as one of the South West's preeminent legal advice service for family law, especially family violence matters.

The 2018-2019 financial year also brought some changes and challenges to the SWCLC. In March 2019, we fare-welled Julie-ann Lorca, our outgoing Chief Executive Officer after four years of diligent service. Julie-ann brought a wealth of experience, passion and wisdom to our centre and I would like to thank Julie-ann for her strength in leading SWCLC. Following, Julie-ann's resignation, the Board elected to restructure the organisation, merging the roles of Chief Executive Officer and Principal Solicitor into the new role of 'Managing Principal Solicitor'.



The team at SWCLC have worked incredibly hard across the 2018-2019 year and have achieved some remarkable outcomes for clients. We have advocated for clients at court, negotiated favourable settlements, advised on technical areas of law, collaborated with community agencies, educated community groups and individuals, as well as gently guiding clients through legal processes. The resilience of our clients, and the support of our community continues to motivate and humble us. I am very proud of, and grateful to, the SWCLC team for their dedication and hard work.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

As well as building upon and enhancing our core legal advice services, in 2018/2019 we challenged ourselves to find new solutions and adapt our services to new conditions. We branched out into new areas of community education, we created tailor-made legal advice services and we held our first ever 'Film Night', raising both funds and the profile of the SWCLC.

### 1. 'Legal Lauren' – ABC radio

In January 2019, the SWCLC hit the local ABC airwaves, as we began our monthly legal education segment. Our senior solicitor, 'Legal Lauren' has taken the reins for this project. One Thursday a month, Lauren discusses some of the most common legal issues facing our clients. Lauren provides a simple over-view of the law and where clients can get help. This has been a great way to spread the reach of our legal education, and to engage with our community within a new forum.

### 2. Law Week 2019

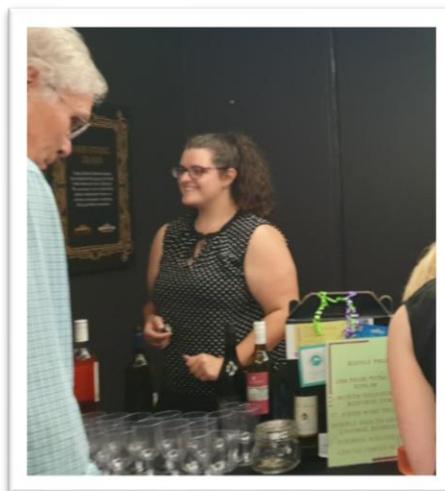
This year we had a bonanza celebration to recognise Law Week in May 2019. During this week, we provided seven community legal education seminars to organisations and community groups across the South West. We also paired with StreetLaw Centre to provide a pop-up clinic at the InTown Centre. The InTown Centre is a drop-in centre for people experiencing homelessness or other financial disadvantage. It was great to reconnect with the staff and clientele of the InTown Centre. We were able to provide valuable advice and referrals to people who may not have otherwise been able to access our service.

### 3. Delivery of our 'CALD' Family Violence Project.

The Department of Communities funded the SWCLC to pilot an intensive legal support service for indigenous women, or women of a culturally and linguistically diverse ('CALD') background who were experiencing family violence. This project allowed us to provide intensive legal services to our target clients, advising across multiple areas of law and connecting clients with other support agencies in the South West. As part of this project, we also delivered education seminars about a raft of family violence legal issues, and also how agencies could refer clients to our service. It was great to meet with staff from other local organisations, building our connection with them and reinforcing our shared commitment to helping vulnerable clients.

### 4. Bunbury and the South West "All Rise" in support of their local Community Legal Centre!

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February, nearly 100 people descended on the Grand Cinema in support of SWCLC's first fundraiser event! Movie goers enjoyed a gourmet selection of finger foods and sweets, along with wines from our local region. This prelude screening of the film 'On the Basis of Sex' which told the true story of Ruth Bader Ginsberg whose fight for equal rights took her to the United States of America's Supreme Court. The event was supported by many generous local sponsors including The Grand Cinema Bunbury, Central News Bunbury, BodyRox Gym, Le Chariot de Café, Vasse Felix Winery, Windfall Wines, The Farmers Market, Coles Parks Centre, The Dolphin Discovery Centre, Cloud Nine Wellness Massage, and others. The evening was a huge success, raising much needed funds for SWCLC. The rally of support gifted by staff and board, local businesses, professional colleagues and associates, and community members was humbling and greatly appreciated!



## SWCLC TEAM

The SWCLC administrative and management team has remained largely the same as in the previous year; comprising Jessica Cartwright, Inge Slottje, Tahleisha Bennell-Mustica and Crystal Peterson. We also officially welcomed Vicky McAppion to the team as Bookkeeper. As mentioned, our CEO Julie-ann Lorca resigned in March 2019. Following her resignation, I was appointed Managing Principal Solicitor and Jessica Cartwright was appointed Practice Manager.

I am proud to announce that our very own trainee, Tahleisha, was shortlisted as a finalist for the Western Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Trainee of the Year 2018. This was a fantastic honour and one which reflects Tahleisha's commitment and value to our organisation.



The legal team welcomed new faces and wished farewell to a couple of old faces in the last year. In January 2019, we welcomed the return of Samantha Bettenay from maternity leave. Samantha has once again shown herself to be an efficient, dedicated and intelligent lawyer. Samantha and Lauren Howlett have worked together as senior solicitors providing supervision and guidance to junior lawyers and invaluable support to myself. In May 2019, we welcomed Cléa Turner to our team. Cléa joins us having experience working for community legal centres and private practice, primarily in the areas of family and civil law.

We also welcomed Michelle Gorham as a member of staff. Michelle has been a long-standing volunteer for our organisation and completed her Bachelor of Laws with Honours in June 2019. I would also like to commend Michelle on her nomination as South West Volunteer of the Year. Michelle has contributed over 1000 volunteer hours to our centre, and was recognised for her generosity and commitment to the South West community at the Volunteers Southwest Award ceremony.

Angela Wolfenden has continued to develop in the role of paralegal, advising on more complicated areas of law and also assisting clients to draft documents. Angela has also taken on the role of Occupational Health and Safety Officer for the SWCLC.

Lastly, we welcomed Othinieel Sithole. Othinieel has been volunteering with SWCLC since June 2019. Othinieel has helped with client interviews, legal research tasks and drafting legal documents. We are grateful for Othinieel's assistance.

Towards the end of June 2019, we hosted Ella Italiano-Schmidt as part of the McCusker Centre for Citizenship Legal Internship Project. Ella worked on a short term project relating to the intersection of restraining orders and family law. We thank Ella for her generous donation of time.

Sadly, we recently said goodbye to Amy Coole and Rebecca Dennison. Both were fine lawyers who worked tirelessly for our service. We wish them both well as they take the next steps in their careers.

### **Professional Development, Collaboration and Connection**

We continue to support our staff through professional development opportunities. The SWCLC team enjoyed the cultural training provided by Kooyar Wongi in December 2018. This training enhanced our knowledge of our local indigenous communities and how our service can better support and connect with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We all had fun at the First Aid Training provided by Corporate First Aid in May 2019, learning how to provide basic CPR and first aid. In addition, our Occupational Health and Safety Officer, Angela, attended at a comprehensive five-day safety management course with CTS Consulting in the week of June 2019.



On 21 June 2019, we hosted a day of training provided by the Family Relationships Centre and Waratah Support Centre. We learned how to diffuse abusive clients and also how to nourish and care for ourselves in our daily practice.

Earlier that same month, we had also partnered with The Humanitarian Group to organise training about the intersection of family violence with migration law. This training was attended by staff from a number of local agencies and the feedback was very positive.

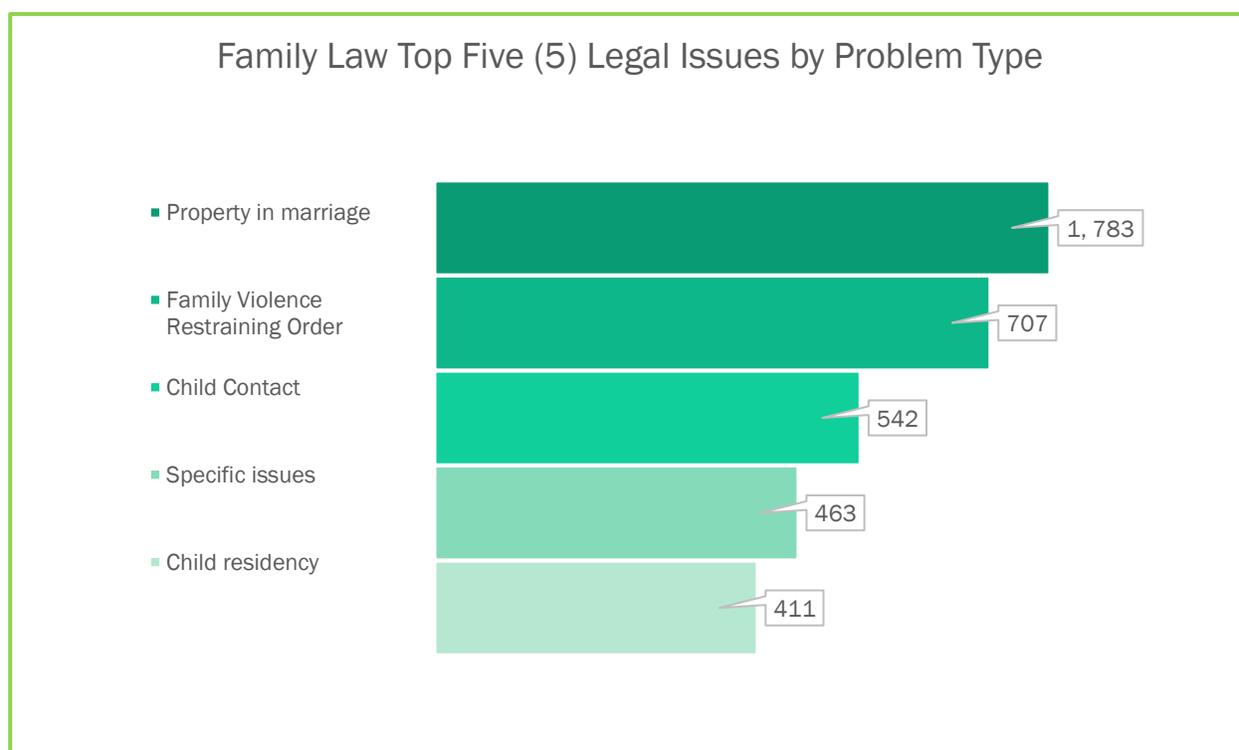
Our lawyers continue to be members of the South West Law Society and many of our staff hold committee roles within that society. In August 2018, Amy, Lauren, Rebecca and myself

attended the National Association of Community Legal Centres Conference in Sydney. The National Conference is always an uplifting and motivational experience. We connect with fellow community legal centre workers, share ideas, as well as challenges and innovations.

Members of our legal team also benefited from attending the Legal Aid Summer Series held in Perth in February 2019. The Legal Aid Summer Series spans a number of days and includes sessions on family and civil law.

## LEGAL SERVICES

SWCLC continued to provide outstanding legal advice services in many areas of law. Although a generalist centre, the demand for family law advice has not abated and the top five legal issues we advise on are: Property in Marriage, Family Violence Restraining Orders, Child Contact, Specific (parenting) Issues, and Child Residency.



**Figure 1. Top 5 Family Law Legal Issues by Problem Type** To illustrate some of the complexity of our client's circumstances and the difficulties they face, I have included some client stories from page 17.

In the past 12 months we assisted 1163 clients and provided 2129 advice services to clients. We also continued to grow our duty lawyer services, providing a duty lawyer in both the Family Court as part of the Family Advocacy Support Service, and a Family Violence Restraining Order Duty Lawyer in partnership with social support provided by Waratah Support Centre. In 2018 2019 we provided 339 Duty Lawyer services, well in excess of our target of 250. We are pleased to confirm that we have received funding to continue both Family Court Duty Lawyer and Family Violence Restraining Order Duty Lawyer Services into the 2019 2020 financial year.



**Figure 2. Some Operational Highlights from the financial year.**

We have settled into our premises at 14 Plaza Street and our Bunbury office is the hub for our legal centre. However, we provide advice services at different outreach locations including the Bunbury Regional Prison, Bridgetown, Busselton, Collie, Harvey, Manjimup, Margaret River and Narrogin. See over page for service statistics from our Outreach program.

**Client Feedback**

The response to our legal support and education services has again been overwhelmingly positive. We received particular commendation for our collaboration with The Humanitarian Group to deliver training about family visa and temporary visas.

We have also had some excellent client and agency feedback from a number of surveys delivered throughout the year.

**What our Clients and Stakeholders Say:**

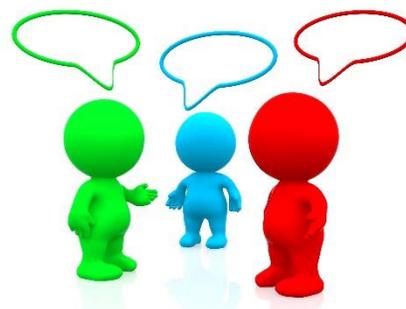
“I received excellent service and information, thank you”

“A warm supportive service”

“You were quick to get back to me and real easy to talk to thank you”

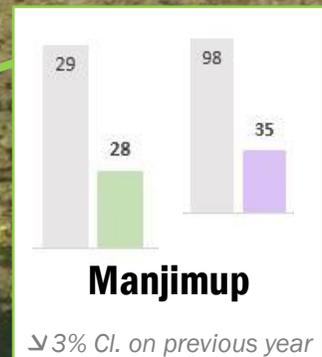
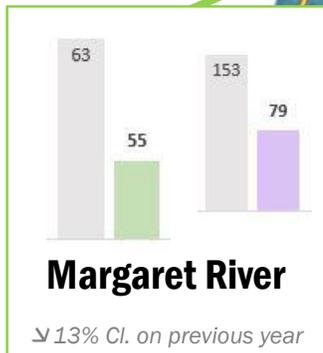
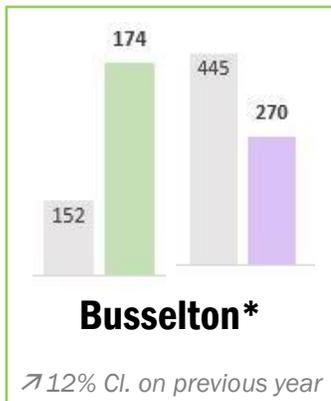
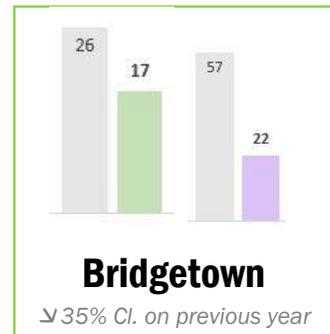
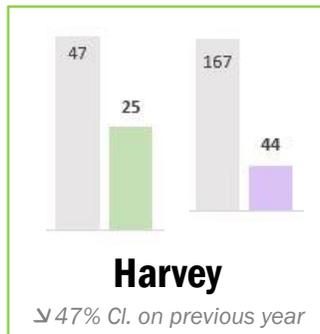
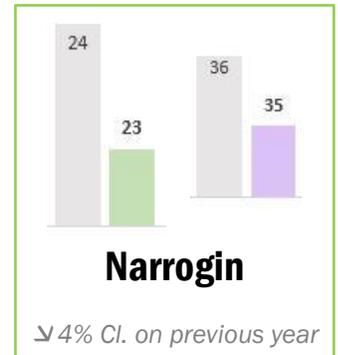
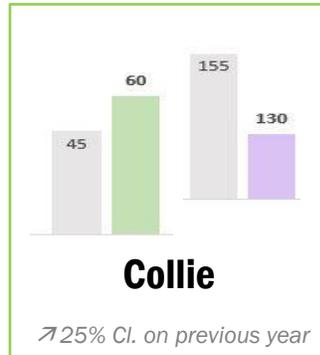
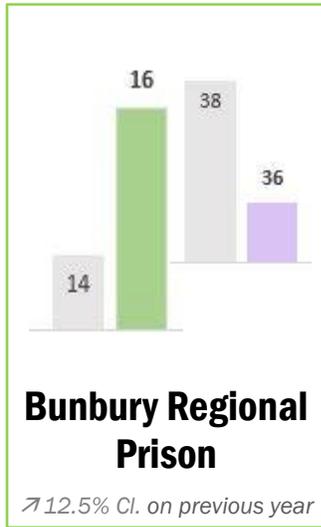
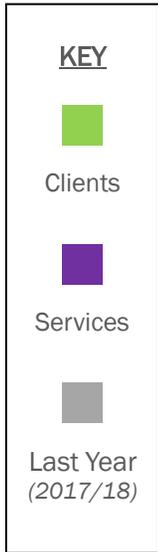
“All the staff I have come in contact with have been professional and communicated effectively.”

“Have an army of Amy Coole’s. Amy has also assisted me, without being represented in court, on another matter. Your service is amazing & we are so very lucky to have you in Busselton.”

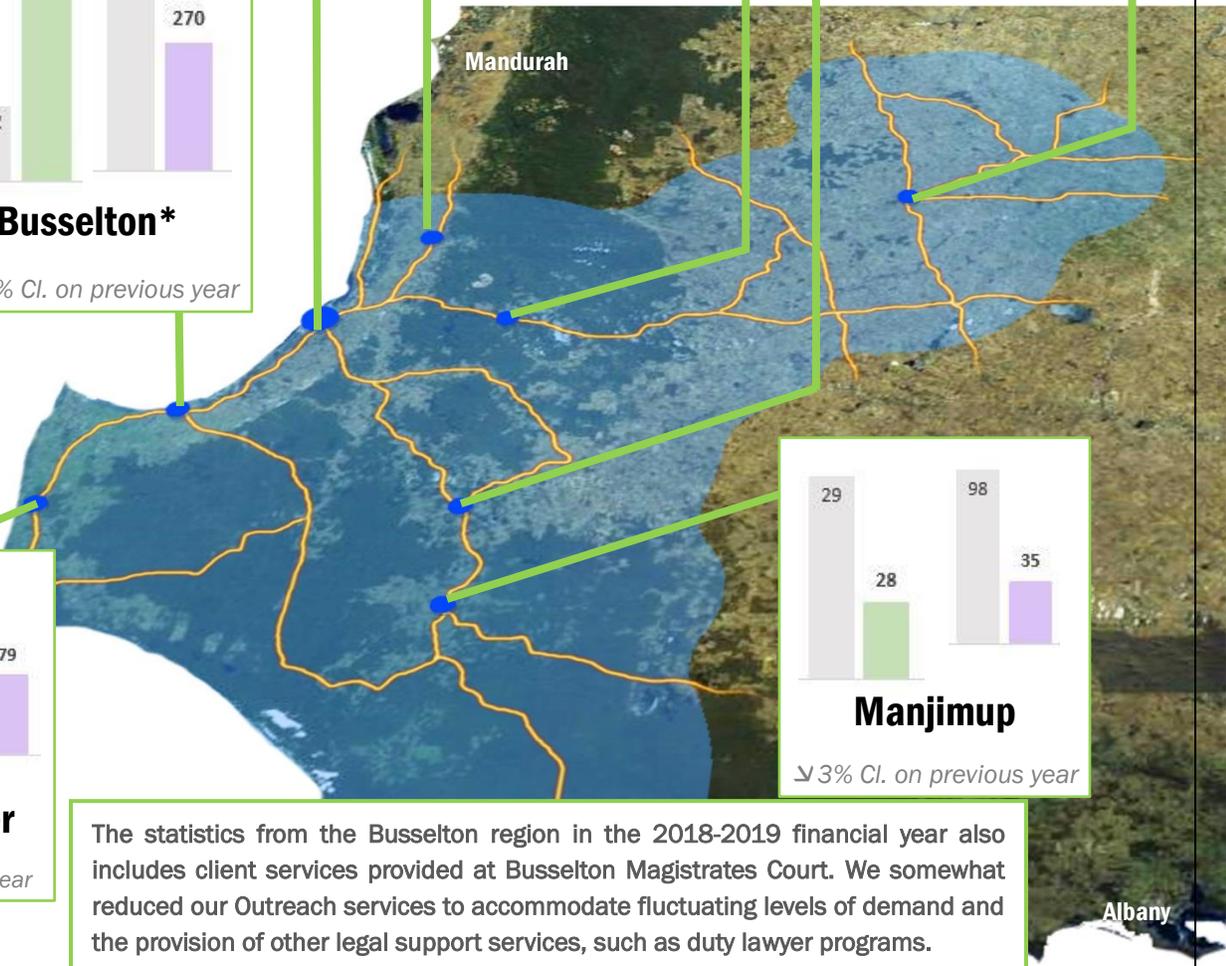


# OUTREACH CLIENTS AND SERVICES ACROSS THE SOUTH WEST

1 July 2018–30 June 2019



The statistics from the Busselton region in the 2018-2019 financial year also includes client services provided at Busselton Magistrates Court. We somewhat reduced our Outreach services to accommodate fluctuating levels of demand and the provision of other legal support services, such as duty lawyer programs.



## FROM ONE YEAR TO THE NEXT.....

I would like to extend my personal thanks to the SWCLC Board members, past and present, for their commitment to SWCLC, and for valiantly leading our organisation through a period of change and restructure. I would also like to thank all of our funders who enable us to do the work that we do; without our funders we would not exist and many hundreds of people would likely go without access to justice. To the agencies who have worked alongside us: sharing ideas, collaborating, referring and inspiring us; we are grateful for your spirit of co-operation and dedication to our common cause. Lastly, to the SWCLC team, past and present, I sincerely thank each and every one of you for the hard work, compassion and determination you have brought to our centre. Fortunately, we have secured new funding contracts for the coming financial year, and a number of new projects will be taking root soon. I look with promise to what SWCLC will achieve in the next financial year, and indeed, in the next 30 years!

*Eleanor Yates*  
*Managing Principal Solicitor*



Our "Christmas in July" Murder Mystery party with Board and Staff!

# TELLING OUR CLIENTS' STORIES.....

## CASE STUDY - JANE

Jane lives in a rural town in Western Australia. After Jane and her husband separated she initiated court proceedings for court orders to enable her to relocate with her son back to her family's home state.

It was very important to Jane that she could move back home. Aside from her husband she had no support network in WA, she also worked in a shift work role and was on a very low income. Without family and friends nearby and with only a tight budget it was hard for her to find childcare or babysitting arrangements for her young son. In addition, her rural location meant that it was difficult for Jane to access any Bunbury based advice services. However, one of SWCLC's Outreach offices are close to Jane's home and she was able to engage with our service there.



SWCLC was able to assist Jane in the following ways:

1. Provide her with advice on a regular basis, throughout the court proceedings.
2. Provide advice expeditiously, with the outreach lawyer present to look over relevant documents and advise in person.
3. Draft court documents.
4. Allow Jane to conduct her Family Court matter confidently.

Jane's matter settled during trial. Notably, Jane reported that the Magistrate said that he had never come across such a well-prepared self-litigant.

## CASE STUDY - GEMMA

Gemma lives in a rural town South of Bunbury, Western Australia.

Gemma has a disability. She left the family home after several years of family violence. She took the four children of the marriage and the husband remained in the home. Gemma has recently completed a TAFE course and started a new job. Gemma's husband has not paid any child support and has not made any other financial contribution to Gemma or the children.

Gemma sought advice when her husband asked her to agree to consent orders, ordering the sale of the house and the proceeds to be divided between them.

Gemma told the outreach lawyer that her disability and the circumstances of past family violence had prevented her from seeking advice earlier. She said that it had been extremely difficult financially for her and the children to survive. Gemma wanted to purchase a property in her sole name only but the settlement proposed by her husband would not have provided her with sufficient funds for a deposit.

SWCLC Outreach was able to provide Gemma with the following assistance:

1. Face-to-face advice which accommodated Gemma's disability;
2. Advice about property settlements under the Family Law Act, and specifically whether the proposed settlement with her husband may be just and equitable;

3. Referral to a mediator; and
4. Advice about how to initiate court proceedings in the event that her husband refused to negotiate further.

### CASE STUDY - STEPHANIE

Stephanie and David had been in a de facto relationship for some period of time. David was physically and emotionally abusive to Stephanie during the relationship. Initially, Stephanie had been working in paid employment and living by herself. Over time, David moved into her rented apartment. David did not pay any rent and in fact, began to physically and emotionally abuse Stephanie. David was studying to become an engineer and Stephanie financially supported him through his studies.



The parties built a house together. Stephanie worked in paid employment and contributed half of the deposit required for this property. The remainder of the purchase price was funded by a mortgage secured in both names. Stephanie contributed significant non-financial contributions, liaising with builders to finalise the build, organising landscaping, maintaining the home and undertaking the overwhelming majority of homemaker duties. The parties did not have any children together.

Stephanie separated from David in 2013. She moved out of the family home, whilst David continued to live there. It took Stephanie some time to seek legal help and other assistance following her separation.

Stephanie applied for a Violence Restraining Order ('VRO') which was granted an order for a period of 4 years. David was convicted of breaching this restraining order on multiple occasions and was fined for doing so.

After separation, David continued to live in the former home. Stephanie moved out and began paying rent elsewhere. David did not pay the mortgage regularly. Further, David went about destroying the property, hosting public parties and affixing barricades to the walls. This resulted in considerable damage to the property, including holes in walls, stains on carpets, smashed windows etc.

After separation, Stephanie met a new partner and had three children together. She now is occupied as a full-time parent and relies upon social security payments for support. David finished his studies and now works full time.

Stephanie sought legal advice about property settlement matters before ultimately commencing Family Court proceedings. Stephanie had instructed different lawyers at various stages of her Family Court legal proceedings prior to contacting the SWCLC for assistance. The costs of engaging private practitioners to represent her in various legal proceedings had exhausted Stephanie's private savings and also caused her to borrow significantly from family members. Stephanie could no longer afford to pay a private lawyer to represent her. David would deliberately stall negotiations, necessitating further communication and expense from Stephanie's lawyers.

After terminating the services of her private solicitor, Stephanie sought advice from the South West Community Legal Centre ('SWCLC'). At this point in time, Stephanie was very concerned about ending her financial relationship with David. She was concerned that about the condition of their former

home and her ongoing liability with respect to the mortgage over that property. David had refused to sell, transfer or otherwise enter into arrangement to deal with this property.

SWCLC was able to provide Stephanie with ongoing advice about her matter as it progressed through the Family Court of Western Australia. We also provided Stephanie with advice about family violence restraining orders and criminal injuries compensation. However, Stephanie's main focus was family law property settlement.

We gave Stephanie both procedural and substantive family law advice over the course of several appointments. Our service also assisted Stephanie to draft various court documents required during the different stages of proceedings. For example, our solicitors provided Stephanie with advice, and assisted her to prepare documentation required for a Conciliation Conference. Unfortunately, David did not attend the Conciliation Conference and the matter was then progressed to trial.

We also helped Stephanie to prepare and understand the documents and information required for parties to comply with their duty of disclosure. Our lawyers were able to advise Stephanie about options she could take to enforce David's disclosure obligations.

In the lead up to trial, we assisted Stephanie by providing detailed advice about trial planning and template documents which she could use. We also assisted Stephanie to prepare a comprehensive trial affidavit which detailed the considerable contributions Stephanie had made to the property of the relationship. Our legal team also assisted Stephanie to draft Papers for the Judicial Officer as well as other necessary documentation.

Our staff also assisted Stephanie with other logistical matters. For example, we assisted Stephanie by contacting the local court to try and find suitable child-care facilities during court hearings. We also facilitated Stephanie's attendance via telephone at several court hearings. It had been recommended that Stephanie attend some court hearings by telephones due to the safety risk that David posed to Stephanie.

As part of our Family Advocacy Support Service, we were also able to represent Stephanie at various court hearings held during her matter. We were able to advise Stephanie about the merits of proposed settlement options, assisting Stephanie to reach a final property settlement with David.

**\*All names and details changed to protect privacy.**

## TREASURER'S REPORT

After taking over the treasurer's position midway through the year I am pleased to present the 2018/19 Financial Statements.

There was an increase in funding in the 2018-2019 year compared to the previous year which can be attributed to a one-off CALD project of \$90,000. The direct wages and resources for this project also increased to ensure funding requirements were met.

The job profit and losses attached to the financial report show the allocation of expenses to each of the various funding arrangements received. These reports are important to see the level of service the centre provides to different areas while also showing the costs associated with these programs. Some of the programs allow the carry forward of funds with a total of \$66,959 to be carried into the 2019/2020 year.

This year the organisation put a focus on fundraising activities. Future fundraising and other donations (not specific to programs) will increase this reserve which can be used to fund future projects.

AMD Chartered Accountants once again audited the financial statements giving their opinion of a true and fair view of the financial position. The meeting with the auditor, Maria Cavallo, confirmed this position with the audit recommendations being actioned.

A huge credit should be given to both the outgoing CEO, Julie-Ann, the incumbent Managing Principal Solicitor, Eleanor, and of course their team in getting the organisation to a strong operational and financial position.



*Jaysen de San Miguel*  
*Treasurer*

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

See attached document.

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**The Board of Management and Staff of South West Community Legal Centre Inc. gratefully acknowledge the support of our funders:**



**Australian Government**  
**Attorney-General's Department**



**Government of Western Australia**  
**Department of the Attorney General**



**Government of Western Australia**  
**Department of Communities**



Funded by the Australian Government



**We also thank the many agencies we have worked alongside and/or held membership with during the financial year, including but not limited to;**



## SERVICE INFORMATION

Hours of Operation: Monday to Thursday 9am to 4pm



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**SOUTH WEST**

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE INC