



YOUTH LEGAL SERVICE inc  
western australia

# Annual Report 2011

Focusing on  
priorities





**YOUTH LEGAL SERVICE inc**  
western australia

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**Youth Legal Service**  
**1st Floor 138 Murray St**  
**Perth WA 6000**  
**Tel 08 9202 1688**  
**[www.youthlegalserviceinc.com.au](http://www.youthlegalserviceinc.com.au)**

## **SERVICE CHARTER**

Youth Legal Service was founded on the following principles that acknowledge:

The uniqueness and dignity of each person.

That love, justice, truth, integrity and compassion are important principles guiding our service with young people.

That young people have a legitimate right to participate within society.

That we support the terms of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

That society and particularly governments have a special role in encouraging young people to represent their own needs and facilitate a healthy and constructive way for young people to participate within society.

## **CLIENTS**

Youth Legal Service focuses service delivery on meeting the legal needs of young people (up to 25 years of age), families and carers of young people in need of legal assistance, and those working directly with children and youth who are important to the needs of young people.

## **STRATEGIC INTENTIONS**

Youth Legal Service seeks to fulfill its vision, service charter and strategic direction by offering:

- legal services to all Western Australians under 25 years of age;
- financial counselling services to young people in metropolitan Western Australia;
- community legal education on youth issues; and
- policy and law reform activities.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Youth Legal Service depends on the support of our funders and sponsors to ensure that we can achieve our goals of providing legal services, financial counselling, community legal education and law and policy reform to the young people of Western Australia.

### **Our special thanks go to:**

#### **SPONSORS:**

- Anglicare WA
- Congregation of Christian Brothers (Oceania)
- YMCA of Perth

#### **FUNDERS:**

- Commonwealth of Australia Department of the Attorney General
- Public Purposes Trust
- Department of Attorney-General, Western Australia
- Department for Child Protection
- Lotterywest

## **OFFICE HOURS**

Monday – Friday 9-00am to 5-00pm

## **STATEWIDE LEGAL ADVICE LINE 1800 199 006**

Monday – Friday 9-00am to 5-00pm

## **BOARD MEMBERS AS AT 30 JUNE 2011**

Debra Rosser	(Chairperson)
Richard Price	(Deputy Chairperson)
Marc Spradbury	(Treasurer)
Philippa Boldy	
Graham Castledine	
Graham Cox	
Keshan Sureshan	

## **STAFF MEMBERS AS AT 30 JUNE 2011**

Cheryl Cassidy-Vernon	Manager
Gerald Xavier	Senior Solicitor
Angela Devitt	Solicitor
Vina Godrei	Solicitor
Audrey Turner	Financial Counsellor
Sharon Newman	Senior Administration Officer/Financial Counselling Case Support Worker
Michael Ford	Law Education Program Coordinator
Tegan Stewart	Administration Assistant

## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

This year's report is being written as Perth prepares to host the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM). All manner of sprucing up has been undertaken and we are, physically at least, looking our absolute best. Dignitaries, including our Royal head of state, will come and admire us, and will no doubt leave with a fine impression of Perth's friendliness and envy us the prosperity that a vibrant economy can deliver.



At Youth Legal Service, we are acutely aware that these economic benefits are not reaching into all areas of our population. We continue to greatly exceed our targets in court appearances, legal advice and financial counselling and advocacy. And our staff deal with increasingly complex matters on behalf of clients who are caught up in the maelstrom of consumerism and relationship turmoil that seems to define our times.

During the year under review, YLS has had its own financial struggles and the Board is very grateful to the staff for the way they have pulled together under Cheryl Cassidy-Vernon's leadership to ensure that we leave the year on sound financial footing. This year has demonstrated how few resources a small agency like YLS has to fall back on and how dependent we are on government to fund innovative services. It has also shown us how hard it is to raise funds from the private sector.

During the past two years we have been reviewing our governance structures and we are now entering the final phase of consultation with our founding sponsors. YLS will soon be entering a new phase of our development; an era which will broaden our horizons, enable us to embrace new partners and extend our collaborative reach to the youth of Western Australia. A new membership model is planned for YLS, aimed at formalising the collaborative nature of our work and acknowledging the interdependence and complexity of youth legal issues. As the need for our services grows, so must we, but we must do this strategically and in partnership with others.

YLS has also seen some very longstanding Board members retire this year. Ron Mell, our Treasurer, has taken up the post of CEO of the YMCA Australia and has left us in favour of the bright lights of Melbourne. Ron's service to YLS over many years has been incalculable. We also farewelled Graham Cox during the year, and, will be farewelling Graham Castledine at the AGM. On a happier note, we were pleased to welcome back Philippa Boldy from maternity leave and hail the return of Marc Spradbury as Treasurer.

This is my final report as Chair as I will be retiring at the AGM. Throughout my time on the Board I have been impressed by the dedication and generosity of staff, our Director and Board members. YLS fulfils a unique place in the history of our State and I am very proud to have played my little part in that. My particular gratitude goes to Richard Price, our Deputy-Chair, for his unstinting kindness and support.

**Dr Debra Rosser**

Chair, Youth Legal Service Inc.

## DIRECTOR'S REPORT

2011 has proven to be an important year for Youth Legal Service as we implemented our new vision and other aspects of the Strategic Plan. Our new vision of—every young person in Western Australia is able to exercise his/her legal rights and responsibilities – has from an operational perspective meant we have focused a lot of energy this year in determining our priorities in respect to core service delivery and how we might focus future energies on the important task of identifying new or emerging legal needs, pathways and barriers that



enable or disable young people to exercise their legal rights and responsibilities. There is significant anecdotal evidence that suggests young people living in rural, regional and remote areas in Western Australia, as well as newly arrived young people experience disadvantage and barriers in accessing legal information, legal education and legal advice. Additionally, the existing legal services for young people are in a state of flux as new legislative measures are introduced, such as Parental Responsibility Orders, Prohibited Behaviour Orders, and Stop and Search Powers. Such legislative changes come on the back of recent changes to family law and child protection which put pressure on existing family law services for the disadvantaged such as community legal centres and Legal Aid. As a provider of services to the disadvantaged, Youth Legal Service is mindful of the need to provide services in the area of law relevant to the needs of young people and is committed to a process of confirming our mandate for service delivery with our client group.

We turned our mind to the important task of managing our profile and demand for our services into the future so that we remain financially viable and responsive to our clients needs. Whilst some of these activities can be undertaken by face to face presentations, legal clinics and the like, we have considered other means of profile management via our website, web based technologies and social network media and will in the near future implement new strategies for managing our profile, brand and service delivery, coupled with our emergent research platform which we envisage will assist Youth Legal Service to increase its capacity to stimulate and contribute to public policy discussion and community awareness.

Mindful of our role as the premier provider of youth legal services in the state of Western Australia, we have undertaken this year a significant upgrade of community legal education resources to ensure that all resources reference the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, and that we provide at least one regional education tour per financial year.

Given that the What's My Rights? Initiative was the first of its kind to be delivered, it was important to assess the effectiveness of the program and to assess what had been learnt as a consequence of the coming together of a number of agencies (albeit predominately clcs) to respond to specific needs in a rural, regional or remote location. Accordingly, service providers were invited to participate in a debrief on Friday 24 June 2011 in Kununurra. The following notes reflect the learnings of the initiative:



Whilst we are not funded specifically to do this, we believe that to ensure access and equity to all, we must be prepared to step away from the metropolitan area from time to time in order to remind us that there are many living in Western Australia who do not have equal access to legal information and support.

In the interests of improving our knowledge of youth legal issues, and to increase the pool of talent that is available to Youth Legal Service, we have grappled with some long overdue governance changes, which will be implemented in the near future. We envisage that these changes will increase our capacity to reform the law, increase our profile and provide potential for Youth Legal Service to partner with other organisations for the purpose of furthering youth legal interests.

Over the course of the 2010/11 Financial year there has been a high level of commitment from staff to implementing the direction of our Board via our strategic plan, as well as a high level of commitment to supporting and advocating for our clients as they become immersed in the legal system. Such support and advocacy is testimony to our vision of young people exercising their legal rights and responsibilities.

Financially it has been a challenging year with a small deficit being returned. Whilst this is manageable at this time, the need to operate within budget in the future so as to ensure the financial stability of Youth Legal Service is paramount, alongside the capacity to respond to the growth opportunities that present themselves .

I take this opportunity to thank the Staff of Youth Legal Service who work tirelessly to fulfil the vision, Service Charter and strategic direction set down by the Board.

To the Board I extend my gratitude for your sound governance and dedication to our Staff and Clients. I acknowledge the particular contribution of Ron Mell who left the Board this year to take up a position in Melbourne , after 11 years service, and, to Graham Cox who left the Board after 8 years service.

Youth Legal Service is committed to balancing its operating budget and operating on a solid financial foundation. Currently, we have a mixture of revenues from government funding and charitable giving. Just as revenues are tracked, internal expenses will continue to be closely monitored. But we also need to take action to grow our funding base, in terms of both diversity of sources and quantum of revenue. Raising funds and engaging in beneficial strategic partnerships will therefore be important future activities for the Service.

The Board and Staff of Youth Legal Service continue to work toward providing a quality experience in the most effective and efficient manner possible. We approach the future with optimism for our continued success in addressing the legal needs of young people in this State and implementing the new strategic plan.

**Cheryl Cassidy-Vernon**

Director, Youth Legal Service



## **SERVICE DELIVERY**

### **Legal Services**

Includes legal information, legal advice, advocacy and legal representation within metropolitan Children's Courts.

### **Financial Counselling**

Includes client assessments, budget plans. Casework, advocacy and representation at tribunals etc.

### **Community Legal Education**

Developing awareness amongst young people and those that work with young people of their rights and responsibilities, and reducing the conditions that contribute to the need for legal services for young people.

### **Policy and Law Reform**

Involves campaigning for law reform on youth issues and improving the access of young people to mainstream services, as well as researching youth legal issues.

### **Special Projects**

Schools Law Information Program (SLIP)

Indigenous Northern Access Project

## LEGAL SERVICES

Legal services provided to our clients include legal advice, advocacy and legal representation (in the Metropolitan Children's Courts). Our confidential legal services are available to young people up to 25 years of age, during the hours of 9-00am and 5-00pm Monday through to Friday. Services may be via telephone advice or face to face advice by appointment.

We endeavour to provide legal advice and information assistance to all young Western Australians, although we have some funding constraints which force us to restrict access to different program areas as outlined in the smaller picture.

We achieve our legal service strategic intention of providing legal services to young people in Western Australia as follows:

Providing legal representation in the metropolitan Children's Court

443 Appearances

Providing a state wide legal information and advice service

785 legal advice sessions

Providing Legal Casework Services

413 case files opened

453 case files closed

## 2010/11 LEGAL CLIENT CASEWORK DEMOGRAPHICS

Total number of clients for which casework was undertaken: 833

### Sex

Male	558
Female	275
<b>Total</b>	<b>833</b>

### Age

<18	416
18+	417
<b>Total</b>	<b>833</b>

### Income

Low	100%
Medium	
High	

### Ethnicity

ATSI	18
NESB	42
Other	773
<b>Total</b>	<b>833</b>

### Geographic Indicators

Perth Metropolitan Area	583
Regional, Rural or Remote Area	250
<b>Total</b>	<b>833</b>

## Dan's Moment of Stupidity

Dan has just turned 18.

He was observed on CCTV writing on a lamp post and was subsequently charged with criminal damage.

On the night in question Dan had been drinking with friends at a nightclub. On leaving the club he found a marker pen and proceeded to tag the lamp post. He cannot recollect what prompted him to tag the lamp post but is very worried as he is studying at university and a criminal record will limit his career choices.

As a 17 year old, Dan had received a caution for tagging a drain pipe.

He may be eligible for a spent conviction, thus alleviating his concerns about his future career, however the court will have access to the details of his previous caution and could theoretically, not grant a spent conviction, and worse, could impose imprisonment, although a fine or community service were more likely.

With the assistance of Youth Legal Service, Dan was able to obtain character references that assisted him to get a spent conviction.

Once in court, Dan pleaded guilty and our lawyer was able to advocate for a spent conviction order on Dan's behalf. Luckily, the order was granted and although Dan did receive a fine and was ordered to pay court costs, the Spent Conviction Order means that Dan has a clean Police Record, thus, alleviating Dan's future career concerns.



## **Further considerations regarding provision of legal services**

There were a number of issues impacting on legal service delivery. During 2009, Legal Aid WA introduced a number of changes that have had a flow on effect to our service delivery. These changes included a reduction in face to face service with a corresponding increase in telephone advice services. The effect of this is evident in our statistics with a marked decline in advice line sessions but correspondingly our court work has escalated.

## **Program by Program Breakdown**

### **State and Commonwealth Community Legal Service Program**

The broad objective related to this funding is to provide a quality legal service that is sensitive and responsive to the legal and social needs of young people. Our emphasis is the provision of service delivery (casework and court representation) within the Perth Metropolitan Area and the conduct of a telephone legal advice line that can be accessed by young people throughout Western Australia for the cost of a local telephone call.

The state wide legal information and advice service (via 1800 199 006).

163 legal advice sessions were conducted via the state wide telephone advice line.

Additionally, 137 face to face advice sessions were conducted in areas outside of the Perth Metropolitan Area.

A metropolitan information and advice service based in the Perth Central Business District. Based at 1st Fl 138 Murray St Perth.

Total of 583 case work clients for the reporting period were based in the Perth Metropolitan area.

## REPORTING OF MANDATORY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR COMMONWEALTH AND STATE COMMUNITY LEGAL SERVICE PROGRAMS

Strategy	Mandatory Performance Indicators
<b>Information</b>	
<i>Provide Information</i>	<i>Information occurrences (55) 56</i>
<b>Legal Advice</b>	
<i>Provide Face to Face Advice (One-off)</i>	<i>No. of face to face advices (150) 401</i>
<i>Provide Telephone Advices</i>	<i>by telephone (250) 546</i>
<b>Casework</b>	
<i>Provide Casework</i>	<i>No of clients by: clients with cases opened (400) 413 clients with cases closed (400) 453</i>
<i>Court Appearances</i>	<i>Cases involving court appearances (100-150) 443</i>
<i>Meet Professional Standards</i>	<i>Compliance with Professional Indemnity Insurance requirements. Satisfactory completion of annual cross check.</i>
<b>Non Casework</b>	
<i>Other Activities</i>	<i>Community Legal Education Workshops(47)47 workshops conducted</i>  <i>Law Reform Campaign Projects (2) 12 campaigns completed.</i>
<b>Accountability</b>	<i>Reporting requirements met. Services provided within budget. Audit requirements met. Satisfactorily completed.</i>

## THE HEALING POWER OF YOUTH LEGAL SERVICE

### JENNA'S STORY

Jenna is 19 years of age. She has a long history of mental health issues linking back to being raped at the age of 12.

Jenna was raped by a family friend triggering off a set of traumatic events:

She could not concentrate on her school work, her grades fell and she was forced to leave the family home as the perpetrator of the rape lived nearby.

During the trauma of the rape trial, Jenna attempted suicide by hanging herself.

Her schoolwork continued to suffer and during her Year 10 she was hospitalised frequently for mental health matters, thereby effectively ending her formal education.

Jenna experienced nightmares, insomnia, post traumatic stress disorder and anxiety and frequently self harmed by cutting her arms.

Due to her ongoing health issues she was unable to sustain employment nor realise her dream of entering the defence force.

At 17 she overdosed on anti-psychotic medication and ended up in a coma.

Since that time she has received significant health support and eventually felt strong enough to apply for Criminal Injuries Compensation.

Unfortunately, for Jenna she was out of time and no-one had assisted her to make the compensation claim. Her mental health worker referred her to Youth Legal Service and we were able to assist her to make an application. In the first instance we advocated on her behalf to the Criminal Injuries Assessor to accept a late application on the grounds that no-one had made a claim on her behalf whilst she was a child, and that at 17 she had attempted to make a claim herself but had found it too traumatic due to an increase in anxiety, nightmares and flashbacks.

Youth Legal Service was able to slow the application process down so as to manage the risk of escalating Jenna's mental health symptoms in conjunction with her mental health support worker. Jenna's application has now been lodged and approved with an award that covers the cost of medical reports, an allowance for future treatment and compensation to cover her pain and suffering, her loss of enjoyment for life, and her ongoing psychological issues. The therapeutic value of this compensation goes well beyond providing for Jenna's future medical needs. It provides an acknowledgement of the trauma she suffered, and recognition that society failed to protect her from harm and provides a way for society to express its regret about what happened to her. The benefit that Jenna derives from the assistance given to her by Youth Legal Service is the healing power of the acknowledgement, recognition and expression of regret in that these give Jenna a sense of control and self worth which will enable her to begin her recovery from the trauma.





## **PUBLIC PURPOSES TRUST YOUTH LEGAL PROJECTS**

Youth Legal Service has provided outreach services utilising funding from the Public Purposes Trust administered by the Law Society of Western Australia.

This year we were funded to provide outreach via the North East Metropolitan Suburbs Youth Legal Project. These regions encompass the intake areas for the Joondalup and Midland Children’s Court, and include the local government areas of Bassendean, Bayswater, Kalamunda, Mundaring, Stirling, Swan and Wanneroo/Joondalup. Further funding was provided for the South Suburbs Metropolitan Suburbs Youth Legal Project. These regions encompass the intake areas for the Fremantle and Armadale Children’s Courts, and includes the local government areas of Armadale, Belmont, Canning, Cockburn, East Fremantle, Fremantle, Gosnells, Kwinana and Melville.

Both regions serviced have been identified by the Department of Corrective Services as high need areas with young people being at extreme risk of offending, and this is supported by our consultation with local agencies and the limited legal services and community legal education we have been able to offer to these regions.

### **North and East Suburbs Youth Legal Project**

Cases carried over:	18
New cases:	44
Total Cases:	62
Cases finalised:	52
Cases carried over to next year:	10
No of closed cases involving court representation:	52

### **South Eastern Suburbs Youth Legal Project**

Cases carried over:	5
New cases:	138
Total Cases:	143
Cases finalised:	138
Cases carried over to next year:	5
No of closed cases involving court representation:	136

## FINANCIAL COUNSELLING

Our strategic intention of providing Financial Counselling services to young people in Western Australia was achieved by:

A metropolitan financial counselling service providing assessments, budget planning, advocacy and referral.

### 106 Financial Counselling Cases

Cases carried over:	21
New cases:	60
Total cases:	81
Cases finalised:	69
Cases carried over to next year:	12

#### Cases closed:

Minor cases	0<5 hours	15
Medium cases	5>20 hours	40
Major cases	20+ hours	14
Total cases closed		69

## Providing representation in negotiations with utilities, tribunals and commissions.

59 instances of representation

# CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

## Gender

Male	53
Female	53
Total Client	106

## Ethnicity

ATSI	11
CALD	14
Other	81
Total Clients	106

## Age

<18	8
18-24 Years	97
25	1

Of note during 2010/11 Financial Year was the continuing complexity of cases with most clients presenting with multiple debts and enormous creditor pressure. We had a huge jump in the number of single people with dependent children presenting for assistance, and also experienced a number of newly arrived people but not refugees who had arrived in Australia with little money and soon fell for cash quick lending schemes. Casework has been so intense that our capacity for group work and education workshops was restricted.

## THINGS CAN GO KAPUT SO QUICKLY...

Ruth is a 22 year sole parent to a new baby and a toddler.

Ruth had enrolled at university to ensure a career for herself and to improve the prospects of her young family.

Ruth had recently split from her partner whilst pregnant, however, she was managing her studies and child care commitments via assistance from a social housing provider, however, pregnancy complications resulted in Ruth being hospitalized a number of times. Ruth fell behind on payments to a telecommunications company for a Netbook. A default notification was made and now Ruth was listed as a bad debtor.

Youth Legal Service assisted Ruth to request a waiver of fees and charges on the debt with the view to either settling the debt or entering a payment arrangement. This request was rejected by the telecommunications company and the debt continued to attract default fees and charges, so Youth Legal Service assisted Ruth to appeal the matter to the Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman.

The Ombudsman ordered that all fees and charges were to be waived and the default notification to be removed. Without Youth Legal Service assistance, Ruth's account will have continued to spiral with default fees and charges and she would have remained listed as a defaulter with the Credit Reporting agency.



## COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION

Community Legal Education is an integral component of Youth Legal Service delivery based on the notion of the more people know about the law the less likely they are to fall foul of it. Community Legal Education activities undertaken in 2010/11 are as follows:

### Law Education Program

A program offered to young people under 18 years of age and their parents. Young people are first or minor offenders referred via the Children's Court or Juvenile Justice Teams. This program:

- Examines offending behaviour

- Encourages the young person to take responsibility for his/her behaviour.

- Explores the consequences of further offending

- Provides current information pertaining to legal rights and responsibilities.

YLS conducted 15 Law Education Sessions.

### Customised Workshops for Young People

Four customized workshops for groups of young people in school and youth agencies were developed and subsequently delivered.

### Standardised Workshops

Youth Legal Service has developed and delivered a number of standard workshops for young people in schools and youth agencies as follows:

Workshop Title	Number of Times Delivered
Court Hierarchy	4
When Can I	6
What is Public Space?	4
Public Space Scenario	4
Public Space Quiz	4
Alcohol & Drugs Scenario	4
Alcohol & Drugs Quiz	4
Duty of Care	5
Police Powers	7
Total Standard Workshops	42

## POLICY AND LAW REFORM

Youth Legal Service seeks to stimulate and contribute to public policy discussion and community awareness by developing mechanisms to participate in policy development, and to inform government, the media and the public about young people's access to justice. This is achieved through our policy and law reform campaigns. Youth Legal Service has been active in a number of law reform areas in 2010/11 as follows:

Area of law	Activities
Inspectorate of Custodial Services	The Director is a serving member of the Community Advisory Group.
Corrective Services	The Director is a serving member of the Corrective Services Consultative Group.
Sex Offender Register	The Service has actively sought changes to the Community Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004, and participated in the Law Reform Commission consultation which resulted in the Community Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004, Discussion Paper Feb 2011.
Refugee Youth Legal Needs	The Service continues to contribute to efforts to improve the re-settlement of young people in regards to them understanding the law.
WA Youth Policy	The Service remains active in the joint NGO driven – youth policy group.
Cyber- Bullying	The Service presented its research on cyber bullying, and is developing new community legal education workshops to address the legal needs arising from social media etc.
Tasers	The Service developed a background paper on the use of Tasers.
Search and Seizure	The Service has been actively involved in preparing materials etc to interested parties in respect to proposed legislative changes.
Law Week 2011	The Director served as a member of the Law Week Working Party for Law Week 2011.
Youth Services Hub	The Director is still actively involved in the establishment of a youth lotteries house.
Homelessness Connect	The Service was a participant in the Homelessness Connect Project 2011.
Children in Police Lock Ups	The Service has recently opened a campaign to address this pressing issue.

## LAW REFORM SUBMISSIONS 2010/11

Topic	Submission To
Criminal Code Amendment (Infringement Notices) Bill 2010	WA Parliament
Road Traffic Legislation Amendment (Disqualification by Notice) Bill 2010	WA Parliament
Prohibited Behaviour Orders	WA Parliament
How does Western Australia line up on its implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child?	Child's Rights Taskforce Child's NGO Report to UN
Commonwealth Children's Commissioner	Submission to the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee, Parliament of Australia.
Community Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004	Law Reform Commission of Western Australia



## IT PAYS TO SEEK LEGAL ADVICE

### KEVIN'S CAR

Kevin is 20 years of age, he attends a function in the Swan Valley one evening. He is not intoxicated when he leaves the function. On the drive home, his car starts clunking. Kevin pulls to the side of the road and checks under the bonnet, nothing seems to be astray, so he jumps back in the car and continues his journey home. Soon the car makes a loud noise and the engine conks out. Kevin again looks under the bonnet, only to discover that the engine has caught fire, he tries to smother the flames to no avail, he leaves his car and goes to his friend's house nearby for assistance.

On arrival Kevin is highly agitated and upset, his friend offers him a drink to calm him down. Two more drinks later, the friend accompanies Kevin back to his burning car. The Police turn up and breathalyse Kevin. He returns a positive reading, however, on further investigation, the Police are satisfied that the alcohol was consumed post the car fire, and Kevin is not charged with a drink driving offence. However, the Department of Transport writes off the car as being unsafe to repair.

Kevin subsequently makes a claim to his insurance company to replace the car (on which he still owes \$23000). The claim is refused on the basis of the positive alcohol test, despite the Police ascertaining that the alcohol was consumed post the car catching on fire.

Youth Legal Service advocates for Kevin that indeed his claim is a legitimate claim and that there is no evidence to suggest that Kevin was intoxicated at the time of the fire. By providing further evidence and investigation on behalf of Kevin, Youth Legal Service establishes that the insurance company, by refusing his claim is breaching its contract with Kevin. The matter is resolved when Youth Legal Service advocates for the insurance company to pay Kevin's claim rather than suing for a breach of contract. Kevin is grateful to Youth Legal Service, he thought that he was going to be left with a debt for a written off car but thanks to Youth Legal Service he is no longer out of pocket.





## **SPECIAL PROJECTS**

### **SCHOOLS LAW INFORMATION PROGRAM**

Each day we receive numerous requests from schools for legal education talks and resource materials for personal student information and for course related legal information. These requests never seem to end. Previously we have struggled to find funding to meet such requests, despite their capacity to act as a crime prevention strategy. Prior to the funding received from the Legal Contribution Fund for the period 1 July 2006 to 30 June 2011, we had been given no government funding to provide school talks despite numerous requests to the Department of Education and the Department of Corrective Services for assistance. This left us no alternative but to pass the costs of providing a law information program onto schools. Unfortunately, the end result of this was that sometimes the schools (particularly in relation to youth at risk) most in need of the law information program do not get it. Thankfully, we can report as a direct result of the LCT funding we have been able to resource the appropriate schools with education materials and presentations with the following aims:

To raise awareness of the participants of the law and legal processes.

To increase the ability of participants to understand and critically assess the impact of the law and legal system on themselves and society in general, particularly in relation to the impact of crime on the community.

To improve the participants' ability to deal with and use the law and legal system for positive gains.

To work closely with professionals within schools and youth services to establish an education program appropriate to the needs of a particular agency or geographical area. eg. District may have graffiti problem or young people may be having excessive contact with security guards at shopping centres, etc.

## INDIGENOUS NORTHERN ACCESS PROJECT

In seeking to enact this program in 2010/11, Youth Legal Service decided that the best way forward was to concentrate its activities in the East Kimberley region and in doing so to work closely with the Kimberley Community Legal Services (KCLS) to determine how best to implement the program. Youth Legal Service discussed the best way forward to ensure that local people in the East Kimberley were resourced to deal with local issues. KCLS indicated that Youth Legal Service should repeat the series of legal education workshops and legal clinics especially targeted at indigenous young people, and those working with young people in the East Kimberley region of Western Australia, that were previously offered during the 2008/9 Financial Year. KCLS staff had undergone a significant turnover and many of the new staff would benefit from training possibly provided by specialist community legal centres, and the capacity for local legal practitioners to undertake mandatory Continuing Professional Development was limited. Accordingly, in addition to the legal clinics and workshops to be undertaken by WRAS and YLS as part of their northern outreach, it was decided to investigate whether other specialist centres were interested in joining in to provide training to local people. Youth Legal Service took the lead in sourcing other centres to participate in an intense community legal education experience which became known as – What’s my rights?

As this initiative grew, Youth Legal Service took an active role in recruiting involvement from Community Legal Centres and Legal Aid Kununurra as well as the Law Society. Youth Legal Service is grateful to the Attorney-General’s Department for its funding support which enabled us not only to deliver a repeat of the program offered in 2008/9 but also enabled us to take the lead to initiate a more comprehensive community legal education offering to the East Kimberley.





**YOUTH LEGAL SERVICE inc**  
western australia

## **2011 FINANCIAL REPORTS**

**INCOME STATEMENT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011**

	2011	2010
Revenue	\$	\$
Funding and grants	730,035	769,446
Other Income	28,002	35,337
Amortisation	70,708	-
Recoverable Interest earned	24,509	16,554
	<u>853,254</u>	<u>821,337</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Audit	1,730	2,650
Bank charges	241	465
Consultancy	75,198	33,761
Depreciation	29,944	28,363
Disbursements	136	574
Equipment	569	3,955
Insurance	11,541	10,519
Management Fees	-	7,222
Motor Vehicles	21,033	14,412
Postage	1,770	1,977
Printing and stationery	8,414	12,418
Recruitment	225	-
Rent	60,645	59,519
Repairs and maintenance	16,832	10,152
Resources	9,523	17,203
Salaries	560,577	538,272
Staff Amenities	10,794	11,192
Subscriptions and memberships	4,548	3,781
Telephone	17,011	15,381
Training	12,694	10,130
Travel and accommodation	19,404	12,649
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<u>862,829</u>	<u>794,595</u>
<b>Net (Deficit) / Surplus or the year</b>	<u>(9,575)</u>	<u>26,742</u>

**BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 30 JUNE 2011**

	2011	2010
	\$	\$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	260,450	411,411
Trade and other receivables	4,495	550
Prepayments	8,668	12,010
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<u>273,613</u>	<u>423,971</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	88,043	80,421
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<u>88,043</u>	<u>80,421</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u>361,656</u>	<u>504,392</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Trade and other payables	30,470	54,495
Grants received in advance	-	17,872
Provisions	41,265	56,048
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<u>71,735</u>	<u>128,415</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Provisions	24,376	30,149
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<u>24,376</u>	<u>30,149</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<u>96,111</u>	<u>158,563</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<u>265,545</u>	<u>345,828</u>
<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>		
Capital Grants	28,861	99,569
Accumulated funds	236,684	246,259
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>	<u>265,545</u>	<u>345,828</u>

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011

	2011	2010
	\$	\$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Receipts from grants and funding agreements	736,220	805,204
Payments to suppliers and employees	(874,124)	(799,142)
Net cash flows used in operating activities	<u>(137,904)</u>	<u>6,062</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Interest received	24,509	16,554
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	(37,566)	(20,656)
Net cash flows (used in) / from investing activities	<u>(13,057)</u>	<u>(4,102)</u>
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents</b>	(150,961)	1,960
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year</b>	411,411	409,451
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year</b>	<u>260,450</u>	<u>411,411</u>



