



Annual Report 2020-2021

Promoting access to justice for children and young people
through representation, education, and advocacy

Suite 3, 12 St Georges Tce, Perth WA 6000
08 9202 1688
yls@youthlegalserviceinc.com.au

Contents

Our Impact	2
Strategic Plan	3
Overview	4
Board Members	5
Staff Members	6
Chairpersons Report	7
Directors Report	8
Principal Solicitors Report	9
Detailed Client Demographics	10
Detailed Service Data	11
Court Representation	12
Education	13
Sustainability	14
#Stopcyberbullying Report	15
Case Studies	18
Treasurer Report	20
Financial Statements	20

Acknowledgment to the Land and People

We recognize the traditional owners of the land the, Whadjuk Noongar nation and pay respect to their connections to the land and sea. We pay respects to elders past, present, and emerging.

Our Impact to Priority Client Groups

Youth Legal Service has continued to provide advocacy to young people, many of whom come within priority groups as identified by the National Legal Partnership Agreement.

461 Of the young people we have assisted:

316 Had low or no income.

199 Were under the age of 18.

155 Disclosed Mental Health or disabilities.

66 Disclosed at risk or experiencing family violence

22 Disclosed as Homelessness or at risk

39 Identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

18 Outer regional, rural, and remote

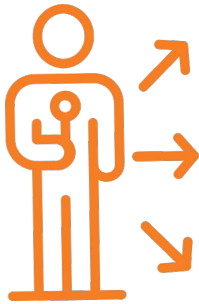
21 Cultural or linguistically diverse (CALD)



Strategic Plan

Youth Legal Service prides itself in promoting justice for youth. Our strategic plan has three three pillars.

Advocacy



Understanding and advocating for the legal needs of children and young people.

Sustainability



Playing an active role in the development of an awareness of legal rights and responsibilities for children and young people.

Education



Integrating economic and environmental factors, and, social opportunity to pursue our mission.

Key Result Areas

Developing new ways of providing legal advocacy service to children and young people.

Recognising the special needs of children and young people who intersect with the law

Providing exceptional legal service delivery.

Conducting exceptional education workshops that address youth legal issues.

Exploring innovative practices for youth legal education delivery.

Providing leadership in best practice for legal service delivery to children and young people.

Disseminating credible commentary on youth legal issues.

Delivering our mission and vision using effective governance.

Administering our mission and vision through effective management of our resources.



Overview

Youth Legal Service is a not-for-profit organization that provides free legal services to children and young people (under 25 years) residing in Western Australia.

Our Mission

Promoting access to justice for children and young people through representation, education, support and advocacy.

Our Values

Justice	We are fair, accessible and equitable
Integrity	We act in the best interest of young people
Empathy	We strive to comprehend each client's unique situation
Respect	We are considerate of the needs of young people

Our Funders

We would like to acknowledge the support of our 2019/20 funders:

- Commonwealth Community Legal Service Program Department of the Attorney General
- Lotterywest
- West Australian State Government

Community Legal Service Program - Legal Aid Western
Australia Criminal Property Confiscation Grant - Dept. of
Attorney General

Office Hours

Monday – Friday 9-00am - 4-00pm

Telephone: (08) 9202 1688

Email: yls@youthlegalserviceinc.com.au



Board Members



Anette Schoombee
Chair person



Paul Shanahan
Deputy Chair



Eileen Newby
Treasurer



Andrew Kazim
Board Member



Malcolm Bradley
Board Member



Shaun Wyn-Jones
Board Member



Her Honour Mara Barone
Board Member



Nicole Courtney
Board Member

His Honour David MacLean
Board Member

Current Staff Members



David Kernohan — Director

Sally Dechow — Principal Solicitor

Deborah Donovan — Senior Solicitor

William Dixon - Solicitor

Carol Newby — Book Keeper

Ryker Sackville — Administrator

Zoey Johnson — Administrator



Anette Schoombee
Chairperson

Chairperson's Report

The 2020 – 2021 financial year has been a year of consolidating and expanding the reach, impact and service of Youth Legal Service (YLS).

The year has seen an increase in the number of young people seeking legal advice and assistance. We have been fortunate the COVID subsidies and grants provided by the Commonwealth and State governments allowed YLS to engage an additional lawyer for the year to meet the additional need. Unfortunately, this funding is not ongoing, and the additional lawyer position will cease in December 2021.

YLS has run two successful #Stop cyberbullying campaigns during the year. Bullying and cyberbullying continue to be an issue, with many young people struggling to manage. The long-term effects of bullying in terms of disengagement from education, poorer mental health outcomes, and greater risk of increased alcohol and/or drug use are well known. We must continue to highlight this issue and do what we can to build resilience and confidence in young people to stand up against bullying behaviour.

YLS has also run three smaller campaigns on issues relevant to young people and their engagement with the police. These campaigns have been funded through a grant from Lotteries, and YLS appreciates the financial support provided through Lotteries. As well as the metropolitan area, these campaigns have targeted three regional areas – Kimberley, Pilbara, and the Goldfields. Although it is more expensive to run campaigns in these areas than in the metropolitan area, it is important that the campaigns reach young people in regional areas too.

I want to acknowledge the work and commitment of my fellow board members and, in particular, Eileen Newby for her careful attention to the finances. This year we also welcomed Judges David Maclean and Mara Barone to the Board, and we are grateful to them for the time they make available in their busy schedules to contribute to the Board.

The Board and I would like to acknowledge and thank David Kernohan, Director; Sally Dechow, Principal Solicitor; Deborah Donovan and William Dixon, Lawyers and the other staff for their hard work and commitment throughout the year.

Our thanks go to Commonwealth and State Funders for the funding which enables YLS to provide free legal advice to young people. This was the final year the funding was administered through the Legal Aid WA, CLC Funding Program, overseen by Allison Harris, State Program Manager (WA) and Leanne Pauletto, Senior Coordinator Reporting. Our thanks to Allison and Leanne for their years of service in administering the program. Oversight of the program has now moved to the Department of Justice.

We look forward to an ongoing constructive working relationship with the Department as the legal needs of young people are addressed.

Although a small Community Legal Centre, the work of Youth Legal is essential for many young people who need advice on and assistance in navigating the justice system. The Board is conscious of the need to further consolidate and strengthen YLS and look at innovative and effective ways to meet the ongoing need for education on legal issues of young people and the ever-increasing demand for legal advice and representation of young people.



The 2020 – 21 financial year has been a year of increasing demand and complexity of cases against the backdrop of uncertainty due to COVID.

The total number of clients assisted was 461, with 199 civil law matters and 293 criminal law matters, compared to 383 clients assisted in the 2019 – 20 financial year with 180 civil law and 223 criminal law matters.

Two trends noted during the financial year were the increasing number of young people with complex mental health issues requiring legal assistance. The second is a spike in the numbers of young people reporting family violence. Sixty-six young people experienced family violence, with 30 young people enquiring about family or domestic violence orders.

The issues of family violence and mental health are two of the known impacts of COVID, particularly for young people. The need for quality, State-based, free legal advice for young people will continue to be essential in the coming years as we deal with these issues and the interplay of family violence, mental health, and the justice system.

Over the past year, one of the top problem types has continued to be road traffic and vehicle regulatory offences, as outlined by Sally in her Principal Solicitor's Report.

Youth Legal successfully obtained a Lotterywest grant to create ten short 3D videos on young people and the law. Three video campaigns have been completed, Police and your Rights; Underage drinking; Move on Police Orders. Each campaign runs for three months. Police and Your Rights has been viewed 76k times; Underage drinking was viewed 88k times, and Move on Police Orders was viewed 63k times. Over the next year, other campaigns will run. I want to acknowledge the support of Lotterywest in assisting Youth Legal Service to use technology to reach young people in more effective ways.

In the past financial year, Youth Legal ran two #Stop Cyberbullying campaigns. The first was August to November 2020, with the second being April to June 2021. I want to acknowledge the Perth Influences and The Influencer Agency. They assisted us in the first campaign to raise cyberbullying and bullying more broadly among their followers. With the second campaign, a big thanks to Ross Wallman and NOVA radio station for their support and involvement in messaging young people. The results of these successful campaigns are documented on page 17.

We are looking forward to running the third campaign in 2022.

The #Stop Campaign and the broader messaging from Youth Legal service to young people would not be possible without the expertise and guidance from Tonic Digital. I want to thank Brendan Collins, the Director and his team for their ongoing support, advice, and assistance in social marketing.

Over the past year, we have seen the Youth Legal LinkedIn page grow to 166 followers. The Instagram page has 429 followers. Facebook has 352 followers, with 32,000 people reached in the July – August 2021 period. Social media is an effective way to target young people with messages about the law related to them, such as underage drinking, risk and alcohol, and consent.

I want to thank and acknowledge the commitment and hard work of staff members in the YLS team. Thank you to Sally Dechow for her support as Principal Solicitor and oversight of the legal practice. To Deborah Donovan for her commitment to representing young people in criminal matters who often have complex issues. This year we also welcomed William Dixon, a lawyer engaged on a 12month contract. We have appreciated Williams work particularly assisting young people with restraining orders and his love for youth education.

Thank you to Carol Newby for her care and oversight of the accounts and to Ryker Sackville for all his instructions on IT matters and assisting me with Accreditation and Zoey Johnson for her assistance with all the data inputting and administration.

Thank you to the Board for their support in my role as Director and their direction for Youth Legal.

The 2020 – 21 financial year was the final year the Community Legal Services Sector was funded through Legal Aid WA. Under the new National Partnership Agreement between the Commonwealth and State, funding and oversight of the CLC program was transferred to the Dept of Justice from 1 July 2021. I want to acknowledge Allison Harris and Leanne Pauletto for their years of service to the Community Legal Sector and Youth Legal Service and for their commitment – thank you.

We look forward to a constructive relationship with the Legal Assistance Branch within the Department of Justice who now has oversight of the CLC sector.



Principal Solicitor's Report

This year, has seen an increase in client numbers for the Lawyers at YLS.

We are fortunate to have Deborah Donovan who has continued as the Senior Lawyer and works diligently representing a majority of our criminal clients in both the Children's and Magistrates Courts.

In October 2020, William Dixon commenced as a Lawyer on a one-year contract. It has been great to have William here as a third lawyer, he has done most of our Legal Education Workshops throughout the year with enthusiasm which has been reflected in the good feedback given by the young people. William has done a majority of the Restraining Orders matters and criminal and other civil matters achieving good results for our clients.

Looking over the top problem types for the year, "Driving Without Authority" was the winner with 49 services performed followed closely by "Theft and Related Offences" with 48 services performed. "Restraining Orders" (Family Violence) (18 services) and Violence Restraining Orders (41 services) were also in the top problem types with "Driving with Alcohol or Drugs" (38 services) being the fourth most common.

There has been a continuing demand for assistance by young victims of crime with Criminal Injuries Compensation Applications. This year 6 of our young people received their Awards amounting to \$552,795 in total. We have also seen a rise in the number of young people who are requiring assistance in respect of answering Criminal Injuries Compensation Applications as Respondents and assistance with Compensation Reimbursement Orders.

As always, many young people continue to own and drive cars but not take out insurance which creates a lot of legal problems should they have an accident and be at fault. Young people not only face the potential driving charges but if at fault become liable for any damage caused as well as costs associated with impounding of their vehicle, loss of employment from loss of driver's license and in some circumstances reimbursement of money to the Insurance Commission of WA when personal injuries settlements have been made to the other driver or passengers. The impact of errors of judgment by young inexperienced drivers cannot be overstated.

By far the over-riding concern for young people who are facing criminal or traffic charges for the first time is whether they can get a Spent Conviction Order for the conviction. Having criminal convictions will impact greatly on the ability to get a job, maintain employment and on visa applications for young non-Australian citizens.

I would like to thank all those that we have continued to collaborate this year especially the Youth Law Team at Legal Aid WA, Claire Rossi, Annie O'Neill, Ernesto Godinez, Giulia Reale-Fucile including the duty lawyers, Daniel DeLange and Thomas McCulloch. We are very grateful for their willingness to assist when our lawyers are in other courts and to call on their expertise when required.

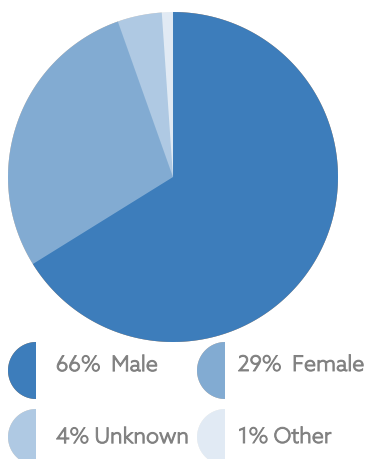
I also thank Helen Prince, Barrister who, despite being very busy is always generous with her assistance and willingness to provide support.

I would also like to thank Gai Walker and Novela Aleksic at Southern Communities Advocacy Legal Education Legal Service who assist us with the Rockingham Law Education Program.

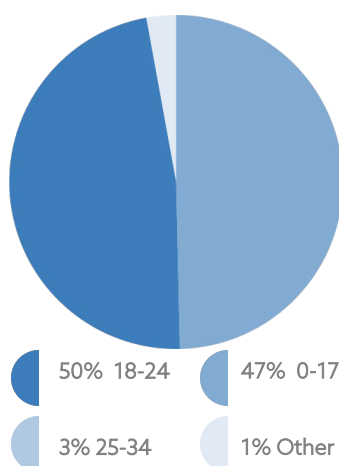
Lastly, I would like to thank James Sackville and Zoey Johnson our Administrative staff who work hard to make our work as lawyers run smoothly.

Detailed Client Demographics

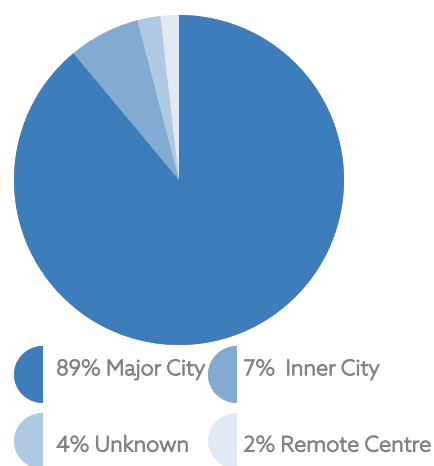
Young People Gender



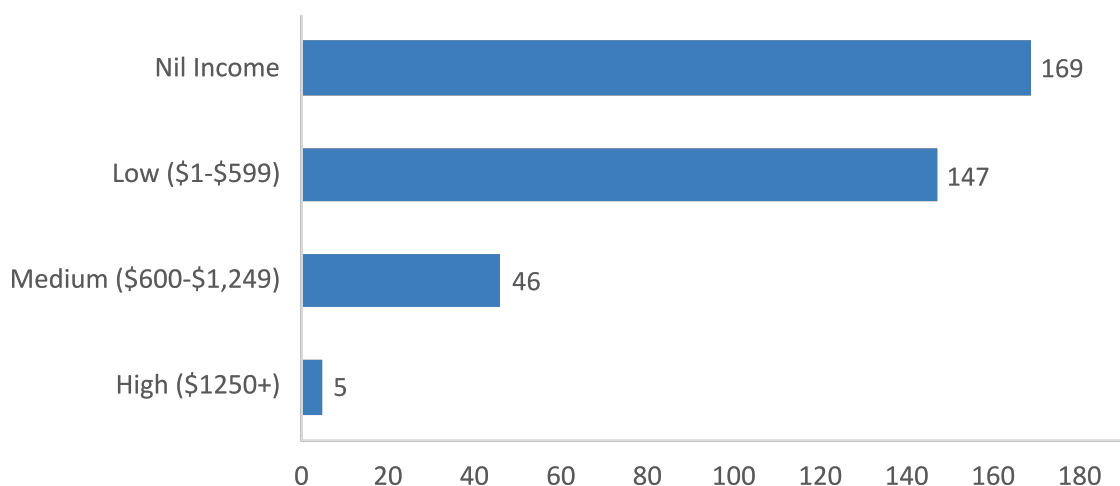
Young People Age



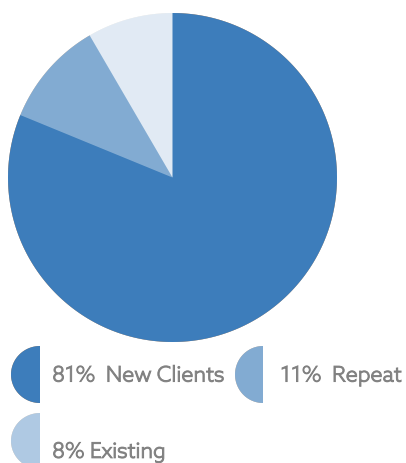
Geographical Area



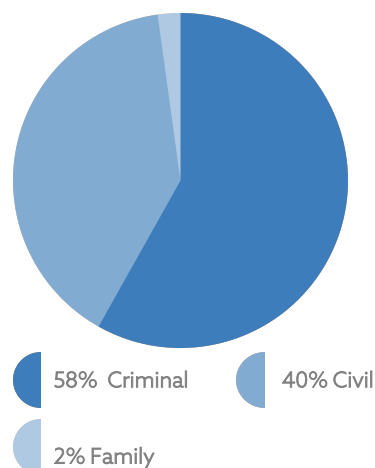
Young People Income



Total Number of New clients



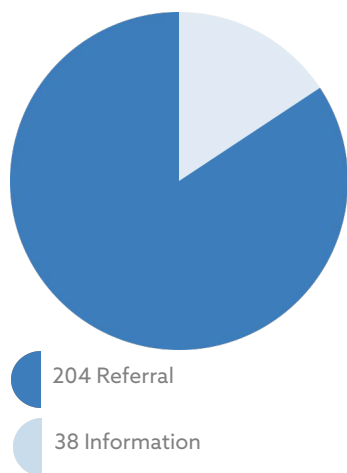
Law Type



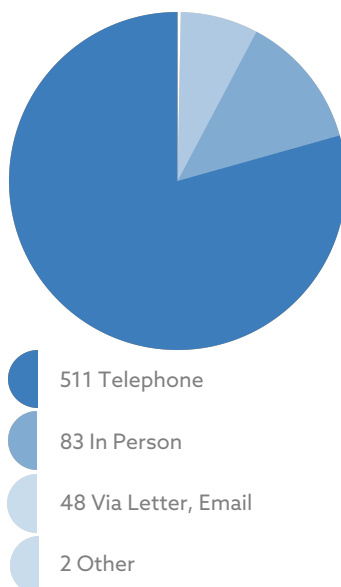
Detailed Service Data

Many clients require more than once off advice, we provide information, legal tasks, court representation and if required referrals to external organisations.

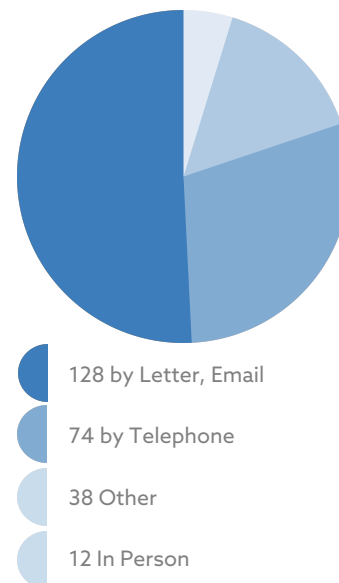
Information and Referrals



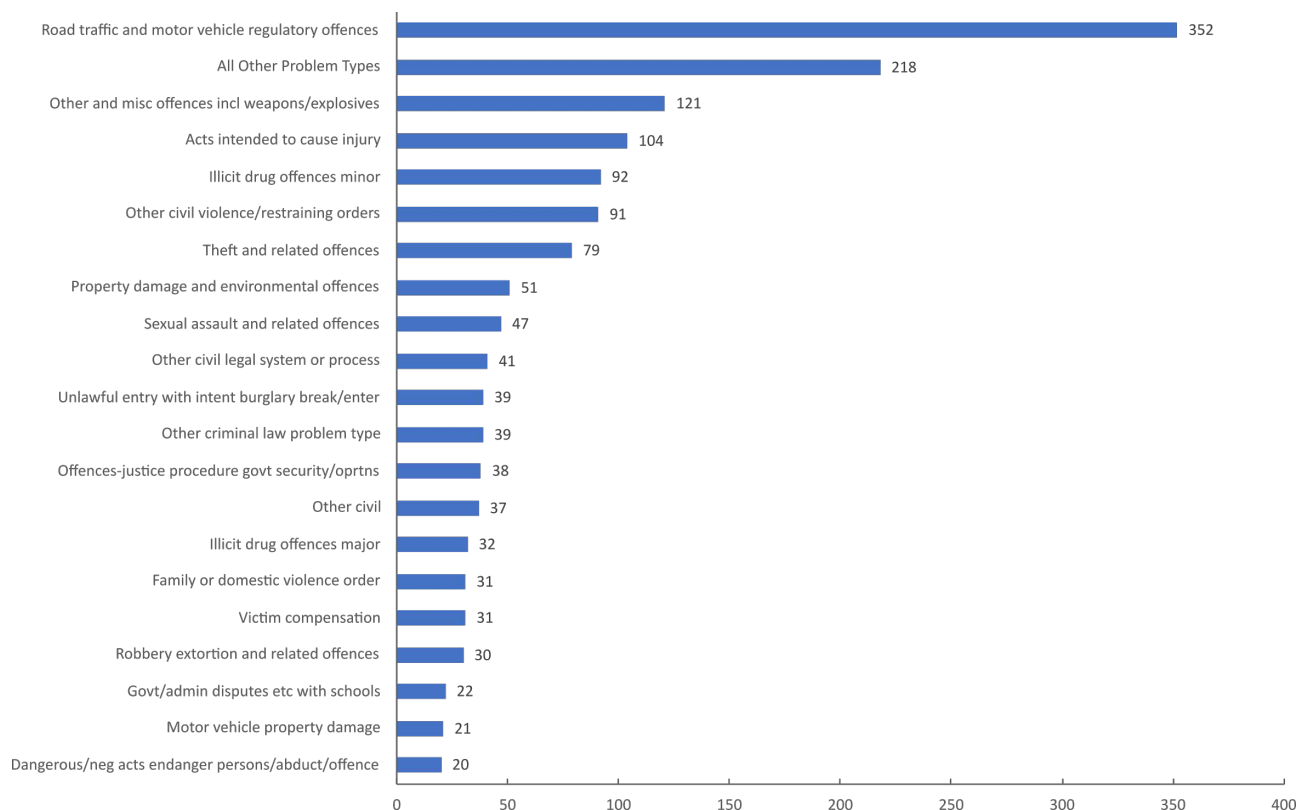
Legal Advice



Legal Tasks



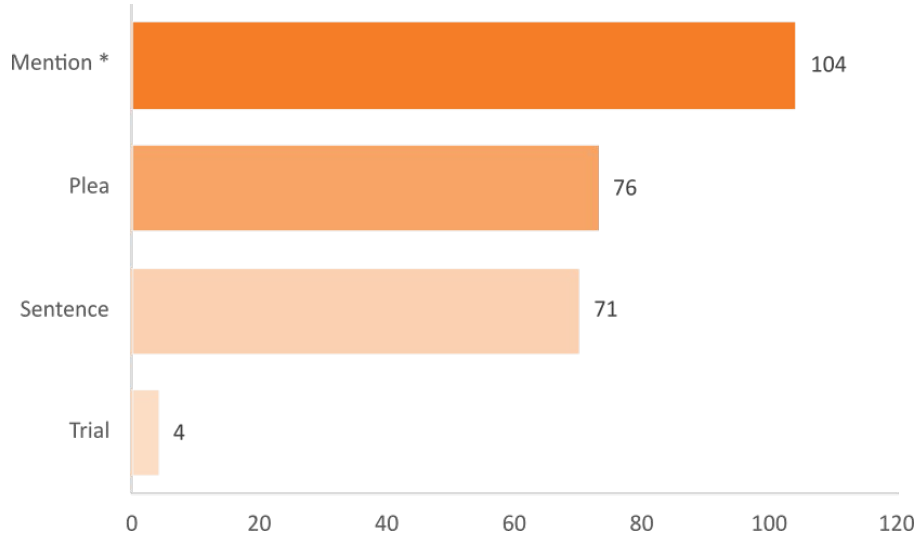
Top 20 Problem Types



Court Representation.

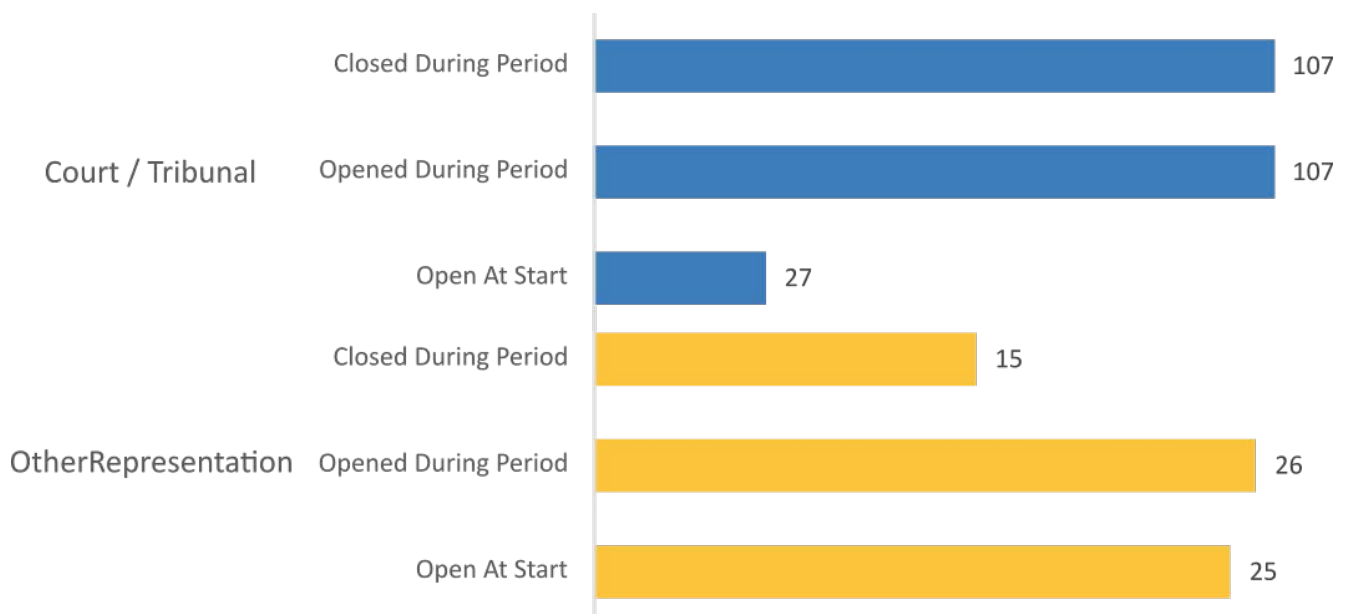
As Part of our services we represent Young People in the Children Court on civil and criminal matters.

Court Appearances



* Mention includes adjournment for legal advice, plea negotiation, disclosure application, jurisdictional argument, drug court attendances, status conference, objection mention date (restraining orders)

Court Tribunal or Other Representation



Other Representation is where a file is opened for a matter and requires ongoing casework but not necessarily an appearance in court

Court Tribunal is where a file is opened for a criminal matter or restraining order which requires an appearance in court.

Education



Community Legal Education

Community Legal Education (CLE) is an integral part of our service delivery and our strategic plan.

Our goal is to provide and produce clear, accurate and practical community legal education resources and workshops to help young people to understand and exercise their legal rights.

Youth Legal Service conducts a monthly Law Education Program for young people who have been referred to the Juvenile Justice Team, by the Children's Court or police. The young person is given an action plan which may involve attending one of our Law Education sessions.

Continuing from the previous year, our Law Education Program continues to include a session in Rockingham once a month in addition to the one hosted monthly in Perth.

The Youth Legal service has continued to conduct Law Education Programs at the Drug & Alcohol Service for Young People, now on a fortnightly basis.

This year we conducted a combined total of 39 Law Education Programs with 451 attendees.

Law Education Feedback

Questions	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
The Workshop helped me understand how crime affects other people	22	27	2	0
The workshop helped me understand how crime affects me	21	30	1	0
The workshop helped me understand my legal rights and responsibilities	22	30	1	0
The workshop helped me understand about criminal law	24	29	0	0
I learnt something useful from my contact with Youth Legal Service	21	31	1	0

Sustainability



Accreditation

Youth Legal Service has remained a member of the National Association of Community Legal Centres, and has completed final submissions, awaiting approval to move to phase 3, Youth Legal Service must maintain its high standards in service delivery to keep its accreditation.



CLC Client Satisfaction Survey 2021

A satisfaction survey was conducted in all of June via SMS to all clients that have finished requiring legal assistance.

It was easy to contact us when you first needed help?

31% Agreed | 69% Strongly Agreed

We helped you understand how to deal with your legal problem

19% Agreed | 75% Strongly Agreed | 6% Neutral

You know where to get help if you have another legal problem in the future

19% Agreed | 81% Strongly Agreed

You know where to get help if you have another legal problem in the future.

33% Agreed | 56% Strongly Agreed | 11% Strongly Disagree

The legal service was able to meet your specific personal or cultural needs.

6% Agreed | 50% Strongly Agreed | 6% Neutral
38% Did not have specific needs

Would you recommend this legal service to other people.

94% Yes | 6% No

Stakeholder Engagement

The Lawyers and Senior Staff at Youth Legal Service participated in workshops and relevant forums to improve the coordination and delivery of legal assistance services for Young People. This year we engaged in 22 stakeholder events including:

1. Attending meetings with Principal Solicitors from all CLCs in Western Australia about current risk management issues and the NACLC Risk management guide
2. Attending the 20th Anniversary of the Drug Court Program
3. Attending meetings with Managers from all CLCs in Western Australia with the goal of maintaining a sustainable and successful Community Legal Sector.
4. Engagement with the WA Police Youth Policing Diversion, Feedback on development of new resources for Young People and interactions Young People have with police and explaining the Youth diversion process.
5. Engagement with Tonic Digital to develop 3D animated videos on common issues young people face and explain the rights and laws in a new way and promote these via social media.

#STOP CAMPAIGN REPORT

PERFORMANCE 1st APRIL 2021 - 30th JUNE 2021

BACKGROUND

Change comes from adversity and we're in an adversarial time. The concept for the #Stop initiative timing-wise aimed to tap into new behaviours that were emerging in 2020, particularly in the Gen Z demographic in alignment with Youth Legal's target audience. The key message of the campaign was to encourage victims of bullying to post a #stop emoji as a comment on social media where they felt they were being bullied and could not fend for themselves, or when they recognised their peers being victims of cyberbullying.

The campaign went live on the 18th of August 2020 with a launch event at Elizabeth Quay with some of Perth's most prominent youth social media influencers in attendance. From this launch the campaign achieved substantial awareness and engagement through traditional media (i.e. Channel 7 News) and through social media coverage. The campaign met and exceeded Youth Legal's desired metric KPI's in terms of demonstrable audience reach, engagement and followers.

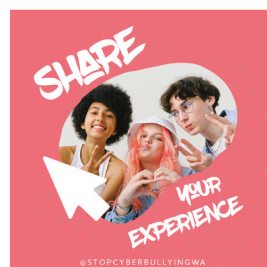
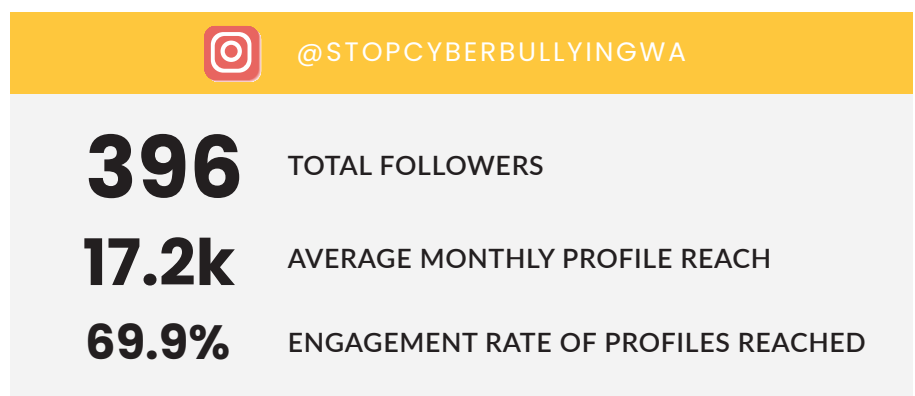
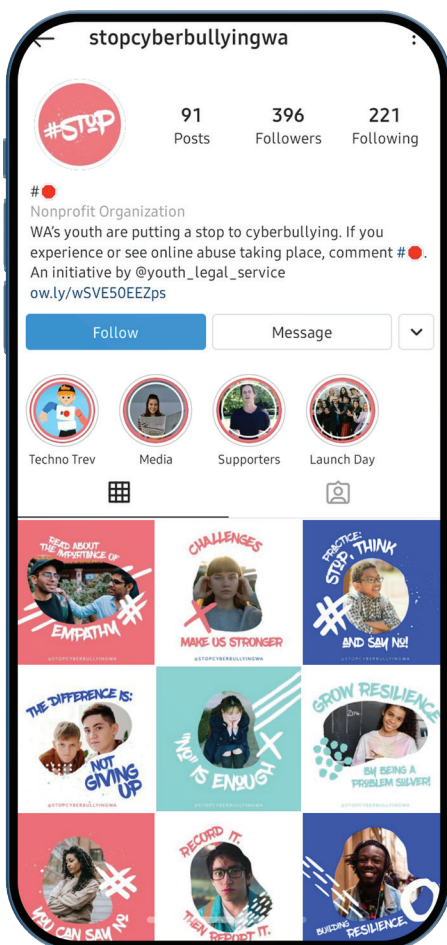
Moving into 2021, #Stop's desire was to continue to build on the initial successes of the first year however the message would be altered based on

new finding that had come to light. According to the E-Safety Commission, there was statistically a higher number of young people standing up to online bullies. This positive revelation provided the opportunity to encourage young people to continue to be brave and stand up to bullies. Furthermore from the initiative perspective, it allowed #Stop to not only emphasise that the first year was successful, but more so there is a movement that is taking place. In light of this the messaging for 2021's campaign is "WA Youth are standing up to cyberbullying, join the movement".

To promote this year's message, Youth Legal partnered with Tonic Digital and NOVA to launch an integrated marketing campaign across radio, digital and outdoor with a 2 week advertising placement on Yagan Tower in Perth's CBD.

Rounding out this year's brand campaign with #Stop established footprint the initiative is continuing to run digital advertising to ensure the movement continues to grow in terms of new and current followers as well as engagement of young people and parents requiring information on cyberbullying.

FEATURED ON



2021 INSTAGRAM ADVERTISEMENTS

501,102
TIMES AN AD WAS SEEN

- 34,906 people reached
- 610 likes, 24 comments, 54 saves
- 41,220 total page engagements

#STOP CAMPAIGN REPORT

PERFORMANCE 1st APRIL 2021 - 30th JUNE 2021



In 2021 Youth Legal partnered with NOVA and Ross Wallman to continue to grow the #STOP Cyberbullying movement

ORGANIC TRAFFIC - SEO PERFORMANCE

- 56 Organic Visitors
- 428 Website ranking improvements
- 178 Google Maps ranking improvements

The SEO campaign designed to improve the organic rankings in the search results to drive more traffic and leads to the site started in April 2021. Since the start, organic search queries brought 36 visitors to the site against 11 during the previous period, an increase of 227%.

Over the full period since Analytics Tracking is in place, there were 56 organic visitors to the site but no direct leads recorded.

The GMB listing (Google Maps) received 34 views since its recent implementation in June.

Here is a summary of some of the Google ranking shifts:

Stopcyberbullying.org.au: moved from not in top 100 positions to position 1
 stop cyberbullying australia: moved from not in top 100 positions to position 8
 stop cyberbullying: moved from not in top 100 positions to position 28
 stop bullying wa: moved from position 28 to 16
 stop cyberbullying wa: moved from position 11 to 5

WEBSITE PERFORMANCE

- 3,243 Visitors
- 28 Goals Completed
- 2,540 New Users

Since setting Google Analytics tracking on September 7th, we recorded a total of 3,243 visitors to the site.

New users or first time visitors to the site represented 78% of the total visitors which is a strong result and shows we're continuously reaching to a larger audience and thus raising awareness and educating the youth on this topic further.

We've seen a continuous increase in total traffic over this period, especially towards the end of May following the deployment of the Google Ads Display campaign. In the last 3 months, there were 2,428 visitors to the site against 116 visitors during the previous 3 months period, a significant growth of 1,993%.

Most of the goals were completed between May and July. Amongst these leads, we recorded: 17 clicks to the Instagram page; 8 contact form submissions; 3 Tidio chat offline messages.

At the state level, 89% of the total users were located in WA; followed by NSW with a share of 5% and VIC with a share of 4%.



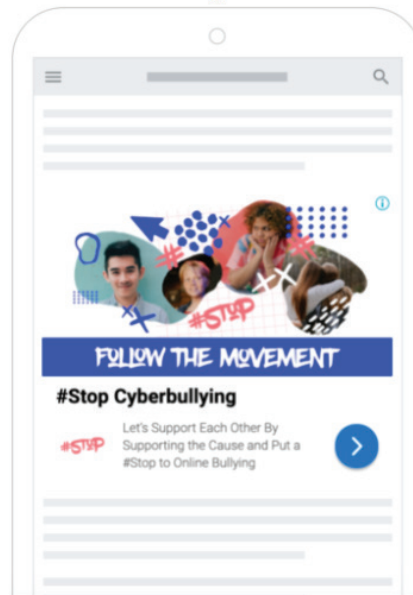
#STOP CAMPAIGN REPORT

PERFORMANCE 1st APRIL 2021 - 30th JUNE 2021

GOOGLE ADS PERFORMANCE

All Campaigns (Search +
Display + Video)

927,906 Impressions
3,394 Clicks to the site
\$1,579.69 Cost
12 Conversions



DISPLAY CAMPAIGN

Impressions **875,153**
Clicks to the site **3,105**
Cost **\$760.49**
Conversions **2**
CTR **0.35%**
(benchmark = 0.30%)

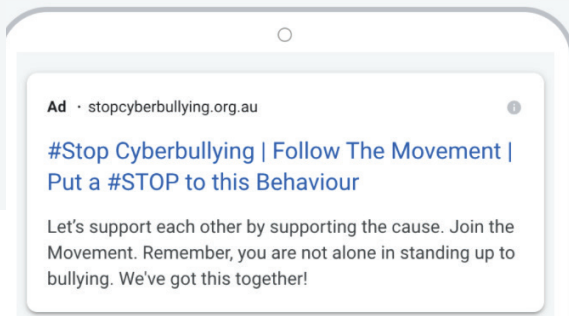
Ad Group Audience Targeting:

Custom affinity audience "social media"
Custom intent audience targeting "bullying and cyberbullying" related keywords
Affinity audience "gamers" Student

Ads are showing in Google Search results across targeted keywords specific to "bullying" and "cyberbullying" (total of 48 target keyword variations)

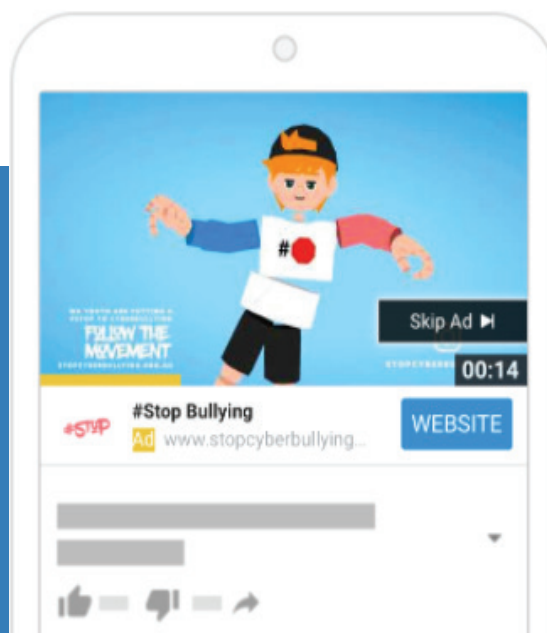
SEARCH CAMPAIGN

Impressions = **5,748**
Clicks to the site = **249**
Cost = **\$321.99**
Conversions = **10**
CTR = **4.33%**
(benchmark = 2%)



VIDEO ADS CAMPAIGN - YOUTUBE

Impressions = **47,005**
Views = **26,066**
View rate = **55.45%** (benchmark = 0.30%)
Cost Per View (CPV) = **0.02%**
Cost = **\$497.21**
Clicks to the site = **40**



Ad Group Audience Targeting:

Custom affinity audience "gamers"
Relevant topics targeting
Demographics

Case Study - Breach Restraining Orders

YLS was approached by the father of a young person who was facing an allegation of Breach of a Police Order (S.61(2a) Restraining Orders Act 1997) before the Magistrates Court. The background to this incident was that the family had been dealing with escalating episodes of drug induced psychosis. The Police Order was issued by the police arising from an incident at the mother's place of employment. The Order was breached later the same day by a further incident at the family's home.

The family were in a very difficult situation in referring their son for legal assistance, as the incident related to police intervention on behalf of a family member. They were particularly concerned about the prospect of a criminal conviction resulting from behaviours which were the result of ongoing mental health issues.

Detailed instructions were obtained and the matter resolved, including negotiation with the Prosecution prior to the court appearance as to the circumstances of the offence. The court imposed a suspended fine and granted a Spent Conviction Order.

An application for an interim FRVO made by our client's mother on the recommendation of the police pending our client's admission to treatment in a residential psychiatric facility was not opposed. Our client entered residential treatment a short time after appearing before the court.

The FVRO was withdrawn within a few months once the problematic behaviour had stabilized with medical intervention.

This case highlights the complex and conflicting issues facing families of young people with ongoing mental health issues.

Case Study - Mental health and navigating the justice system

YLS were approached by the extended family of a Young Person in her early 20s who was experiencing difficulty coping with long term mental health issues and substance misuse. Without any close family support, our client expressed feeling overwhelmed by the prospect of dealing with serious criminal charges which potentially impacted upon her ongoing attempts to be reunited with her young child who had been placed in the care of the Department of Communities. There were also concerns about the volatility of her relationship with her current partner which had been the subject of numerous reports to police for allegations of violence.

Incidents of self-harm due to depressive episodes had resulted in numerous admissions to hospital and variable compliance with ongoing outpatient treatment. Depressive episodes were characterized by impulsive and violent behaviours which were escalated by anxiety about what our client thought was the unfairness of her personal situation and restricted contact with her young child.

The criminal charges were serious allegations of assault which the court had warned carried the risk of a term of imprisonment. Pleading guilty to the charges triggered breach of a previous court supervision order. The original court order was imposed for offences of violence including breaches of Family Violence Restraining Orders. There were also complications in the initial stages of providing advice as the client had multiple identities recorded on the court electronic listing system.

There were logistical difficulties in locating our client to obtain instructions as outstanding debt meant that access to her mobile phone was barred by the provider. The residential address varied depending upon the availability of support from extended family. Contact was eventually made through extended family who provided support in attending appointments and court.

Representing this client was an extensive and difficult process which involved gaining the client's trust to access information from Corrective Services, the treating psychologist and extended family. In sentencing the court accepted the need for ongoing supervision and treatment in the community having regard to the substantial ongoing mental health issues.

Case Study - COVID-19

Breach of Restrictions

The World Health Organization declared a COVID-19 a pandemic on 11 March 2020. On 15 March 2020, the Minister for Emergency Services declared a state of emergency which came into effect from 12.00am on 16 March 2020. Strict rules then applied to people entering Western Australia on arrival were required to Self-Quarantine and remain inside a suitable premise for a period of 14 days. Failure to comply with a direction under the Emergency Management Act 2005 (WA) carries a maximum sentence of a fine of \$50,000- or 12-months imprisonment.

The Youth Legal Service received an email from a desperate parent of a 21-year-old man who was living in Queensland. Her son had travelled to Perth but had been caught breaching quarantine on 4 occasions. He had appeared in the Perth Magistrates Court but had his matter remanded for 4 weeks. During that time, his mother arranged for him to return to Queensland as he had nowhere to stay in Perth, nor could they afford to pay for accommodation. He was now due appear in the Perth Magistrates Court, but they had no money for him to fly to Perth and he had nowhere to stay when he arrived. Further, if he were to return to Perth, he would be required to quarantine once again for the 14 days.

The desperate parent had attempted to get legal advice on his behalf, but no-one in Queensland had been able to assist, because the offending occurred out of their State and in Western Australia, he did not qualify for assistance with the agencies she had sort advice from because he was not a resident of Western Australia.

The circumstances of her son were that he was diagnosed with an intellectual disability, autism and ADHD. He was unable to read or write and does not understand boundaries as a result of his disability. He had begun a relationship with a young Western Australian online and had travelled over to be with her with the plan to quarantine at her place. Unfortunately, the relationship soured quickly, and she wanted him out and refused to provide for him. He had no means of providing himself with food or cigarettes and went to the local service station on many occasions to do this.

We were able to assist the young person by explaining the need to endorse pleas of guilt and providing legal advice to both the young person and his mother. We were then able to draft up a letter for the court by his mother outlining all the circumstances of his case, in particular requesting the option of a suspended fine given his special circumstances and attached the Specialist Reports as to his diagnosis. We were then able to have his mother sign the letter electronically and lodged all documents at the Magistrates Court and Police Prosecutions the day before his due Court Appearance.

Although the fines and penalties that have been imposed by people breaching the COVID-19 restrictions have been harsh in order to send a message to the community, in this particular case, the young person received a \$5,000 fine but this was suspended on the basis that he commits no offences for 2 years. This was the best result for the young person who had no money and was unlikely to commit any further offences provided he stay out of Western Australia.

There is significant public interest in having matters finalized before the court. The potential cost to the State in attempting to resolve outstanding charges for an absentee accused can be considerable.



Although the threat of Covid-19 continued to be a feature of the financial year ended 30 June 2021, YLS was able to continue operations even through the lock-downs. The previous year's investment in IT equipment and software enabled staff to continue their work during the stay at home periods.

YLS received additional funding, including the ATO cash flow boost, and these funds were directed to the provision of client services. We were able to employ an additional solicitor for much of the year and continue our Stop Campaign.

YLS are fortunate to occupy conveniently located premises on St Georges Terrace at a very reasonable rental. This assists with our aim to keep administration costs to a minimum and maximise our spending on "front line" services.

We returned a small deficit this year, but our balance sheet is more than adequate to absorb this deficit. At 30 June 2021 we had net funds of \$227,984 of which nearly \$200,000 was held in cash assets. This ensures we have adequate liquid funds for working capital.

There are no major changes in funding proposed for 2022 except for the termination of the ATO cash flow boost scheme

Financial Statements

YOUTH LEGAL SERVICE INC.

SPECIAL PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

YOUTH LEGAL SERVICE INC.
ABN: 70 881 386 304

Contents

Declaration by the Board of Management	1
Independent auditor's report.....	2
Income Statement	5
Balance Sheet	6
Statement of Changes in Equity	7
Statement of Cash Flows	8
Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements.....	9

YOUTH LEGAL SERVICE INC.
ABN: 70 881 386 304

Declaration by the Board of Management
For the year ended 30 June 2021


The Board of Management has determined that the Association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Board of Management the financial statements and notes to the financial statements are in accordance with *Association Incorporation Act 2015 (WA)*, the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and:

- comply with the Australian Accounting Standards applicable to the Association;
- gives a true and fair view of the financial position of Youth Legal Service Inc. as at 30 June 2021 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements; and
- at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Youth Legal Service Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due and payable.

This statement is made in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013* and is signed for and on behalf of the Board of Management by:


Chairperson


Treasurer

Date: 18 August 2021

YOUTH LEGAL SERVICE INC.
ABN: 70 881 386 304

Independent auditor's report

To the members of Youth Legal Service Inc.

Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Youth Legal Service Inc (the Association), which comprises the Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2021, the income statement, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the Declaration by the Board of Management.

In our opinion, the financial report of Youth Legal Service Inc has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 30 June 2021 and of its financial performance for the year ended 30 June 2021; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*;

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the registered entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the registered entity's financial reporting responsibilities under the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA)* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

YOUTH LEGAL SERVICE INC.
ABN: 70 881 386 304

Responsibility of the Committee for the Financial Report

The Board of Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA)* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012*, and the needs of the members. The board's responsibility also includes such internal control as the responsible entities determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Board is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Board either intends to liquidate the Association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 registered entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Board

YOUTH LEGAL SERVICE INC.
ABN: 70 881 386 304

- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Board's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Committee to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the Board regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



RG Ledger
Chartered Accountant
Registered Company Auditor

10/8/2021

GREG LEDGER PTY LTD

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT

ABN 63 066 718 134

PO Box 565
Wembley, WA 6913

Suite 2, 20 Altona Street
West Perth, WA 6005

Telephone+(08) 93221114
Facsimile + (08) 9322 1134

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

10 August 2021

The Board of Management
Youth Legal Service Inc.
Suite 3, 12 St Georges Terrace
Perth WA 6000

AUDITOR INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

This declaration is made in connection with the audit of the financial report of Youth Legal Service Inc. for the year ended 30 June 2021 and in accordance with the requirements of Subdivision 60-C section 60-40 of *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, in relation to the audit for the financial year ended 30 June 2021 there have been:

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

Yours sincerely



RG Ledger
Chartered Accountant
Registered Company Auditor

YOUTH LEGAL SERVICE INC.
ABN: 70 881 386 304

Income Statement
For the year ended 30 June 2021

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
REVENUE		
Funding and grants	654,010	458,929
Other Income	28,178	63,148
ATO Cash Flow Boost	39,996	-
Interest earned	192	1,179
TOTAL REVENUE	722,376	523,256
EXPENDITURE		
Accounting & Audit	2,500	2,450
Bank charges & interest	267	217
Consultancy	63,578	56,903
Depreciation	10,779	4,244
Insurance	3,789	3,064
Library & Memberships	6,817	9,205
Programming and Planning	139,986	-
Office Overheads	25,935	24,797
Rent & Other Premises Costs	29,873	30,227
Salaries & Staff Costs	442,719	330,605
Staff development	4,885	1,135
Telephone	7,282	7,017
Travel and Accommodation	3,907	1,297
Other	524	5,249
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	742,841	476,410
NET SURPLUS (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	(20,465)	46,846

YOUTH LEGAL SERVICE INC.
ABN: 70 881 386 304

Balance Sheet
As at 30 June 2021

		2021	2020
		\$	\$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	2	336,830	289,151
Security deposits		5,960	5,960
Prepayments		4,394	3,120
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		347,184	298,231
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
IT Upgrade	3	26,346	22,267
Furniture and Fittings	3	3,403	2,754
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		29,749	25,021
TOTAL ASSETS		376,933	323,252
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
GST Liabilities		2,104	1,288
Trade and other payables		17,657	12,341
Funding/Grants in Advance		96,120	26,921
Provision for annual leave	4	16,439	12,328
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		132,320	52,878
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provision for long service leave	4	16,629	21,925
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		16,629	21,925
TOTAL LIABILITIES		148,949	74,803
NET ASSETS		227,984	248,449
EQUITY			
Retained earnings		248,449	201,603
Surplus (deficit) for the year		(20,465)	46,846
TOTAL EQUITY		227,984	248,449

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statement

YOUTH LEGAL SERVICE INC.
ABN: 70 881 386 304

Statement of Changes in Equity
For the year ended 30 June 2021

	Retained earnings \$	Total \$
Balance at 30 June 2019	201,603	201,603
Total comprehensive income for the 2020 year	46,846	46,846
Balance at 30 June 2020	248,449	248,449
Total comprehensive income for the 2021 year	(20,465)	(20,465)
Balance at 30 June 2021	227,984	227,984

YOUTH LEGAL SERVICE INC.
ABN: 70 881 386 304

Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended 30 June 2021

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Cash flows from operating activities		
Receipts from grants and funding agreements	722,184	486,382
Payments to suppliers and employees	<u>(659,189)</u>	<u>(475,420)</u>
Net cash flows provided by operating activities	<u>62,995</u>	<u>10,962</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Interest received	191	1,178
Purchase of property plant and equipment	<u>(15,507)</u>	<u>(28,385)</u>
	<u>(15,316)</u>	<u>(27,207)</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents	47,679	(16,245)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial year	289,151	305,396
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year	<u>336,830</u>	<u>289,151</u>
Reconciliation to cash flows from operations		
Operating Surplus (deficit)	(20,465)	46,846
Non-operating cash flows in net profit		
Depreciation	10,779	4,244
Change in working capital		
(Increase) / Decrease in prepayments & deposits	(1,274)	6,993
Increase / (Decrease) in payables	5,941	(12,834)
Increase / (Decrease) in provisions	(1,185)	2,588
Increase / (Decrease) in funding in advance	<u>69,199</u>	<u>(36,875)</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>62,995</u>	<u>10,962</u>

YOUTH LEGAL SERVICE INC.
ABN: 70 881 386 304

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2021

Note 1 - Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the *Association Incorporation Act 2015 (WA)* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. The Board of Management has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the following mandatory Australian Accounting Standards applicable to entities reporting under the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012 and the significant accounting policies disclosed below, which the directors have determined are appropriate to meet the needs of members. Such accounting policies are consistent with those of previous periods unless stated otherwise.

AASB 101 - Presentation of Financial Statements

AASB 107 - Cash Flow Statements

AASB 108 - Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors

AASB 1031 - Materiality

AASB 1048 - Interpretation of Standards

AASB 1054 - Australian Additional Disclosures

AASB 1058 – Income for Not for Profit Entities

AASB16 – Leases

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

Income Tax

The Association is exempt from income tax under the provisions of Section 50-5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

Leasehold improvements and office equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation. Leasehold improvements are amortised over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements. The depreciable amount of all PPE is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

YOUTH LEGAL SERVICE INC.
ABN: 70 881 386 304

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements (Continued)
For the year ended 30 June 2021

Impairment of Assets

At the end of each reporting period, the entity reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is recognised in the income and expenditure statement.

Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

YOUTH LEGAL SERVICE INC.
ABN: 70 881 386 304

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements (Continued)
For the year ended 30 June 2021

Revenue and Other Income

Grant revenue is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income when the entity obtains control of the grant and it is probable that the economic benefits gained from the grant will flow to the entity and the amount of the grant can be measured reliably.

If conditions are attached to the grant which must be satisfied before it is eligible to receive the contribution, the recognition of the grant as revenue will be deferred until those conditions are satisfied.

When grant revenue is received whereby the entity incurs an obligation to deliver economic value directly back to the contributor, this is considered a reciprocal transaction and the grant revenue is recognised in the statement of financial position as a liability until the service has been delivered to the contributor, otherwise the grant is recognised as income on receipt.

Donations and bequests are recognised as revenue when received.

Interest revenue is recognised as it accrues using the effective interest rate method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument.

Revenue from the rendering of a service is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customers. All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

Funding/Grants in Advance

All grants are brought to account as income when received, unless they relate to future years in which case they are recognised as income in the year expended.

They appear in the Balance Sheet as a liability – Funding/Grants in Advance.

Leases

The association has a lease for its current premises with a rental of \$13,132.50 per annum. The lease is for 12 months with an option for another 12 months at expiry.

The board has elected to not recognize the lease in accordance with AASB16 as they consider it to be of a short term nature.

YOUTH LEGAL SERVICE INC.
ABN: 70 881 386 304

Notes to and forming part of the Financial Statements (Continued)
For the year ended 30 June 2021

Note 2 Cash and Cash Equivalents

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Cheque account	5,500	4,041
Telenet Account	326,124	284,935
Term Deposit	5,000	-
Petty Cash	206	175
	336,830	289,151

Note 3 – Fixed Assets

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
IT Upgrade	45,008	32,277
	(18,662)	(9,010)
	26,346	22,267
Furniture and Fittings	8,888	7,112
	(5,485)	(4,358)
	3,403	2,754

Note 4 – Employee Entitlements

The amounts expected to be paid to employees for their pro-rata entitlement to annual leave and long service leave are accrued annually at current pay rates, having regard to period of service.

The amounts provided for as a current liability at 30 June 2021 are as follows:

Provision for annual leave	\$16,439
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The amounts provided for as a non-current liability at 30 June 2021 are as follows:

Provision for long service leave	\$16,629
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The amount owing for sick leave at 30 June 2021, which is not accrued in the accounts is \$38,462.



Promoting access to justice for children and young people
through representation, education, and advocacy

08 9202 1688
yls@youthlegalserviceinc.com.au
www.youthlegalserviceinc.com.au

Acknowledgment to the Land and People We
here at Youth Legal Service, we recognise th
traditional owners of the land the, Whadjuk
Noongar nation and pay respect to their
connections to the land and sea. We pay
respects to the elders including, past,
present, and emerging.