



LEGAL AID
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

ANNUAL REPORT
2014-2015

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

Hon Michael Mischin MLC

Attorney General

In accordance with section 63 of the *Financial Management Act 2006*, we hereby submit for your information and presentation to Parliament, the Annual Report of the Legal Aid Commission of Western Australia for the financial year ended 30th June 2015.

The Annual Report has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2006* and the *Legal Aid Commission Act 1976*.



Stuart Shepherd

Chairman of the Commission

Date 22.9.2015



Justin Stevenson

Acting Director

Member of the Commission

Date 10.09.2015

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1. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



2014-15 has been a year of strong activity for Legal Aid WA and the legal assistance sector generally.

In October 2014, the Commissioners and I visited Legal Aid WA's Geraldton office. We met with local staff and stakeholders and discussed the challenges faced and successes achieved in the region.

The Geraldton staff deliver services across a sizable portion of Western Australia where availability and access to members of the private profession, and legal services generally, is limited.

The areas served by our regional practitioners, the nature and quality of the services they deliver, and their dedication to the task impresses me and the Commissioners whenever we visit one of our regional offices.

There can be no doubt that the work of Legal Aid WA, and other providers in the legal assistance sector, is very important to the wellbeing of the Western Australian community.

In November 2014, The Productivity Commission released its Report on Access to Justice Arrangements, following a 15-month inquiry into Australia's system of civil justice, with a focus on promoting access to legal services and equality before the law.

In its report, the Commission observed that access to justice is a cornerstone of civil society. The management and staff at Legal Aid WA contribute in large measure to access to justice for many West Australians.

During its inquiry, the Productivity Commission examined difficulties experienced by a large number of Australians in obtaining legal representation in criminal and civil, including family and domestic, disputes.

Whilst Legal Aid WA and the community legal sector welcome the Report, its findings confirmed, rather than revealed, the experience within the sector over a number of years.

Notably, the Report recommended that legal aid commissions in Australia receive an additional \$200 million in funding each year. \$120 million to be funded by the Commonwealth and the remaining \$80 million by the States and Territories.

In Western Australia that recommendation equates to a funding increase of approximately \$12 million from the Commonwealth and \$8 million from the State.

In addition to the Productivity Commission's more general enquiry, a Senate Inquiry and a Royal Commission in Victoria have recently been established into the important issue of domestic violence.

The Productivity Commission's Report and the evidence before the Senate and Victorian Royal Commission investigations are illustrative of systemic failures of the Australian legal system to provide protections and assistance to many of its most vulnerable citizens.

Evidence presented to the domestic violence Royal Commission in Victoria, suggests that one in six women and one in twenty men had been subject to partner violence. It has been estimated that as many as 115 deaths in Australia each year are attributable to domestic violence. The number of reported cases has increased over the past 10 years by 136 per cent.

Although these inquiries suggest that increased funding is necessary to provide protection and representation within the community, the reality is that the primary organisations charged with responsibility for assisting the disadvantaged and vulnerable – the legal aid commissions – are operating from a dwindling pool of financial resources.

Notably, the Report recommended that legal aid commissions in Australia receive an additional \$200 million in funding each year. \$120 million to be funded by the Commonwealth and the remaining \$80 million by the States and Territories.

The recent finalisation of a new National Partnership Agreement for Legal Assistance Services, which underpins most Commonwealth funding to Australia's legal assistance sector, did not result in a substantive increase in national funding.

Legal Aid WA benefited from a re-distribution of funding under the National Partnership Agreement. The revised distribution formula, which more accurately reflects the higher costs associated with providing legal assistance in Western Australia, delivered a 14 per cent increase in Commonwealth funding.

Even with that increase, Western Australia remains fourth in Commonwealth funding per capita. The arrangements still do not reflect the Commonwealth Grants Commission's assessment that Western Australia is the highest cost jurisdiction for the delivery of public services, including justice services.

For community legal centres, the Commonwealth funding outcome was not positive. A 35 per cent reduction in funding is slated to occur in 2017-18.

Community legal centres are an integral element of the legal assistance landscape. They provide important advice and services to members of our community at a local level. Reducing funding to community legal centres will shift the service delivery burden to already stretched legal aid commissions, including Legal Aid WA.

In its State funding, Legal Aid WA has been required to meet a series of "efficiency dividends", as part of the State Government's general review of State finances. The efficiency dividends include a 3.5 per cent reduction in funding imposed as a result of a review of the Department of the Attorney General, through which Legal Aid WA receives its annual State funding grant.

The likely outcome of the funding reduction is the limitation of existing services provided by Legal Aid WA.

In order to maximise the resources applied to the provision of services, Legal Aid WA regrettably closed its offices at Fremantle and Midland. Legal Aid WA has maintained a presence at these locations for many years. Our assessment was that provision of services from the Perth office would be more cost efficient.

The presence of these offices close to the courts was not essential for the delivery of duty lawyer and other services to the relevant locations. Consequently, the prudent decision was to close the offices and reduce the Commission's overhead expenses.

Legal Aid WA is working with local organisations to ensure that any negative impact of the closures can be mitigated. There has been no material reduction in the duty lawyer services provided at Fremantle and Midland Magistrates Courts.

Notwithstanding the constrained funding environment, Legal Aid WA continues to provide an outstanding service to thousands of Western Australians.

In my 2013-14 report, I observed that Legal Aid WA was working towards the introduction of a new tiered system of panels of private practitioners who undertake representation under a grant of legal aid.

The Commissioners and I were very involved in the development of the new panel arrangements and new governance systems. I am pleased to report that the new panels have been implemented and are working well.

Under the revised arrangements, practitioners are placed on a panel or panels aligned to their levels of experience and competence before being assigned to cases.

At all times Legal Aid WA works to ensure that clients receive representation appropriate to the nature of their matters.

It was very pleasing to see the level of cooperation provided by the legal profession in creating and adopting the new panel arrangements.

It is well known that the rates paid to practitioners who undertake representation under a grant of legal aid are significantly below "scale" rates determined by the courts. That so many members of the private profession are willing to undertake legally aided work is a credit to the legal community in Western Australia.

The management of an organisation of the size and complexity of Legal Aid WA is no simple task. I thank the Director of Legal Aid, George Turnbull and his team for their ongoing dedication and exceptional levels of service delivery, for the people of Western Australia.

In delivering legal assistance services to many people across Western Australia, Legal Aid WA operates in partnership with many other organisations and individuals in the broader justice sector. I acknowledge and thank the judicial officers and administrative staff of the Courts at every level, the State and Commonwealth Attorney General's Departments, the Department for Child Protection and Family Support; and the WA Police Service.

I especially thank those members of the private legal profession in Western Australia who participate in the provision of legally aided services, the Law Society of WA and the Bar Association for supporting the work undertaken by Legal Aid WA.

Finally, I thank my fellow Commissioners for the support and guidance they have provided over the past year. Their commitment and engagement in overseeing the work of the Commission makes a real and important contribution to the work of Legal Aid WA and to the Western Australian community.

Stuart Shepherd
Chairman

2. CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



In 2014-15, Legal Aid WA once again demonstrated its capacity to deliver high volume and high quality legal assistance services to the people of Western Australia.

The size of the task facing the organisation is reflected each year in the statistics of service delivery: 69,951 instances of telephone information; 53,706 duty lawyer services; 19,052 instances of legal advice; 14,074 face-to-face information sessions with individual clients; 9,076 occasions of minor assistance; and the convening of 456 dispute resolution conferences. In addition to these high volume activities, Legal Aid WA provided direct legal representation to clients in 2,581 matters before the courts. Funding for private practitioner representation was provided in a further 6,271 matters before the courts.

These services were mainly provided across the core areas of criminal and family law, with representation, assistance and advice also being provided in a smaller number of civil law matters.

It is also important to remember that many of these services were provided in regional and remote areas of Western Australia. The circuits of Legal Aid WA's duty lawyer service visit very remote desert communities on a regular basis. It is this type of work which sees Legal Aid WA in the frontline of delivering access to justice for the people of Western Australia.

A large portion of my work in 2014-15 has been devoted to the resolution of Commonwealth and State funding issues.

I am pleased to report that a new five year National Partnership Agreement for Legal Assistance Services (NPA) has now been finalised between the Commonwealth and the State. The NPA underpins Commonwealth funding arrangements for Legal Aid WA, and mandates the allocation of Commonwealth funds to

areas of service delivery including family law, certain areas of civil law and preventative and early intervention activities. The new Agreement delivered a 14 per cent funding increase for Western Australia, reflective of a revised funding formula which recognises some of the more critical cost drivers affecting service delivery in Western Australia.

The NPA has, however, delivered a significant funding decrease for community legal centres from 2017-18. These organisations are an essential part of the legal assistance landscape, with the projected cut in funding placing their ongoing viability at risk within a few years. It will be essential that the funding concerns for community legal centres are resolved as a matter of urgency.

At the State level, Legal Aid WA has been required to absorb the budget efficiency dividends which are being directed towards most agencies. Legal Aid WA is also being required to absorb a 3.5 per cent reduction in funding following an agency expenditure review of the Department of the Attorney General, through which Legal Aid WA receives its State funding grant. There is no doubt that through 2015-16 and beyond there will need to be some changes to services in order to accommodate this reduction in funding. Given that State funding is largely allocated towards criminal matters in the State jurisdiction, Legal Aid WA will need to carefully consider the access to justice implications of any future service changes.

2014-15 has been a year of important change at Legal Aid WA. After 20 years of occupancy at 55 St Georges Terrace, the organisation's head office relocated to new accommodation at 32 St Georges Terrace. The decision to relocate was driven largely by financial factors, with the business case to relocate more favourable than other options, including staying at 55 St Georges Terrace. The new accommodation has driven significant cultural change, with all staff now located in an open plan work environment. Importantly, the new location is within close proximity of all of Perth's major court facilities.

2014-15 has been a year of important change at Legal Aid WA.

Another important relocation occurred in Bunbury, with the South West regional office relocating to 61 Victoria Street. This relocation was also driven by end-of-lease financial considerations, following many years in the Koombana Court building.

A more difficult issue has been the closure of Legal Aid WA's offices at Midland and Fremantle. The decision to close both offices was made during the first half of 2014, with the closures taking effect in June 2015. All staff from both offices have been relocated to Perth. Underlying the decision to close both offices was a realisation that the large majority of services provided from these locations were court-based duty lawyer services. In most parts of Western Australia these services are delivered very effectively, remote from a nearby office. An analysis of the origin of clients served by the Midland and Fremantle offices also indicated that many were from home addresses more than 10 kilometres from either office. This suggested that direct service to the local community by the offices may have been less important than was originally considered to be the case. Legal Aid WA is maintaining close contact with local community organisations to ensure that significant gaps do not emerge in local service delivery.

An important milestone was reached in 2015 with the 20th anniversary of Legal Aid WA's Domestic Violence Legal Unit (DVLU). DVLU operates within Legal Aid WA's Family Law Division and provides services including a violence restraining order duty lawyer service, representation in defended court hearings, family violence legal education and victim support. With issues of family violence now receiving considerable attention on the national policy agenda, the presence of DVLU within Legal Aid WA more than vindicates our commitment to this program over the past two decades.

Each year I am reminded of some of the outstanding achievements of the team at Legal Aid WA. In March 2015 the attention of the international media turned to the repatriation of two Australian children to Perth, following their recovery from Afghanistan. This outcome was the culmination of almost three years of work by Legal Aid WA lawyers who worked with the mother of the children and the Family Court of WA to recover the children, who were forcibly separated from their mother in Iran by their father, and then unlawfully taken to Afghanistan by their father. Working in conjunction with specialist American lawyer Ms Kim Motley, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the relevant Afghani authorities, Legal Aid WA was instrumental

in bringing about the release of the children from Afghanistan and the reunification with their mother in Perth. I would like to take the opportunity to recognise the work of those Legal Aid WA lawyers who worked on this matter and commend them for this outstanding result. I would also like to thank our State Attorney General, the Hon. Michael Mischin MLC, who took the time to recognise the work of these lawyers in a statement to Parliament.

As we turn to 2015-16, it is clear that Legal Aid WA will need to adapt as an organisation to the reality of reduced funding and increased demand for services. Although this is not a new paradigm, it would appear that the coming years will deliver more stringent financial circumstances than ever before.

The people of Western Australia can be assured that notwithstanding these difficult times, our staff will continue to provide the same level of highly professional and committed service which has given Legal Aid WA the strong reputation it deserves. Indeed, the ongoing feedback I receive from judicial officers concerning the quality of Legal Aid WA staff leaves little doubt that our lawyers sit at the peak of the profession.

The reality of service delivery in the legal assistance sector is that Legal Aid WA operates alongside numerous other agencies and organisations. These include the Department for Child Protection and Family Support, the WA Police Service, the many community legal centres across Western Australia, and the Commonwealth and State Attorney General Departments. Each of these bodies play an important part in the broader objective of delivering access to justice, and I thank them for their assistance.

Our Board of Commissioners, consisting of Chairman Stuart Shepherd, Belinda Lonsdale, Dion Smith, John Prior, Brian Bradley and Kate Beaumont, is always a strong source of guidance and support for Legal Aid WA. I thank all of our Commissioners for their commitment to their role, which forms such an important aspect of the governance structure at Legal Aid WA.

Finally, I once again thank the team at Legal Aid WA, across the entirety of Western Australia. Your role in delivering access to justice and preserving the rights of individuals is, and always will be, one which is a cornerstone of a just and civil society.

George Turnbull
Director of Legal Aid

3. OVERVIEW OF AGENCY

3.1 Executive Summary

Cost of services and sources of funds

In 2014-15, the total cost of services delivered by Legal Aid WA was \$68.534 million, a decrease of \$1.708 million or 2.43 per cent on the 2013-14 total cost of \$70.242 million. The main sources of expenses were employee costs at \$32.563 million (an increase of 2.00 per cent) and payments to private legal practitioners at \$17.881 million (a decrease of 16.51 per cent).

Legal Aid WA derives the majority of its funding through Commonwealth and State Government grants. In 2014-15, Commonwealth grants and contributions totalled \$21.204 million, an increase of \$25,000 or 0.12 per cent on the Commonwealth contribution for 2013-14. State Government funding for 2014-15 was \$40.335 million, an increase of \$2.185 million or 5.73 per cent on the previous year.

An operating deficit of \$1.5649 million was recorded for the 2014-15 financial year.

Outputs

In 2014-15, a total of 12,300 applications for grants of aid for State and Commonwealth matters were received by Legal Aid WA. This is a 12.51 per cent decrease in the number of applications for aid received in 2013-14. This change in applications received reflects a more rigorous pre-application review process which has been introduced by Legal Aid WA. Within the total number of applications, significant variations were recorded for Commonwealth family law – a decrease in applications of 20.44 per cent; State criminal law – a decrease in applications of 8.76 per cent, and State civil law – a decrease in applications of 30.98 per cent.

The grant rate for all matter types varied in 2014-15. For family law matters, the grant rate was 69 per cent of applications received, compared with 64 per cent for the previous year. The grant rate for criminal law matters was 76 per cent in 2014-15, down from the 79 per cent rate recorded for 2013-14. In civil law matters, a slight improvement was recorded, taking the grant rate to 52 per cent.

Demand for non-grant of aid services also varied throughout 2014-15, with the number of telephone information services down by 4.67 per cent; face to face information down by 9.57 per cent; minor assistance up by 1.26 per cent; duty lawyer services up by 7.27 per cent; dispute resolution conferencing down by 8.43 per cent; and legal advice – down by 4.94 per cent.

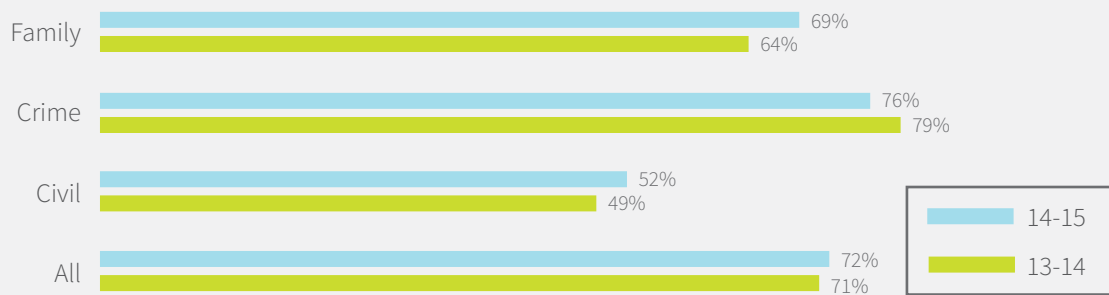
Our clients

Legal Aid WA's client base for grants of aid is overwhelmingly male, with 60 per cent of grants being awarded to males, predominantly in the area of criminal law, where they accounted for 83 per cent of all criminal law grants of aid. Women were awarded 70 per cent of all grants of aid in the area of family law. The majority of clients who receive grants of aid fall within the age brackets of 21 to 30 years and 31 to 40 years, with both groups each accounting for close to 30 per cent of total grants of aid awarded. Males dominate across all age brackets.

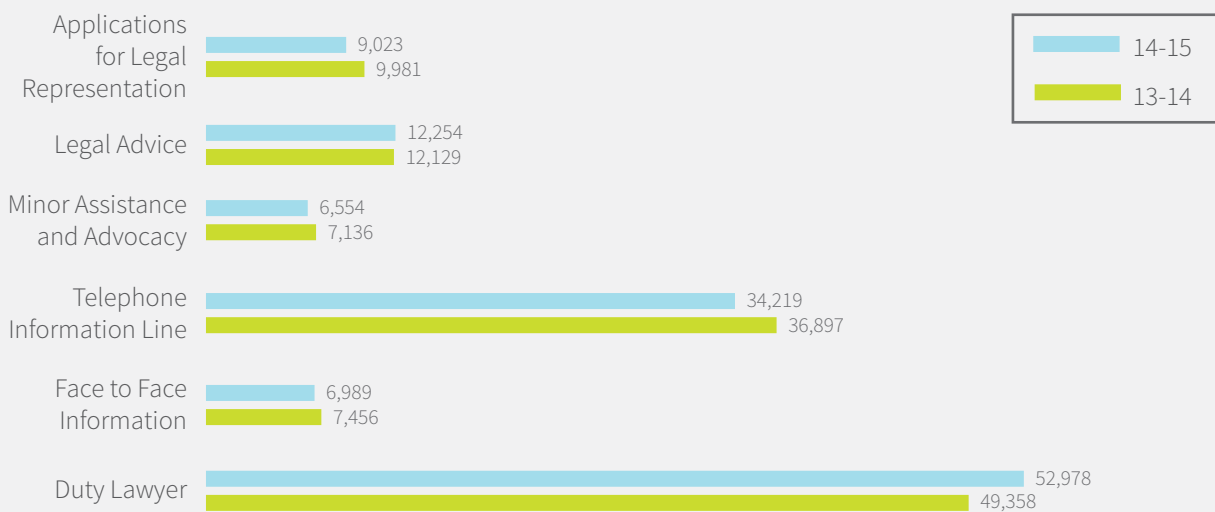
Our organisation

As at 30 June 2015, Legal Aid WA was employing 282 full time equivalent employees. Legal Aid WA's head office is located at 32 St Georges Terrace, Perth. The organisation also maintains a significant presence in other parts of Western Australia, with regional offices located at Bunbury, Albany, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, South Hedland, Broome, Kununurra and satellite offices on Christmas Island and in Carnarvon. In addition to the permanent office presence in major regional centres, Legal Aid WA maintains a presence in many towns and remote communities through attendance at circuit court visits and legal education programs.

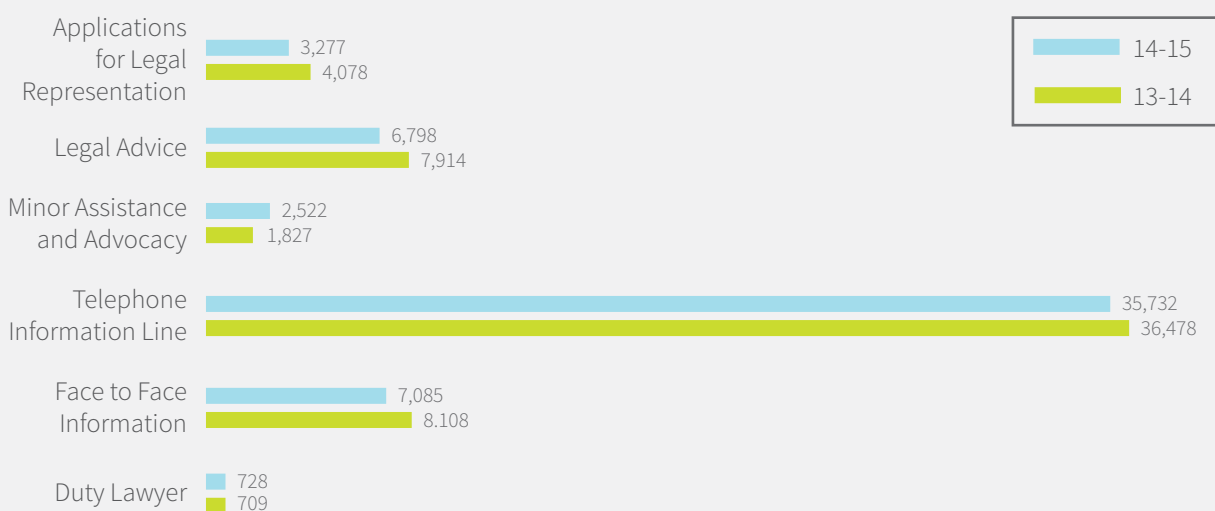
GRANT RATE BY LAW TYPE



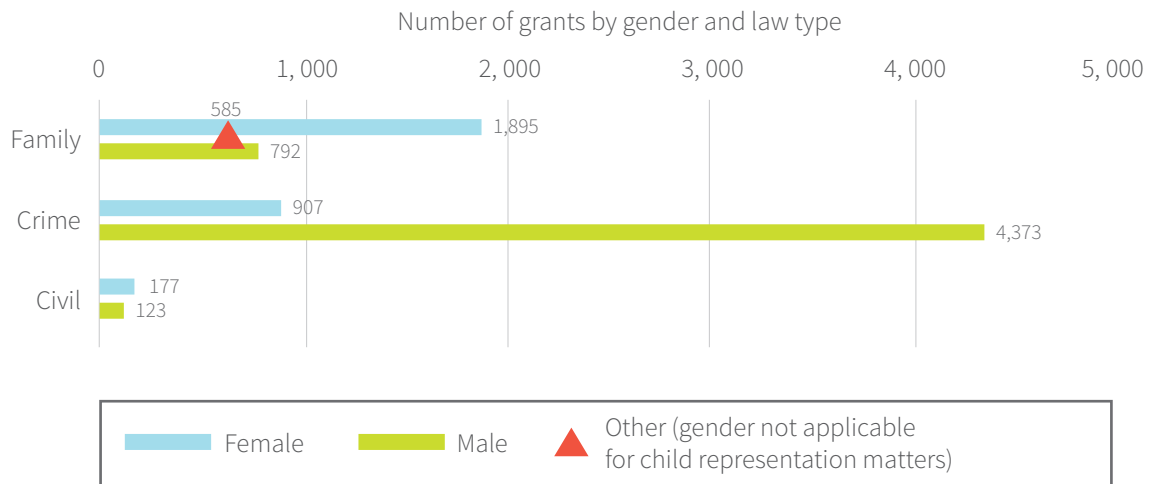
SERVICES OTHER THAN LEGAL REPRESENTATION (STATE)



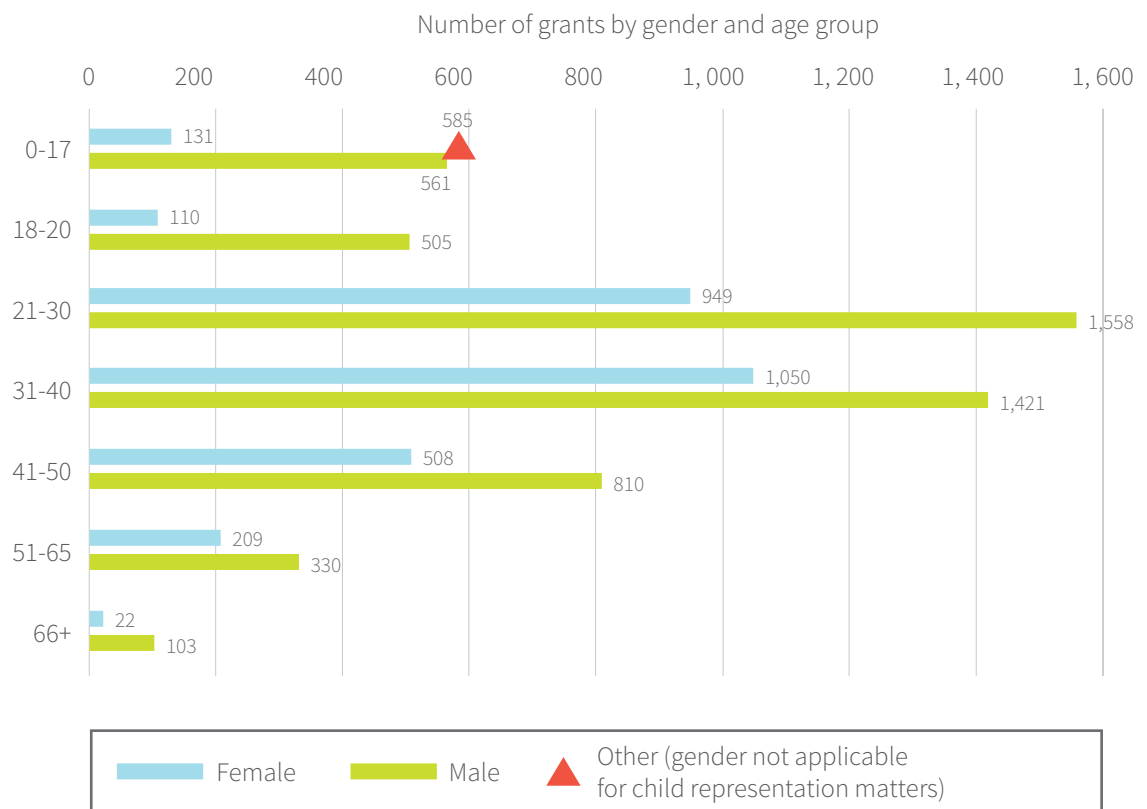
SERVICES OTHER THAN LEGAL REPRESENTATION (COMMONWEALTH)



APPLICATIONS GRANTED BY GENDER AND LAW TYPE

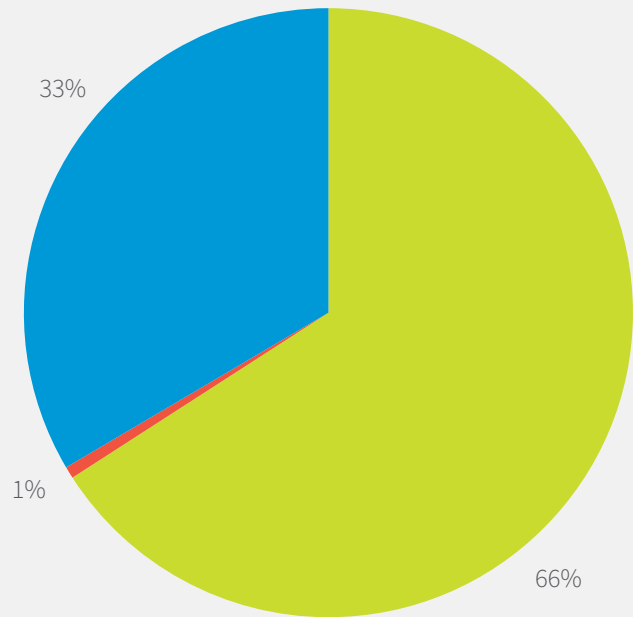


APPLICATIONS GRANTED BY GENDER AND AGE GROUP



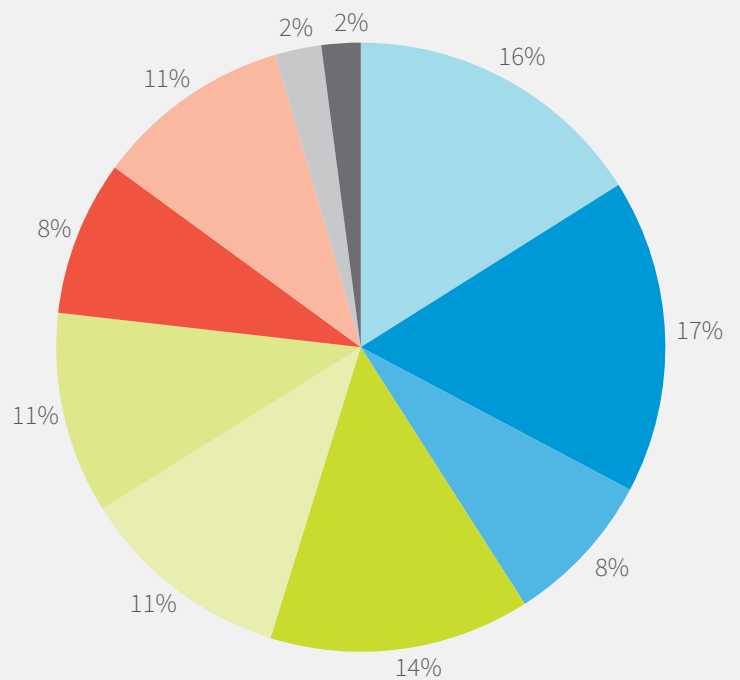
RESIDENCY OF LEGAL AID CLIENTS IN 2014-15

- Metropolitan Perth
- Non-Resident of Western Australia
- Regional Western Australia



RESIDENCY OF LEGAL AID CLIENTS IN 2014-15 LIVING IN REGIONAL WA

- South West
- Kimberley
- Great Southern
- Pilbara
- Peel
- Wheatbelt
- Goldfields - Esperance
- Mid West
- Christmas Island /Cocos
- Gascoyne



3.2 Operational Structure

Name of agency

Legal Aid Commission of Western Australia

Enabling legislation

Legal Aid Commission Act 1976

Form of agency

Legal Aid WA is an independent statutory authority

Responsible Minister

Attorney General of Western Australia

Accountable authority

Part II of the *Legal Aid Commission Act 1976* establishes the Commission and Part III creates the position of Director of Legal Aid and the power to employ staff. The Director and staff of Legal Aid WA are accountable to the Commission which exists by way of a Board of Commissioners.

The Board of Commissioners meets monthly and as required and consists of:

- a Chairman, who must be a lawyer with at least seven years experience, appointed on the nomination of the State Attorney General;

- four members, nominated by the State Attorney General, two of whom are lawyers nominated by the Law Society of Western Australia and one (not being a lawyer) who has administrative experience at a senior level;
- one member, a non-lawyer, is nominated by the Minister of Commerce who is responsible for consumer protection;
- two members appointed by the Commonwealth Attorney-General.

Since April 2000, the Commonwealth Attorney-General has declined to replace members whose terms have expired and the Commission has operated without Commonwealth representatives.

In 2014-15 there were 11 normal meetings of the Commission. The Chairman of the Legal Aid Commission receives \$18,600 per annum and ordinary members who are not public servants receive \$7,400 per annum.

The Board of Commissioners operates with the support of an Audit Committee. The Audit Committee is chaired by Mr Dion Smith. Mr Brian Bradley PSM is a member of the Audit Committee.

While there is no formal reporting relationship to a Minister, the Director of Legal Aid provides advice to the State Attorney General on an ongoing basis. It is also noted that for budget and general administrative purposes the Attorney General is the responsible Minister for the *Legal Aid Commission Act 1976*.

3.3 Commission Members



Stuart Shepherd
Chairman

Stuart Shepherd was appointed Chairman of the Legal Aid Commission in June 2011, as the Western Australian Attorney General's nominee. Mr Shepherd studied law at the University of Western Australia and was admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of Western Australia in 1987. He undertook his articled clerkship at Keall Brinsden and was subsequently employed at Clayton Utz, primarily in commercial litigation and dispute resolution. For eight years Mr Shepherd practiced in the UK where he was a partner at Burton Copeland London, acting principally in corporate and commercial litigation, corporate regulation, disciplinary and major fraud, trade and industry, tax and excise prosecutions. He has been instructed in numerous cross-jurisdictional matters involving the United States, Scotland, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Gibraltar and the Channel Islands. He was a member of a panel of solicitors acting pro bono for inmates on death row in the Bahamas. Since returning to Perth, Mr Shepherd has practiced at Mallesons and was a partner at Bennett & Co and Lavan Legal. He has been a member of the Law Society's Courts Committee and Brief Editorial Committee and is currently the legal member on the Joondalup Health Campus, Human Research Ethics Committee. He has lectured in advocacy for the Articles Training Program, regularly presents seminars on areas relevant to his practice and teaches the Civil Procedure unit at the University of Western Australia. Mr Shepherd was called to the bar in 2008. Mr Shepherd attended 11 of the 11 normal Commission meetings held in 2014-15.



George Turnbull
Director of Legal Aid WA

George Turnbull was appointed Director of Legal Aid WA in June 1999 and was reappointed for a further five year term in 2012. He was first admitted to practice as a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of Victoria in 1973. Mr Turnbull was until June 1998 the Director of the Victorian office of the Australian Government Solicitor, and was previously Director of the New South Wales and South Australian offices. During the 1980s he was Deputy Crown Solicitor and Director for Western Australia. Mr Turnbull attended 10 of the 11 normal Commission meetings held in 2014-15.



Belinda Lonsdale

Belinda Lonsdale was appointed a Commissioner in January 2006 as a nominee of the Law Society of WA. She graduated from the University of Western Australia in 1991 with a Law degree and again in 1999 with an MBA. Ms Lonsdale was a Senior Associate with Dwyer Durack from 1997 until 2003 where she practiced principally in criminal law. In 2003 she went to the Bar and joined Albert Wolff Chambers. She was President of the Criminal Lawyers' Association in 2005 and 2006. In 2006 Ms Lonsdale was Convenor of the 10th International Criminal Law Congress, held in Perth. In 2007 she was elected to the Council of the Law Society of WA. In 2011, Ms Lonsdale was elected as a member of the WA Bar Association Council. Ms Lonsdale attended 10 of the 11 Commission meetings held in 2014-15.



Brian Bradley, PSM

Brian Bradley has 50 years' experience in the Western Australian public sector. He has been involved principally in safety and health since 1983. Brian worked for WorkSafe for more than 20 years and was appointed as Commissioner of WorkSafe Western Australia in October 1998. In 2002, Brian was appointed Director General of the Department of Commerce (formerly the Department of Consumer and Employment Protection) after acting in the position since June 2001. He is the deputy chair of the Western Australian Commission for Occupational Safety and Health, a member of the WorkCover Western Australia Authority Board. He was the Western Australian member on the Australian Safety and Compensation Council from 2005 to 2009, and is the current Western Australian member of Safe Work Australia. Brian was awarded the Public Service Medal in 2003 for his contribution to safety and health in Western Australia. Mr Bradley attended 10 of the 11 Commission meetings held in 2014-15.



Dion Smith

Dion Smith was appointed a Commissioner in December 2010 as a nominee of the State Attorney General. He holds a Bachelor of Economics from the University of Western Australia, and Masters of Business Administration from the University of NSW/University of Sydney. Dion is currently the Executive General Manager Sales and Marketing with Vocation, a position he has held since 2013. He began his career in recruitment for Integrated Workforce (now part of the Programmed Group), where he held various management and executive positions, in both sales and operations. From there he moved to TSS Weststaff from 2007 to 2011, and then onto Mining People International, where he was General Manager Sales and Strategy. He has served on the Board of two publicly listed recruitment and professional services companies as an Executive Director. He was also a Board Member for the WA State Branch of Save the Children from 2006–2008. Dion has 4 children and is involved in many voluntary activities through the school and sports communities. Mr Smith attended 11 of the 11 Commission meetings held in 2014-15.



John Prior

John Prior was appointed a Commissioner in March 2012 as a nominee of the Law Society of WA. Mr Prior was admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of Western Australia on 20 December 1985. He was a partner with Williams Ellison, Barristers and Solicitors, from 1993-2005 and in the year 2006 commenced practice as an independent barrister at Francis Burt Chambers, Perth. He practices in the areas of criminal law, liquor licensing and sporting tribunals and accepts briefs to appear as both prosecution and defence counsel in all criminal law jurisdictions. He was President of the Criminal Lawyers Association of Western Australia from 1998-2000, was a Councillor of the Law Society of Western Australia from 2006-2011 and Convenor of the Criminal Law Committee from 2003-2010. He has also been a member of the Racing Penalties Appeals Tribunal of Western Australia since 1993 and is a member of the Investigation Tribunal for Western Australian Amateur Football League since 1998. He has been legal counsel for the Fremantle Football Club since 1995. He chaired the Western Australian Health Minister's Ministerial Task Force on Drug Law Reform in 2001-2004. Mr Prior attended 10 of the 11 Commission meetings held in 2014-15.



Kate Beaumont

Kate Beaumont was appointed a Commissioner in July 2012, as a nominee of the State Attorney General. Ms Beaumont has been employed at Welfare Rights & Advocacy Service since 2001, where she currently holds the position of Executive Officer. Ms Beaumont has previously worked for 19 years in Tasmania, New South Wales and Western Australia as an officer of the Department of Social Security and Centrelink. She has had extensive involvement in community based legal and justice organisations, serving as the current President of the National Welfare Rights Network, and as the former Community Legal Centres Association of WA representative on the cross-jurisdictional CLC Stakeholder Committee, former Board Member of the Employment Law Centre, Midland Debt Legal Advisory Service and the Street Law Centre of WA. Ms Beaumont is also the Deputy Chairperson of Tenancy WA. Ms Beaumont holds a Bachelor of Social Work degree from Curtin University of Technology. Ms Beaumont attended 10 of the 11 Commission meetings in 2014-2015.

3.4 Director of Legal Aid

The Director, George Turnbull, is also the Chief Executive Officer. Under section 19 of the *Legal Aid Commission Act 1976* the Director is responsible for:

- administering the scheme of legal assistance established by the Act; and
- providing legal services to assisted persons and arranging and supervising the provision of such services by practitioners who are members of staff.

The Director is also an ex-officio member of the Commission. The Director is appointed by the Governor on the recommendation of the Commission and was reappointed for a further five year term in June 2012.



George Turnbull

Director of Legal Aid WA
Joined Legal Aid WA in 1999



Maureen Kavanagh

Director Criminal Law
Joined Legal Aid WA in 1993.



Julie Jackson

Director Family Law
Joined Legal Aid WA in 1987.



Lex Payne

Director Regions
Joined Legal Aid WA in 1985.

3.5 Board of Management

The day to day management of Legal Aid WA is the responsibility of the Director of Legal Aid, who is supported by a Board of Management which consists of Directors of each of the organisational Divisions.

In line with functions prescribed under section 15 of the Act, Legal Aid WA delivers services in the areas of criminal law, family law, civil law, general legal advice and practice development. The delivery of these services is supported by an internal corporate services function which provides services in the areas of finance, information management and human resources.

More generally, across all divisions Legal Aid WA plays an important role in community legal education and the law reform agenda through its strong expertise in those areas of the law which have a direct impact on the day to day lives of most citizens.

The current Board of Management structure was constituted in 2008. All Directors have legal qualifications and hold a current Practising Certificate for Western Australia.



Colleen Brown

Director Client Services
Joined Legal Aid WA in 1996.



Jane Stewart

Director Legal Practice Development
Joined Legal Aid WA in 1994.



Malcolm Bradshaw

Director Business Services
Joined Legal Aid WA in 2009.

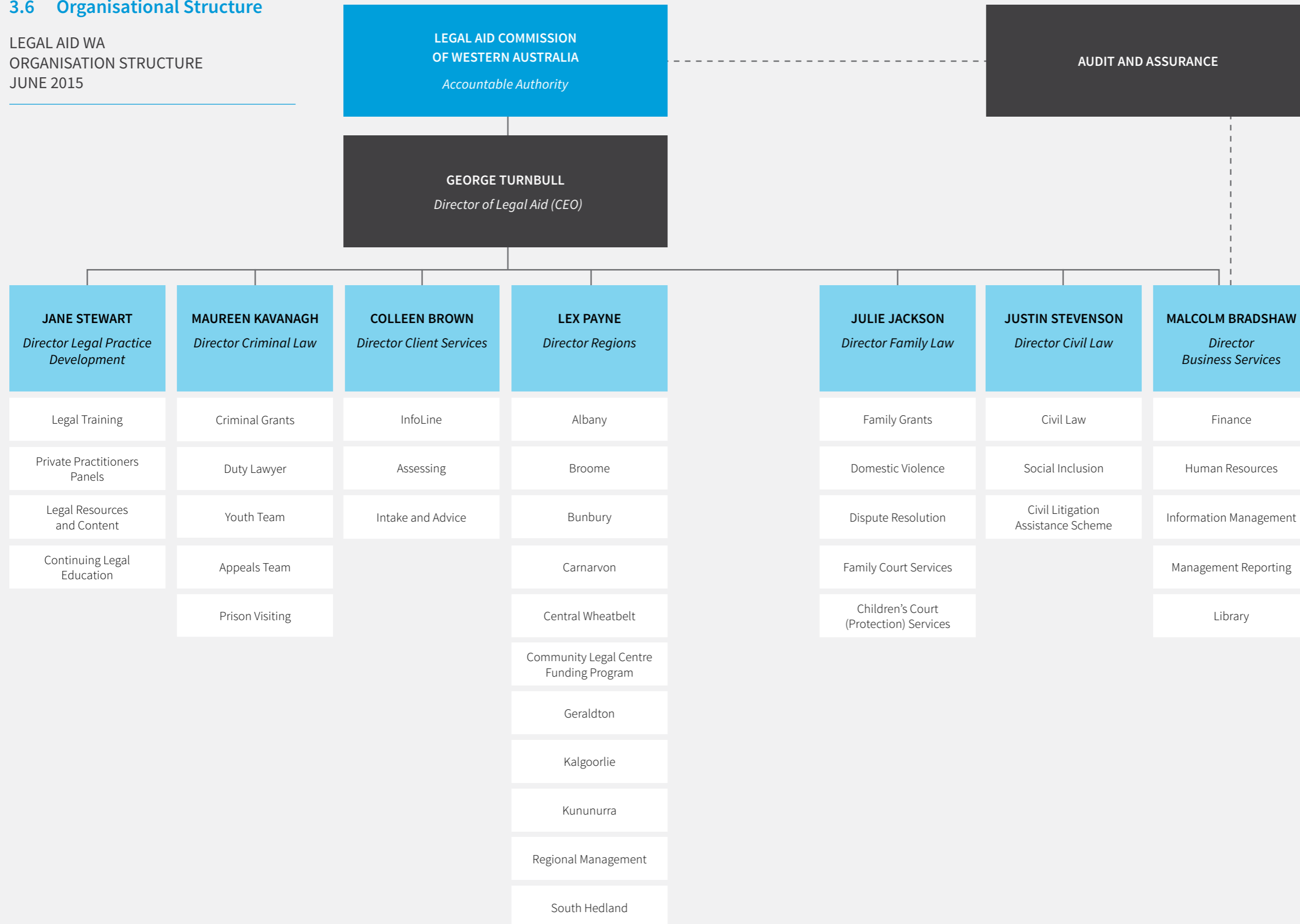


Justin Stevenson

Director Civil Law
Joined Legal Aid WA in 2010.

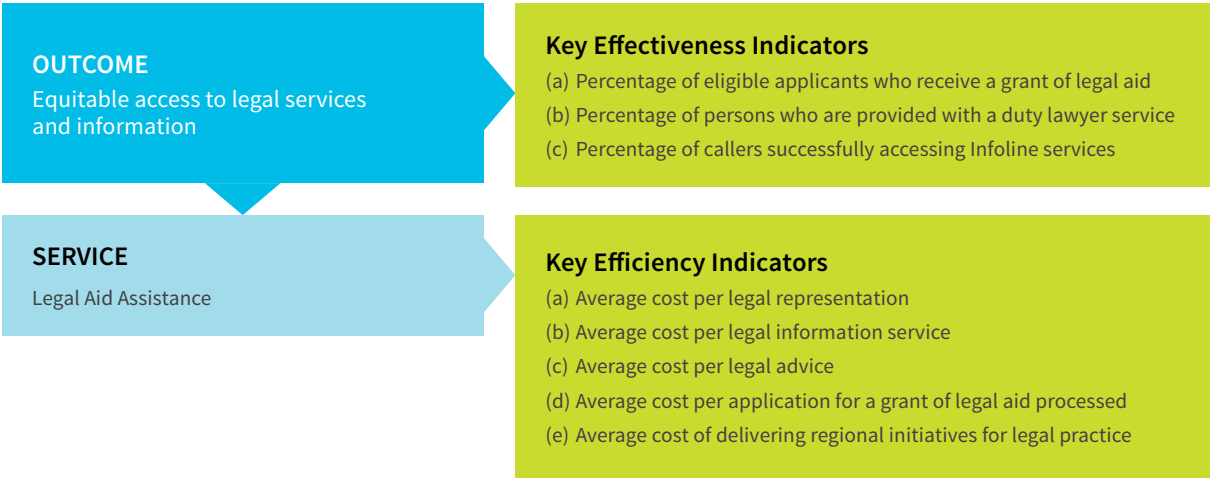
3.6 Organisational Structure

LEGAL AID WA
ORGANISATION STRUCTURE
JUNE 2015



3.7 Performance Management Framework

3.7.1 Outcome Based Management Framework



Government Goal

Greater focus on achieving results in key service delivery areas for the benefit of all Western Australians.

Agency Level Government Desired Outcome

Equitable access to legal services and information.

Agency Service Delivered

Legal Aid Assistance.

Our Services

The community and target groups require access to and the provision of quality legal services. This service responds to the demand for legal assistance through application of priority guidelines. This is achieved through the provision of eligibility and merit tests to enable legal representation to be provided to legally aided clients by grants of aid and assignment of cases to in-house or private practitioners. Legal Advice, duty lawyer services and community legal education is provided to assist the wider community to access fair solutions to legal problems at the earliest opportunity.

FOR THE COMMUNITY

Information and referral

To assist members of the public to identify legal problems, understand the alternatives for resolution and the resources available to them in pursuing a legal solution. Includes referral to other agencies and is delivered through public counters in all offices and by 1800 INFOLINE.

Duty lawyer services

To ensure that members of the public brought before the courts have access to legal advice so that they understand the options available for responding to legal proceedings in which they are involved. Available at all Magistrates Court sittings throughout WA, the Family Court of WA and the Children's Court.

FOR TARGET GROUPS

Legal advice, minor assistance and advocacy

To assist people facing legal issues with advice and practical help, including advocacy, drafting of negotiating letters and the preparation of court documentation. Delivered by lawyers and at all office locations, and by paralegal staff under supervision of lawyers.

Legal representation

To ensure persons from priority groups are legally represented to the extent that is necessary and commensurate with their particular individual need. Includes assessment and case management for persons who are refused assistance. Includes all services provided pursuant to a grant of aid, including Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).

Community education services

To ensure priority groups and partner organisations have access to relevant publications, self help kits, community legal education and knowledge resources sufficient to build their capacity and self-reliance in navigating the justice system. Includes electronic access to some legal aid systems and resources, by partner agencies.

FOR LEGAL SERVICE PROVIDERS

Regional initiatives for legal practice

To increase the presence of lawyers in regional and remote areas of Western Australia and to ensure legal practice training and professional development is available to providers of legal services in regional and remote areas of Western Australia.

Country lawyers are employed, trained and supervised by Legal Aid WA and training and professional development is delivered through legal practice training and interactive online learning systems.

3.7.2 Changes to Outcome Based Management Framework

There were no changes to the Legal Aid WA's Outcome Based Management Framework during 2014-15.

3.7.3 Shared Responsibilities with Other Agencies

The Legal Aid Commission did not share any responsibilities with other agencies in 2014-15.

4. AGENCY PERFORMANCE

4.1 Report on Operations

4.1.1 Criminal Law Division

Main functions

- Duty lawyer services in the Magistrates Courts and the Children's Court.
- Legal advice and minor assistance to clients on criminal matters.
- Legal representation for clients where grants of aid have been awarded.
- Prison visiting information service.
- Preparing and presenting criminal appeals.
- Briefing private legal practitioners, where appropriate.

Issues and achievements for 2014-2015

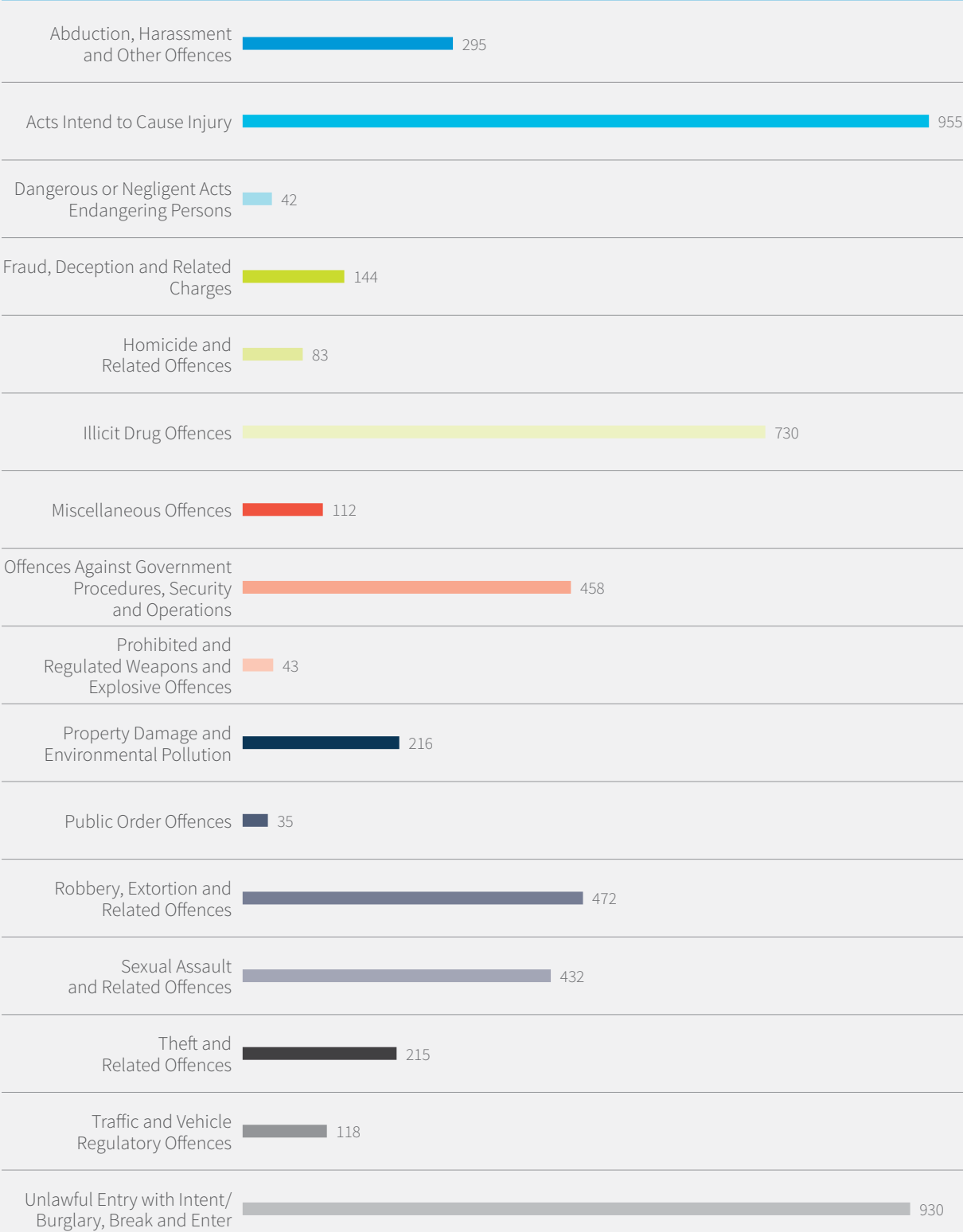
- Successful integration of staff from the decommissioned offices at Fremantle and Midland into the Criminal Law Division.
- Review of service delivery priorities in response to reduced State funding including, establishment of new file lawyer positions, reduced duty lawyer services and prioritisation of grants of aids for indictable matters and appeals.
- Assisted with the development of new Magistrate Court representation guidelines, in response to reduced State funding for 2015-2016.
- Development of a mobile device policy to support the new mobile device management system implemented as part of the relocation of the Perth office.
- Commenced development of an integrated electronic duty lawyer record, which will be used to record details of duty lawyer services using mobile technology and to update the main client information database.

- Identification of and introduction of practices that enhance the turn-around of grants of aid to the Criminal Law Division.
- Increased demand continued to be placed upon the duty lawyer service in metropolitan courts as a consequence of the reduced service delivery capacity of the Aboriginal Legal Service of W.A.
- Continued to contribute to the on-going development of the mental health START court pilot and continued to provide vital duty lawyer services. Funding has been extended to June 2016.

Issues and Challenges 2015-2016

- A priority during 2015-2016 will be the implementation and roll-out of the integrated electronic duty lawyer instruction record. A pilot phase is anticipated prior to full implementation.
- Assist in developing practices and protocols that allow for rapid and efficient assignment of Criminal Law grants of aid.
- Manage duty lawyer service delivery in response to the reduction in State funding and to the withdrawal of services by the Aboriginal Legal Service of W.A.
- Closely manage Criminal Law Division grants of aid and profile of work to ensure that projected budget savings are achieved.
- Continue to attract eminent practitioners to present case conferences to in-house practitioners as part of a program of on-going professional development. Access to case conferences for regional staff is being provided through the digital capture and on-line storage of presentations. The use of WebEx technology continues to be explored.

CRIMINAL LAW APPLICATIONS GRANTED BY CATEGORY



4.1.2 Family Law Division

Main functions

- Legal representation for children as Independent Children's Lawyers in family law proceedings and child representatives in child protection proceedings.
- Legal representation for parties involved in family law and child protection proceedings, dispute resolution processes and violence restraining order proceedings.
- Provision of dispute resolution services within the scope of family law and child protection.
- A range of services provided by the Domestic Violence Legal Unit (DVLU), including violence restraining order duty lawyer services, representation in defended hearings, legal advice and minor assistance, and family violence education and victim support in partnership with other agencies.
- Duty lawyer services in the Family Court of WA and the Children's Court of WA (child protection) which include legal advice, preparation of court documents, legal representation in court, advocacy with the Department for Child Protection and Family Support (CPFS) and other agencies, information and referrals to non-legal support services.

Issues and achievements for 2014-2015

- After almost three years of complex court proceedings, Legal Aid WA, successfully recovered two children from Afghanistan after they were forcibly removed from the mother's care by their father during a family visit to Iran in 2012. (See <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2015-03-19/australian-children-abducted-by-father-reunited-with-mother/6330778>). The outstanding efforts of Legal Aid WA Family Law Division staff were acknowledged in Parliament by the State Attorney General.
- Signs of Safety Pre-Hearing Conference (SOSPHC) referrals for child protection mediation continue to increase. Due to the success of the program, in partnership with CPFS, between January and June this year, training for lawyers, caseworkers and other participating professionals was conducted by Legal Aid WA and CPFS in each of the main regional locations – Broome, Kununurra, Kalgoorlie, South Hedland, Geraldton, Albany and Bunbury. The program received 193 referrals from the Children's Court of WA last year, being an increase of more than 24% from the previous year.
- In an effort to enhance the experience of Aboriginal families of the Signs of Safety Pre Hearing Conference process, Legal Aid WA, in partnership with CPFS, developed a pilot project which prepares them for participation in the conferences. This pilot, the "Aboriginal Engagement Project" involving 25 families has

been completed and the evaluation will be published shortly. Feedback to date has been very positive.

- The Dispute Resolution Unit continues to conference increasing numbers of late intervention Family Dispute Resolution (FDR) matters to which an Independent Children's Lawyer has been assigned. The complexity and serious nature of the issues involved means if settlement is not possible, outcomes are focused on narrowing the issues for trial, reducing court hearing days. In 38% of FDR matters in 2014-2015 there were current Family Court of WA proceedings. The settlement rate across all FDR conferences was 82% for the year.
- There has been significant ongoing input into State and Commonwealth law reform initiatives and policy consultations in the area of family law, child protection and family violence during 2014-15.
- Legal Aid WA was invited to meet with the Family Law Council (appointed by the Commonwealth Attorney-General) to discuss the WA developments in respect of the management of complex families between the family law and child protection systems. This meeting was to assist the Council with the preparation of their interim report in response to their current terms of reference which specifically required consideration of the processes and practices in place in Western Australia. Legal Aid WA also prepared a written submission in response to the terms of reference.
- Early in 2015 the WA State Government announced the closure of the WA Family Violence Courts from 1 July 2015. Legal Aid WA participated in a subcommittee of the WA Senior Officers Family Violence Group which provided advice to government in respect of the development of a new case management model for family violence matters. Legal Aid WA is now a member of the implementation committee tasked with developing the operational aspects of the new model.
- Legal Aid WA participated in the WA consultations on 6 May 2015 for the National Outcome Standards for Perpetrator [of family and domestic violence] Interventions. This is part of a process of developing national standards that will help set minimum standards for programs and interventions. DVLU highlighted the importance of standards in relation to support for the victims/partners and the children of their relationships.
- Demand for duty lawyer services in the Family Court of WA, Children's Court of WA care and protection matters and in respect of applications for Violence Restraining Orders continues to be high. These services are highly valued by both clients and the courts.

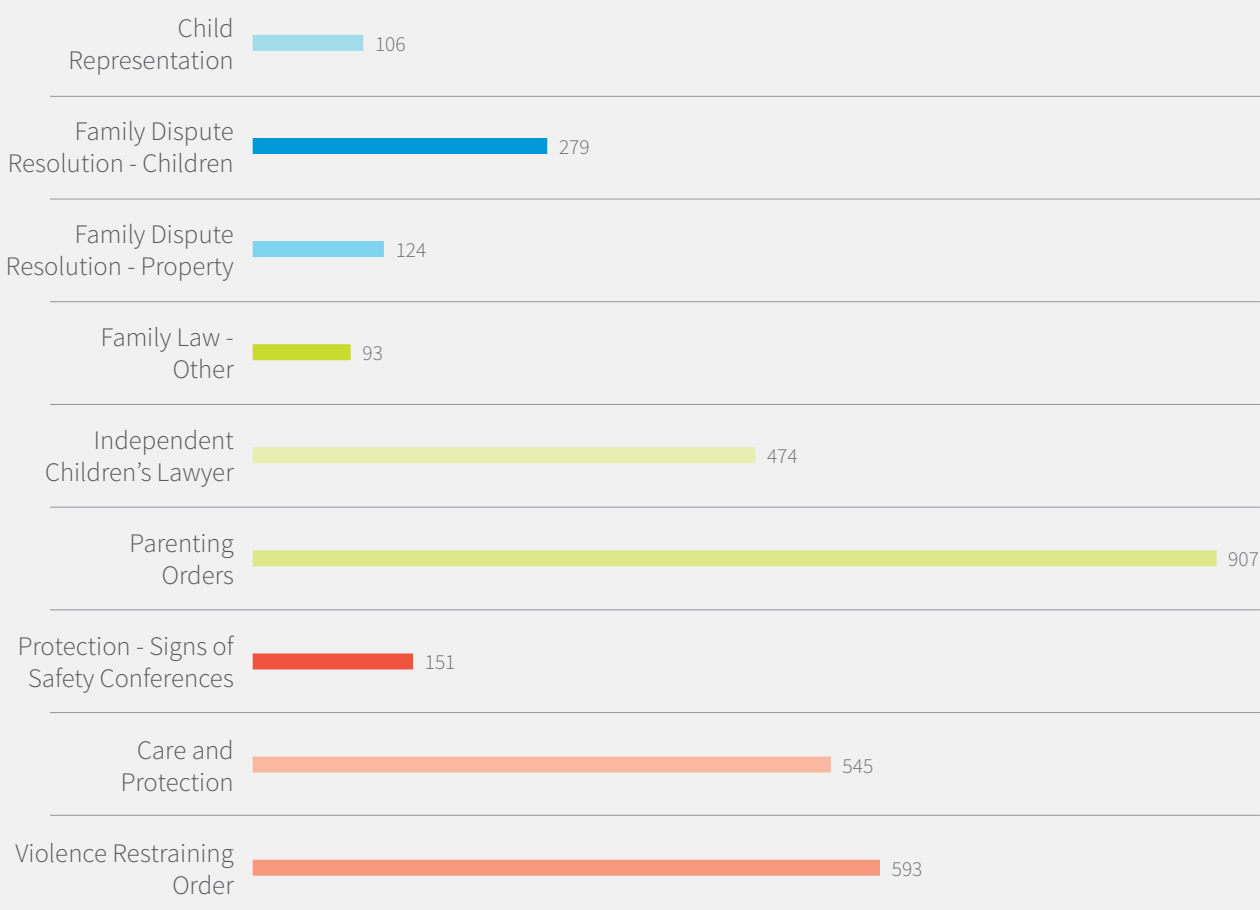
Issues and challenges for 2015-2016

- To grow and develop the in-house family law practice, with an emphasis on increasing in-house capacity for lawyers to represent children in the capacity of Independent Children’s Lawyers and Child Representatives and establishing a succession plan for emerging lawyers to act in these roles.
- To increase the capacity of Family Division lawyers to represent applicants in Violence Restraining Order trials and to develop the necessary skills to be able to represent clients in all areas of family law practice, family law, child protection and family violence.
- To continue to work with CPFS and the Children’s Court of WA to develop and implement Rules of Court and Guidelines

for the work of child representatives and have an integral role in their implementation and associated professional development and practice and process changes.

- To further develop the Signs of Safety Child Protection Mediation program including collaborating with CPFS to facilitate the continued expansion of the program to regional Western Australia and the implementation of the Aboriginal Engagement Project processes.
- To continue to work with key stakeholders to seek approval and achieve implementation of the legislative, policy and process changes recommended by the Integrated Services Reference Committee to improve the integration of the family law and child protection jurisdictions in Western Australia.

FAMILY LAW APPLICATIONS GRANTED BY CATEGORY



4.1.3 Civil Law Division

Main Functions

- Advice, minor assistance and advocacy on a broad range of civil law matters.
- Legal representation where there is a grant of legal aid.
- Duty lawyer services at the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) and the State Administrative Tribunal.
- Administration of the Civil Litigation Assistance Scheme.
- Advice, minor assistance and advocacy in civil law matters provided through LAWA's Social Inclusion Program, for clients with complex or multiple needs.
- Advice and minor assistance for self-represented litigants in the Federal Court of Australia and the Federal Circuit Court of Australia.

Issues and achievements for 2014-2015

- The delivery of civil law services in the legal assistance sector is dynamic and challenging, given the sheer variety of civil law problems and complex client presentations. During 2014-2015 the Civil Law Division maintained its capacity to deliver advice, minor assistance and representation services across a broad range of civil law matters.
- The self-represented litigants' service which was implemented in early 2014 in the Perth registry of the Federal Court of Australia and Federal Circuit Court of Australia has been continued. Assistance is provided in relation to the following areas of law: administrative law; appeals (especially migration appeals); bankruptcy; consumer law; fair work; human rights; industrial law; migration and privacy. The service provides advice and assistance to self-represented litigants with a focus on analysing the merits of an application or appeal; court process and procedure; disclosure and evidence; manner of drafting documents, forms and pleadings; and alternative options to resolve the person's legal problems.
- Advice to people summonsed to appear before the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, and also assisted people contemplating giving evidence to the Royal Commission. In connection with this area of law, there has also been collaboration with the "Knowmore" Legal Service which has been established to assist specifically with Royal Commission issues.
- The Social Inclusion Program has continued the valuable educational role it plays in the community legal sector and the wider community. There has been extensive collaboration with organisations such as the School Drug Education & Road Aware and the Financial Counsellors Association of WA. The

"My Car" webpage on the Legal Aid of WA website had 17,418 page views for the financial year.

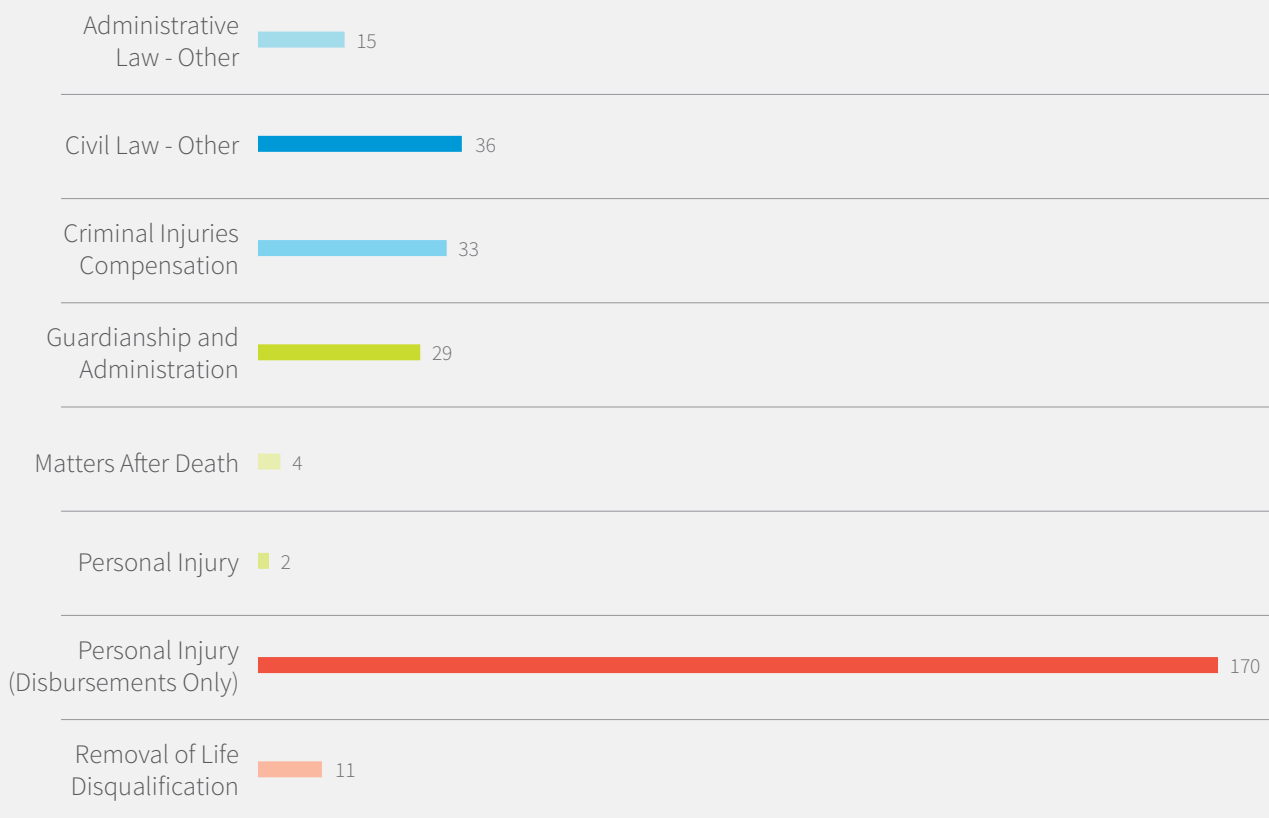
- With the advent of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), there has emerged the need for legal representation in connection with dispute resolution processes and litigation before the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.
- Strategic and coordinated provision of advice and representation in guardianship and administration matters referred by the Human Rights section of the State Administrative Tribunal. Increasing instances of elder financial abuse and matters affecting people with impaired decision making ability came to the attention of Civil Law Division lawyers. The Division continued to develop appropriate responses to provide assistance to people who are vulnerable to abuse or exploitation.
- Advice and representation provided to people in a range of civil law matters that arise from related criminal law matters. These matters include applications made under the *Prohibited Behaviour Orders Act 2010*; the *Community Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004*; the *Criminal Property Confiscation Act 2000* and the *Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (Cth)*.
- Representation was provided at a high profile inquest into neonatal deaths. Arising from this inquest, there were a number of public policy observations by the Coroner.
- Representation was provided in a number of matters in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal concerning veterans' matters,

Issues and challenges for 2015-2016

- The Civil Division will have a considerably reduced workforce during 2015-2016. A number of legal staff have been relocated to the Criminal Division and Family Division.
- Continue to maintain the civil law program to ensure that it meets client needs and values a human rights based approach to access to justice.
- Work collaboratively with other Legal Aid WA Divisions and external stakeholders to identify and prioritise client needs and deliver civil law services.
- Maintain the capacity to provide holistic legal advice and representation services in matters which overarch the immigration, civil, criminal and family law jurisdictions.
- Continue to develop appropriate models of service delivery such as modified duty lawyer services at key tribunals; outreach clinics and the role played by the Social Inclusion Program in providing targeted advice and minor assistance to the most disadvantaged people in our community.

- Continue to deal with emerging trends in relation to advice and representation in guardianship and administration matters. An emerging trend in that jurisdiction is that disabled children approaching the age of 18 are subject to applications regarding guardianship and administration for when they reach 18 years of age.
- Dealing with those cases which will arise in the AAT concerning the NDIS. The indications are that those cases will be complex factually and legally, and be quite labour intensive.

CIVIL LAW APPLICATIONS GRANTED BY CATEGORY



4.1.4 Regions Division

Main functions

- Operates regional offices at Bunbury, Albany, Kalgoorlie, Geraldton, South Hedland, Broome, Kununurra, and satellite offices at Carnarvon and Christmas Island. Each office operates as a microcosm of the broader legal aid organisation, offering services in the respective regions in areas including duty lawyer, legal advice and minor assistance, advocacy (usually negotiations on a legal matter) in all sorts of matters and legal representation pursuant to a grant of legal aid in criminal and family law matters.
- Provides duty lawyer, legal advice and minor assistance, advocacy, community legal education sessions and grants of aid for legal representation on criminal and family law matters whilst attending local regional court sittings and when on Magistrate Court circuits to remote areas of Western Australia.
- Operates the Central Wheatbelt Outreach Service visiting the towns of Northam, Merredin and Southern Cross.
- Manages the operation of the duty lawyer services to the Moora and Lancelin Magistrates Court sittings. This service is currently provided by a private lawyer contractor.
- Operates the Indian Ocean Christmas and Cocos Islands visiting legal service on behalf of the Commonwealth.
- Manages the Community Legal Centre funding program on behalf of external agencies.

Issues and Achievements for 2014-2015

- Closed the Fremantle and Midland offices and successfully relocated staff to work in Perth office Divisions, while continuing to maintain the same level of duty lawyer service provision to Magistrates Courts previously serviced locally by these offices.
- Relocated the Bunbury office to new office accommodation in December 2014.
- Successfully negotiated a new lease for the Geraldton office so as to create better use of Legal Aid WA's office space at The Boardwalk, Foreshore Drive, Geraldton by accommodating the whole office, including the purpose built dispute resolution facility, in one unit instead of across 2 separate units.

- Increased demand continued to be placed upon duty lawyer services in some regional courts as a consequence of the reduced service delivery capacity of the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA.
- Meeting the increased demand placed on the Pilbara Regional Office as a result of extra Magistrates Court sittings at Karratha.
- Legal Aid WA continued the funding of the Community Liaison and Education Officer position based in the Kununurra Legal Aid office to assist administrative staff and lawyers to achieve positive legal outcomes for Aboriginal people in the East Kimberley.
- Continuation of the Carnarvon satellite office operating out of Carnarvon Lotteries House providing on the ground duty lawyer, advice, minor assistance, advocacy, community legal education sessions and grants of aid for legal representation on criminal and family law matters in Carnarvon and surrounds and also attending court circuits flying to circuit towns and communities with the Carnarvon Magistrate.

Issues and Challenges for 2015-2016

- Manage the construction of the Geraldton office re-fit and oversee the relocation of the staff from Unit 7 to Unit 8, The Boardwalk, Foreshore Drive, Geraldton, due by 1 October 2015.
- Manage increased demand on legal services for Magistrates Court matters in response to the withdrawal of services by the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA in some regional courts.
- Manage increased demand on legal services in the Pilbara region as a result of the Karratha Magistrates Court sitting for 3 weeks per month instead of the usual 1 week per month. This is exacerbated by the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA having decided not to provide any service to clients appearing at these sittings.
- Manage the extra work load arising from a greater number of grants of legal aid for indictable matters and violence restraining order hearings being assigned in-house in regional offices.

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE FUNDING 2014-2015

Centres	Commonwealth CLC Funding	Commonwealth Grant Funding	Commonwealth One-Off Funding	Family Relationships Centre Funding	Legal Contribution Trust Funding	State Community Legal Centre Funding	Social and Community Services	TOTALS
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Albany CLS	\$267,994.16			\$36,104.08	\$53,500.00		\$25,042.00	\$382,640.24
Bunbury CLC	\$193,488.36	\$90,000.00		\$28,883.28		\$61,423.00	\$25,724.00	\$399,518.64
CASE for Refugees	\$126,843.84					\$7,946.00	\$10,446.00	\$145,235.84
Citizens Advice Bureau					\$81,400.00	\$61,423.00		\$142,823.00
CLC Association						\$171,572.00		\$171,572.00
Consumer Credit Legal Service	\$139,405.48	\$120,000.00				\$426,706.00	\$18,152.00	\$704,263.48
EDO WA						\$144,004.00		\$144,004.00
Fremantle CLC	\$90,253.40		\$79,000.00	\$26,743.76		\$140,203.00		\$336,200.16
Geraldton RC	\$273,655.16			\$55,359.60		\$155,686.00	\$27,094.00	\$511,794.76
Goldfields CLC	\$266,050.84			\$33,964.60			\$20,994.00	\$321,009.44
Gosnells CLC	\$233,427.44	\$120,000.00		\$26,743.76		\$246,635.00	\$31,307.00	\$658,113.20
Kimberley CLS	\$320,898.00	\$120,000.00		\$36,104.08			\$39,281.00	\$516,283.08
Mental Health Law Centre						\$823,167.00		\$823,167.00
Northern Suburbs CLC	\$286,156.40	\$120,000.00		\$26,743.76	\$330,000.00		\$35,649.00	\$798,549.16
Peel CLC		\$90,000.00		\$48,138.76		\$478,083.00	\$11,376.00	\$627,597.76
Pilbara LS	\$252,346.08	\$90,000.00					\$23,956.00	\$366,302.08
Relationships Australia WA (PAFVPLS)						\$652,000.00		\$652,000.00
Southern Communities ALES	\$198,321.76			\$26,743.76		\$176,072.00	\$18,534.00	\$419,671.52
Street Law Centre WA Inc	\$74,882.56				\$190,000.00		\$5,240.00	\$270,122.56
Sussex Street CLS	\$335,116.84			\$26,743.76	\$114,120.00	\$8,742.00	\$29,799.00	\$514,521.60
Tenancy WA	\$146,970.44							\$146,970.44
Welfare Rights & Advocacy Services	\$205,239.56	\$80,000.00			\$37,200.00	\$117,086.00	\$19,960.00	\$359,485.56
Wheatbelt CLC		\$90,000.00			\$253,330.00		\$7,412.00	\$350,742.00
Women's Law Centre	\$451,396.00			\$42,463.76			\$34,558.00	\$528,417.76
Youth Legal Service WA	\$88,304.64		\$79,000.00		\$71,000.00	\$253,156.00	\$6,179.00	\$497,639.64
PC Rebate - All Centres					\$42,800.00			\$42,800.00
	\$3,950,750.96	\$920,000.00	\$158,000.00	\$414,736.96	\$1,173,350.00	\$3,823,904.00	\$390,703.00	\$10,831,444.92

(PAFVPLS) = Perth Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention Legal Service

4.1.5 Legal Practice Development Division

Main functions

- Provides and co-ordinates in-person and online legal training to in-house lawyers, the community legal sector, private practitioners and law graduates.
- Manages the panel of private legal practitioners undertaking an ongoing program of education, audit and review.
- Maintains responsibility for LAWA's Professional Practice Standards, including overseeing the external QPS audit.
- Provides in-person and online legal information and education to LAWA staff, the public and external stakeholders.
- Delivery of frontline legal services.
- Supports delivery of frontline legal information and services through the provision of a range of publications and regular updates on the law.

Issues and achievements for 2014-2015

- Continued to provide accredited training online and in-person via Legal Aid WA's learning management system, Train-N-Track. Train-N-Track now has 1437 registered users (862 lawyers), houses 89 online modules (52 legal, 24 admin, 13 public facing) and operates as a booking manager for major in-person training events. From 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015, Legal Aid WA awarded 3902 Continuing Professional Development points to Western Australian lawyers.
- Established new private practitioner panels to provide a level of quality assurance for members of the public who are receiving publicly funded legal assistance, particularly where the matters are inherently complex or require specialisation.
- Development of Community Online Resource Essentials (CORE), through a Commonwealth funded NBN project in collaboration with the Geraldton Resource Centre. CORE provides free interactive online legal self-help guides. Three modules have been created since April 2015 across specific family, civil and criminal law topics. Between April and June

2015, these modules were accessed 652 times. The value of these resources has been recognised by the Family Court of WA and the Magistrates Court who have created links to CORE from their websites.

- Creation of R U Legal, a suite of online community legal education resources developed for use by and with young people in Western Australia. Currently comprising 'sexting, consent and cyber bullying' modules, these interactive resources include legal information, real life video stories, games and quizzes. R U Legal is in the final stages of user testing and will be rolled out in 2015-16. In 2014-15 the modules were tested by 204 students and community members.
- Developed a new online Performance & Development Review platform for all Legal Aid WA Staff which will be rolled out in 2015/16.
- Delivered the annual three day Summer Series of legal professional development for legal practitioners in areas of family, criminal and civil law.

Issues and challenges for 2015-2016

- Systematically roll out the new audit and compliance function in relation to private panel practitioners undertaking grants of legal aid.
- Continue to develop Legal Aid WA's online training, practitioner support and online community legal education capabilities, including CORE and R U Legal CLE resources for community groups and schools.
- Continue to assist with service delivery and provide relevant legal alerts and publications, to support front line legal service delivery by Legal Aid WA staff and service partners and to provide legal information to the public.
- Roll out the online Performance & Development Review platform for all Legal Aid WA staff.

LEGAL AID WA PRIVATE PRACTITIONERS PANEL
 TOP 30 LEGAL AID WA FEE EARNERS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

Top 30 Fee Earners		Solicitor Fees \$
1	CMS LEGAL	\$595,278.73
2	READER LAWYERS & MEDIATORS	\$557,590.85
3	BANNERMAN SOLICITORS	\$469,404.91
4	CALVERLEY JOHNSTON	\$404,320.55
5	SKLARZ LAWYERS	\$399,471.57
6	IAN HOPE	\$384,507.37
7	FISHER LEGAL PTY LTD	\$374,813.78
8	HOLDEN BARLOW	\$343,168.38
9	SIMON WATTERS	\$300,664.06
10	MCDONALD & SUTHERLAND	\$292,577.06
11	WAYNE DAWKINS LAWYERS PTY LTD	\$263,115.83
12	GARY RODGERS BARRISTER AND SOLICITOR	\$210,591.73
13	BARONE CRIMINAL LAWYERS	\$204,311.47
14	SHADGETT LEGAL PTY LTD	\$187,792.94
15	CPK LEGAL	\$183,206.14
16	SHADDICKS	\$181,940.52
17	FERRIER ATHANASIOU & KAKULAS PTY LTD	\$180,743.80
18	ABIGAIL ROGERS BARRISTERS & SOLICITORS	\$176,534.93
19	BATES LEGAL PTY LTD	\$175,653.29
20	FORT LEGAL	\$174,380.68
21	BEN TYERS BARRISTER & SOLICITOR	\$172,448.60
22	J D HAWKINS AND ASSOCIATES	\$169,989.94
23	DAVID MCKENZIE LEGAL PTY LTD	\$165,851.95
24	NR BARBER LEGAL	\$148,893.25
25	MARILYN LOVEDAY	\$146,174.60
26	S F RAFFERTY	\$145,840.70
27	HELEN MUHLING	\$144,966.78
28	CHESHIRE LEGAL	\$144,493.28
29	PACY SOLICITORS	\$143,928.40
30	PATTI CHONG LAWYER	\$143,718.34

4.1.6 Client Services Division

Main functions

- Assessing applications for grants of aid.
- Providing an information and telephone referral service for queries of a general nature from members of the public.
- Providing legal advice and minor assistance for members of the public requiring initial advice and/or assistance with handling their own legal issues.
- Engaging the private profession to act in a wide range of criminal, family and civil law matters.

Issues and achievements for 2014-2015

- Continued the implementation of the recommendations of the Intake Assessment and Referral report, focusing on the introduction of a pre-application interview process to reduce the number of unsuccessful applications for grants of aid.
- Establishment of priority communication protocols for service partners including community legal centres, regional service providers and organisations assisting vulnerable people.
- In response to continuing increased demand for grants of aid for indictable matters and more complex family law matters, successfully applied periodic adjustments to Legal Aid WA's eligibility criteria to ensure that the awarding of grants remained within budget capacity.
- Expanded the provision of minor assistance and early intervention services in family law, to ensure the provision of legal assistance to vulnerable clients who, due to funding restrictions, would not ordinarily be eligible for a grant.
- Close liaison with the Criminal Law Division and Regions with the development of new Magistrates Court guidelines in response to reduced State funding for 2015-2016.
- Development of the telephone information line platform in order to streamline the collection and transfer of client

information within Legal Aid. In particular, the development and trial of a single intake tool for all forms of family law assistance – the Family Assessment Service Tool (FAST).

- In conjunction with other Divisions, managed the upgrade to a new Grants Online system, with Client Services taking responsibility for transitioning all private practitioners to the new system.
- Assisted Legal Practice Development to successfully implement the recommendations of the Private Practitioner Panel Review.

Issues and challenges for 2015-2016

- Balance increasing demand for grants of aid for serious criminal matters and more complex family law matters, within a challenging budget environment.
- Continue to work on developing the Intake functions within the Client Services Division, in order to further streamline and enhance client experiences.
- Work closely with the Criminal Law Division, Family Law Division and Regions to develop practices and protocols that allow for rapid and efficient assignment of grants in-house including “check box” extensions and documented, transparent complexity allowances.
- Finalise logical design of automatic processing of specified claims for grant of aid work and implementation of tested upgrade.
- Contribute to the review of data collection requirements under the new National Legal Assistance Data Standards Manual and the implementation of necessary changes to Grants Online, LAW Office and service based forms.
- Undertake training of staff in new data collection requirements and related system changes.

4.1.7 Business Services Division

Main functions

The Business Services Division provides corporate services to support the operation of all other Divisions of Legal Aid WA. The key services delivered by Business Services are:

- Finance, including overall financial management, internal audit and administration services.
- Information management, including management of information systems and technology.
- Human resources, including training, recruitment, performance monitoring and payroll services.
- Assistance on matters of policy which require coordination across Legal Aid WA and other parts of Government.
- Providing a secretariat to Legal Aid WA's Board of Commissioners.

Issues and achievements for 2014-2015

- Managed the construction of over 5,500 square metres of office fit-out at Legal Aid WA's new head office at 32 St Georges Terrace, Perth.
- Managed the relocation of Legal Aid WA staff, assets and information systems from 55 St Georges Terrace to 32 St Georges Terrace, Perth.

- Prepared a comprehensive submission to the Commonwealth on inter-jurisdictional legal assistance sector funding relativities as part of the consultation process for the new National Partnership Agreement on Legal Assistance Services.
- Provided technical support for the development of new in-house practitioner time recording and performance development systems.

Issues and challenges for 2015-2016

- Finalise outstanding technical and building quality issues arising from Legal Aid WA's relocation to 32 St Georges Terrace.
- Develop and implement an orderly approach to the identification and funding of capital assets within the organisation.
- Coordinate new Commonwealth reporting arrangements which are a requirement under the recently ratified National Partnership Agreement for Legal Assistance Services.
- Develop management plans to respond to reduced State funding arrangements, including changes to Legal Aid WA's service delivery profile.

4.2 Actual Results Versus Budget Targets

Financial Targets

	2014-15 Target ⁽¹⁾ \$000	2014-15 Actual \$000	Variation ⁽²⁾ \$000
Total cost of services (expense limit) (sourced from Statement of Comprehensive Income)	68,863	68,436	-427
Net cost of services (sourced from Statement of Comprehensive Income)	40,124	42,014	1,890
Total equity (sourced from Statement of Financial Position)	17,135	16,304	831
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held (sourced from Statement of Cash Flows)	-3,339	-3,753	-414 ^(a)
Approved full time equivalent (FTE) staff level	341	274	-67 ^(b)

1. As specified in the budget statements for 2014-15.

2. Further explanations are also contained in Note 33 'Explanatory statement' to the financial statements.

(a) The decrease in cash held is largely due to additional payments for legal services offset by lower than expected payments for salaries and related expenses.

(b) The number of full time equivalent staff level was lower than expected due to the cessation of the Country Lawyers Program (40 FTE), vacant positions where a recruitment process underway or the position has not been backfilled, and voluntary reductions to staff rosters.

4.3 Summary of Key Performance Indicators

	2014-15 Target ⁽¹⁾	2014-15 Actual	Variation ⁽²⁾
<i>Outcome: Equitable access to legal services and information.</i>			
Key Effectiveness Indicators:			
Percentage of eligible applicants who receive a grant of legal aid	78%	78%	0%
Percentage of persons who are provided with a duty lawyer service ⁽³⁾	23%	18%	(5%)
Percentage of callers successfully accessing Infoline services	87%	81%	(6%)
<i>Service: Legal Aid Assistance</i>			
Key Efficiency Indicators:			
Average cost per legal representation	\$3,700	\$3,787	\$87
Average cost per legal information service ⁽⁴⁾	\$36	\$48	\$12
Average cost per legal advice	\$215	\$223	\$8
Average cost per application for a grant of legal aid processed	\$370	\$387	\$17
Average cost of delivering regional initiatives for legal practice ⁽⁵⁾	\$11,912	\$1,148	\$10,764

1. As specified in the budget statements for 2014-15.

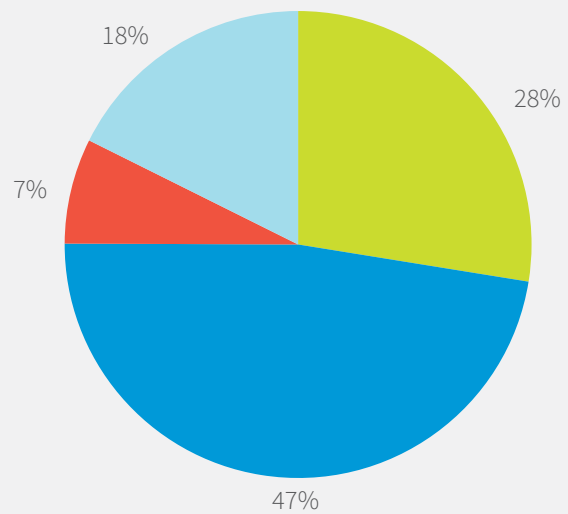
2. Explanations for the variations between target and actual results are presented in Disclosures and Legal Compliance under the Performance Indicators for 2014-15.

3. The Department of the Attorney General (DOTAG) Case Management Team changed in 2013-14. Consequently, the information on appearance for criminal cases and civil cases in the Magistrates Court and Children's Court for 2013-14 and prior comparative years have been restated to reflect the most accurate results by using the most current system. The 2014-15 target was based on statistics from DOTAG's legacy case management system. The variance between the 2014-15 target and the actual yearly trend represents the different statistics being provided from DOTAG's legacy and new Case Management System.

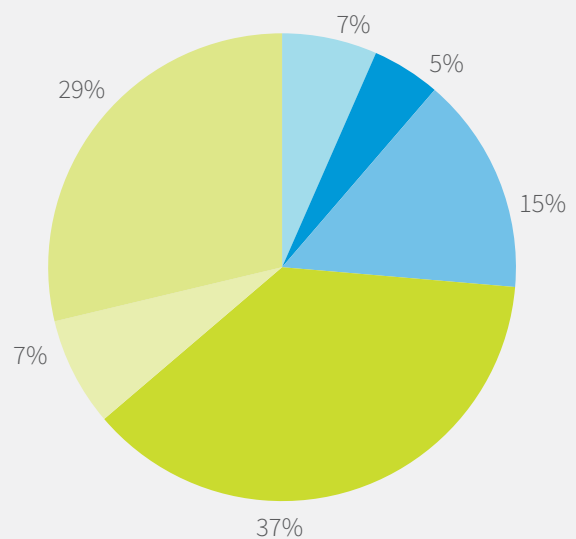
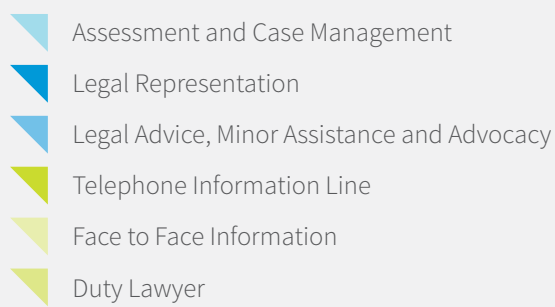
4. The average cost of delivering legal information services has increased in 2014-15, due to the introduction of more time intensive pre application interviews to increase efficiencies in the assessing and processing of applications for grants of legal aid. In addition, the increasing complexity of calls and increased expectations on staff providing information with regards to client care as well as the quality of the information provided has further increased the average time spent on delivering each service.

5. The cost of delivering legal practice initiatives into regional areas has decreased considerably due to the cessation of the Country Lawyers Program from 30 June 2015, with 88% less relevant costs in comparison with the 2013-14 year.

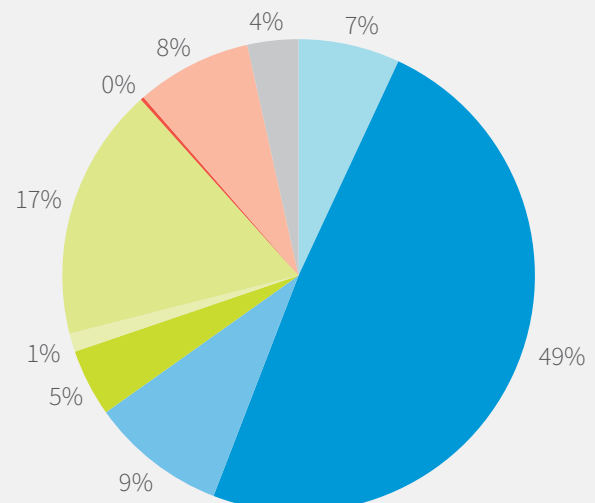
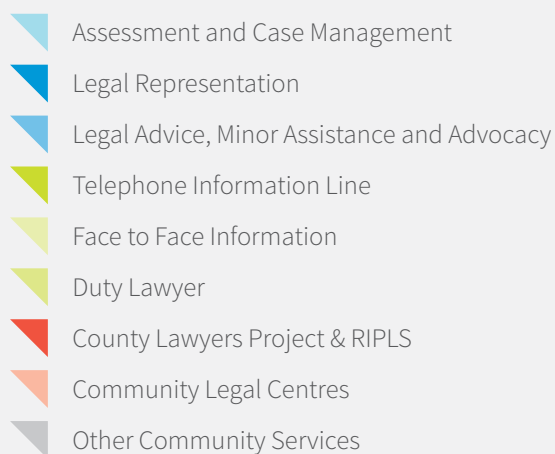
ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES TO 2014-15



OUTPUTS BY SERVICE TYPE 2014-15



RESOURCES BY SERVICE TYPE 2014-15



5. SIGNIFICANT ISSUES IMPACTING THE AGENCY

Commonwealth funding for community legal centres

In June 2015 the State was presented with a proposed new National Partnership Agreement for Legal Assistance Services (NPA), which outlined intended arrangements for Commonwealth funding to the State for Legal Aid WA and community legal centres (CLCs), for the period 2015-16 to 2019-20. The NPA was ratified by the State in August 2015.

Legal Aid WA has benefited from a 14 per cent increase in Commonwealth funding under the new NPA. However, there has been a decrease in Commonwealth funding for CLCs in the order of 35 per cent, commencing in 2017-18. In Western Australia there are 24 CLCs funded through the CLC Program in WA, each of which faces an uncertain future in the face of these projected funding arrangements.

There is no doubt that CLCs are a critical element of the legal assistance landscape. As small organisations, CLCs are capable of responding to client and community needs with great agility. CLCs are at the front line of service delivery and understand the connection between legal need and areas of acute need in the community. In this context, many CLCs are multi-disciplinary and are able to provide allied support services or warm referrals to

other appropriate agencies. There are other CLCs which provide a service in specialised areas of law, such as tenancy and consumer law. CLCs operate cooperatively alongside other legal assistance providers, including Legal Aid WA, the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA (ALSWA) and the Family Violence Prevention Legal Services. Importantly, they occupy a position in the market which is not filled by the other service providers.

The loss of Commonwealth funding is likely to mean that fewer people will receive the legal assistance they need. Seeking assistance from another service provider is often not an option for people where an opposing party is being represented through another organisation - this violates professional conduct rules of conflict for lawyers. Moreover, simply shifting the burden to Legal Aid WA or ALSWA is not a reasonable option, with both of these organisations experiencing their own financial pressure.

This is a significant issue which the State Attorney General is currently raising with his Commonwealth counterpart.

Services provided by the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA

The service delivery capacity of the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA (ALSWA) has been raised as a significant issue impacting the agency in successive Legal Aid WA Annual Reports.

The comments made in the 2013-14 Annual Report apply equally in 2014-15.

A significant new concern during 2014-15 has been ALSWA's indication that it would not be providing services at the expanded Karratha Magistrates Court circuit from early 2015-16. ALSWA has informed clients of its proposed withdrawal from the Karratha Magistrates Court and referred those clients to Legal Aid WA.

Legal Aid WA is highly supportive of the role of ALSWA in the legal assistance sector. It performs an essential role in delivering access to justice to some of the nation's most disadvantaged people. ALSWA has a strong presence in regional and remote Western Australia and understands the special cultural considerations of its client base. It is important that policy makers and funding decision-makers understand and give a high priority to the extremely important work of ALSWA in the Western Australian community.

6. DISCLOSURES AND LEGAL COMPLIANCE

6.1 Auditor General's Opinion on Financial Statements and Key Performance Indicators



Auditor General

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Parliament of Western Australia

LEGAL AID COMMISSION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Report on the Financial Statements

I have audited the accounts and financial statements of the Legal Aid Commission of Western Australia.

The financial statements comprise the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2015, the Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Changes in Equity and Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended, and Notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Commission's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Commission is responsible for keeping proper accounts, and the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Treasurer's Instructions, and for such internal control as the Commission determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

As required by the Auditor General Act 2006, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on my audit. The audit was conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those Standards require compliance with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and that the audit be planned and performed to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Commission's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Commission, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

I believe that the audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements are based on proper accounts and present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Legal Aid Commission of Western Australia at 30 June 2015 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended. They are in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the Treasurer's Instructions.

Report on Controls

I have audited the controls exercised by the Legal Aid Commission of Western Australia during the year ended 30 June 2015.

Controls exercised by the Legal Aid Commission of Western Australia are those policies and procedures established by the Commission to ensure that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property, and the incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with legislative provisions.

Commission's Responsibility for Controls

The Commission is responsible for maintaining an adequate system of internal control to ensure that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of public and other property, and the incurring of liabilities are in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2006 and the Treasurer's Instructions, and other relevant written law.

Auditor's Responsibility

As required by the Auditor General Act 2006, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the controls exercised by the Legal Aid Commission of Western Australia based on my audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the adequacy of controls to ensure that the Commission complies with the legislative provisions. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement and include an evaluation of the design and implementation of relevant controls.

I believe that the audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion

In my opinion, the controls exercised by the Legal Aid Commission of Western Australia are sufficiently adequate to provide reasonable assurance that the receipt, expenditure and investment of money, the acquisition and disposal of property, and the incurring of liabilities have been in accordance with legislative provisions during the year ended 30 June 2015.

Report on the Key Performance Indicators

I have audited the key performance indicators of the Legal Aid Commission of Western Australia for the year ended 30 June 2015.

The key performance indicators are the key effectiveness indicators and the key efficiency indicators that provide information on outcome achievement and service provision.

Commission's Responsibility for the Key Performance Indicators

The Commission is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the key performance indicators in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2006 and the Treasurer's Instructions and for such controls as the Commission determines necessary to ensure that the key performance indicators fairly represent indicated performance.

Auditor's Responsibility

As required by the Auditor General Act 2006, my responsibility is to express an opinion on the key performance indicators based on my audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the key performance indicators. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the key performance indicators. In making these risk assessments the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Commission's preparation and fair presentation of the key performance indicators in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances. An audit also includes evaluating the relevance and appropriateness of the key performance indicators for measuring the extent of outcome achievement and service provision.

I believe that the audit evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion

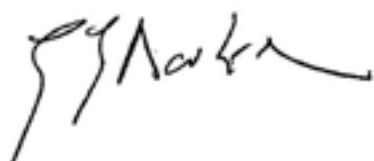
In my opinion, the key performance indicators of the Legal Aid Commission of Western Australia are relevant and appropriate to assist users to assess the Commission's performance and fairly represent indicated performance for the year ended 30 June 2015.

Independence

In conducting this audit, I have complied with the independence requirements of the Auditor General Act 2006 and Australian Auditing and Assurance Standards, and other relevant ethical requirements.

Matters Relating to the Electronic Publication of the Audited Financial Statements and Key Performance Indicators

This auditor's report relates to the financial statements and key performance indicators of the Legal Aid Commission of Western Australia for the year ended 30 June 2015 included on the Commission's website. The Commission's management is responsible for the integrity of the Commission's website. This audit does not provide assurance on the integrity of the Commission's website. The auditor's report refers only to the financial statements and key performance indicators described above. It does not provide an opinion on any other information which may have been hyperlinked to/from these financial statements or key performance indicators. If users of the financial statements and key performance indicators are concerned with the inherent risks arising from publication on a website, they are advised to refer to the hard copy of the audited financial statements and key performance indicators to confirm the information contained in this website version of the financial statements and key performance indicators.



GLEN CLARKE
DEPUTY AUDITOR GENERAL
Delegate of the Auditor General for Western Australia
Perth, Western Australia
11 September 2015

6.2 Financial Statements

Certification of Financial Statements FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

The accompanying financial statements of the Legal Aid Commission of Western Australia have been prepared in compliance with the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2006* from proper accounts and records to present fairly the financial transactions for the financial year ending 30 June 2015 and the financial position as at 30 June 2015.

At the date of signing we are not aware of any circumstances which would render the particulars included in the financial statements misleading or inaccurate.



Lee Baker

Chief Finance Officer

Date 10.9.2015



Justin Stevenson

Acting Director

Member of the Commission

Date 10.09.2015



Stuart Shepherd

Chairman of the Commission

Date 10.9.2015

Statement of Comprehensive Income FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
COST OF SERVICES			
Expenses			
Employee benefits expense	6	31,600,405	31,927,073
Supplies and services	7	5,411,712	5,719,664
Depreciation and amortisation expense	8	1,051,616	896,624
Accommodation expenses	9	4,697,660	4,009,759
Legal services expenses	10	18,879,244	21,417,148
Loss on disposal of non-current assets	16	-	-
Other expenses	11	6,795,502	6,271,804
Total cost of services		68,436,139	70,242,072
Income			
<i>Revenue</i>			
User charges and fees	12	2,480,410	3,351,802
Commonwealth grants and contributions	13	21,098,968	22,181,922
Interest revenue	14	988,717	1,245,195
Other revenue	15	1,854,501	2,719,572
Total Revenue		26,422,596	29,498,491
<i>Gains</i>			
Gain on disposal of non-current assets	16	455	413
Total Gains		455	413
Total income other than income from State Government		26,423,051	29,498,904
NET COST OF SERVICES	29	42,013,088	40,743,168
Income from State Government			
State Government grant		40,156,220	37,895,220
Services received free of charge		8,838	7,809
Royalties for Regions Fund		179,042	246,985
Total income from State Government	17	40,344,100	38,150,014
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE PERIOD	28	(1,668,988)	(2,593,154)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Items not reclassified subsequently to profit and loss			
Changes in asset revaluation surplus		(84,126)	(244,000)
Gains/(losses) recognised directly in equity		-	-
Total other comprehensive income	28	(84,126)	(244,000)
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE PERIOD		(1,753,114)	(2,837,154)

The Statement of Comprehensive Income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Financial Position
AS AT 30 JUNE 2015

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
ASSETS			
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	29	24,835,870	29,087,169
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	18, 29	1,285,294	10,072
Receivables	19	4,249,473	3,568,469
Other current assets	20	216,528	82,566
Total Current Assets		30,587,165	32,748,276
Non-Current Assets			
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	18, 29	-	777,140
Receivables	19	4,356,611	4,094,080
Property plant & equipment	21	3,019,239	2,348,857
Intangible assets	23	831,510	1,178,221
Total Non-Current Assets		8,207,360	8,398,297
TOTAL ASSETS		38,794,525	41,146,573
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Payables	25	15,134,013	16,534,387
Provisions	26	5,756,365	4,763,676
Other current liabilities	27	41,535	102,128
Total Current Liabilities		20,931,913	21,400,191
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions	26	1,558,835	1,689,490
Total Non-Current Liabilities		1,558,835	1,689,490
TOTAL LIABILITIES		22,490,748	23,089,681
NET ASSETS		16,303,777	18,056,893
EQUITY			
Contributed equity	28	595,669	595,669
Reserves		933,776	1,017,904
Accumulated surplus		14,774,332	16,443,320
TOTAL EQUITY		16,303,777	18,056,893

The Statement of Financial Position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Changes in Equity FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	Note	Contributed Equity \$	Reserves \$	Accumulated Surplus \$	Total Equity \$
Balance at 1 July 2013	28	595,669	1,261,904	19,036,474	20,894,047
Deficit		-	-	(2,593,154)	(2,593,154)
Other Comprehensive Income		-	(244,000)	-	(244,000)
Total comprehensive income for the period		-	(244,000)	(2,593,154)	(2,837,154)
Balance at 30 June 2014		595,669	1,017,904	16,443,320	18,056,893
Balance at 1 July 2014		595,669	1,017,904	16,443,320	18,056,893
Surplus		-	-	(1,668,988)	(1,668,988)
Other Comprehensive Income		-	(84,128)	-	(84,128)
Total comprehensive income for the period		-	(84,128)	(1,668,988)	(1,753,116)
Balance at 30 June 2015		595,669	933,776	14,774,332	16,303,777

The Statement of Changes in Equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Cash Flows

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	Note \$	2015	2014
CASH FLOWS FROM STATE GOVERNMENT			
State Government Grant		40,156,220	38,020,220
Royalties for Regions Fund		179,042	246,985
Net cash provided by State Government		40,335,262	38,267,205
Utilised as follows:			
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Employee benefits		(31,334,665)	(31,402,353)
Supplies and services		(5,529,400)	(5,680,194)
Accommodation		(4,143,150)	(3,888,837)
Legal services		(20,494,359)	(20,794,677)
GST payments on purchases		(5,096,238)	(4,154,603)
Other payments		(7,889,548)	(6,483,093)
Receipts			
User charges and fees		2,792,151	2,989,265
Commonwealth grants and contributions		21,203,771	22,197,245
Interest received		1,154,161	1,188,594
GST receipts on sales		778,924	123,290
GST receipts from taxation authority		4,088,420	3,871,554
Other receipts		1,735,692	2,813,590
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	29	(42,734,241)	(39,220,219)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payments			
Purchase of non-current physical assets		(1,354,692)	(705,039)
Receipts			
Proceeds from sale of non-current physical assets	16	455	413
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		(1,354,237)	(704,626)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		(3,753,216)	(1,657,640)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of period		29,874,380	31,532,020
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF PERIOD	29	26,121,164	29,874,380

The Statement of Cash Flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Note 1. Australian Accounting Standards

General

The Commission's financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2015 have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards. The term 'Australian Accounting Standards' includes Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB).

The Commission has adopted any applicable new and revised Australian Accounting Standards from their operative dates.

Early adoption of standards

The Commission cannot early adopt an Australian Accounting Standard unless specifically permitted by TI 1101 Application of Australian Accounting Standards and Other Pronouncements. There has been no early adoption of Australian Accounting Standards that have been issued or amended (but not operative) by the Commission for the annual reporting period ended 30 June 2015.

Note 2 Summary of significant accounting policies

(a) General statement

The Commission is a not-for-profit reporting entity that prepares general purpose financial statements in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the Framework, Statements of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the AASB as applied by the Treasurer's instructions. Several of these are modified by the Treasurer's instructions to vary application, disclosure, format and wording.

The Financial Management Act 2006 and the Treasurer's instructions impose legislative provisions that govern the preparation of financial statements and take precedence over Australian Accounting Standards, the Framework, Statements of Accounting Concepts and other authoritative pronouncements of the AASB.

Where modification is required and has had a material or significant financial effect upon the reported results, details of that modification and the resulting financial effect are disclosed in the notes to the financial statements.

(b) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting using the historical cost convention, except for land and buildings which have been measured at fair value.

The accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements have been consistently applied throughout all periods presented unless otherwise stated.

The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars and all values are rounded to the nearest (\$).

Note 3 'Judgements made by management in applying accounting policies' discloses judgements that have been made in the process of applying the Commission's accounting policies resulting in the most significant effect on amounts recognised in the financial statements.

Note 4 'Key sources of estimation uncertainty' discloses key assumptions made concerning the future, and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the end of the reporting period, that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

(c) Reporting entity

The reporting entity comprises the Commission. There are no related bodies. Refer to note 37 'Related bodies'.

(d) Contributed equity

AASB Interpretation 1038 Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly-Owned Public Sector Entities requires transfers in the nature of equity contributions, other than as a result of a restructure of administrative arrangements, to be designated by the Government (the owner) as contributions by owners (at the time of, or prior to transfer) before such transfers can be recognised as equity contributions. Capital appropriations have been designated as contributions by owners by TI 955 Contributions by Owners made to Wholly Owned Public Sector Entities and have been credited directly to Contributed equity.

The transfer of net assets to/from other agencies, other than as a result of a restructure of administrative arrangements, are designated as contributions by owners where the transfers are non-discretionary and non-reciprocal.

(e) Income

Revenue recognition

Revenue is recognised and measured at the fair value of consideration received or receivable.

Revenue is recognised for the major business activities as follows:

Sale of goods

Revenue is recognised from the sale of goods and disposal of other assets when the significant risks and rewards of ownership transfer to the purchaser and can be measured reliably.

Provision of services

Revenue is recognised on delivery of the service to the client or by reference to the stage of completion of the transaction.

Interest

Revenue is recognised as the interest accrues.

State Government Grant

State Government Grants are recognised as revenues at fair value in the period in which the Commission gains control of the appropriated funds. The Commission gains control of appropriated funds at the time those funds are deposited to the bank account. See also note 17 'Income from State Government' for further information.

Grants, donations, gifts and other non-reciprocal contributions

Revenue is recognised at fair value when the Commission obtains control over the assets comprising the contributions, usually when cash is received.

Other non-reciprocal contributions that are not contributions by owners are recognised at their fair value. Contributions of services are only recognised when a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would be purchased if not donated.

Royalties for Regions funds are recognised as revenue at fair value in the period in which the Commission obtains control over the funds. The Commission obtains control of the funds at the time the funds are deposited into the Commission's bank account.

Gains

Realised and unrealised gains are usually recognised on a net basis. These include gains arising on the disposal of non-current assets and some revaluations of non-current assets.

(f) Property, plant and equipment

Capitalisation/expensing of assets

Items of property, plant and equipment costing \$5,000 or more are recognised as assets and the cost of utilising assets is expensed (depreciated) over their useful lives. Items of property, plant and equipment costing less than \$5,000 are immediately expensed direct to the Statement of Comprehensive Income (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total).

Initial recognition and measurement

Property, plant and equipment are initially recognised at cost.

For items of property, plant and equipment acquired at no cost or for nominal cost, the cost is the fair value at the date of acquisition.

Subsequent measurement

Subsequent to initial recognition as an asset, the revaluation model is used for the measurement of land and buildings and historical cost for all other property, plant and equipment. Land and buildings are carried at fair value less accumulated depreciation (buildings only) and accumulated impairment losses. All other items of property, plant and equipment are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

Where market-based evidence is available, the fair value of land and buildings is determined on the basis of current market values determined by reference to recent market transactions. When buildings are revalued by reference to recent market transactions, the accumulated depreciation is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the net amount restated to the revalued amount.

In the absence of market-based evidence, fair value of land and buildings is determined on the basis of existing use. This normally applies where buildings are specialised or where land use is restricted. Fair value for existing use buildings is determined by reference to the cost of replacing the remaining future economic benefits embodied in the asset, i.e. the depreciated replacement cost. Where the fair value of buildings is determined on the depreciated replacement cost basis, the gross carrying amount and the accumulated depreciation are restated proportionately. Fair value for restricted use land is determined by comparison with market evidence for land with similar approximate utility (high restricted use land) or market value of comparable unrestricted land (low restricted use land).

Land and buildings are independently valued annually by the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Valuation Services) and recognised annually to ensure that the carrying amount does not differ materially from the asset's fair value at the end of the reporting period.

The most significant assumptions and judgements in estimating fair value are made in assessing whether to apply the existing use basis to assets and in determining estimated economic life. Professional judgement by the valuer is required where the evidence does not provide a clear distinction between market type assets and existing use assets.

Derecognition

Upon disposal or derecognition of an item of property, plant and equipment, any revaluation surplus relating to that asset is retained in the asset revaluation surplus.

Asset revaluation surplus

The asset revaluation surplus is used to record increments and decrements on the revaluation of non-current assets on a class of assets basis as described in note 21 'Property, plant and equipment'.

Depreciation

All non-current assets having a limited useful life are systematically depreciated over their estimated useful lives in a manner that reflects the consumption of their future economic benefits.

Depreciation is calculated using the straight line method, using rates which are reviewed annually. Estimated useful lives for each class of depreciable asset are:

Buildings on freehold land	50 years
Furniture and fixtures	5 to 13 years
Leasehold improvements	6 to 20 years
Office equipment	5 to 10 years
IT equipment	3 to 4 years
Motor vehicles	2 to 3 years

Land is not depreciated.

(g) Intangible assets

Capitalisation/expensing of assets

Acquisitions of intangible assets costing \$5,000 or more and internally generated intangible assets costing \$50,000 or more are capitalised. The cost of utilising the assets is expensed (amortised) over their useful life. Costs incurred below these thresholds are immediately expensed directly to the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

Intangible assets are initially recognised at cost. For assets acquired at no cost or for nominal cost, the cost is their fair value at the date of acquisition.

The cost model is applied for subsequent measurement requiring the asset to be carried at cost less any accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Amortisation for intangible assets with finite useful lives is calculated for the period of the expected benefit (estimated useful life which is reviewed annually) on the straight line basis. All intangible assets controlled by the Commission have a finite useful life and zero residual value.

The expected useful lives of each class of intangible asset are:

Licences	3 years
Software (a)	4 to 10 years
(a) Software that is not integral to the operation of any related hardware	

Licences

Licences have a finite useful life and are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

Development costs

Research costs are expensed as incurred. Development costs incurred for an individual project are carried forward when the future economic benefits can reasonably be regarded as assured and the total project costs are likely to exceed \$50,000. Other development costs are expensed as incurred.

Computer software

Software that is an integral part of the related hardware is recognised as property, plant and equipment. Software that is not an integral part of the related hardware is recognised as an intangible asset. Software costing less than \$5,000 is expensed in the year of acquisition.

(h) Impairment of assets

Property, plant and equipment and intangible assets are tested for any indication of impairment at the end of each reporting period.

Where there is an indication of impairment, the recoverable amount is estimated. Where the recoverable amount is less than the carrying amount, the asset is considered impaired and is written down to the recoverable amount and an impairment loss is recognised. Where an asset measured at cost is written down to recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit and loss. Where a previously revalued asset is written down to recoverable amount, the loss is recognised as a revaluation decrement in other comprehensive income. As the Commission is a not-for-profit entity, unless a specialised asset has been identified as a surplus asset, the recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and depreciated replacement cost.

The risk of impairment is generally limited to circumstances where an asset's depreciation is materially understated, where the replacement cost is falling or where there is a significant change in useful life. Each relevant class of assets is reviewed annually to verify that the accumulated depreciation/amortisation reflects the level of consumption or expiration of the asset's future economic benefits and to evaluate any impairment risk from falling replacement costs.

Intangible assets with an indefinite useful life and intangible assets not yet available for use are tested for impairment at the end of each reporting period irrespective of whether there is any indication of impairment.

The recoverable amount of assets identified as surplus assets is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and the present value of future cash flows expected to be derived from the asset. Surplus assets carried at fair value have no risk of material impairment where fair value is determined by reference to market-based evidence. Where fair value is determined by reference to depreciated replacement cost, surplus assets are at risk of impairment and the recoverable amount is measured. Surplus assets at cost are tested for indications of impairment at the end of each reporting period.

See also note 24 'Impairment of assets' for the outcome of impairment reviews and testing.

Refer also to note 2(n) 'Receivables' and 19 'Receivables' for impairment of receivables.

(i) Grant of aid

Grants of Aid are recognised as a liability on approval of a grant of aid based on a provisional cost estimate. The provisional cost estimate reflects the estimated cost of the assignment based on the relevant scale of fees.

Levies towards the cost of aid by Legal Aid clients are recognised as an asset on approval of the grant of aid. Provision for bad debts is provided for in accordance with note 19 'Receivables'.

(j) Leases

Operating leases are expensed on a straight line basis over the lease term as this represents the pattern of benefits derived from the leased properties.

(k) Financial instruments

In addition to cash, the Commission has two categories of financial instrument:

- Loans and receivables; and
- Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost.

Financial instruments have been disaggregated into the following classes:

- Financial Assets
 - ▷ Cash and cash equivalents
 - ▷ Restricted cash and cash equivalents
 - ▷ Receivables
- Financial Liabilities
 - ▷ Payables

Initial recognition and measurement of financial instruments is at fair value which normally equates to the transaction cost or the face value. Subsequent measurement is at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

The fair value of short-term receivables and payables is the transaction cost or the face value because there is no interest rate applicable and subsequent measurement is not required as the effect of discounting is not material.

(l) Cash and cash equivalents

For the purpose of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash and cash equivalent (and restricted cash and cash equivalent) assets comprise cash on hand and short-term deposits with original maturities of twelve months or less that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and which are subject to insignificant risk of changes in value.

(m) Accrued salaries

Accrued salaries (see note 25 'Payables') represent the amount due to staff but unpaid at the end of the financial year. Accrued salaries are settled within a fortnight of the financial year end. The Commission considers the carrying amount of accrued salaries to be equivalent to its fair value.

The accrued salaries suspense account consists of amounts paid annually into a suspense account over a period of 10 financial years to largely meet the additional cash outflow in each eleventh year when 27 pay days occur instead of the normal 26. (see note 18 'Restricted cash and cash equivalents').

(n) Receivables

Un-secured debtors

Unsecured debtors are recognised at original invoice amount less an allowance for any uncollectible amounts (i.e. impairment). The collectability of receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis and any receivables identified as uncollectible are written-off against the allowance account. The allowance for uncollectible amounts (doubtful debts) is raised when there is objective evidence that the Commission will not be able to collect the debts. The carrying amount is equivalent to fair value as it is due for settlement within 42 days.

Secured debtors

Secured debtors are recognised at original invoice amount less an allowance for any uncollectible amounts (i.e. impairment). Secured receivables are only payable to the Commission on the sale or other alienation of the secured property. Due to the long term nature of these receivables, a provision for discount is raised which enables the receivable to be shown at Net Present Value. The collectability of secured receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis and any receivables identified as uncollectible are written-off.

See also note 2(k) 'Financial Instruments' and note 19 'Receivables'.

(o) Payables

Payables are recognised at the amounts payable when the Commission becomes obliged to make future payments as a result of a purchase of assets or services. The carrying amount is equivalent to fair value, as settlement is generally within 30 days.

Grant of aid commitments are settled as the case progresses and matters can be outstanding for between 3 months and 2 years. The Commission considers the carrying amount of grant of aid commitments to be equivalent to the net fair value as the effect of discounting would be immaterial.

See also note 2(k) 'Financial Instruments' and note 25 'Payables'.

(p) Provisions

Provisions are liabilities of uncertain timing or amount and are recognised where there is a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of a past event and when the outflow of resources embodying economic benefits is probable and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. Provisions are reviewed at the end of each reporting period.

See also note 26 'Provisions'

Provisions - employee benefits

All annual leave and long service leave provisions are in respect of employees' services up to the end of the reporting period.

Annual leave

Annual leave is not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the end of the reporting period and is therefore considered to be 'other long-term employee benefits'. The annual leave liability is recognised and measured at the present value of amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

When assessing expected future payments consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels including non-salary components such as employer superannuation contributions, as well as the experience of employee departures and periods of service. The expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the end of the reporting period on national government bonds with terms to maturity that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

The provision for annual leave is classified as a current liability as the Commission does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the reporting period.

Long service leave

The liability for long service leave that is expected to be settled within 12 months after the end of the reporting period is recognised and measured at the undiscounted amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Long service leave that is not expected to be settled within 12 months after the end of the reporting period is recognised and measured at the present value of amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled using the remuneration rate expected to apply at the time of settlement.

When assessing expected future payments consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels including non-salary components such as employer superannuation contributions, as well as the experience of employee departures and periods of service. The expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the end of the reporting period on national government bonds with terms to maturity that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

Unconditional long service leave provisions are classified as current liabilities as the Commission does not have an unconditional right to defer the settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period. Pre-conditional and conditional long service leave provisions are classified as non-current liabilities because the Commission has an unconditional right to defer the settlement of the liability until the employee has completed the requisite years of service.

Sick leave

Liabilities for sick leave are recognised when it is probable that sick leave paid in the future will be greater than the entitlement that will accrue in the future.

Past history indicates that on average, sick leave taken each reporting period is less than the entitlement accrued. This is expected to continue in future periods. Accordingly, it is unlikely that existing accumulated entitlements will be used by employees and no liability for unused sick leave entitlements is recognised. As sick leave is non-vesting, an expense is recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income for this leave as it is taken.

Deferred leave

The provision for deferred leave relates to Public Service employees who have entered into an agreement to self-fund an additional 12 months leave in the fifth year of the agreement. The provision recognises the value of salary set aside for employees to be used in the fifth year. This liability is measured on the same basis as annual leave. Deferred leave is reported as a current provision as employees can leave the scheme at their discretion at any time.

Purchased leave

The provision for purchased leave relates to Public Service employees who have entered into an agreement to self-fund up to an additional 10 weeks leave per calendar year. The provision recognises the value of salary set aside for employees and is measured at the undiscounted amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled.

Superannuation

The Government Employees Superannuation Board (GESB) administers public sector superannuation arrangements in Western Australia in accordance with legislative requirements. Eligibility criteria for membership in particular schemes for public sector employees vary according to commencement and implementation dates.

Eligible employees contribute to the Pension Scheme, a defined benefit pension scheme closed to new members since 1987, or the Gold State Superannuation Scheme (GSS), a defined benefit lump sum scheme closed to new members since 1995.

Employees commencing employment prior to 16 April 2007 who were not members of either the Pension Scheme or the GSS became non-contributory members of the West State Superannuation Scheme (WSS). Employees commencing employment on or after 16 April 2007 became members of the GESB Super Scheme (GESBS). From 30 March 2012, existing members of the WSS or of the GESBS and new employees have been able to choose their preferred superannuation fund provider. The Commission makes contributions to GESB or other fund providers on behalf of employees in compliance with the Commonwealth Government's Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992. Contributions to these accumulation schemes extinguish the Commission's liability for superannuation charges in respect of employees who are not members of the Pension Scheme or GSS.

The GSS is a defined benefit scheme for the purposes of employees and whole-of-government-reporting. However, it is a defined contribution plan for agency purposes because the concurrent contributions (defined contributions) made by the Commission to GESB extinguishes the agency's obligations to the related superannuation liability.

The Commission has no liabilities under the Pension Scheme or the GSS. The liabilities for the unfunded Pension Scheme and the unfunded GSS transfer benefits attributable to members who transferred from the Pension Scheme, are assumed by the Treasurer. All other GSS obligations are funded by concurrent contributions made by the Commission to the GESB.

The GESB makes all benefit payments in respect of the Pension Scheme and GSS, and is recouped from the Treasurer for the employer's share. See also note 2(q) 'Superannuation expense'.

Provisions - other

Employment on-costs

Employment on-costs, including workers' compensation insurance, are not employee benefits and are recognised separately as liabilities and expenses when the employment to which they relate has occurred. Employment on-costs are included as part of 'Other expenses' and are not included as part of the Commission's 'Employee benefits expense'. The related liability is included in 'Employment on-costs provision'.

See also note 11 'Other expenses' and note 26 'Provisions'.

(q) Superannuation expense

Superannuation expense is recognised in the profit or loss of the Statement of Comprehensive Income and comprises employer contributions paid to the GSS (concurrent contributions), WSS, and the GESBS, and other superannuation funds.

(r) Books and technical journals

Books and technical journals are recognised as an expense as they are acquired.

(s) Assets and services received free of charge or for nominal cost

Assets and services received free of charge or for nominal cost are recognised as income at the fair value of the assets or services that can be reliably measured and the Commission would otherwise pay for. A corresponding expense is recognised for services received. Receipts of assets are recognised in the Statement of Financial Position.

Assets or services received from other State Government agencies are separately disclosed under Income from State Government in the Statement of Comprehensive Income.

(t) Jointly controlled operations

The Commission has no interest in joint ventures that are jointly controlled operations.

(u) Comparative figures

Comparative figures are, where appropriate, reclassified to be comparable with the figures presented in the current financial year.

Note 3. Judgements made by management in applying accounting policies

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make judgments about the application of accounting policies that have a significant effect on the amounts recognised in the financial statements. The Commission evaluates these judgements regularly.

Operating lease commitments

The Commission has entered into a number of leases for buildings for branch office accommodation. Some of these leases relate to buildings of a temporary nature and it has been determined that the lessor retains substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership. Accordingly, these leases have been classified as operating leases. Also, the Commission has entered into a number of leases for motor vehicles. These leases relate to motor vehicle leases of a temporary nature and it has been determined that the lessor retains substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership. Accordingly, these leases have been classified as operating leases.

Note 4. Key sources of estimation uncertainty

Key estimates and assumptions concerning the future are based on historical experience and various other factors that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amount of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

Technological equipment

The Commission's management determines the estimated useful lives and related depreciation charges for its plant and equipment. This estimate is based on projected useful lives of the assets and it could change significantly as a result of technical innovations. Management will increase the depreciation charge where useful lives are less than previously estimated lives, or it will write-off or write-down technically obsolete or non-strategic assets that have been abandoned or sold.

Grants of aid

Grants of aid are recognised as a liability initially on the basis of a provisional cost estimate. These estimates are revised as the litigation proceeds and realistic information on associated costs become available.

Leasehold improvements

Leasehold improvements are amortised over the initial term of the lease even though an option for extending the lease exists. Should the lease agreement be extended before the expiration of the initial term, the period of amortisation of any unamortised balance of leasehold improvements is revised to include the extended term.

Long service leave

Several estimations and assumptions used in calculating the Commission's long service leave provision include expected future salary rates, discount rates, employee retention rates and expected future payments. Changes in these estimations and assumptions may impact on the carrying amount of the long service leave provision.

Non-current debtors – provision for discount

Secured non-current debtors for contributions due to the Commission are expected to fully settle their liabilities on sale or other alienation of their properties. These debts are presented at their discounted value to take account of the expected long repayment period. The Commission uses its judgement to determine the average repayment period for settlement of these debts and the selection of an appropriate discount rate.

Note 5. Disclosure of changes in accounting policy and estimates

Initial application of an Australian Accounting Standard

The Commission has applied the following Australian Accounting Standards effective for annual reporting periods beginning on or after 1 July 2014 that impacted on the Commission.

<i>Int 21</i>	<i>Levies</i> This Interpretation clarifies the circumstances under which a liability to pay a government levy imposed should be recognised. There is no financial impact for the Commission at reporting date.
<i>AASB 10</i>	<i>Consolidated Financial Statements</i> This Standard, issued in August 2011, supersedes AASB 127 Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements and Int 112 Consolidation – Special Purpose Entities, introducing a number of changes to accounting treatments. The adoption of the new Standard has no financial impact for the Commission as it does not impact accounting for related bodies and the Commission has no interests in other entities.
<i>AASB 11</i>	<i>Joint Arrangements</i> This Standard, issued in August 2011, supersedes AASB 131 Interests in Joint Ventures, introduces new principles for determining the type of joint arrangement that exists, which are more aligned to the actual rights and obligations of the parties to the arrangement. There is no financial impact for the Commission as the new standard continues to require the recognition of the Commission's share of assets and share of liabilities for the unincorporated joint operation.
<i>AASB 12</i>	<i>Disclosure of Interests in Other Entities</i> This Standard, issued in August 2011, supersedes disclosure requirements in AASB 127 Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements, AASB 128 Investments in Associates and AASB 131 Interests in Joint Ventures. There is no financial impact.
<i>AASB 127</i>	<i>Separate Financial Statements</i> This Standard, issued in August 2011, supersedes AASB 127 Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements removing the consolidation requirements of the earlier standard whilst retaining accounting and disclosure requirements for the preparation of separate financial statements. There is no financial impact.
<i>AASB 128</i>	<i>Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures</i> This Standard supersedes AASB 128 Investments in Associates, introducing a number of clarifications for the accounting treatments of changed ownership interest. The adoption of the new Standard has no financial impact for the Commission as it does not hold investments in associates and joint ventures.
<i>AASB 1031</i>	<i>Materiality</i> This Standard supersedes AASB 1031 (February 2010), removing Australian guidance on materiality not available in IFRSs and refers to guidance on materiality in other Australian pronouncements. There is no financial impact.
<i>AASB 1055</i>	<i>Budgetary Reporting</i> This Standard requires specific budgetary disclosures in the general purpose financial statements of not-for-profit entities within the General Government Sector. The Commission will be required to disclose additional budgetary information and explanations of major variances between actual and budgeted amounts, though there is no financial impact.
<i>AASB 2011-7</i>	<i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Consolidation and Joint Arrangements Standards [AASB 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 101, 107, 112, 118, 121, 124, 132, 133, 136, 138, 139, 1023 & 1038 and Int 5, 9, 16 & 17]</i> This Standard gives effect to consequential changes arising from the issuance of AASB 10, AASB 11, AASB 127 Separate Financial Statements and AASB 128 Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures. There is no financial impact for the Commission.
<i>AASB 2012-3</i>	<i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Offsetting Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities [AASB 132]</i> This Standard adds application guidance to AASB 132 to address inconsistencies identified in applying some of the offsetting criteria, including clarifying the meaning of “currently has a legally enforceable right of set-off” and that some gross settlement systems may be considered equivalent to net settlement. There is no financial impact.
<i>AASB 2013-3</i>	<i>Amendments to AASB 136 – Recoverable Amount Disclosures for Non-Financial Assets</i> This Standard introduces editorial and disclosure changes. There is no financial impact.
<i>AASB 2013-4</i>	<i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Novation of Derivatives and Continuation of Hedge Accounting [AASB 139]</i> This Standard permits the continuation of hedge accounting in circumstances where a derivative, which has been designated as a hedging instrument, is novated from one counterparty to a central counterparty as a consequence of laws or regulations. The Commission does not routinely enter into derivatives or hedges, therefore there is no financial impact.

AASB 2013-8 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Australian Implementation Guidance for Not-for-Profit Entities – Control and Structured Entities [AASB 10, 12 & 1049]

The amendments, issued in October 2013, provide significant guidance in determining whether a not-for-profit entity controls another entity when financial returns are not a key attribute of the investor’s relationship. The Standard has no financial impact in its own right, rather the impact results from the adoption of the amended AASB 10.

AASB 2013-9 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Conceptual Framework, Materiality and Financial Instruments

Part B of this omnibus Standard makes amendments to other Standards arising from the deletion of references to AASB 1031 in other Standards for periods beginning on or after 1 January 2014. It has no financial impact.

AASB 2014-1 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards

Part A of this Standard consists primarily of clarifications to Accounting Standards and has no financial impact for the Commission.

Part B of this Standard has no financial impact as the Commission contributes to schemes that are either defined contribution plans, or deemed to be defined contribution plans.

Part C of this Standard has no financial impact as it removes references to AASB 1031 Materiality from a number of Accounting Standards.

AASB 2015-7 Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Fair Value Disclosures of Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities

This Standard relieves not-for-profit public sector entities from the reporting burden associated with various disclosures required by AASB 13 for assets within the scope of AASB 116 that are held primarily for their current service potential rather than to generate future net cash inflows. It has no financial impact.

Future impact of Australian Accounting Standards not yet operative

The Commission cannot early adopt an Australian Accounting Standard unless specifically permitted by TI 1101 *Application of Australian Accounting Standards and Other Pronouncements* or by an exemption from TI1101. Consequently, the Commission has not applied early any of the following Australian Accounting Standards that have been issued that may impact the Commission. Where applicable, the Commission plans to apply the following Australian Accounting Standards from their application date.

Operative for reporting periods beginning on/after

AASB	Standard Title	Operative for reporting periods beginning on/after
AASB 9	<i>Financial Instruments</i> This Standard supersedes AASB 139 <i>Financial Instruments: Recognition And Measurement</i> , introducing a number of changes to accounting treatments. The mandatory application date of this Standard is currently 1 January 2018 after being amended by AASB 2012-6, AASB 2013-9, and AASB 2014-1 <i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards</i> . The Commission has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.	1 Jan 2018
AASB 15	<i>Revenue from Contracts with Customers</i> This Standard establishes the principles that the Commission shall apply to report useful information to users of financial statements about the nature, amount, timing and uncertainty of revenue and cash flows arising from a contract with a customer. The Authority has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.	1 Jan 2017
AASB 2010-7	<i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 (December 2010) [AASB 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 101, 102, 108, 112, 118, 120, 121, 127, 128, 131, 132, 136, 137, 139, 1023 & 1038 and Int 2, 5, 10, 12, 19 & 127]</i> This Standard makes consequential amendments to other Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations as a result of issuing AASB 9 in December 2010. The mandatory application date of this Standard has been amended by AASB 2012-6 and AASB 2014-1 to 1 January 2018. The Commission has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.	1 Jan 2018

**Operative for reporting
periods beginning on/after**

AASB 2013-9	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards Conceptual Framework, Materiality and Financial Instruments</i></p> <p>Part C of this omnibus Standard defers the application of AASB 9 to 1 January 2017. The application date of AASB 9 was subsequently deferred to 1 January 2018 by AASB 2014-1. The Commission has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of AASB 9.</p>	1 Jan 2015
AASB 2014-1	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards</i></p> <p>Part E of this Standard makes amendments to AASB 9 and consequential amendments to other Standards. It has not yet been assessed by the Commission to determine the application or potential impact of the Standard.</p>	1 Jan 2015
AASB 2014-3	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Accounting for Acquisitions of Interests in Joint Operations [AASB 1 & 11]</i></p> <p>The Commission establishes Joint Operations in pursuit of its objectives and does not routinely acquire interests in Joint Operations. Therefore, there is no financial impact on application of the Standard.</p>	1 Jan 2016
AASB 2014-4	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Clarification of Acceptable Methods of Depreciation and Amortisation [AASB 116 & 138]</i></p> <p>The adoption of this Standard has no financial impact for the Commission as depreciation and amortisation is not determined by reference to revenue generation, but by reference to consumption of future economic benefits.</p>	1 Jan 2016
AASB 2014-5	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 15</i></p> <p>This Standard gives effect to the consequential amendments to Australian Accounting Standards (including Interpretations) arising from the issuance of AASB 15. The Commission has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</p>	1 Jan 2017
AASB 2014-7	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 (December 2014)</i></p> <p>This Standard gives effect to the consequential amendments to Australian Accounting Standards (including Interpretations) arising from the issuance of AASB 9 (December 2014). The Commission has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</p>	1 Jan 2018
AASB 2014-8	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from AASB 9 (December 2014) – Application of AASB 9 (December 2009) and AASB 9 (December 2010) [AASB 9 (2009 & 2010)]</i></p> <p>This Standard makes amendments to AASB 9 Financial Instruments (December 2009) and AASB 9 Financial Instruments (December 2010), arising from the issuance of AASB 9 Financial Instruments in December 2014. The Commission has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</p>	1 Jan 2015
AASB 2014-9	<p><i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Equity Method in Separate Financial Statements [AASB 1, 127 & 128]</i></p> <p>This Standard amends AASB 127, and consequentially amends AASB 1 and AASB 128, to allow entities to use the equity method of accounting for investments in subsidiaries, joint ventures and associates in their separate financial statements. The Commission has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</p>	1 Jan 2016

AASB 2014-10	<i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Sale or Contribution of Assets between an Investor and its Associate or Joint Venture [AASB 10 & 128]</i>	1 Jan 2016
	<p>This Standard amends AASB 10 and AASB 128 to address an inconsistency between the requirements in AASB 10 and those in AASB 128 (August 2011), in dealing with the sale or contribution of assets between an investor and its associate or joint venture. The Commission has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</p>	
AASB 2015-1	<i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Annual Improvements to Australian Accounting Standards 2012–2014 Cycle [AASB 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 110, 119, 121, 133, 134, 137 & 140]</i>	1 Jan 2016
	<p>These amendments arise from the issuance of International Financial Reporting Standard Annual Improvements to IFRSs 2012–2014 Cycle in September 2014, and editorial corrections. The Commission has not yet determined the application or the potential impact of the Standard.</p>	
AASB 2015-2	<i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Disclosure Initiative: Amendments to AASB 101 [AASB 7, 101, 134 & 1049]</i>	1 Jan 2016
	<p>This Standard amends AASB 101 to provide clarification regarding the disclosure requirements in AASB 101. Specifically, the Standard proposes narrow-focus amendments to address some of the concerns expressed about existing presentation and disclosure requirements and to ensure entities are able to use judgement when applying a Standard in determining what information to disclose in their financial statements. There is no financial impact.</p>	
AASB 2015-3	<i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards arising from the Withdrawal of AASB 1031 Materiality</i>	1 Jul 2015
	<p>This Standard completes the withdrawal of references to AASB 1031 in all Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations, allowing that Standard to effectively be withdrawn. There is no financial impact.</p>	
AASB 2015-6	<i>Amendments to Australian Accounting Standards – Extending Related Party Disclosures to Not-for-Profit Public Sector Entities [AASB 10, 124 & 1049]</i>	1 Jul 2015
	<p>The amendments extend the scope of AASB 124 to include application by not-for-profit public sector entities. Implementation guidance is included to assist application of the Standard by not-for-profit public sector entities. There is no financial impact.</p>	

Note 6. Employee benefits expense

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Wages and salaries ^(a)	28,795,271	29,148,824
Superannuation - defined contribution plans ^(b)	2,805,134	2,778,249
	31,600,405	31,927,073

(a) Includes the value of the fringe benefit to the employee plus the fringe benefits tax component, leave entitlements including superannuation contribution component.

(b) Defined contribution plans include West State, Gold State and GESB Super Scheme (contribution paid).

Employment on-costs expenses, such as workers' compensation insurance are included at note 11 'Other expenses'.

Employment on-costs liability is included at note 26 'Provisions'.

Note 7. Supplies and services

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Communications	827,090	816,958
Consumables	1,141,616	1,120,651
Consultants Fees	270,511	608,207
Maintenance	1,186,252	649,552
Travel	409,416	446,937
Information technology	1,039,042	1,489,372
Practicing Certificates and Fees	186,310	177,998
Audit Fees ^(a)	146,798	132,850
Other Supplies and Services	204,677	277,138
	5,411,712	5,719,664

(a) Includes audit cost, see note 36 'Remuneration of auditor'.

Note 8. Depreciation and amortisation expense

	2015 \$	2014 \$
<u>Depreciation</u>		
Buildings	5,872	8,000
Fixtures and fittings	5,518	1,348
Leasehold improvements	288,230	277,932
Furniture and equipment	315,295	314,129
Total depreciation	614,915	601,409
Total amortisation		
<u>Total depreciation and amortisation</u>		
Intangible assets	436,701	295,215
Total amortisation	436,701	295,215
Total depreciation and amortisation	1,051,616	896,624

Note 9. Accommodation expenses

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Lease rentals	3,975,679	3,722,318
Repairs and Maintenance	25,981	287,441
Make-Good Expense	696,000	-
	4,697,660	4,009,759

Note 10. Legal services expenses

	2015 \$	2014 \$
<hr/>		
Grant of aid expenses		
Assignment costs	18,803,834	21,212,541
	18,803,834	21,212,541
<hr/>		
Other service expenses		
Legal advice	35,000	143,988
Duty lawyer	40,410	60,619
	75,411	204,607
	18,879,244	21,417,148

Note 11. Other expenses

	2015 \$	2014 \$
<hr/>		
Bad debts written off	15,636	32,581
Doubtful debts expense	145,708	28,780
Employment on-costs ^(a)	426	3,203
Staff training	80,934	98,481
State CLC program	4,997,253	4,720,612
Other staff related expenses	783,487	950,044
Plant and Equipment	519,354	207,297
Other Expenses	252,706	230,806
	6,795,502	6,271,804

(a) Includes workers' compensation insurance and other employment on-costs. The on-costs liability associated with the recognition of annual and long service leave liability is included at note 26 'Provisions'. Superannuation contributions accrued as part of the provision for leave are employee benefits and are not included in employment on-costs.

Note 12. User charges and fees

	2015 \$	2014 \$
<hr/>		
Client contributions and fees on grants of aid	1,134,135	1,695,898
Recovered costs on grants of aid	1,135,561	1,445,862
Legal advice fees	27,844	18,311
Duty lawyer fees	110,476	118,681
Freedom of information	-	30
Community legal education	72,394	73,020
	2,480,410	3,351,802

Note 13. Commonwealth grants and contributions

	2015 \$	2014 \$
National Partnership Agreement on Legal Assistance Services ^(a)	20,548,000	20,165,000
Christmas/Cocos Islands ^(b)	375,968	376,554
Other Commonwealth Funding ^(c)	175,000	1,640,368
	21,098,968	22,181,922

(a) The National Partnership Agreement (NPA) on Legal Assistance Services was expired in June 2014 and extended for a year to 30th June 2015. The terms of the funding are generally intended to fund matters within the Commonwealth jurisdiction, the NPA also seeks to promote investments in preventative law and early intervention initiatives. The funded amount for 2014-15 was \$20.548 million.

(b) The Christmas/Cocos island grant is related to Indian Ocean Territory funding received on an ongoing basis.

(c) Other Commonwealth Funding is for the development of online professional training resources in regional areas.

Note 14. Interest revenue

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Interest earned on Legal Aid Operational Funds	932,729	1,255,926
Implicit interest write back on debtors ^(a)	55,988	(10,730)
	988,717	1,245,195

(a) Implicit interest was written back at the end of the reporting period and therefore recorded as interest revenue.

Note 15. Other revenue

	2015 \$	2014 \$
State - Specific purpose contributions	105,759	133,889
Other miscellaneous income	803,632	385,790
Legal contribution trust	822,545	1,247,973
CLR placement recoup	122,565	951,920
	1,854,501	2,719,572

Note 16. Net gain/(loss) on disposal of non-current assets

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Carrying amount of non-current assets disposed		
Plant, equipment and vehicles	-	-
Proceeds from disposal of non-current assets		
Plant, equipment and vehicles	455	413
Net gain/(loss)	455	413

Note 17. Income from State Government

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Appropriation received during the period:		
Legal Aid Assistance Grant ^(a)	39,219,000	36,988,000
Other State Community Legal Centre Funding	937,220	907,220
	40,156,220	37,895,220
Services received free of charge from other State government agencies during the period:		
Department of Finance	8,838	7,809
	8,838	7,809
Royalties for Regions Fund		
Royalties for Regions Funding ^(b)	179,042	246,985
	179,042	246,985
	40,344,100	38,150,014

(a) The Legal Aid Commission is an output of the Department of Attorney General for the purposes of the State Budget, and receives State Government funding through the Department.

(b) This is a sub-fund within the over-arching 'Royalties for Regions Fund'. The recurrent funds are committed to projects and programs in WA regional areas.

Note 18. Restricted cash and cash equivalents

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Current		
Commonwealth Paid Parent Fund	-	10,072
Child representation trust fund	5,000	-
Accrued salaries suspense account (27th pay provision) ^(a)	1,280,294	-
Total Current	1,285,294	10,072
Non-current		
Accrued salaries suspense account (27th pay provision) ^(a)	-	777,140
Total non-Current	-	777,140

(a) These unspent funds held in suspense account are only to be used for the purpose of meeting the 27th pay in a financial year that occurs every 11 years. The amount is due and payable within the next 12 months as at 30th June 2015.

Note 19. Receivables

	2015 \$	2014 \$
<u>Current</u>		
Debtors - unsecured	4,607,133	3,790,206
Allowance for impairment of receivables	(669,358)	(523,650)
GST receivable	311,698	301,912
Total current	4,249,473	3,568,469
<u>Non-current</u>		
Debtors - secured ^(a)	4,754,710	4,548,167
Allowance for impairment of receivables	(20,000)	(20,000)
Allowance for discount ^(a)	(378,100)	(434,087)
Total non-current	4,356,610	4,094,080
Total Receivables	8,606,083	7,662,548

Reconciliation of changes in the allowance for impairment of receivables:

Balance at start of period	543,650	514,870
Doubtful debts expense	161,344	61,361
Amounts written off during the period	(15,636)	(32,581)
Balance at end of period	689,358	543,650

(a) Legal assistance may be granted subject to a condition that legal costs be secured by a charge being lodged against property registered in the name of the legally assisted person. Full payment of the debt secured is required on sale or other alienation of the property.

History shows that the average repayment period of secured debts is approximately 5.6 years. No interest is charged on the outstanding debt. An implicit interest adjustment is made to take account of this long term repayment aspect.

Debtors - secured, were discounted at 2.436% (2014: 2.966%) using the 5 year government bond rate (per Financial Review) at June 30, 2015.

Note 20. Other assets

	2015 \$	2014 \$
<u>Current</u>		
Prepayments	216,528	82,566
Total current	216,528	82,566

Note 21. Property, plant, and equipment

	2014 \$	2013 \$
<u>Land</u>		
At fair value ^(a)	750,000	730,000
	750,000	730,000
<u>Buildings</u>		
At fair value ^(a)	210,000	320,000
Accumulated depreciation	-	-
	210,000	320,000
<u>Fixtures and fittings</u>		
At cost	48,344	17,966
Accumulated depreciation	(37,648)	(10,153)
	10,696	7,813
<u>Leasehold improvements</u>		
At cost	3,177,803	2,895,445
Accumulated depreciation	(2,249,137)	(2,255,331)
	928,666	640,114
<u>Furniture and equipment</u>		
At cost	3,135,827	2,505,025
Accumulated depreciation	(2,110,150)	(1,854,095)
	1,025,677	650,930
<u>Work in Progress</u>		
At cost	94,200	-
	94,200	-
	3,019,239	2,348,857

(a) Land and buildings were re-valued as at 1 July 2014 by the Western Australian Land Information Authority (Valuation Services). The valuations were performed during the year ended 30 June 2015 and recognised 30 June 2015. In undertaking the revaluation, fair value was determined by reference to market values for land: \$750,000 and buildings: \$210,000 (30 June 2014: land: \$730,000 and buildings: \$320,000).

Information on fair value measurements is provided in Note 22

Reconciliations of the carrying amounts of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and end of the reporting period are set out in the table below.

	Land	Buildings	Fixtures and Fittings	Leasehold Improvements	Furniture and Equipment	Work in Progress	Total
2015	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Carrying amount at start of period	730,000	320,000	7,813	640,114	650,930	-	2,348,857
Additions	-	-	-	-	73,616	1,295,809	1,369,425
Transfer	-	-	-	588,679	612,930	(1,201,609)	-
Reclassification	-	-	8,401	(11,897)	3,496	-	-
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation increments/ (decrements)	20,000	(104,128)	-	-	-	-	(84,128)
Impairment losses ^(a)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Impairment losses reversed ^(a)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	(5,872)	(5,518)	(288,230)	(315,295)	-	(614,915)
Carrying amount at end of period	750,000	210,000	10,696	928,666	1,025,677	94,200	3,019,239

2014

Carrying amount at start of period	910,000	392,000	9,160	918,047	752,517	-	2,981,724
Additions	-	-	-	-	212,542	-	212,542
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation increments/ (decrements)	(180,000)	(64,000)	-	-	-	-	(244,000)
Impairment losses ^(a)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Impairment losses reversed ^(a)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation	-	(8,000)	(1,347)	(277,933)	(314,129)	-	(601,409)
Carrying amount at end of period	730,000	320,000	7,813	640,114	650,930	-	2,348,857

(a) Recognised in the Statement of Comprehensive Income. Where an asset measured at cost is written-down to recoverable amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss. Where a previously valued asset is written-down to recoverable amount, the loss is recognised as a revaluation decrement in other comprehensive income.

Information on fair value measurements is provided in Note 22

Note 22. Fair value measurements

Assets measured at fair value:

2015	Level 1 \$	Level 2 \$	Level 3 \$	Fair Value at end of period \$
Land (Note 21)	-	750,000	-	750,000
Buildings (Note 21)	-	210,000	-	210,000
	-	960,000	-	960,000

There were no transfers between Levels 1, 2 or 3 during the period.

Valuation Techniques to derive Level 2 fair values

Level 2 fair values of Non-current assets Land and Buildings (Office Accommodation) are derived using the market approach. Market evidence of sales prices of comparable land and buildings (office accommodation) in close proximity is used to determine price per square metre.

Note 23. Intangible assets

	2015 \$	2014 \$
<u>Computer software</u>		
At cost	2,004,718	1,704,760
Accumulated amortisation	(1,364,146)	(1,031,621)
Accumulated impairment losses	-	-
	640,572	673,139
<u>Licenses</u>		
At cost	312,522	312,522
Accumulated amortisation	(121,584)	(17,410)
Accumulated impairment losses	-	-
	190,938	295,112
<u>Work in Progress</u>		
At cost	-	209,970
	-	209,970
	831,510	1,178,221

Reconciliation:

	2015 \$	2014 \$
<u>Computer software</u>		
Carrying amount at start of period	673,139	950,944
Additions	299,960	-
Transfer	-	-
Impairment losses	-	-
Impairment losses reversed	-	-
Amortisation expense	(332,527)	(277,805)
Carrying amount at end of period	640,572	673,139
<u>Licenses</u>		
<u>Carrying amount at start of period</u>	295,112	-
<u>Additions</u>	-	312,522
Impairment losses	-	-
Impairment losses reversed	-	-
Amortisation expense	(104,174)	(17,410)
Carrying amount at end of period	190,938	295,112
<u>Work in Progress</u>		
Carrying amount at start of period	209,970	209,970
Additions	89,987	-
Transfers	(299,957)	-
Carrying amount at end of period	-	209,970

Note 24. Impairment of assets

There were no indications of impairment to property, plant and equipment or intangible assets at 30 June 2015.

The Commission held no goodwill or intangible assets with an indefinite useful life during the reporting period. At the end of the reporting period there were no intangible assets not yet available for use.

There were no surplus assets at 30 June 2015 that have either been classified as assets held for sale or written off.

Note 25. Payables

	2015 \$	2014 \$
<u>Current</u>		
Grant of aid commitments	13,192,016	14,970,430
Accrued expenses	940,747	690,187
Accrued salaries ^(a)	984,655	862,574
Staff benefit fund	16,399	11,000
Unclaimed monies	196	196
Total current	15,134,013	16,534,387

(a) Accrued salaries: Amount owing is eight (8) salary days as last pay occurred on 18 June 2015 (In 2014 - The last pay occurred on 19 June 2014).

See also note 2(o) 'Payables' and note 34 'Financial Instruments'

Note 26. Provisions

	2015 \$	2014 \$
<u>Current</u>		
<i>Employee benefits provision</i>		
Annual leave ^(a)	1,465,230	1,417,128
Long service leave ^(b)	3,209,972	3,115,311
Deferred leave	271,024	188,115
	4,946,226	4,720,554
<i>Other provisions</i>		
Employment on-costs ^(c)	44,539	43,122
Provision for make-good	765,600	-
	810,139	43,122
	5,756,365	4,763,676
<u>Non-current</u>		
<i>Employee benefits provision</i>		
Long service leave ^(b)	1,544,134	1,673,798
	1,544,134	1,673,798
<i>Other provisions</i>		
Employment on-costs ^(c)	14,701	15,692
	14,701	15,692
	1,558,835	1,689,490

(a) Annual leave liabilities have been classified as current as there is no unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period. Assessments indicate that actual settlement of the liabilities is expected to occur as follows:

Within 12 months of the end of the reporting period	1,324,030	1,267,372
More than 12 months after the reporting period	141,200	149,756
	1,465,230	1,417,128

(b) Long service leave liabilities have been classified as current where there is no unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the end of the reporting period. Assessments indicate that actual settlement of the liabilities will occur as follows:

Within 12 months of the end of the reporting period	1,209,901	1,114,504
More than 12 months after the reporting period	3,544,205	3,674,605
	4,754,106	4,789,109

(c) The settlement of annual and long service leave liabilities gives rise to the payment of employment on-costs including workers' compensation insurance. The provision is the present value of expected future payments.

The associated expense, apart from the unwinding of the discount (finance cost), is disclosed at note 11 'Other expenses'.

Movements in other provisions

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Movements in each class of provisions during the financial year, other than employee benefits, are set out below.		
<u>Employment on-cost provision</u>		
<i>Current</i>		
Carrying amount at start of period	43,122	38,677
Additional/(reversals of) provisions recognised	1,417	4,445
Payments/other sacrifices of economics benefits	-	-
Carrying amount at end of period	44,539	43,122
<i>Non-current</i>		
Carrying amount at start of period	15,692	16,934
Additional/(reversals of) provisions recognised	(991)	(1,242)
Payments/other sacrifices of economics benefits	-	-
Carrying amount at end of period	14,701	15,692

Note 27. Other liabilities

	2015 \$	2014 \$
<u>Current</u>		
Department of Child Protection (DCP) Funding in advance	36,535	92,056
Child representation trust fund	5,000	-
Commonwealth paid parenting fund	-	10,072
Total current	41,535	102,128

Note 28. Equity

The Western Australian Government holds the equity interest in the Commission on behalf of the community. Equity represents the residual interest in the net assets of the Commission. The asset revaluation surplus represents that portion of equity resulting from the revaluation of non-current assets.

Contributed equity

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Balance at start of period	595,669	595,669
<u>Contribution by owners</u>		
Capital Appropriation	-	-
Total contributions by owners	-	-
<u>Distribution to owners</u>		
Net assets transferred to government	-	-
Total distributions to owners	-	-
Balance at end of period	595,669	595,669

Capital appropriations

TI 955 Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly Owned Public Sector Entities designates capital appropriations as contributions by owners in accordance with AASB Interpretation 1038 Contributions by Owners Made to Wholly Owned Public Sector Entities.

Distributions to owners

TI 955 requires non-reciprocal transfers of net assets to Government to be accounted for as distributions to owners in accordance with AASB Interpretation 1038.

Reserves

	2015 \$	2014 \$
<u>Asset revaluation surplus</u>		
Balance at start of period	1,017,904	1,261,904
Net revaluation increments/(decrements)	-	-
Buildings	(104,128)	(64,000)
Land	20,000	(180,000)
Balance at end of period	933,776	1,017,904
<u>Asbestosis account reserve</u>		
Balance at start of period	-	-
<u>Income:</u>		
Recovered costs	-	-
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Private practitioners fees	-	-
Change in accounting policy	-	-
Balance at end of period	-	-
Total balance at end of period	933,776	1,017,904

Accumulated surplus

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Balance at start of period	16,443,320	19,036,474
Result for the period	(1,668,988)	(2,593,154)
Balance at end of period	14,774,332	16,443,320
Total Equity at end of period	16,303,777	18,056,893

Note 29. Notes to the Statement of Cash Flows

Reconciliation of cash

Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position as follows:

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Cash and cash equivalents	24,835,870	29,087,169
Restricted cash and cash equivalents (note 18 'Restricted cash and cash equivalents')	1,285,294	787,211
	26,121,164	29,874,380

Reconciliation of net cost of services to net cash flows provided by/(used in) operating activities

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Net cost of services	(42,013,088)	(40,743,168)
<u>Non-cash items:</u>		
Depreciation and amortisation expense (note 8 'Depreciation and amortisation expense')	1,051,616	896,624
Doubtful debts expense (note 11 'Other expenses')	161,344	61,361
Net (gain)/loss on disposal of property plant and equipment (note 16 'Net gain/(loss) on sale of non-current assets')	(455)	(413)
Implicit right back of interest revenue	(55,988)	10,730
Other	(73,616)	(32,581)
<u>(Increase)/decrease in assets:</u>		
Current receivables ^(a)	(681,632)	(227,027)
Other current assets	(133,962)	(63,108)
Non-current receivables	(206,544)	(283,306)
<u>Increase/(decrease) in liabilities:</u>		
Current payables ^(a)	(1,386,231)	987,093
Current provisions	992,688	479,119
Other current liabilities	(55,523)	(59,889)
Non-current provisions	(130,655)	(98,353)
Net GST receipts/(payments) ^(b)	(231,917)	(159,758)
Change in GST in receivables/payables ^(c)	29,722	12,457
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	(42,734,242)	(39,220,221)

(a) Note that the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) receivable/payable in respect of GST and the receivable/payable in respect of the sale/purchase of non-current assets are not included in these items as they do not form part of the reconciling items.

(b) This is the net GST paid/received, i.e.. cash transactions.

(c) This reverses out the GST in receivables and payables.

Note 30. Commitments

The commitments below are inclusive of GST where relevant.

Lease commitments

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Commitments for minimum accommodation lease payments are payable as follows:		
Within 1 year	5,573,007	2,499,007
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	24,920,495	19,201,080
Later than 5 years	74,789,269	66,656,492
	105,282,771	88,356,580

The Commission has entered into property leases which are non-cancellable leases with various terms ranging up to 15 years, with rent payable monthly in advance. Contingent rent provisions within the lease agreements require that the minimum lease payments shall be increased by a combination of CPI or a pre-determined percentage per annum. Options exist to renew the leases at the end of the various terms for additional terms.

Accommodation operating lease commitments for the financial year only include property and car parking lease expenses as required by Accounting Standards and TI's.

Commitments for minimum motor vehicle lease payments are payable as follows:

Within 1 year	122,467	172,060
Later than 1 year and not later than 5 years	64,875	106,559
	187,342	278,619

The Commission has entered into motor vehicle leases which are non-cancellable leases with terms ranging up to 3 years, with payments payable monthly in advance.

Note 31. Contingent assets and contingent liabilities

The Commission has no contingent assets or liabilities in addition to the assets and liabilities included in the financial statements.

Note 32. Events occurring after the end of the reporting period

There were no matters or occurrences have come to our attention up to the present time which would materially affect the financial statements or disclosures therein or which are likely to materially affect the future results or operations of the Commission.

Note 33. Explanatory statement

This statement provides details of any significant variations between estimates and actual results for 2015 and between the actual results for 2014 and 2015. Significant variations are considered to be those greater than 10% or \$10 million.

Statement of Comprehensive Income

	Variance Note	2015 Estimate \$	2015 Actual \$	2014 Actual \$	Variance between Estimate and Actual	Variance between Actual for 2015 and 2014
Expenses						
Employee benefit expense		32,509,793	31,600,405	31,927,073	909,387	(326,668)
Supplies and services		5,414,926	5,411,712	5,719,664	3,214	(307,952)
Depreciation and amortisation expense	1, a	799,904	1,051,616	896,624	(251,712)	154,993
Accommodation expenses	2, b	3,996,862	4,697,660	4,009,759	(700,798)	687,900
Legal Services expenses	c	20,174,298	18,879,244	21,417,148	1,295,055	(2,537,905)
Loss on disposal of non-current assets		-	-	-	-	-
Other expenses	3	5,967,295	6,795,502	6,271,804	(828,207)	523,698
Total Cost of Services		68,863,077	68,436,138	70,242,072	426,939	(1,805,933)
Income						
User charges and fees	d	2,348,527	2,480,410	3,351,802	(131,883)	(871,392)
Commonwealth grants and contributions		22,560,404	21,098,968	22,181,922	1,461,436	(1,082,954)
Interest revenue	4, e	1,200,000	988,717	1,245,195	211,283	(256,478)
Other revenue	5, f	2,630,147	1,854,501	2,719,572	775,646	(865,071)
Total Revenue		28,739,078	26,422,596	29,498,491	2,316,482	(3,075,895)
Gains						
Gain on disposal of non-current assets	6	-	455	413	(455)	42
Total Gains		-	455	413	(455)	42
Net Cost of Services		40,123,999	42,013,087	40,743,168	(1,889,088)	1,269,920
Income from State Government						
State Government Grant		38,494,000	40,156,220	37,895,220	(1,662,220)	2,261,000
Services received free of charge	7, g	-	8,838	7,809	(8,838)	1,029
Royalties for Regions Fund	8, h	373,000	179,042	246,985	193,958	(67,943)
Total income from State Government		38,867,000	40,344,100	38,150,014	(1,477,100)	2,194,086
Surplus / (Deficit) for the period		(1,256,999)	(1,668,987)	(2,593,154)	411,988	924,166

Major Variance Narratives

Variations between estimate and actual

- (1) In 2014-15 Legal Aid WA capitalised a few long term work in progress projects which included Bunbury accommodation fit-out and Grants on line software, and commenced capitalisation of the cost of purchasing MS licences under the Microsoft Enterprise Agreement. These new asset additions have resulted in an increase of depreciation and amortisation expenses for 2014-15, which has not been budgeted for. In addition, the rate of depreciation was increased on the leasehold improvements at the Perth office located at 55 St Georges Terrace to align with the expiry of the lease on 30 June 2015.
- (2) 2014-15 Accommodation expense is higher mainly due to the accrual of \$696,000 one-off make good expenses to terminate lease of 55 St Georges Terrace which has not been budgeted for.
- (3) 2014-15 IT Maintenance costs and Plant and Equipment purchases (under \$5,000) were higher mainly due to a number of projects which included an agency wide refresh of IT software, the relocation of all IT systems and upgrade of all IT technology to the new head office tenancy at 32 St Georges Terrace, Perth, and the ongoing development of the learning management system 'Train -N-Track'. These project expenses have been budgeted for under Supplies and services expense.
- (4) Interest revenue in 2014-15 is low as compared with budget because of lower funds on deposit and the unexpected drop in interest rates during the year. The delay with the State Government signing the extension to the National Partnership Agreement resulted in the delayed receipt of Commonwealth funding in the first two quarters of 2014-15.
- (5) The winding down of Country Lawyer program has resulted in approximately \$966,000 less revenue recouped for 2014-15 as compared with budget. In addition, less surplus distributions have been received from the Legal Contribution Trust fund as compared with the budget due to lower interest rates.
- (6) No budget was provided for Gain on disposal as the amount is immaterial to Legal Aid's operations.
- (7) No budget was provided for Services received free of charge as the amount is immaterial to Legal Aid's operations.
- (8) Royalties for Regions funding provided to supplement the cost of District Allowances payable in remote areas was reduced compared to budget due to a reduction in the allowances payable to staff in the South Hedland and Kununurra regional offices.

Variations between actual results for 2015 and 2014

- (a) In 2014-15 Legal Aid WA capitalised a few long term work in progress project which includes Bunbury accommodation fit-out and Grants on line software. These new asset additions have resulted in the increase of Depreciation and amortisation expenses for 2014-15.
- (b) 2014-15 Accommodation expense is higher mainly due to accrual of \$696,000 one-off make good expenses to terminate lease of 55 St Georges Terrace.
- (c) 2014-15 Legal Services Expense is reduced as compared with prior year due to a reduction in services to meet the various saving measures imposed by the State Government during the financial year and the withdrawal of Commonwealth funding for family law independent children's lawyer matters.
- (d) The withdrawal of Commonwealth funding for family law independent children's lawyer matters has resulted in a reduction in client contributions imposed, and the reduction of services in 2014-15 to meet the saving measures imposed by State Government has affected the level of costs recovered for Magistrate's Court matters.
- (e) Interest revenue in 2014-15 is low as compared 2013-14 actual because of the drop in interest rates during the year, and the delay with the State Government signing the extension to the National Partnership Agreement which resulted in the delayed receipt of Commonwealth funding in the first two quarters of 2014-15.
- (f) The winding down of Country Lawyer program has resulted in approximately \$829,000 less revenue recouped for 2014-15 as compared with the previous year. In addition, less surplus distributions have been received from the Legal Contribution Trust fund as compared with the previous year due to lower interest rates.
- (g) The cost of services from Department of Finance has increased as compared with prior year.
- (h) Royalties for Regions funding provided to supplement the cost of District Allowances payable in remote areas was reduced compared to the previous year due to a reduction in the allowances payable to staff in the South Hedland and Kununurra regional offices.

Note 34. Financial instruments

(a) Financial risk management objectives and policies

Financial instruments held by the Commission are cash and cash equivalents, restricted cash and cash equivalents, receivables and payables. The Commission has limited exposure to financial risks. The Commission's overall risk management program focuses on managing the risks identified below.

Credit risk

Credit risk arises when there is the possibility of the Commission's receivables defaulting on their contractual obligations resulting in financial loss to the Commission.

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the end of the reporting period in relation to each class of recognised financial assets is the gross carrying amount of those assets inclusive of any allowance for impairment as shown in the table at note 34(c) 'Financial instruments disclosures' and note 19 'Receivables'.

Credit risk associated with the Commission's financial assets is minimal. The Commission has policies in place to ensure that credit risk is minimal. For example, where possible, debts due are adequately secured by way of caveats or memorials over the properties of the debtor. In addition, where such debts cannot be secured either because the amount of the debt is small or the client does not have adequate assets to offer as security, the Commission monitors the debts and communicates with debtors on an ongoing basis to ensure that debts are collected promptly to minimise the amount of irrecoverable debts to be written off. At the end of the reporting period there were no significant concentrations of credit risk.

Credit risk, although minimal, also exists for cash and cash equivalents and restricted cash and cash equivalents. The Commission's exposure to credit risk in respect of such financial instruments arises from default of the counter party (banks) which is highly unlikely. The Commission is a public benevolent institution and as such the primary investment policy objective is to ensure the security and minimise the risk to the Commission's cash reserves. Where alternative options exist for the investment of funds at equivalent levels of risk, those investment options which provide the highest returns on invested funds are used wherever possible. The investment of funds is governed by section 39 of the Financial Management Act. Investments are made in a manner specified in section 37 of that Act.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk arises when the Commission is unable to meet its financial obligations as they fall due.

The Commission is exposed to liquidity risk through its trading in the normal course of business.

The Commission has appropriate procedures to manage cash flows including drawdown's of appropriations by monitoring forecast cash flows to ensure that sufficient funds are available to meet it's commitments. The Commission attempts to maximise revenues from surplus funds by fixed term deposit investments chosen. The term of investments is based on the annual cash flow budget in order to meet cash requirements in a timely manner. The selection of the term of the investment depends upon the cash flow requirements and the rate of return available for different investment terms.

Market risk

Market risk is the risk that changes in market prices such as foreign exchange rates and interest rates will affect the Commission's income or the value of its holdings of financial instruments. The Commission does not trade in foreign currency and is not materially exposed to other price risks [for example, equity securities or commodity price changes]. The Commission's exposure to market risk for changes in interest rates relate primarily to surplus, cash and cash equivalents and restricted cash and cash equivalents investments. Other than as detailed in the interest rate sensitivity analysis table at note 34(c), the Commission is not exposed to interest rate risk because apart from amounts of restricted cash, all other cash and cash equivalents and restricted cash are non interest bearing and it has no borrowings.

The Commission's policy is to manage changes in interest rates by using a mix of fixed and variable interest rate investments as appropriate.

(b) Categories of financial instruments

In addition to cash, the carrying amounts of each of the following categories of financial assets and financial liabilities at the end of the reporting period are:

	2015 \$	2014 \$
<u>Financial Assets</u>		
Cash and cash equivalents ^(a)	24,835,870	29,087,169
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	1,285,294	787,211
Receivables ^(b)	8,294,385	7,360,637
<u>Financial Liabilities</u>		
Payables	15,134,013	16,534,387

(a) Cash and cash equivalents balance includes petty cash balance.

(b) The amount of receivables excludes GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivable).

(c) Financial instrument disclosures

Credit risk

The following tables disclose the Commission's maximum exposure to credit risk and the ageing analysis of financial assets. The Commission's maximum exposure to credit risk at the end of the reporting period is the carrying amount of financial assets as shown below. The table discloses the ageing of financial assets that are past due but not impaired and impaired financial assets. The table is based on information provided to senior management of the Commission.

The Commission holds collateral as security relating to the financial assets it holds.

The Commission does not hold any financial assets that had to have their terms renegotiated that would have otherwise resulted in them being past due or impaired.

Aged analysis of financial assets

	Carrying Amount	Not past due and not impaired	<u>Past due but not impaired</u>				Impaired financial assets
			Up to 3 months	3 months to 1 year	1 year to 6 years	More than 6 years	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
2015							
Cash & cash equivalents	24,835,870	24,835,870	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted cash & cash equivalents	1,285,294	1,285,294	-	-	-	-	-
Receivables ^(a)	8,294,385	3,562,541	-	272,042	2,327,561	2,132,242	-
	34,415,549	29,683,705	-	272,042	2,327,561	2,132,242	-
2014							
Cash & cash equivalents	29,087,169	29,087,169	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted cash & cash equivalents	787,211	787,211	-	-	-	-	-
Receivables ^(a)	7,360,637	2,279,787	-	435,963	2,456,339	2,188,548	-
	37,235,016	32,154,167	-	435,963	2,456,339	2,188,548	-

(a) The amounts of receivables excludes the GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivable).

Liquidity risk and interest rate exposure

The following table details the Commission's interest rate exposure and the contractual maturity analysis of financial assets and financial liabilities. The maturity analysis section includes interest and principal cash flows. The interest rate exposure analyses only the carrying amounts of each item.

Interest rate exposure and maturing analysis of financial assets and financial liabilities

2015	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate %	Interest rate exposure				Nominal Amount \$	Maturity Dates			
		Carrying Amount \$	Fixed Interest Rate \$	Variable Interest Rate \$	Non-Interest Bearing \$		Up to 3 months	3 months to 1 year	1 year to 6 years	More than 6 years
<u>Financial Assets</u>										
Cash and cash equivalents ^(a)	3.362%	24,835,870	15,214,706	9,022,261	598,903	24,835,870	-	-	-	-
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	3.362%	1,285,294	1,285,294	-	-	1,285,294	-	-	-	-
Receivables ^(c)	2.436 ^(b)	8,294,385	-	-	8,294,385	8,294,385	-	-	-	-
		34,415,549	16,500,000	9,022,261	8,893,288	34,415,549	-	-	-	-
<u>Financial Liabilities</u>										
Payables		15,134,013	-	-	15,134,013	15,134,013	15,134,013	-	-	-
		15,134,013	-	-	15,134,013	15,134,013	15,134,013	-	-	-

(a) The Commission has the right to withdraw term deposits before maturity dates.

(b) Debtors-secured were discounted at 2.436% (2014: 2.966%) which is the 5 year government bond rate as at June 30 2015.

(c) The amount of receivables excludes the GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivable)

Interest rate exposure and maturing analysis of financial assets and financial liabilities

2014	Weighted Average Effective Interest Rate %	Interest rate exposure				Maturity Dates				
		Carrying Amount \$	Fixed Interest Rate \$	Variable Interest Rate \$	Non-Interest Bearing \$	Nominal Amount \$	Up to 3 months \$	3 months to 1 year \$	1 year to 6 years \$	More than 6 years \$
<u>Financial Assets</u>										
Cash and cash equivalents ^(a)	3.78%	29,087,169	21,222,860	6,956,899	907,410	29,087,169	-	-	-	-
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	3.78%	787,211	777,140	-	10,071	787,211	-	-	-	-
Receivables ^(c)	2.966 ^(b)	7,360,637	-	-	7,360,637	7,360,637	-	-	-	-
		37,235,017	22,000,000	6,956,899	8,278,118	37,235,017	-	-	-	-
<u>Financial Liabilities</u>										
Payables		16,534,387	-	-	16,534,387	16,534,387	16,534,387	-	-	-
		16,534,387	-	-	16,534,387	16,534,387	16,534,387	-	-	-

(a) The Commission has the right to withdraw term deposits before maturity dates.

(b) Debtors-secured were discounted at 2.966% (2013: 3.105%) which is the 5 year government bond rate as at June 30 2014.

(c) The amount of receivables excludes the GST recoverable from the ATO (statutory receivable)

Interest rate sensitivity analysis

The following table represents a summary of the interest rate sensitivity of the Commission's financial assets at the end of the reporting period on the surplus for the period and equity for a 1% change in interest rates. It is assumed that the change in interest rates is held constant throughout the reporting period.

The Commission took into account past performance, future explanations, economic forecasts, and management's knowledge and experience of financial markets to determine the movements that are reasonably possible over the next 12 months.

2015	Carrying amount \$	-100 basis points		+100 basis points	
		Surplus \$	Equity \$	Surplus \$	Equity \$
<u>Financial assets</u>					
Cash and cash equivalents ^(a)	24,829,550	(248,295)	(248,295)	248,295	248,295
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	1,285,294	(12,853)	(12,853)	12,853	12,853
Total Increase/(Decrease)		(261,148)	(261,148)	261,148	261,148
2014					
<u>Financial assets</u>					
Cash and cash equivalents ^(a)	29,080,169	(290,802)	(290,802)	290,802	290,802
Restricted cash and cash equivalents	787,211	(7,872)	(7,872)	7,872	7,872
Total Increase/(Decrease)		(298,674)	(298,674)	298,674	298,674

(a) Cash and cash equivalents balance does not include petty cash balance.

Fair values

All financial assets and liabilities recognised in the Statement of Financial Position, whether they are carried at cost or fair value, are recognised at amounts that represent a reasonable approximation of fair value unless otherwise stated in the applicable notes.

Note 35. Remuneration of members of the Commission and senior officers

Remuneration of members of the Commission

The number of members of the Commission, whose total of fees, salaries, superannuation, non-monetary benefits and other benefits for the financial year, fall within the following bands are:

\$	2015	2014
0 - 10,000	5	5
20,001 - 30,000	1	1
440,001 - 450,000	1	1
	\$	\$
Base remuneration and superannuation	388,457	390,927
Annual leave and long service leave accruals	41,614	40,999
Other benefits	69,008	65,362
The total remuneration of the members of the Commission	499,079	497,288

The total remuneration includes the superannuation expense incurred by the Commission in respect of members of the Commission

No members of the accountable authority are members of the pension scheme.

Remuneration of senior officers

The number of senior officers, other than senior officers reported as members of the Commission, whose total fees, salaries, superannuation, non-monetary benefits and other benefits for the financial year fall within the following bands are:

\$	2015	2014
140,001 - 150,000	-	1
150,001 - 160,000	1	-
160,001 - 170,000	1	-
170,001 - 180,000	-	1
200,001 - 210,000	2	-
210,001 - 220,000	-	2
220,001 - 230,000	-	3
230,001 - 240,000	1	1
240,001 - 250,000	3	-
	\$	\$
Base remuneration and superannuation	1,233,732	1,224,255
Annual leave and long service leave accruals	175,574	166,708
Other benefits	285,636	272,098
The total remuneration of senior officers	1,694,943	1,663,061

The total remuneration includes the superannuation expense incurred by the Commission in respect of senior officers other than senior officers reported as members of the Commission.

There are no senior officers who are members of the pension scheme.

Note 36. Remuneration of auditor

Remuneration paid or payable to the Auditor General in respect of the audit for the current financial year is as follows:

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Auditing the accounts, financial statements and key performance indicators	81,300	80,000

The remuneration of auditor is included at note 7 'Supplies and services'. The remuneration to 30 June 2015 was not accrued as work was not substantially completed. This amount excludes GST.

Note 37. Related bodies

The Commission had no related bodies during the financial year.

Note 38. Affiliated bodies

The Commission had no affiliated bodies during the financial year.

Note 39. Special purpose accounts

Special Purpose Account

(i) Child Representation Trust Fund

The child representation trust fund has been established essentially for monies received from client's contributions. These contributions are not received from the aided person being the child, but from other parties to the proceedings, typically being the parents of the child.

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Balance at start of period	-	12,500
Receipts	5,000	56,082
Payments	-	(68,582)
Balance at end of period	5,000	-

Established under section 16(1)(b) of FMA.

Special Purpose Account

(ii) Client Trust Fund

The purpose of the trust account is to hold funds in trust for persons who are or have been assisted persons.

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Balance at start of period	65,068	215,274
Receipts	1,139,536	1,451,401
Payments	(1,034,867)	(1,601,607)
Balance at end of period	169,736	65,068

In addition to the above, individual interest bearing trust accounts in the name of the Director of Legal Aid in trust for "clients" administered by the Legal Aid Commission. These accounts are used when substantial amounts of money are involved or as the court so directs.

Established under section 16(1)(c) of FMA.

Note 40. Supplementary financial information

(a) Write-Offs

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Debts written off during the year that were authorised by the Commission.	15,636	32,581

(b) Gifts of public property

Gifts of public property provided by the Commission	726	-
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Note 41. Special category funding

During the course of the year the Commission realised expenditure related to legal representation costs in support of five special categories.

(i) Finance Brokers Legal Fund

In July 2001 the Legal Aid Commission commenced maintaining special funding provided by the State Government for investigators legal actions to recover losses from defaulting finance brokers and borrowers, and those who provided professional services to those persons.

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Balance at start of period	167,364	167,364
Expenditure	-	-
Balance at end of period	167,364	167,364

(ii) Department of Child Protection (DCP) Legal Fund

A legal fund for private lawyers to investigate and provide advice as to claims that children may have been abused whilst in care of the Department of Child Protection (DCP).

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Balance at start of period	92,056	105,658
Funding	8,620	36,780
Expenditure	(64,144)	(50,382)
Balance at end of period	36,533	92,056

(iii) Indian Ocean Territories

The Commission provides a full range of legal services to the residents of Christmas and Cocos Islands. The service is provided pursuant to the service delivery agreement with the Commonwealth Government.

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Balance at start of period	16,411	15,350
Receipt from Commonwealth	480,771	376,554
User charges and fees	35,074	2,170
Expenditure	(427,453)	(377,663)
Balance at end of period	104,803	16,411

(iv) State Expensive Cases

Arrangements exist with the State Government for additional funding to be provided to ensure expensive criminal trials involving serious charges are not delayed through lack of legal representation. Expensive cases are categorised as matters where the cost of legal representation are expected to exceed \$26,000.

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Balance at start of period	(1,006,551)	69,385
Funding	4,118,857	2,000,000
Assigned expenditure	(2,557,840)	(2,629,494)
Expenditure for IHP disbursements	(291,091)	(295,592)
In-House legal services expenditure	(304,188)	(150,850)
Balance at end of period	(40,813)	(1,006,551)

(v) Commonwealth Expensive Cases

Arrangements exist with the Commonwealth for additional funding to be provided to ensure expensive criminal trials involving serious charges are not delayed through lack of legal representation. Expensive cases are categorised as matters where the cost of legal representation are expected to exceed \$40,000.

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Balance at start of period	66,946	642,882
Supplementary Funding	203,870	-
Expenditure	-	(575,936)
Balance at end of period	270,816	66,946

Note 42. Community legal centres

During 2003/04, State Cabinet endorsed key recommendations into Community Legal Centres (CLC's) including the establishment of a State funding program for CLC's. Legal Aid WA includes transactions related to the State funding program in its financial statements as it has effective decision making over the allocation of the funds.

The Commission does not control the allocation of funding received from the Commonwealth Government for Community Legal Centres in Western Australia and consequently does not include these funds in its financial statements.

Financial transactions for 2014/15 related to the State and Commonwealth funding for Community Legal Centres are as follows:

	State \$	Commonwealth \$
Balance at start of period	2,179,289	173,689
Receipts	4,672,763	5,841,803
Payments	(5,047,253)	(5,854,262)
Balance at end of period	1,804,799	161,229

6.3 Additional Key Performance Indicator Information

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Certification of Key Performance Indicators

We hereby certify that the key performance indicators are based on proper records, are relevant and appropriate for assisting users to assess the Legal Aid Commission of Western Australia's performance, and fairly represent the performance of the Legal Aid Commission of Western Australia for the financial year ended 30 June 2015.



Stuart Shepherd

Chairman of the Commission

Date 10.9.2015



Justin Stevenson

Acting Director

Member of the Commission

Date 10.09.2015

Detailed Information in Support of Key Performance Indicators

Agency funds are limited and determining the extent and type of assistance provided to clients is central to Legal Aid WA operations. This involves allocating resources to services that are available to the general community and to services, including legal representation that is restricted and managed according to the extent of disadvantage a person is experiencing.

Government Goal: : Greater focus on achieving results in key service delivery areas for the benefit of all Western Australians.

Agency Level Government Desired Outcome: Equitable access to legal services and information.

Agency Services Delivered: The community and target groups require access to and the provision of quality legal services. This is achieved through the provision of eligibility and merit tests to enable legal representation to be provided to legally aided clients by grants of aid and assignment of cases to in-house or private practitioners. Legal Advice, duty lawyer services and community legal education is provided to assist the wider community to access fair solutions to legal problems at the earliest opportunity.

Our Services:

For the community		For target groups			For legal service providers
Information and Advice	Duty Lawyer Services	Legal Advice, Minor Assistance and Advocacy	Legal Representation	Community Education Services	Regional Initiatives for Legal Practice
To assist members of the public to identify legal problems, understand the alternatives for resolution and the resources available to them in pursuing a legal solution. Includes referral to other agencies and is delivered through public counters in all offices and by 1800 INFOLINE	To ensure that members of the public brought before the courts have access to legal advice so that they understand the options available for responding to legal proceedings in which they are involved. Available at all Magistrate court sittings throughout WA, the Family court of WA and the Children's Court.	To assist people facing legal issues with advice and practical help, including advocacy, drafting of negotiating letters and the preparation of court documentation. Delivered by lawyers and at all office locations, and by paralegal staff under supervision of Solicitors	To ensure persons from priority groups are legally represented to the extent that is necessary and commensurate with their particular individual need. Includes assessment and case management for persons who are refused assistance. Includes all services provided pursuant to a grant of aid, including Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR).	To ensure priority groups and partner organisations have access to relevant publications, self help kits, community legal education and knowledge resources sufficient to build their capacity and self-reliance in navigating the justice system. Includes electronic access to some legal aid systems and resources, by partner agencies.	To increase the presence of lawyers in regional and remote areas of Western Australia and to ensure legal practice training and professional development is available to providers of legal services in regional and remote areas of Western Australia. Country lawyers are employed, trained and supervised by Legal Aid WA and training and professional development is delivered through legal practice training and interactive online learning systems.

Effectiveness Indicators

The outcome sought by Legal Aid WA as a result of the services provided is equitable access to legal services and information.

Equitable access to legal services is measured by the proportion of eligible applicants who receive a grant of aid and the extent to which duty lawyer services are available to ensure that all members of the public brought before the courts have access to legal advice, so that they understand the options available for responding to legal proceedings in which they are involved. Determining the type and extent of assistance provided to people is critical to Legal Aid WA's operations. Decisions about the appropriateness of the service provided are regulated by policies and procedures relating to clients' means, the nature and seriousness of their legal problem and the availability of resources.

Equitable access to legal information is measured by the extent to which members of the public are able to access Legal Aid WA's Infoline service to identify legal problems, understand the alternatives for resolution and the resources available in pursuing a legal and non-legal solution.

DESIRED OUTCOMES AND KEY EFFECTIVENESS/EFFICIENCY INDICATORS

Agency Level Government Desired Outcome: Equitable access to legal services and information.

Key Effectiveness Indicators	2011-12 Actual %	2012-13 Actual %	2013-14 Actual %	2014-15 Budget %	2014-15 Actual %	Reasons for Significant Variance * Between Current Actuals and Target and Prior Year Comparative
Percentage of eligible applicants who receive a grant of legal aid	70	75	78	78	78	There is no significant variation.
Percentage of persons who are provided with a duty lawyer service**	17	17	17	23	18	The Department of the Attorney General (DOTAG) case management system has changed in 2013-14. Consequentially, the information on appearance for criminal cases and civil cases in the Magistrate's Court and Children's Court for the 2013-14 and prior comparative years have been related to reflect the most accurate results by using the most current system. The 2014-15 Target was based on statistics from DOTAG's legacy case management system. The variance between the 2014-15 target and the actual yearly trend represents the different statistics being provided from DOTAG's legacy and new Case Management Systems.
Percentage of callers successfully accessing Infoline services	86	78	82	87	81	There is no significant variation.

* Significant variances are considered to be those greater than 10%.

** During 2014-15, the Family Court of Western Australia (FCWA) is transitioning to a new statistical database and is not able to provide information on the number of self-presented litigants in the FCWA until 2015-16. Due to the unavailability of these statistics, this indicator represents the extent to which duty lawyer services are available at the Magistrate's Court and the Children's Court and the prior three comparative years have been restated to reflect this change. Given the fact that FCWA only accounts for average 1.5% of measured total court appearance, the removal of the FCWA component has immaterial impact on this key indicator result (i.e. less than 1%).

Service: Legal Aid Assistance

Key Efficiency Indicators	2011-12 Actual %	2012-13 Actual %	2013-14 Actual %	2014-15 Budget %	2014-15 Actual %	Reasons for Significant Variance* Between Current Actuals and Target and Prior Year Comparative
Average cost per legal representation	3,722	3,759	3,474	3,700	3,787	There is no significant variation.
Average cost per legal information service	36	34	45	36	48	The average cost per legal information services has increased in 2014-15 due to the introduction of more time intensive pre application interviews to increase efficiencies in the assessing and processing of applications for grants of legal aid. In addition, the increasing complexity of calls and increased expectations on staff providing information with regards to clients care as well as the quality of the information provided has further increased the average time spent on delivering each service.
Average cost per legal advice	204	199	221	215	223	There is no significant variation.
Average cost per application for a grant of legal aid processed	302	396	376	370	387	There is no significant variation.
Average cost of delivering regional initiatives for legal practice	16,554	11,220	10,249	11,912	1,148	The cost of delivering legal practice initiative into regional areas has decreased considerably due to the cessation of the Country Lawyers Program from 30 June 2015, with 88% less costs in comparison with 2013-14 year.

* Significant variances are considered to be those greater than 10%.

6.4 Ministerial Directives

No Ministerial directives were received during the financial year.

6.5 Other Financial Disclosures

6.5.1 Pricing policies of services provided

Legal Aid WA charges for goods and services rendered on a full or partial cost recovery basis. These fees and charges were determined in accordance with Costing and Pricing Government Services: Guidelines for Use by Agencies in the Western Australian Public Sector published by the Department of Treasury.

6.5.2 Capital Works

Projects completed during the course of the financial year

Name of Project	Total Cost	Estimated Cost	Variance	Notes
Fit-out of new head office tenancy	\$8,600,829	\$8,727,633	\$126,804	
Grants Online Redevelopment	\$299,958	\$300,000	\$42	
Systems and Technology Relocation	\$817,261	\$824,000	\$6,739	
Fit-out of regional office in Bunbury	\$604,455	\$712,635	\$108,180	Consultant and related travel costs were lower than expected.
PC Software Refresh	\$1,249,090	\$1,206,663	(\$42,427)	

Projects not completed during the course of the financial year

Name of Project	Total Cost	Estimated Cost	Variance	Notes
Electronic duty lawyer instruction form	NIL	\$100,000	\$100,000	Development and implementation postponed until 2015-16 due to internal resourcing issues.

6.5.3 Employment and Industrial Relations

Employee Profile 2014-15

Level	Solicitors			Paralegals			Administration			Graduates			TOTAL	TOTAL	%	%
	P	O	C	P	O	C	P	O	C	P	O	C	2013/14	2014/15	2013/14	2014/15
Cadet								1					1	1	0.29	0.31
1				2			6	1					9	9	3.24	2.81
2				15	15		31	8					65	69	19.47	21.56
3				22	3		24	3					53	52	17.40	16.25
4				8			4						12	12	6.19	3.75
5				4			8						12	12	3.83	3.75
6							11						12	11	2.06	3.44
7							3						3	3	0.88	0.94
8							4						3	4	1.18	1.25
9													0	0	0.00	0.00
Class 1													0	0	0.00	0.00
Class 2													0	0	0.00	0.00
Class 3								1					0	1	0.29	0.31
Class 4													0	0	0.00	0.00
Special Division	1												1	1	0.29	0.31
S/C Level 1	6	13											24	19	7.37	5.94
S/C Level 2	36	8					1						45	45	12.39	14.06
S/C Level 3	7	1											12	8	3.83	2.50
S/C Level 4	27	1					1						31	29	9.44	9.06
S/C Level 5	5	1											7	6	1.47	1.88
S/C Level 6	30												29	30	7.37	9.38
S/C Level 7	1												2	1	0.29	0.31
S/C Level 8													0	0	0.88	0.00
S/C Level 9													0	0	0.29	0.00
S/C Level 10	6	1											7	7	1.47	2.19
TOTAL	119	25	0	51	18	0	93	14	0	0	0	0	328	320	100	100

P = Permanent Employee

O = Contract Employee

C = Casual Employee

Includes staff on Leave Without Pay (LWOP):

2013/2014 LWOP 18 Females/ 1 Male

2014/2015 LWOP 9 Females/ 0 Males

Legal staff, Psychologists and Librarians paid under GOSAC Specified Callings

Workers Compensation

One minor compensation claim was received during 2014-2015 and one compensation claim received in 2013-2014 continued. This compares with two minor claims and one significant claim recorded in 2013-2014.

COST OF SERVICES	
<u>Legal Service Expenses</u>	
Casework Costs	18,869,134
Disbursements	895,000
Sundry Casework Expenses	75,000
Other Service Expenses	237,928
TOTAL Legal Service Expenses	20,077,062
<u>Employee Benefits Expenses</u>	
Salaries and Allowances	28,784,620
Staff Related Expenses	2,881,762
Employee benefits expense	31,666,382
<u>Other Operating Expenses</u>	
Supplies and services	5,600,105
Depreciation and amortisation expense	976,190
Accommodation expenses	5,646,782
Other expenses	12,187,273
Total Other Operating Expenses	24,410,350
Total cost of services	76,153,794
<u>Revenue</u>	
User charges and fees	2,235,886
Commonwealth grants and contributions	29,858,985
Interest revenue	940,340
Other revenue	1,627,102
Total Revenue	34,662,313
NET COST OF SERVICES	41,491,481
<u>Income from State Government</u>	
State Government grant	39,210,000
Other Funding State Community Legal Centres	937,220
Royalties for Regions Fund	117,000
Total income from State Government	40,264,220
Annual Operating surplus/(deficit)	(1,227,261)

Compliance with Public Sector Standards and ethical codes

During 2014-2015, two breach of standards claims relating to the Employment Standard were received. Both claims have subsequently been dismissed. Legal Aid WA strives to maintain compliance with both the Public Sector Standards in Human Resources Management and the Public Sector Code of Ethics. The following actions were taken during 2014-2015 to ensure compliance:

- Recruitment, selection and appointment training was provided to managers and key recruiters;
- All recruitment and selection processes were reviewed by an independent person;
- Legal Aid WA operated a gift register;
- All new staff were informed of and were asked to acknowledge their obligations under the Public Sector Code of Ethics, Legal Aid WA Code of Conduct and relevant ICT use policies;
- Accountable and Ethical Decision Making training and refresher training was delivered to staff;
- Standards information was made available to staff and job applicants;
- Relevant policies and procedures were available to all staff via the intranet;
- Trained Grievance and Contact Officers are available to all staff.

6.6 Governance Disclosures

Pecuniary interests

The *Legal Aid Commission Act 1976* requires members to disclose their pecuniary interest in matters being considered and to have such disclosure recorded in the minutes of that meeting. No disclosures were recorded.

Contracts with Senior Officers

At the date of reporting, no senior officers, or firms of which senior officers are members, or entities in which senior officers have substantial interests, had any interests in existing or proposed contracts with the Legal Aid Commission of Western Australia other than normal contracts of employment of services.

Insurance premiums to indemnify any director

An insurance premium of \$3,151.50 (including GST) was paid to AIG Australia Limited for Directors and Officers Liability Insurance.

Professional conduct

Legal Aid WA and individual legal practitioners employed by or receiving remuneration from Legal Aid WA, are required, where applicable, to comply with the *Legal Profession Act 2008*, *Legal Profession Regulations 2009*, *Legal Profession Rules 2009*, and *Legal Profession Conduct Rules 2010*.

Application of Accountability Legislation

Section 56 of the *Legal Aid Commission Act 1976* states that the provisions of the *Financial Management Act 2006* regulating the financial administration, audit and reporting of statutory authorities apply to and in respect of the Commission and its operations.

Legal Aid Commission Board of Western Australia

Position	Name	Type of remuneration	Period of membership	Gross/actual remuneration (annual) \$
Chairman	Stuart Shepherd	Per meeting	01/07/2011 – ongoing	18,600
Member	Dion Smith	Per meeting	01/01/2011 – ongoing	7,400
Chairman of Audit sub-committee	Dion Smith	Per meeting	25/5/2011 – ongoing	1,100
Member	Katherine Beaumont	Per meeting	01/08/2012 – ongoing	7,400
Member	Belinda Lonsdale	Per meeting	01/01/2006 – ongoing	7,400
Member	John Prior	Per meeting	08/03/2012 – ongoing	7,400
Member	Brian Bradley	No remuneration	01/02/2010- ongoing	0
Member	George Turnbull	No remuneration	12/07/1999 – ongoing	0

6.7 Other Legal Requirements

Expenditure on advertising, market research, polling and direct mail

In accordance with section 175ZE of the *Electorate Act 1907*, the Commission incurred the following expenditure in advertising, market research, polling, direct mail and media advertising:

Total expenditure for 2014-15 was \$24,114.94.

Expenditure was incurred in the following areas:

Advertising Agencies	\$993.94	Adcorp Lizart Productions	\$930.30 \$63.64
Market research organisations	\$23,121.00	Advantage Communications and Marketing	\$23,121.00
Polling Organisations	Nil		Nil
Direct mail organisations	Nil		Nil
Media advertising organisations	Nil		Nil

Disability Access and Inclusion Plan

During the reporting period, Legal Aid WA's first Disability Access and Inclusion Plan (2014-19) was endorsed by the Disability Services Commission during 2014-2015. We are committed to ensuring that people with disabilities have the same opportunities to access our services, information and facilities.

Recordkeeping Plans

Legal Aid WA's Recordkeeping Plan was approved on the 30 August 2012.

In accordance with the State Records Commission Standard 2 and Principle 6 the following information demonstrates Legal Aid WA's compliance.

Efficiency and effectiveness of the organisations recordkeeping systems

The recommendations made in the internal audit of recordkeeping conducted in 2012 have been considered and changes implemented. An external service provider ensures the document management system is operating in accordance with agency specifications.

The nature and extent of the recordkeeping training program

Legal Aid WA conducts online training programs for recordkeeping. The recordkeeping Awareness Training (RAT) is incorporated into the induction package provided to all new staff. A refresher online training program is delivered to all staff 12 months after they have completed the initial program. These online courses have been amended to reflect the new State Records Office General Disposal Authority for Government Information.

In-person training is also conducted on Legal Aid WA's Document Management System and Business Classification Scheme to new employees with follow up training as required.

Efficiency and effectiveness of the recordkeeping training

Reviews of recordkeeping training is done on an ongoing basis through feedback and evaluation of usage of Legal Aid WA's Document Management System and Business Classification Scheme.

Organisations induction program addressing employee roles and responsibilities in regard to their compliance with the recordkeeping plan

LAWA's recordkeeping training, which is part of the induction program, includes employees' roles and responsibilities in regard to their compliance with the recordkeeping plan.

6.8 Government Policy Requirements

Occupational Safety, Health and Injury Management Statement of Legal Aid WA's commitment to occupational safety and health and injury management 2014-2015

Legal Aid WA is committed to ensuring the highest standards of workplace safety, health and wellbeing to ensure the protection of its employees, contractors and visitors to the workplace by:

- Providing an environment (as far as practicable) where people can undertake their work safely;
- Developing appropriate systems for the reporting of work safety and health incidents and the tracking of follow up action;
- Encouraging employees to report incidents or hazards and working together to achieve outcomes;
- Identifying work safety and health risks and taking action (as far as practicable) to mitigate the risk;
- Providing appropriate programs of workplace safety education, training and awareness;
- Ensuring everyone is accountable for OSH in the workplace and aware of their individual responsibilities;
- Striving to ensure that at least 80% of managers and supervisors have completed OSH management training;

During 2014-2015 Legal Aid WA circulated occupational safety and health information to staff by:

- Providing safety updates and the minutes of the Work Health Safety Standing Committee on the intranet;
- Making all staff aware of the membership of the Work Health Safety Standing Committee and the priorities of this group;
- Promoting Safe Work Week and running related activities;
- Encouraging staff to report incidents and hazards;
- Providing 'Safety First: Working Safely with Clients at Legal Aid WA' training to all staff;
- Providing OSH training to managers and supervisors;
- Providing one trained staff member to conduct ergonomic assessments of individual work station set ups as required;
- Providing Remote Driver and Remote First Aid training to those undertaking regional Circuit work;
- Providing a trained group of First Aid Officers and Fire Wardens;
- Providing a safety induction to all staff moving to our new premises at 32 St Georges Terrace;
- Operating a risk register.

Legal Aid WA promoted and encouraged staff wellness during 2014-2015 by:

- Regularly promoting the Employee Assistance Program to all staff;
- Offering fully subsidised flu vaccinations to all staff;
- Offering fully subsidised inoculations e.g. Hepatitis to all staff working in frontline roles;
- Providing resilience training to frontline staff;
- Offering suicide awareness and prevention training;
- Offering end of trip facilities and bicycle parking at most office locations;
- Openly discussing resilience related issues and encouraging debriefing practices;
- Managing the use of accrued leave and supporting flexible work practices;

Statement of compliance with the injury management requirements of the *Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981*

Legal Aid WA adheres to the injury management compliance requirements in accordance with the *Worker's Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981*, and provides support to managers and staff who are managing workplace injuries in accordance with the Act.

A statement confirming that a self-evaluation (annual) or an external accredited assessment (within previous three years) of occupational safety and health management systems has been completed that includes a summary of findings

Legal Aid WA did not complete an accredited assessment during the reporting period.

Measure	Actual Results		Results Against Target		Comment on result
	2013-14	2014-15	Target		
Number of fatalities	0	0	0		NIL
Lost time injury and/or disease incidence rate	0.00%	0.00%	0		NIL
Lost time injury and/or disease severity rate	0.00%	0.00%	0		NIL
Percentage of injured workers returned to work:					NIL
(i) within 13 weeks	100%	100%	Greater than or equal to 80%		NIL
(ii) within 26 weeks	100%	100%	Greater than or equal to 80%		
Percentage of managers trained in occupational safety, health and injury management responsibilities	67%	55%	Greater than or equal to 80%		Result shows the % of staff who have completed the training and who were in a management role. A stronger focus on achieving target will occur in 2015/2016.

Period	Number of Fatalities	Number of Lost Time Injury or Disease	Number of Severe Claims	Lost Time Injury Severity Rate
No Lost Time Injury claims for 2014/2015				
01/07/2013 – 30/06/2014	0	0	0	0
01/07/2012 – 30/06/2013	0	2	0	0
01/07/2011 – 30/06/2012	0	0	0	0

Data Definitions

Fatalities	Number of compensated work related fatalities.
Lost time injury or disease	The number of lost time injury/disease claims where one day/shift or more was estimated to be lost on claims lodged in the financial year.
Severe Claims	The number of severe injuries (estimated 60 days or more lost from work). An injury resulting in death is considered to have accounted for 60 days or more lost.
Severity Rate	The number of severe claims divided by the number of lost time/ injury disease claims multiplied by 100.
Invalid Claims	Cancelled and declined claims are excluded, however claims with actual lost time recorded are included even though a subsequent approval may have been declined.

7. LEGAL AID OFFICES

PERTH OFFICE

Level 1
32 St Georges Terrace
Perth WA 6000
Telephone (08) 9261 6222
Facsimile (08) 9325 6554

TELEPHONE INFORMATION LINE

Enquiries
1300 650 579
National Relay Service:
(for hearing and speech impaired) 133677
Translating and interpreting services 131450

WEBSITE

www.legalaid.wa.gov.au

FREMANTLE REGIONAL OFFICE

Shop 7, Queensgate Centre
William Street
Fremantle WA 6160
**OFFICE PERMANENTLY
CLOSED FROM 10 JUNE 2015**

MIDLAND REGIONAL OFFICE

Landgate Building
1 Midland Square
Cnr The Avenue & Old Great Northern Highway
Midland WA 6056
**OFFICE PERMANENTLY
CLOSED FROM 23 JUNE 2015**

SOUTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE

7th Floor Bunbury Towers
61 Victoria Street
Bunbury WA 6230
Telephone (08) 9721 2277
Facsimile (08) 9721 2060

EAST KIMBERLEY REGIONAL OFFICE

98 Konkerberry Drive
Kununurra WA 6743
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Facsimile (08) 9166 5888

GREAT SOUTHERN REGIONAL OFFICE

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Albany WA 6330
Telephone (08) 9892 9700
Facsimile (08) 9892 9777

GOLDFIELDS REGIONAL OFFICE

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Kalgoorlie WA 6430
Telephone (08) 9025 1300
Facsimile (08) 9091 2077

MIDWEST & GASCOYNE REGIONAL OFFICE

Unit 7, The Boardwalk
273 Foreshore Drive
Geraldton WA 6530
Telephone (08) 9921 0200
Facsimile (08) 9921 0255

PILBARA REGIONAL OFFICE

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South Hedland WA 6722
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WEST KIMBERLEY REGIONAL OFFICE

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Broome WA 6725
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Facsimile (08) 9192 1520

CHRISTMAS/COCOS ISLANDS OFFICE

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Christmas Island, Indian Ocean WA 6798
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