



Legal Aid WA

# Quarterly Report

1 January 2022 - 31 March 2022



LEGAL AID  
WESTERN AUSTRALIA

# Performance this Quarter

## 3 QTR 2021-2022

LEGAL AID WA  
WEBSITE UNIQUE  
PAGE VIEWS

**609,539**



**↑72%**  
on the same period  
in 2020-2021

TELEPHONE CALLS TO  
LEGAL AID WA'S INFOLINE  
WITH AN OUTCOME OF  
SERVICE

**15,420**



**↑4%**  
on the same period  
in 2020-2021

EXTERNAL REFERRALS  
FROM INFOLINE

**6,727**



**↑51%**  
on the same period  
in 2020-2021

ADVICE, ADVOCACY  
& DOCUMENT  
PREPARATION

**5,254**



### GRANTS DECISIONS

REVIEWED

**✓ 11**

OVERTURNED

**✗ 0**



**2,788** NEW  
GRANTS OF AID

**6,648** EXTENSIONS  
OF EXISTING  
GRANTS OF AID

**81%** % OF NEW GRANTS ASSIGNED TO  
THE PRIVATE PROFESSION

**11,432** DUTY LAWYER SERVICES

**↑19%**  
on the same period  
in 2020-2021

FAMILY DISPUTE RESOLUTION MEDIATIONS **203**

RECIPIENTS OF COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION **2,345**

SERVICES TO PEOPLE EXPERIENCING FAMILY VIOLENCE **10,054**

ONLINE  
LEGAL CHAT

**3,069**



# Priority Project Updates

## Reducing Family Court delays

In February, Legal Aid WA launched a 33% surge in family law mediations. This year Legal Aid WA aims to mediate an extra 250 cases from the Family Court list. The aim is to reduce delays for families awaiting a hearing. The Family Court is referring both property and parenting matters to Legal Aid WA for dispute resolution. So far, we've achieved a settlement in 65% of cases.

## Fighting for justice for people with disability

In January, Legal Aid WA boosted National Disability Insurance Scheme services by 200%. We've added more lawyers to our team representing people with a disability. We act for clients who are appealing against decisions of the NDIS. Our aim is to make sure that people with a disability get the reasonable and necessary disability support allowed by law. Our team has never lost a case at the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

## New resource for private lawyers

In February, Legal Aid WA launched Law Hub through an online event attended by 132 private lawyers. Law Hub is an online portal that provides private lawyers, who deliver legal aid, with the full suite of legal resources available to our in-house lawyers. This includes the highly regarded duty lawyer briefcase, family law handbook and legal alerts. Law Hub makes it easier for private lawyers to deliver high quality services to legal aid recipients.

### *And one more thing.....*

The Commonwealth budget of 29 March extended funding for Legal Aid WA's Family Violence and Cross Examination of Parties Scheme. Legal Aid WA set up this scheme in September 2019. We were concerned about women settling family law disputes for sub-optimal outcomes out of a fear of being cross-examined by the perpetrator of family violence. This scheme protects victims of family violence from being directly cross examined by the perpetrator. The Commonwealth has extended the scheme for another four years.

# Financial Performance

Legal Aid WA is expected to have a forecast deficit of \$2,640,252 at the end of the 2021-22 financial year, this is lower than the budget deficit of \$5,571,070 set by Legal Aid WA's Commission and is a decrease of \$2,930,818 against the budget target.

<b>Financial Performance</b>	<b>Year-to-date Mar 2022</b>	<b>Forecast<sup>^</sup> June 2022</b>
Commonwealth Funding	\$31,622,856	\$37,756,276
State Funding	\$44,158,000	\$56,231,294
Other Income	\$3,543,959	\$4,068,636
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$79,324,815</b>	<b>\$98,056,206</b>
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>\$71,534,303</b>	<b>\$100,696,458</b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit*</b>	<b>\$7,790,512</b>	<b>-\$2,640,252</b>

*\*The forecast operating deficit of \$2.640 million as at 30 June 2022 is due to delays in project expenditure carried over from the prior year. The budget deficit of \$2.640 million includes accounting treatment adjustments of \$1.673 million.*

*<sup>^</sup>Forecast Actuals to the end of June are our best estimate of where we believe Legal Aid WA's finances are currently expected to be at year end. This forecast was prepared in March based on February YTD financial information.*

*These are management figures and have not been audited.*



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