



HUNTER  
COMMUNITY  
LEGAL CENTRE INC.

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019



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# About Us



Community Legal Centres recognise the barriers which exist for many people in their interaction with and understanding of the law and our legal system. These barriers are reinforced by the high cost of private legal services, the restrictions on the availability of Legal Aid, the complexity of the law and legal processes, and the fact that many people are powerless to deal with their legal problems because of social, economic or other disadvantage.

The Hunter Community Legal Centre (CLC) aims to address the unmet need for legal services and to eliminate the structural and systemic barriers to justice which exist for many disadvantaged members of its community.

The Hunter CLC was established in 1991 as a not-for-profit community legal centre to provide free legal advice, assistance and representation for those with most need in the Newcastle and Hunter region.

## Our Catchment

Hunter CLC's catchment covers 10 local government areas with a geographical area of approximately 22,000 square kilometres and a population of over 700,000.

## Our Vision

An empowered community that values equal access to justice and upholds and respects human rights

## Our Mission

To enhance access to justice and promote human rights in the Hunter region by:

- Providing a high quality accessible legal service to disadvantaged and vulnerable people.
- Delivering legal information and education to service providers, clients and the community.
- Identifying and engaging in law reform activities to address inequalities in the legal system.



## We Value

- Respect
- Accountability
- Integrity
- Social Justice
- Equality

# Our People

## Board of Management

Chairperson: Colin James  
Vice Chairperson: Richard Lane  
Secretary: Kenn Clift  
Treasurer: Jeff Shute  
Members: Jill Evans  
Lucy Urach  
Steven Wendtman  
Maree Callaghan  
Bill Bowman

## Staff

Managing Solicitor	Bronwyn Ambrogetti	
Solicitors	Kim Richardson	
	Michael Giles	
	Briony Manning	
	Clair Tait	
	Zach Biddles	
	Toobah Choudhari	
	Molly Willoughby	April 2018 - April 2019
	Mitch Harvey	Nov 2016 - Dec 2018
CLE Coordinator	Duhita Lewis	
Coordinator	Julie Vitnell	
Administration	Kathrina Balston	
	Eileen McGovern	
	Tika Wright	April 2018 - March 2019
	Nick Rose	Aug 2018 - Oct 2018



Staff at Molly's farewell

# Pro Bono Assistance & Volunteers

We are indebted to our student and solicitor volunteers, for their assistance during the year. We would like to acknowledge and pay tribute to the solicitors and barristers who have donated many hours of pro bono assistance. The generous support of our volunteers and pro bono partners significantly increases our capacity to provide legal services.

## Pro Bono Assistance

McCullough Robertson  
LBC Lawyers  
Cantel Carmichael Legal  
Sparke Helmore  
Lizzie McLaughlin Barrister  
SWS Lawyers  
Luke Shearston

## Volunteer Solicitors

Lynn Flanagan  
Rebecca Stokes  
Seamus Burke  
Annette West  
Jessica Phillips  
Steve Wendtman  
Lestelle Olsen  
Marlena Pitrone  
David Behne - Smith  
Tim Stanfield  
Colin Dau

## Intake Volunteers

Nick Rose  
Tika Wright  
Josephine Adamson  
Lukas Stevens  
Glenn Hyland  
Matthew Beugeling

## Students

Kim Tomasic  
Lucas Hafey  
Chris McCourt  
Annika Schultz  
Chris Mosman  
Candice Parkes  
Josephine Adamson  
Daniel Schmidt  
Darren Whitbourne  
Emily Hart



Sharon Claydon Volunteer Awards:  
Duhita, Sharon, Colin & Annika

# Chairperson's Report

Congratulations to all our staff, volunteers and committee members who ensured the Hunter Community Legal Centre (the Centre) had another successful year, all things considered. Through your professional diligence we provided legal advice, assistance and representation to more than 2000 individual clients and presented many legal information sessions across our broad community catchment on a wide range of legal topics.

At the national level the review of the National Partnership Agreement was completed, however we are still awaiting the outcome. Submissions to the review were made by our Managing Solicitor Bronwyn Ambrogetti and by the National Association of Community Legal Centres – now called 'Community Legal Centres Australia' or CLC Australia. Specifically, the Centre is waiting for confirmation of a 5-year contract commencing next financial year.

At the state level the new tender process was challenging to work through however our submissions ultimately were successful and we received an increase of \$224,000 making a total of \$509,000 per annum which will help to meet identified needs in several areas. Our main focus of activity continues to be domestic violence, family law, general civil matters and community legal education with a focus on seniors and elder abuse.

We began our new Hunter Youth Law Service this year at the Hunter Valley Children's Courts with a \$50,000 grant from the Law and Justice Foundation (LJF). That service is getting excellent results for clients and has had great feedback from them and other stakeholders. However, since the LJF is no longer making funding grants we are looking for other sources to keep it going when funds expire at the end of December 2019.

Our student placement program was again successful as we supervised ten law students from several different law schools, as well as a social work student on placement.

I am happy to report we have successfully completed Phase 2 of the National Accreditation Scheme and the HCLC is now a fully accredited Community Legal Centre. However (...there's always a 'but'), new phases are presented as we complete them and we have already begun Phase 3.

Finally, a huge thanks to all our staff and especially our leaders – Managing Solicitor Bronwyn Ambrogetti and Coordinator Julie Vitnell - for resolving the year's various crises on several fronts and keeping the Centre functioning, efficient and productive. A special thanks to our volunteers and pro bono solicitors, without whom we might only be half as effective, and to the Board of Management. We must sadly farewell long-term committee member Kenn Clift and happily welcome new members Bill Bowman and Maree Callaghan.

# Managing Solicitor's Report

Funding was a major issue again this year. Following the Cameron Review the NSW Attorney General implemented the Cameron Report's recommendation to introduce a tender process for the centre's state funding. Following a challenging process we were successful in obtaining additional funds. This will go some way to meet the growing legal need in our catchment.

Our Family Law team, Briony Manning, Clair Tait and Zach Biddles continued to provide an excellent duty service at the Federal Circuit Court in Newcastle.

We welcomed back Clair Tait who returned from parental leave. Molly Willoughby, our temporary family lawyer, was quickly hired by Women's Legal Service Victoria, a specialist legal centre in Melbourne.

Our family law team continue to provide an outstanding service at the Federal Circuit Court in Newcastle. In recognition of their expertise and experience, a delegation from the Australian Law Reform Commission came to Newcastle and consulted directly with our team on their recent inquiry into the reform of the family law system.

Kim Richardson, Michael Giles, our new Youth Lawyer, Toobah Choudhary and volunteer solicitor, Lynn Flanagan, continue to represent the centre in our civil and criminal law advice and casework. The funding for our Traffic Law Service ended which meant Mitchell Harvey's contract ended.

Mitchell was snapped up by the Seniors Rights Legal Service a specialist legal service in Sydney.

Our lawyers are also in demand for community legal education, co-ordinated by Duhita Lewis. Our outreach programme to Miruma at Cessnock Correctional Centre, Yacaaba Neighbourhood Centre at Nelson Bay, Cessnock Neighbourhood Centre and Wanaruah Local Aboriginal Land Council in Muswellbrook continued with most clinics at capacity.

A personal highlight was the invitation to co-present at the Metropolis Conference in Sydney. I presented on the law and asylum seekers in regional Australia with presenters from the Refugee Advice and Casework Service, the Human Rights Legal Centre and Legal Aid. This was followed later in the year by a month in Myanmar as International Clinician in Residence at East Yangon and Dagon Universities. I assisted the law schools in East Yangon and Dagon implement their Clinical Legal Education and Community Legal Education programs. As well as working through the BABSEACLE curriculum I shared Hunter CLC's experience and information about the legal system and legal practice in Australia. While in Myanmar I observed two community legal education sessions, one about narcotic drug law, presented by law students in a village school. The other was on sexual harassment and cyber bullying presented at a female student hostel on the Dagon University campus.



I would like to thank all the staff, in particular Julie Vitnell our Co-ordinator and the Admin team; Kathrina Balston, Eileen McGovern, Tika Wright, Nick Rose and Toobah Choudhari for their commitment throughout the last year in the challenging circumstances of the new tender process. The professionalism of all our staff make the Hunter CLC a great organisation to work for.

To our Board who give their time to attend meetings after hours, read Board papers and provide support to the Centre in many other ways a big thank you again for your contribution in 2018/19.

I would also like to thank the volunteers and Pro bono solicitors who make the Hunter CLC much more accessible to our community by providing hours of their time to assist. I look forward to working with you all again in the coming year.

Bronwyn Ambrogetti



Bronwyn at the Metropolis Conference

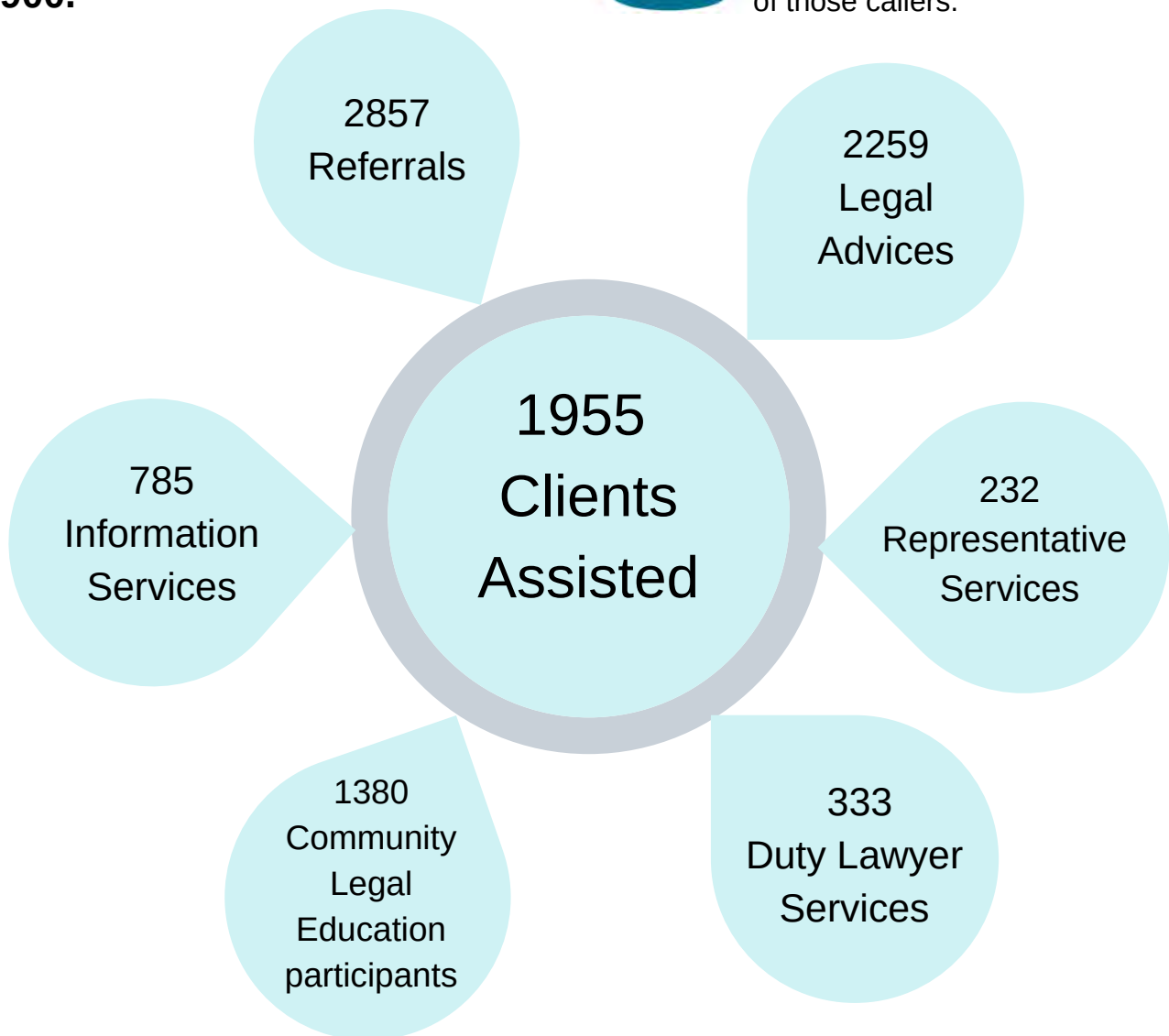


## Our Services

Number of people accessing our services was approximately **7900**.



Telephone advice was again in high demand with 9643 calls made to the advice line. Hunter CLC was able to provide legal advice to 2259 of those callers.



### WHO WE HELPED

91% Experiencing financial disadvantage

10.74% identify as Indigenous Australians

32.43% have a disability

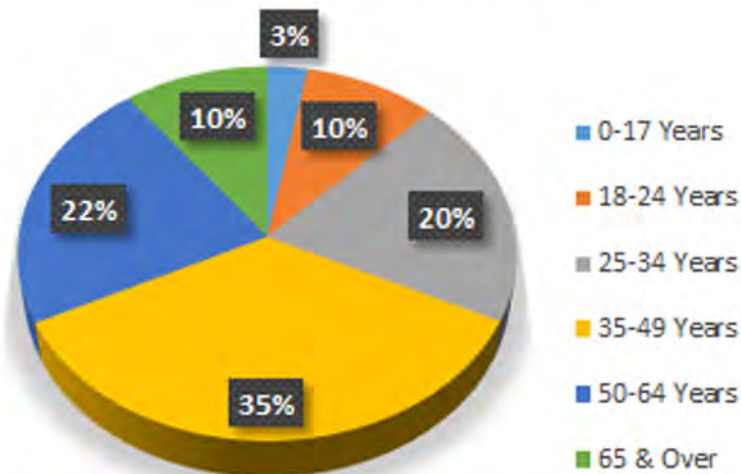
25% Experiencing family violence

35.19% are 35-49 years old

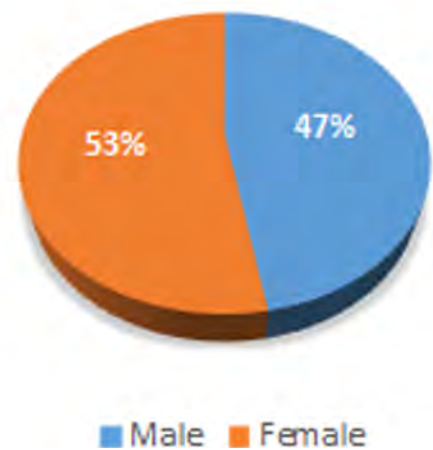
5.68% Non English background

53% Female

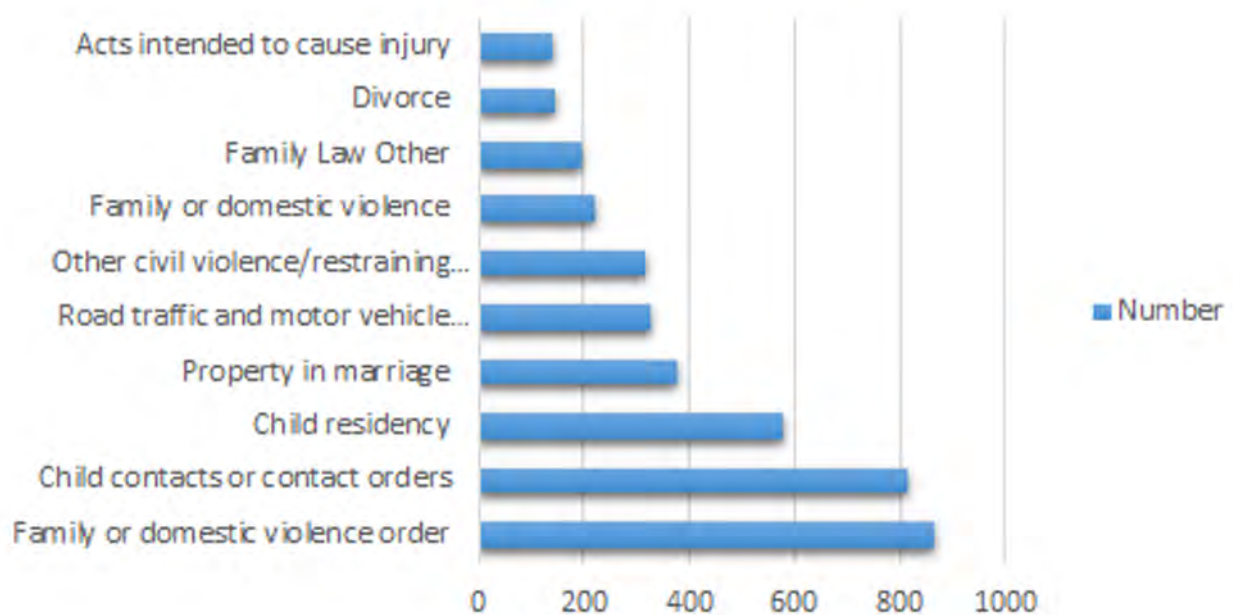
## Client Age Groups



## Client Gender



## Top 10 Problem Types



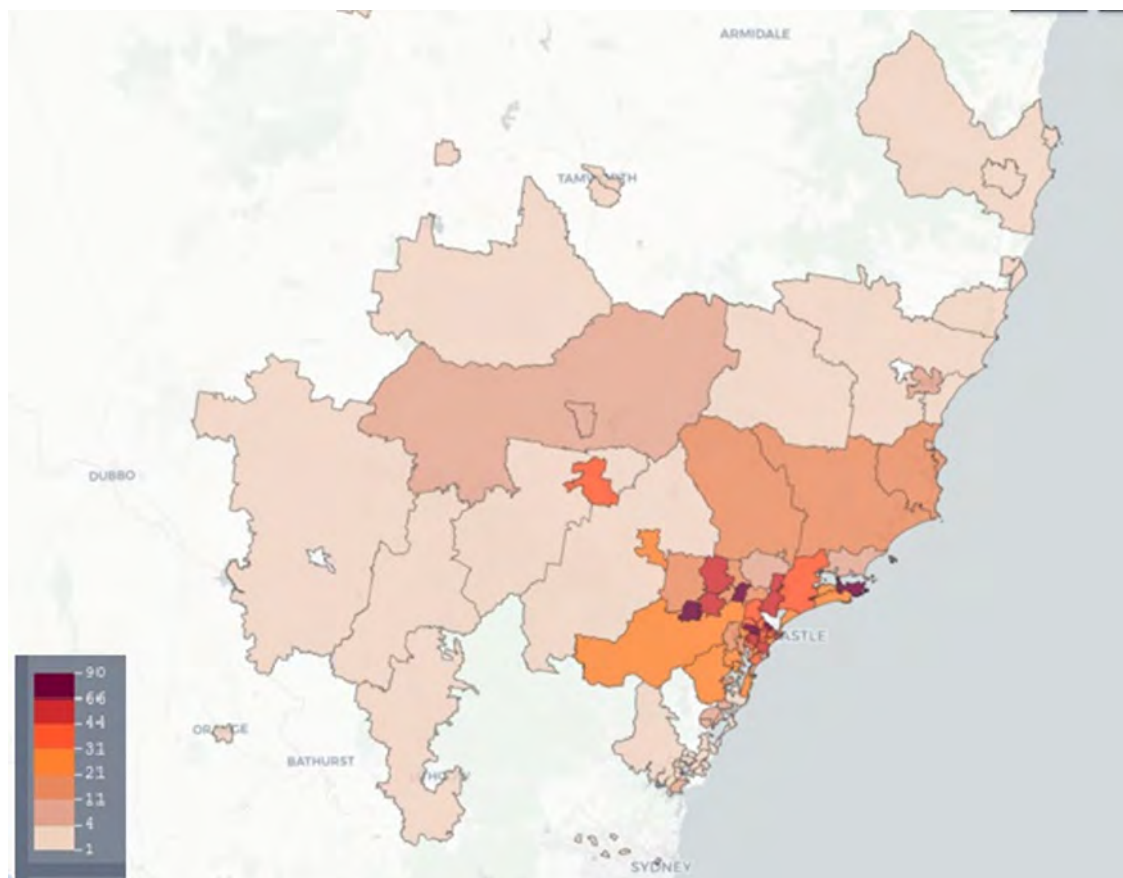
**42%** of our clients live in:

- Cessnock
- Charlestown
- Glendale
- Kurri Kurri
- Maitland East & West
- Mayfield
- Nelson Bay
- Newcastle
- Raymond Terrace
- Wallsend
- Waratah

A large number of our clients are self referred or by family and friends. Legal Aid, Law Access and State Courts also make a large number of referrals to us.

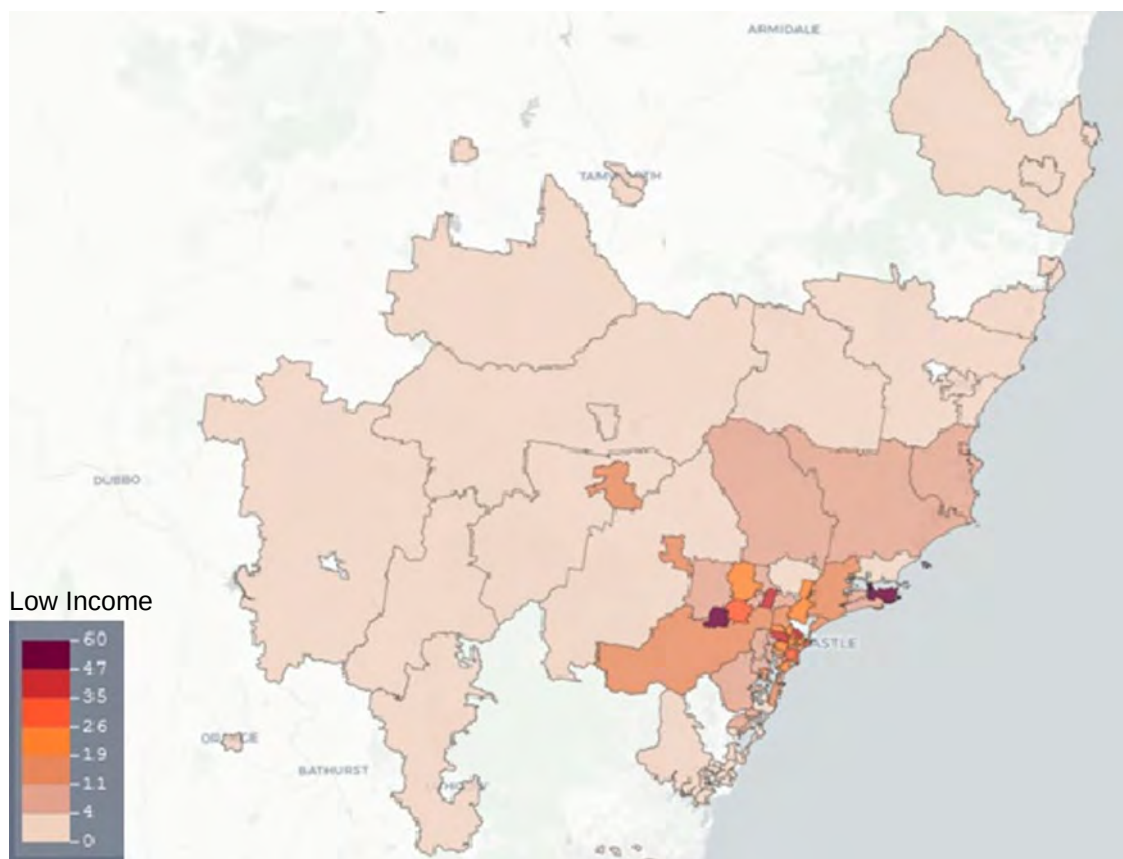
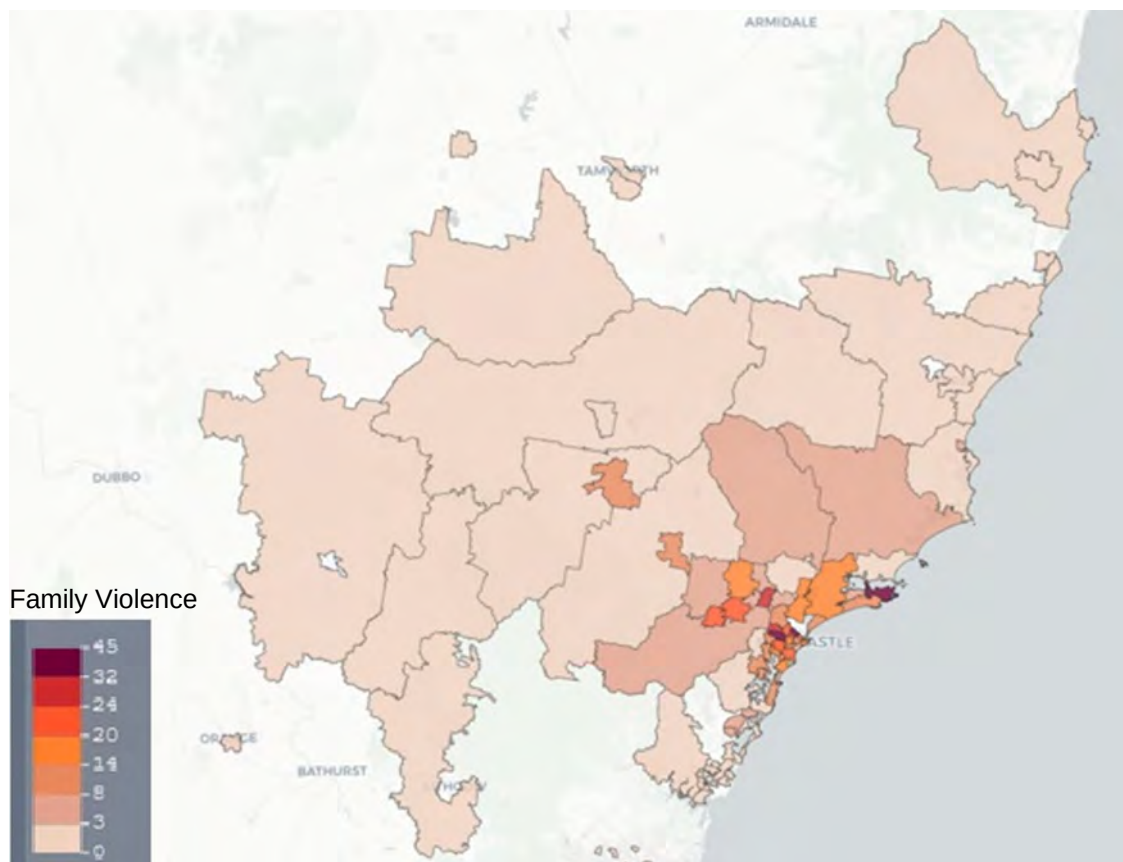


The spread of clients across our catchment



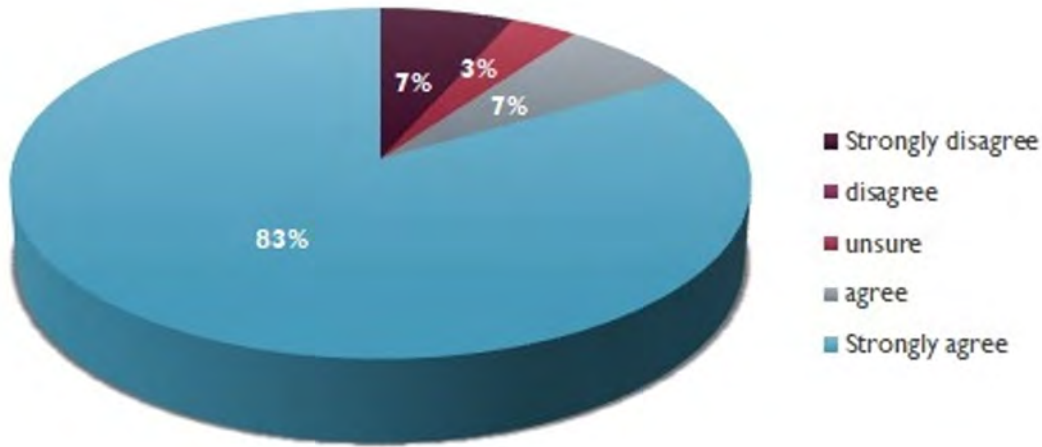


The bulk of people experiencing family violence lived in Mayfield, Nelson Bay and Wallsend. This correlates closely with areas of low income.



# What our clients are saying

83% of clients strongly agree that we helped them understand how to deal with their legal problem.



*Simple, very helpful, explained so I could understand. Couldn't have been better.*

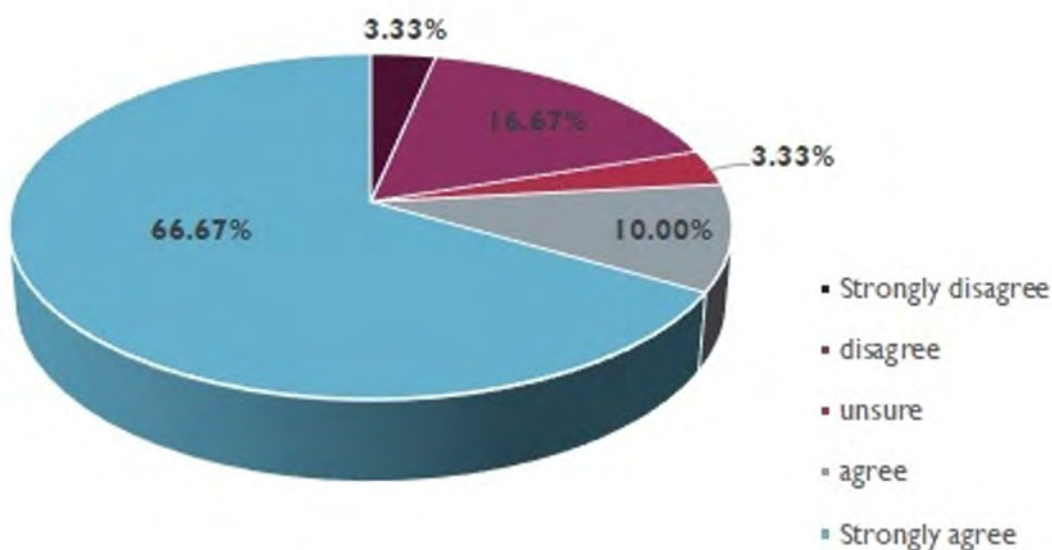
Cameron

7384 people were turned away due to the lack of resources

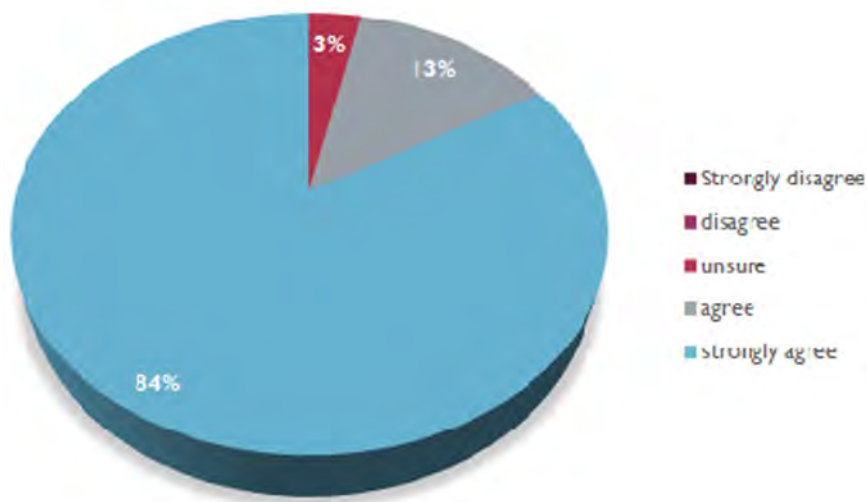
*The service is good, but it seems to be underfunded.*

A client's comment

77% of clients would recommend the service to other people



84% of clients said they were treated in a friendly and respectful manner



Michael Giles at the Fines Day in Foster



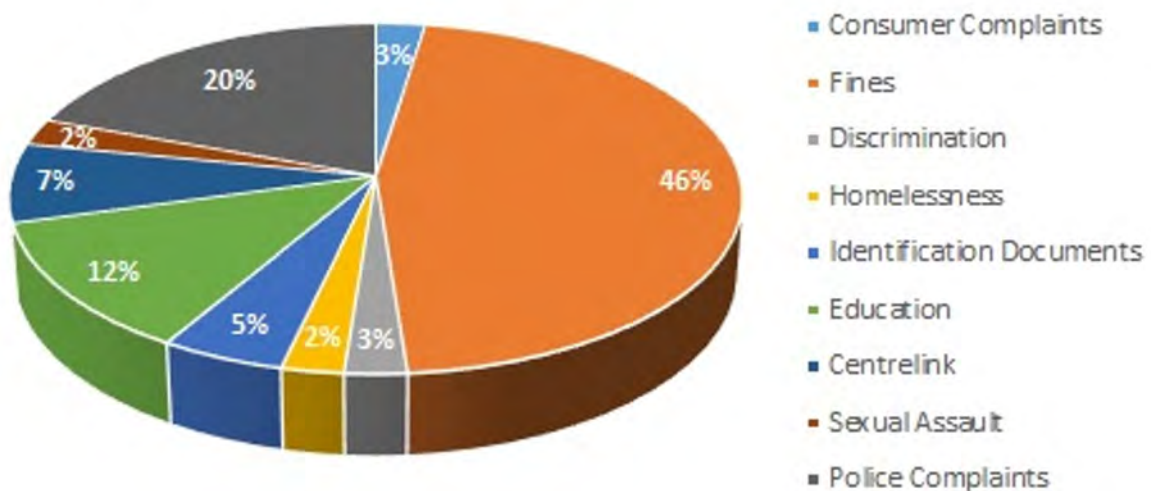


# Hunter Youth Law Service

## Who we have helped

Since the beginning of the service in February 2019, 415 young people have engaged with the service. Levels of engagement range from receiving general information, specific legal or non-legal advice, and/or being referred to appropriate services. We have found that young people who come in contact with the criminal justice system frequently come from disadvantaged backgrounds and have complex support needs.

We have made 366 referrals so far. We refer to Emergency Homelessness Services, Samaritans, Welfare Rights, TAFE NSW, Education Officers, Legal Aid, Headspace, FACS, Aboriginal Legal Service, Neighbourhood Centres and the Upper Hunter Youth Development Officer.



One of the major issues that young people are telling us about relates to police complaints. Young people feel as though they are being treated unfairly and unlawfully by police. Examples given by young people include body searches, police stops and not being taken seriously when they approach police for assistance. We are currently gathering data about this issue.

*Toobah made me feel  
good pumped up*

Toobah Choudhari

# Case Studies

## Support for Abandoned Young person

We met Madeline\* at a local Children's Court. Madeline was there for an AVO hearing in which her father was the applicant. After an altercation outside the courthouse, Madeline's father abandoned her leaving her homeless and without any food, money or mode of transport. We were able to provide non-legal support to Madeline by contacting a number of organisations through which we were able to organise temporary accommodation, gift vouchers to purchase essentials such as food, clothing and phone credit, as well as arranging an appointment with FACS to ensure ongoing support including mental health care and help to obtain a birth certificate and Medicare card.

## Successfully Back on Track

We met Liam\* at a local Children's Court. Liam was there for a family violence matter. After approaching Liam it was immediately clear that he had other concerns on his mind besides his criminal matter. Liam was self-harming and identified that he had been a victim of violence. He wished to leave his current living situation. After working with our youth lawyer for a couple of weeks, Liam has now left his violent relationship and is seeking to become independent. He is now financially independent and recently paid off all his fines. He is now linked in with a community support service and has a case worker supporting him with housing. Our youth lawyer also assisted Liam in enrolling in school again and Liam is currently completing his HSC.

## Success on Appeal

Faith was a high-school student who was charged with intimidating her parents. It was clear from the facts that she had done so, though her actions were at the lower end of seriousness. Faith pleaded guilty. In discussion it emerged that Faith had been treated very badly by her mother during her childhood. She suffered anxiety and depression and had had counselling and other support by a charity group to assist her in the previous 2 years. Her criminal record was clear. She entered a guilty plea and we expected that, in sentencing, her charge would be dismissed. The Magistrate convicted her and imposed a substantial fine. We decided to appeal to the District Court on behalf of Faith as we believed the sentence was too severe in the circumstances. The District Court accepted our submissions and the conviction was quashed.

\*Names and some details have been changed

# Newcastle Local Court

## AVO Duty Service

Hunter CLC continued to provide a duty service for the Domestic Violence (DV) list at Newcastle Local Court every Thursday. The service provides legal advice and assistance to persons involved in AVO and DV matters in the court. Advice is given to defendants, applicants and/or Persons In Need of Protection (PINOP). As most DV matters are initiated by the Police, the majority of advice is provided to defendants. Assistance is focussed on the most disadvantaged community members.

For the reporting year, the Hunter CLC AVO Duty Service assisted 230 people. This included advice on the AVO process, court procedures and where necessary advice on associated criminal charges. For most duty clients the service will also mention the matter before the Magistrate, which speeds up the court process. Ongoing assistance to clients is determined on a case by case basis. Hunter CLC has been running the Duty Service for over seven years. It has been well received by the court, with the Presiding Magistrate and court officers being a main source of client referral. Referrals are also received from Legal Aid, Aboriginal Legal Service, Hunter Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service and private solicitors. One advantage of the service is the ability of solicitors to provide detailed advice to defendants, particularly in DV matters, relating directly to their circumstances and assisting them in better understanding the court orders, which prevents breaches of the AVO in the future.



Michael Giles



Congratulations to Molly Willoughby on being a finalist in the Lawyers Weekly 30 under 30 awards for her "professional excellence".



# Family Law

The Family Law Program has seen some changes over the last 12 months. Molly Willoughby finished her parental leave contract in April 2019 and was employed by Women's Legal Service Victoria in Melbourne. Her matters were taken over by Clair Tait, returning from 11 months of parental leave. Briony Manning has been supervising the Program and mentoring the junior lawyers. Zachery Biddles has been with the Centre for over 12 months now and enjoys his new role as a Community Lawyer.

We are approached by people for advice in all areas of family law. Most of our assistance is advice based, providing telephone advice to all clients who approach our service (subject to a conflict check) regardless of their financial means or circumstances. Our duty service at the Federal Circuit Court has been running well. We are approached regularly when we are on duty, and often receive referrals directly from the judiciary, court staff, private solicitors and Legal Aid solicitors.

The majority of our ongoing case work is property matters. This is because many of our clients are financially disadvantaged and may have experienced domestic violence where they require assistance to resolve their property dispute.

An example of our assistance with family law property was a client who had recently separated from her partner of 30 years. Our client had been the victim of serious domestic violence, perpetrated by her partner. The violence had escalated in the years leading up to the separation. The clients had a property in joint names. This is a common issue we deal with at the Centre. It is difficult for parties to negotiate a property settlement with their abusive partner, especially when they are suffering from a trauma related illness such as PTSD. Our client was not able to work or undertake education during the relationship. Her partner would not allow her to work or study, and for the majority of the relationship she was focused on surviving and caring for her children. When the parties separated she was in such a bad state that she was not employable. Simple tasks that most people take for granted, such as learning how to use a mobile phone, were more arduous due to her age, lack of experience with technology, and the effects of the trauma on her mental health.

We assisted our client by first attempting to negotiate a property settlement with her partner. We were unsuccessful so made the decision to initiate proceedings in the Federal Circuit Court seeking property orders that would see her receive at least 50% of the value of the property. For her first court date we arranged a Safety Plan with the court to ensure she felt safe enough to attend. We assisted her on a duty basis and were able to negotiate a settlement on a final basis.

It is unlikely that our client would have had the financial resources to retain a private solicitor, or the ability to run her own matter without our assistance. Legal Aid rarely provides grants in property matters, and often takes a portion of the settlement funds from the client at the conclusion of the matter. So without our assistance our client would not have been able to achieve this result.

Many of our on-going cases are centred on helping clients who would otherwise be without legal assistance. Providing access to justice for vulnerable people is our focus.

# Community Legal Education

## Seniors

This past year Hunter CLC staff and volunteers have been involved in several community legal education (CLE) presentations at forums for seniors. Topics range from elder abuse to planning for the future and were held throughout the Hunter Region.

Together with our pro bono partners, Sparke Helmore Lawyers, we held wills workshops for the Aboriginal community and Grandparents as Carers groups.

## Youth

We conducted CLE workshops for young people at Glendale, Toronto, Kurri Kurri and Cessnock High Schools and at the University of Newcastle for students of refugee backgrounds. Topics included; joint offending, cyber bullying, sexting and legal service assistance.

## Networking

We promoted our service in the Upper Hunter, Lake Macquarie and Newcastle areas through our stalls at the family and childrens' expos at Windale and Glendale and at the Hunter Homeless Connect Day and Multicultural Expo at Newcastle station.

We also worked with the Indigenous community during NAIDOC week by attending the Newcastle and Eastlakes NAIDOC events.

Duhita Lewis



Josephine at NAIDOC Toronto



Toobah & Duhita at Hunter Homeless Connect Day

# Miruma

We have continued to provide monthly community legal education at Miruma. Miruma is a residential diversionary program, located within the grounds of the Cessnock Correctional Centre, aimed at female offenders with mental health and drug and alcohol abuse issues.

Miruma has approximately eleven women participating in the program at any one time. A range of community legal education topics have been presented to the women including Family Law, Victims Compensation and AVOs, Traffic Law and Debts. This year, delivery of the community legal education has been highly innovative with the development of a range of games to be played with the women that facilitate the delivery of the legal education and ensure maximum engagement from the women. Pin the Horn on the Unicorn and Bingo were particularly successful. The chocolate prizes have also been very well received – even if it is first thing in the morning.

Kim Richardson





# Community Events



Tika and Eileen  
Hunter Homeless Connect Day



David and Emily Multicultural Festival



Kim and Duhita NAIDOC week Newcastle





Climate change march



Duhita at the Well Being Expo



# A Volunteer's Reflection

Volunteering with Hunter CLC over the last couple of years has been fascinating, heartbreaking and inspiring. Probably most importantly educational, as I move to completing my law degree as a mature age student.

Working on the intake lines as the first point of contact for our clients in their legal matters has given me an insight into the diverse needs of a community legal centre's predominantly vulnerable and disadvantage clients. I have learnt to appreciate how integrated Hunter CLC is within our local community. That it provides advice in the context of the client's life, not as a legal issue with a client attached. I have had the opportunity to see how a community legal service can contribute to their client's resilience by working so effectively alongside other service providers and sectors in the Hunter.

Most weeks, I accompany our solicitors to the Newcastle Local Court to assist them in delivering duty solicitor services for AVO matters. It has given me valuable experience in court processes and etiquette and a chance to watch our solicitors work provide on the spot services to distressed and anxious clients. I've come to appreciate that defendant or otherwise, everyone should have the right of equal access to legal services and that issues are not black and white; or grey, they come in a kaleidoscope of colours.

I have also enjoyed contributing to the grant writing process and gaining a greater appreciation of the efficient management and running of a centre by Julie Vitnell. Attending a Coronial Inquiry and providing assistance, was not an experience that I thought would happen and it has opened my eyes to not only different court processes, but the different roles of the court in terms of their intended outcomes.

I have worked in private and government sectors for many years before this and have never experienced a more supportive, down to earth and professional environment. I have been lucky to be amongst solicitors and administration people who show such strong personal commitment to their work – thank you.

Eileen McGovern



# Profit and Loss

## Hunter Community Legal Centre Inc 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019

30 Jun 19

### Income

Donations	1,748
Family Law Grants	372,383
Grants Received - L & J Found	32,964
Grants Received - Federal	305,675
Grants Received - State	368,856
Interest Received	4,044
Other Income	3,424
Service Generated Income	570
Subsidies Received	20,750
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,110,414</b>

**Gross Profit 1,110,414**

### Less Operating Expenses

Communication	14,974
Depreciation	5,780
Finance, Audit & Accounting	4,997
Insurance	11,786
Leave Expense	5,859
Library, Resources & Subscript	1,333
Long Service Leave	12,925
Minor Equipment	1,162
Office Overheads	11,288
Other Premises Costs	11,675
Rent	61,189
Repairs & Maintenance	7,034
Staff Training & Development	19,626
Superannuation Family Law	14,761
Superannuation HCLC	62,037
Travel & Accommodation	6,510
Wages & Salaries	823,322
Workers Compensation Ins.	2,713
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>1,078,971</b>

**Net Profit 31,443**



# Balance Sheet

## Hunter Community Legal Centre Inc As at 30 June 2019

30 Jun 2019

### Assets

<b>Bank</b>	
Bank Guarantee Account	12,100
Cheque Account	2,016
General Business	23,190
Online Saving Account	171,800
Petty Cash	166
Term Deposit	251,737
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>461,008</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Accounts Receivable	19,100
Prepayments	4,906
Security Deposit - Hunter Street	12,500
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>36,506</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
Equipment Accum Dep'n FLP	(3,042)
Equipment Accum Dep'n HCLC	(117,732)
Equipment at Cost - HCLC	128,460
Equipment at Cost - FamLawProj	3,097
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>10,783</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>508,297</b>

### Liabilities

<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Accounts Payable	5,609
Annual Leave - FamLawProject	11,103
Annual Leave - HCLC	41,420
Annual Leave - Youth - LJF	519
GST	330
PAYG Tax Payable	11,010
Super Payable	37
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>70,028</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>	
LSL-FamLawProject	9,627
LSL-HCLC	48,141
Provision Equipment upgrade	25,000
Provision for Locum Staff	41,063
Provision for Redundancy	42,000
Provision for Relocation	40,000
Provision for Staff Training & Development	12,000
Provision Office Furniture Upgrade	25,000

# Balance Sheet

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	30 Jun 2019
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>	<b>242,831</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>312,858</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>195,439</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
Current Year Earnings	31,443
Retained Earnings	163,996
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>195,439</b>

Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

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

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the registered entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by responsible entities.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the responsible entities' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Organisation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Organisation to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Organisation to express an opinion on the financial report. Acumon Auditing are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the Organisation audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

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po box 300  
morisset 2264  
tel 02 4973 2877  
fax 02 4970 5352

**newcastle:**

suite 4, 5 brunker road  
broadmeadow 2292  
(by appointment)  
tel 02 4962 2199  
fax 02 4962 2196

acumon auditing  
abn 81 246 167 062  
liability limited by a scheme  
approved under professional  
standards legislation.



CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
AUSTRALIA (NEW ZEALAND)



Tax agent  
64500000



**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT  
TO THE MEMBERS OF  
Hunter Community Legal Centre Incorporated**

We, Acumon Auditing have audited the financial report of Hunter Community Legal Centre Incorporated, which comprises the Assets and Liabilities Statement as at 30 June 2019, the statement of Comprehensive Income, the statement of Financial Position, the statement of Changes in Equity and the Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended, and Notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the Committee declaration.

In our opinion, the financial report of Hunter Community Legal Centre Incorporated has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the Organisation's financial position as at 30 June 2019 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*

**Basis for Opinion**

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

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

**Responsibilities of Responsible Entities for the Financial Report**

The responsible entities of the registered entity are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the ACNC Act, and for such internal control as the responsible entities determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Responsible entities are responsible for overseeing the registered entity's financial reporting process

**Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole, is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion.

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

#### Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements

In accordance with the requirements of section 60-45(3) (b) of the ACNC Act, we are required to describe any deficiency, failure or shortcoming in respect of the matters referred to in paragraph 60-30(3)(b), (c) or (d) of the ACNC Act.

Acumon Auditing



Christian Tapp

Partner

Dated 7 August 2019

Declared at 7/19 Mitchell Drive, East Maitland, NSW, 2323

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**Hunter Community Legal Centre Inc.**  
**Auditor's Independence Declaration**  
**Under Section 370C Of The Corporations ACT 2001**

To the Members Of Hunter Community Legal Centre Inc.

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2019 there has been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



Name of Firm: Acumon Auditing

Name of Auditor: Christian Tapp

Date: 7 August 2019

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