COMMEMORATING



YEARS



Acknowledgement of Country

Women's Legal Service Queensland (WLSQ) acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands on which we live and work, particularly the Turrbul, Yuggera, Kabi Kabi/Gubbi Gubbi, Ugarapul peoples and the Yugambeh Language Region on whose lands our offices sit. We recognise their continuing connection to this Country, its waters, and culture, and acknowledge that their sovereignty was never ceded. We pay our respects to Elders, past and present. We especially honour First Nations women and the traditions they carry.

WLSQ gratefully acknowledges our funding partners





Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs









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Content warning: this report contains case studies of domestic and family violence.



ABOUT WLSQ

OUR MISSION

Accessible legal and social justice for a safer future for women and children.

OUR VALUES

Women's Legal Service Queensland's values inform our behaviours and actions and influence our decisions and how we work. They are informed by feminist principles.







RESPECT



INCLUSIVITY



ACCOUNTABILITY



COLLABORATION

WLSQ is committed to a society where every woman:

- Can live free from violence and discrimination
- Can tell her story, have it heard and respected, without judgement
- Receives a just and equitable outcome from legal and social systems.

WHO WE ARE

WLSQ is a for-purpose organisation providing free legal advice and other key support services, accessed through a variety of pathways.

Our services are provided through our dedicated employees and volunteers, with oversight from our CEO. Chair and Board. WLSQ sincerely thanks our Board, Patron, and Ambassadors for their significant support.

CHAIR

Genevieve Dee

BOARD

Treasurer:

Cindy Noij

Director:

Helen Baker

Director:

Rebecca Culverhouse

Director:

Anne Dale

Director:

Alison De Marco

Director:

Amanda Rohan

PATRON

The Honourable Ann Lyons AM

AMBASSADORS

Brendon Mann
Brendan Smith
Dr Rachael Field
Famin Ahmed
Katelyn Aslett
Lorilie Cunningham
Marisa Vecchio AM



MESSAGE

from the Chair and CEO

2024 marks our 40th anniversary, and as we reflect on the past year, we also look back at a legacy of lasting change.

The truth of the adage that you can't know where you are going until you know where you have been, is more evident than ever as we think about our long journey towards our mission.

The bravery and generosity of our founders is echoed today in the work of our staff, volunteers, Ambassadors, donors, supporters, Patron, and Board. This report provides an overview of our key initiatives over the past twelve months.

We continue to expand our reach into rural, regional, and remote communities, expand our financial abuse prevention support, look for innovative ways to share information and educate communities, and are a strong advocate locally and nationally.

We know our work is far from over.

Domestic violence continues to affect

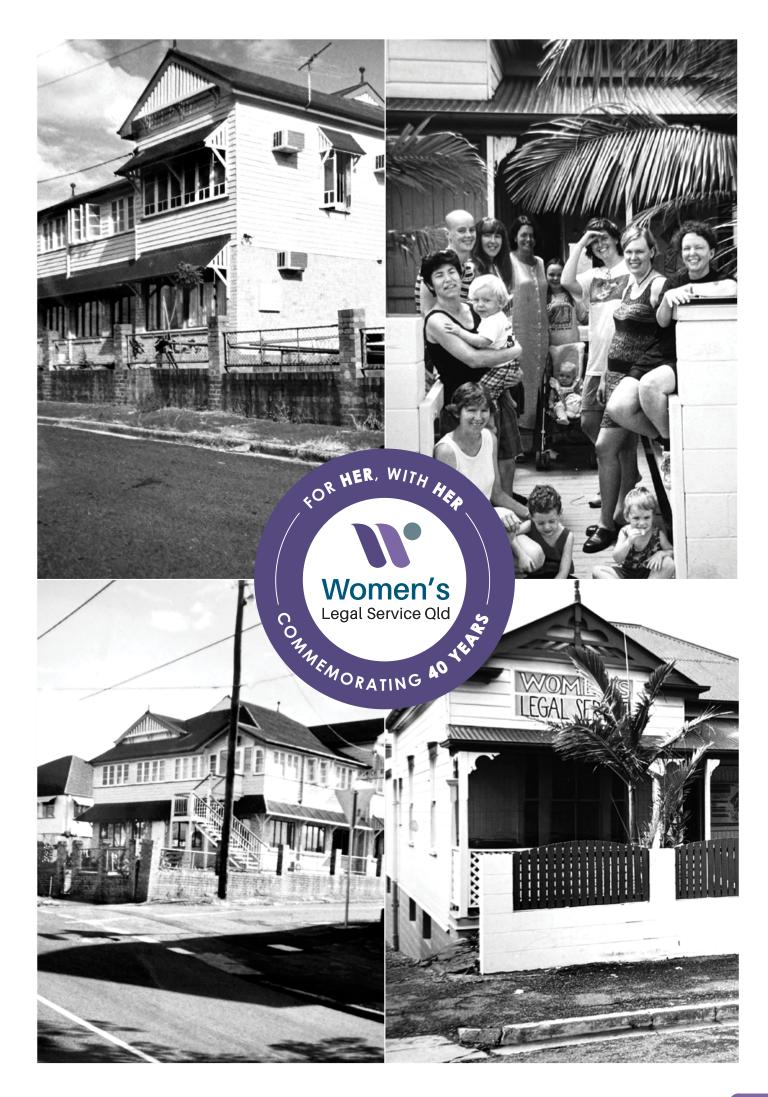
far too many women and children in Queensland, and we know that for every survivor we reach, there are many more who need our help.

This is why, as we look to the future, we are committed to strengthening our outreach efforts, deepening partnerships with communities, and advocating for laws and systems which support survivors and hold people using violence to account.

As we reflect and embark on another year, we ask you to continue standing with us, supporting our work and raising your voices for those who need to be heard. We could not do our work without you.

Most importantly, we humbly thank and recognise our clients; it is our privilege to say that for 40 years we have done our work, for her, with her.





COMMEMORATING

40 years of Women's Legal Service Queensland

Women's Legal Service Queensland (WLSQ) is commemorating a remarkable milestone - our 40th anniversary.

Four decades ago, a courageous group of women recognised the barriers women faced in accessing justice and the issue of domestic violence across our community.

In October 1984, over 40 women crowded into the front room of Women's House, with many sitting on the floor and spilling onto the verandah. No one anticipated such an overwhelming turnout, but it was a powerful testament to the urgent need for positive social change. These women, diverse in age, skills, and background, shared a common agenda for justice and equality. In that moment, WLSQ was formed.

Since then, WLSQ has provided free, specialist assistance to over 150,000

women impacted by domestic and family violence and utilised client experience in advocating for policy and law reform. From our humble beginnings, WLSQ now has five offices and employs over 90 staff, engages 140+ volunteers and collaborates with pro-bono, community, and corporate allies - all integral to our mission of accessible legal and social justice.

We are proud to be commemorating 40 years of advocacy, empowerment, and progress for women across Queensland.

Thank you to everyone who has been part of our journey. You are helping to create safer futures for more women and children across Queensland.

FOUNDING

Ambassador Acknowledgement

2024 marks 10 years of the exceptional support and contribution of our founding Ambassador Marisa Vecchio AM, owner of Hanworth House.

Marisa's countless hours of raising awareness and fundraising has included signing on as a two-time Dancing CEO in 2017 and 2024, earning the title of record-breaking fundraising champion in both years. In 2024, the extraordinary Dancing CEOs campaign by Marisa with dance partner and fellow WLSQ Ambassador Lorilie Cunningham raised a record-breaking \$533,000 to extend our Financial Abuse Prevention Unit.

This incredible support and the \$1.375 million in funds raised by the 2024 Dancing CEOs will go down in history for our organisation and most importantly change the lives of women and children across Queensland.

Marisa has also given her time and support to the Dancing CEOs alumni and many other WLSQ events including the Walk for Change, River to Rooftop, the Legal Profession Breakfast and the Epic Walk for DV. Marisa has continued to build Labels on the Lawn to be an iconic event with growing support and funds raised. She regularly speaks at corporate and community events, advocating for our service and raising awareness about domestic violence. Hanworth House has also been home to the filming of the WLSQ 40-year documentary and a special Founder's event.

In 2017 Marisa's contribution to philanthropy was recognised through being awarded the Queensland Community Philanthropist of the Year. In the same year, Marisa was awarded an Order of Australia and in 2019 an honorary Doctorate with QUT for her services to the university and broader community.

Thank you Marisa, for your hard work, commitment, generosity and for going above and beyond for WLSQ. Your exceptional support and leadership enables our organisation to assist more women impacted by domestic violence across Queensland.

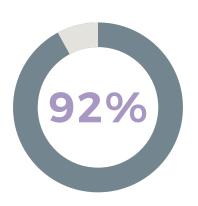


2023-2024 at a Glance

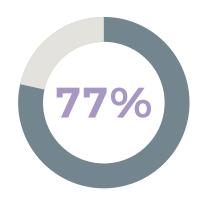




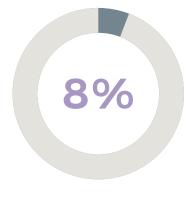
Assisted clients from 80 differing language groups



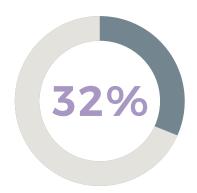
Experiencing domestic and family violence (DFV)



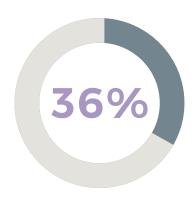
Women with children in their care



First Nations



Clients born overseas



Experiencing or at risk of homelessness

Statewide Helpline





Services Provided



47,395

Total Services
Provided



28,074

Referral



8,993

Legal Advice



6,735

Information



1,538

Duty Lawyer Services



1,384

Social Work and Financial Abuse Prevention Support



534

Legal Tasks



137

Representation Services

ACCESSTo Justice

Law Reform

WLSQ continued to play a significant role in advocating for women and pursuing legislative changes to address systemic inequality.

In the past year, WLSQ contributed to law reform at a State and Federal level in relation to a broad range of issues, including DFV, family law, police powers, child protection, sexual consent, coercive control, and federal and state funding.

Representatives of WLSQ appeared in State and Federal public hearings in relation to the rental housing crisis, and legislative changes to criminal law, and sexual consent laws.

WLSQ also engaged with other agencies and collaborated with advocacy organisations to amplify our impact on law reform. We contributed to the work of the Women's Safety and Justice Reform Implementation, the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council, the Queensland and Australian Law Reform Commissions.

WLSQ assisted with numerous submissions as a member of Women's Legal Services Australia, including the significant amendments made to the Family Law Act 1975 to remove the presumption of equal shared parental responsibility.

This is a change that women's legal services have been advocating for many years and we see this as a significant step towards safer outcomes for women and children.

Through submissions, advocacy, and community education, WLSQ has helped ensure that law reform is driven by the needs of those most affected by the legal system, contributing to a more equitable and accessible justice landscape.

Statewide Helpline

Over the past year, the WLSQ Statewide Helpline has continued to serve as a crucial point of contact for vulnerable women across Queensland seeking free legal assistance.

Many callers are in crisis and unsure of where to turn for help, highlighting the Helpline's role in providing an easily accessible entry point for women who may face barriers such as financial constraints, lack of information, or fears for their safety.

In 2023-2024, calls to our Helpline increased by 17% with 28,362 calls received. Of those calls, 14,845 were able to be answered.

Due to longer call durations, averaging 11 minutes compared to 7.5 minutes last year, there has been an 8% decrease in the number of calls answered. These figures reflect an increase in the complexity of our clients' legal issues and the time it takes to work through each client's circumstances.

Additionally, the team provided services for the 812 referrals from 174 community organisations nationwide, illustrating the collaborative efforts to support women in need.

The Helpline's Regional, Rural and Remote (RRR) Priority Advice Line is vital for women in rural and remote areas, where access to legal and support services can be severely limited. The Advice Line offers a crucial connection to resources and legal advice, providing pathways to safety and legal redress.

Due to an increase in solicitor recruitment across the organisation, the Helpline has been able to offer more appointments. By offering timely legal appointments, information and referrals to resources, as well as connecting clients to community and domestic violence support services, we ensure that women receive comprehensive and holistic support that includes counselling, safety planning, housing support, and financial aid.

We have also increased the number of referrals made to our internal social work team, facilitating joint appointments with solicitors and social workers to provide a multidisciplinary and trauma-informed approach.



14,845 Calls answered



112Calls received per day average



59Calls answered per day average

Legal Advice Clinics

WLSQ has continued telephone and in person client advice clinics with WLSQ employed and volunteer lawyers. WLSQ provided 8,993 advices in 2023-2024, a 15% increase from the last year.

In April 2024, we reconfigured one of the Annerley buildings to create three comfortable dual-access meeting rooms and a large reception area for our clients. These rooms are used for our Monday evening advice clinics and all other face-to-face client appointments in Annerley.

Domestic Violence Duty Lawyer

WLSQ lawyers and intake officers have continued to provide domestic violence duty lawyer assistance to women attending the Holland Park, Caboolture, and Ipswich Magistrates Courts for domestic violence matters.

Our lawyers help self-represented women on the day they attend court who are applying for or responding to an application for a protection order. Our assistance can include legal information and advice, referrals, negotiations and representation.

We also complete risk assessments and referrals to domestic violence services to ensure clients are not only receiving legal support, but also non-legal emotional and financial support. Across the three locations, WLSQ have provided 1,538 duty lawyer services to women this financial year.

Casework

The casework team at WLSQ provided ongoing legal assistance to women who experienced DFV. In 2023-2024 WLSQ assisted an increased number of women experiencing various forms of systems abuse, such as being misidentified as the respondent in domestic violence protection order applications despite being the person most in need of protection, and in complex parenting matters.

The casework team also assisted numerous women to apply for a divorce when they were unable to take this step on their own. For many women, the finalisation of a divorce is a significant legal and symbolic step.

Counselling Notes Protect Program

The 2023-2024 year saw growth within WLSQ's dedicated team assisting victim-survivors of sexual assault when attempts are made to access their often highly personal counselling records. In partnership with Legal Aid Queensland, and working collaboratively with counsel, our Counselling Notes Protect (CNP) team assisted women to exercise their statutory protection to limit the use of their counselling records in various court locations and all court jurisdictions in the State.

Our specialist CNP lawyers engaged with key stakeholders on case management and important law reform with respect to the Sexual Assault Counselling Privilege legislation, in particular highlighting the impact of the criminal justice system upon women who have suffered sexual violence.

THERESA'S STORY

I was married overseas to a man who soon became violent. I would hide and lock myself in my bedroom on many occasions in hope of escaping the physical violence. We had lived in a country where violence against women was tolerated, so I had been unable to report the violence to authorities or seek any help. The violence continued, often in front of our young daughter who would try to intervene to stop her father from hitting me. Later, the violence was directed towards our young daughter.

My husband, my daughter and I then migrated to Australia as refugees. I was also pregnant at the time, did not speak any English and was completely reliant upon my husband for financial support. Soon after arriving in Australia, I was abandoned by my husband while I was pregnant, leaving me to raise our children alone. I was taken in by friends and shortly gave birth.

My husband located me, wanting to have contact with both our daughter and newborn baby. He then filed proceedings in Court seeking time and communication with the children.

When I was referred to WLSQ, I did not speak, read or write any English, was living in community housing and Centrelink benefits were my sole source of income.

WLSQ represented me in my parenting court proceedings and together with the assistance of pro-bono counsel, achieved court orders which limited the father's time with the children, ensuring both myself and my children remained safe. Because of the assistance of WLSQ, I was given the opportunity to tell my story before the Court.

While I was working with WLSQ, their legal and social work team also assisted me to learn basic skills including learning to catch public transport and use email, and when my children and I were facing homelessness, they helped me to find stable accommodation.

*Names changed to protect confidentiality

OUTREACH

Regional, Rural and Remote Services

WLSQ was able to expand our support of women in RRR communities, thanks to the support of a generous donor.

Their kind support has allowed WLSQ to extend the hours of our RRR Priority Advice Line to Monday to Friday 9am – 4.30pm (previously Tuesdays only) and develop a RRR Outreach program.

The RRR Outreach team, consisting of a lawyer, social worker, financial counsellor and community legal education officer, will travel to three high-need RRR areas on a rotating basis to provide free advice clinics for women impacted by DFV and run community education workshops for service providers.

Women from RRR communities can experience additional barriers to

accessing justice including geographical and social isolation, difficulty accessing legal advice due to being conflicted out of local providers, a lack of anonymity when accessing services, and limited safe housing alternatives.

In recognition of these additional vulnerabilities, the RRR Outreach program will allow us to better meet the needs of women in these communities through the provision of integrated and holistic, specialist legal and social supports addressing a range of legal, financial, safety and welfare needs.

Correctional Centres

WLSQ continues to provide in person and telephone legal advice and minor task assistance to women at the Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre at Wacol and Southern Queensland Correctional Centre at Gatton.

In 2024, we have expanded our prison advice service and now provide telephone legal advice and minor task assistance to women at the Numinbah Correctional Centre in the Gold Coast hinterland.

As part of this program, we have provided 243 services to women regarding domestic and family violence, child protection, parenting, child support and divorce matters.

Women in correctional centres are particularly vulnerable, with many women presenting with histories of trauma, including DFV, sexual abuse and childhood neglect.

Family Relationship Centres

WLSQ provided legal advice and assistance to women attending the Logan and Upper Mount Gravatt Family Relationship Centres for dispute resolution including an in person clinic at Upper Mount Gravatt.

It is vitally important for women to have access to quality legal advice throughout the dispute resolution process to ensure that they are advocating for and negotiating safe outcomes for their children and themselves.

Domestic Violence Action Centre Clinic Ipswich

WLSQ have continued our collaboration with the Domestic Violence Action Centre (DVAC) to provide an in person advice clinic to clients at their Ipswich office each month.

WLSQ lawyers provided advice and assistance regarding family law, domestic violence and child protection matters.

We are grateful to the DVAC staff for their continuing support of this partnership and for supporting their clients to access free legal advice in a safe space.

New Ipswich Office

WLSQ opened our new Ipswich Office in Brisbane Street Ipswich in November 2023 with 11 staff working at the office including advice lawyers and Helpline team members.

On 24 April 2024, we held an official opening event. The event was attended by WLSQ Ambassadors, community supporters, local service providers and WLSQ staff members.

The Ipswich Office has assisted us to expand our advice services to the Ipswich area and provides a base to provide our domestic violence duty lawyer service at Ipswich every Monday and Tuesday, advice to women at the Southern Queensland Correctional Centre and in person advice to women at the DVAC clinic.

MAYA'S STORY

As a young Indigenous woman living in a rural area, my access to legal assistance was very limited. I was facing homelessness and was only able to engage with my medical practitioners if my child was with me, however my former partner was restricting my contact time.

I needed help with domestic violence and parenting issues, in particular urgent court proceedings where my abusive former partner was seeking to end my contact with my child. My local community legal centre was unfortunately unable to help me and I was not eligible for further grants of aid. I felt like I had no options, then I was referred to WLSQ's specialist Domestic Violence Unit team.

WLSQ gave me urgent advice about what could happen at court and what I could do. They helped me prepare and file material in response to the urgent application.

I also engaged with the social work team for help with housing, referrals to new doctors and counsellors in my local area. They made sure I was able to travel to court for my legal matters in person.

Before my matter proceeded to a final hearing, investigations and family reports were completed supporting my child to be returned to me. WLSQ helped make sure I knew what my options were and that I had support with ongoing court representation from a nearby community legal centre. They gave me hope and options when I felt like I had none.

*Names changed to protect confidentiality

CREATINGSafer Futures

High-Risk Domestic Violence Units

In 2023-2024, WLSQ saw an increase both in the number of women seeking help from our high-risk Domestic Violence Units (DVUs) and in the complexity of their legal and social issues. Our DVUs, located in Annerley, Caboolture and the Gold Coast ensured intensive, ongoing legal support, including representation in limited circumstances, was provided to women who had experienced or are experiencing high-risk DFV and met the DVU criteria.

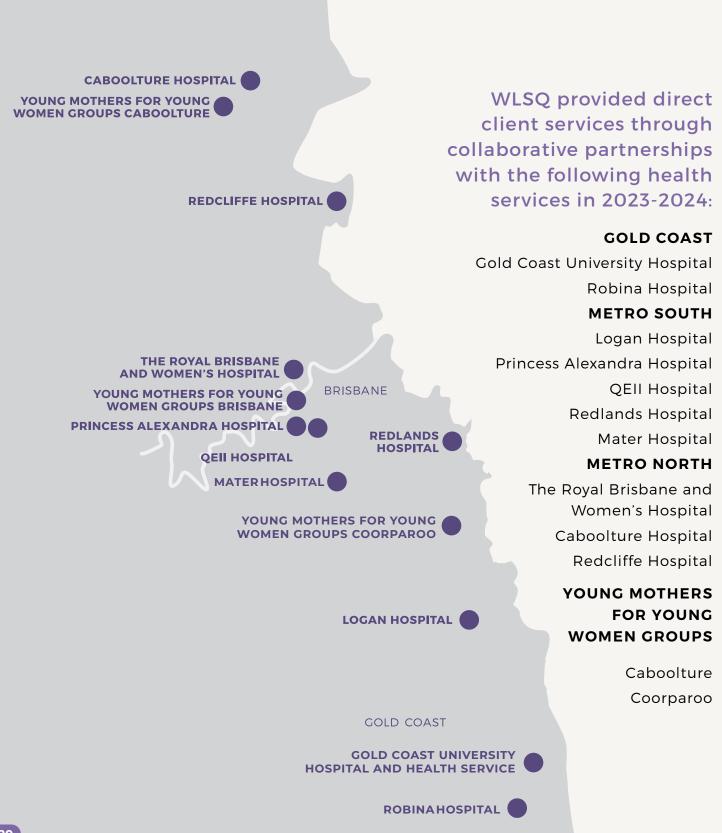
Together with integrated social work support, our DVU solicitors and paralegals ensured that women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, First Nations backgrounds, those at risk of homelessness, experiencing financial abuse or disadvantage, or living with disabilities, received the critical legal support and assistance needed.

In 2023-2024 this included an increased number of women presenting with domestic violence matters proceeding to final hearings which required an increased level of legal assistance from our specialist teams.



Health Justice Partnerships

WLSQ provided legal services and assistance to women presenting in health care settings through our established Health Justice Partnerships (HJP) across the Brisbane, Moreton Bay and Gold Coast regions. Our experienced HJP lawyers and teams also provided ongoing education, resources and information to those in the health sector throughout the year, including presenting at a national level.



Social Work

WLSQ has five full-time social workers across the Brisbane. Gold Coast and Caboolture offices.

Each social worker utilises a trauma-informed, client-centred framework to meet women's safety and support needs as identified in collaboration with each client. Having specialist social workers embedded within the WLSQ team allows women to receive holistic, wrap-around support at key critical points when support is most needed.

Across the year, the team was actively involved in various community and legal stakeholder network events and partnered with WLSQ solicitors to co-present community legal education.

The social work team have continued to see an increase in women presenting with multiple and complex psycho-social stressors such as unsafe and unstable housing, limited financial resources and lack of stable employment.

This is further impacted by the current financial climate and systemic barriers, with many more women experiencing significant financial hardship, homelessness and rental stress.

The lack of safe, affordable housing options can result in women having to make the choice to either remain in unsafe relationships, live separated 'under one roof' or experience periods of homelessness.

The social work team have also seen an increase in the number of clients with complex mental health presentations both resulting from and exacerbated by long term exposure to DFV. Women who have experienced significant DFV are at increased risk of experiencing at

least some symptoms of complex Post Traumatic Stress Disorder alongside other mental health diagnoses.

This can impact women's ability to effectively engage with the justice system and support services. In recognition of the increasing number of women presenting with complex mental health presentations, WLSQ will employ a dedicated mental health social worker to provide brief intervention at the point of contact while connecting women with appropriate supports.

453 women

assisted

36% identified as culturally & linguistically diverse

6% identified as Aboriginal & Torres Strait

Islander

100% experienced DFV

28% identified as having a disability

31% flagged as urgent due to DFV or suicide risk

REBECCA'S STORY

During 2024, I had been involved in the breakup of a DFV relationship. During this period, I was referred to several support services. One of which was Women's Legal Service Queensland who helped me through the nightmare my family was living. I received legal advice for property and domestic violence matters and was also referred internally to the social work team and the Financial Abuse Prevention Unit (FAPU).

WLSQ have not only been very understanding, but they have literally opened the doorway and assisted us step by step until we could finally see a light at the end of the tunnel.

When I first had an appointment with my social worker, she offered me practical support which was exactly what I needed. My social worker took the time to understand our individual circumstances and was very confident about what support/applications I could apply for and receive. As a part of our safety and exit planning, my social worker also assisted me with making financial applications, providing counselling support, advocating with services and Centrelink, and supported myself, my children, and my elderly mother, to relocate into a home that was safe.

When I saw the letters and applications that the social worker had completed for me, I remember thinking how clearly, concisely and professionally written they were. It was such a relief that the social worker was helping me because I found the paperwork and applications confusing and the questions tricky to answer because I have dyslexia. I find it difficult to explain my circumstances and I often minimised the abuse that I was experiencing.

I can understand why women have difficulty leaving a DFV relationship when they do not have support. The social worker's support has helped me out of a state of being overwhelmed and I can only imagine the nightmare that I would still be in without the support I received at WLSQ.

*Names changed to protect confidentiality

Temporary Visa Holders Experiencing Violence Pilot

WLSQ in partnership with the Refugee and Immigration Legal Service (RAILS) continued to participate in the Temporary Visa Pilot Program (TVPP) funded by the Department of Social Services. The TVPP provides free legal assistance to women on temporary visas who have complex domestic violence, family law and migration law needs.

The women assisted are often facing challenging legal and social issues. Clients are often navigating linguistic barriers, and a lack of access to resources including government benefits, housing, Medicare and childcare. The program provides access to justice and a pathway to permanent residence for clients.

JEN'S STORY*

I was referred to the TVPP team at WLSQ for advice with respect to domestic violence matters. I had experienced significant violence at the hands of my then partner, with the police attending our home. In an effort to continue to control and abuse me, my former partner repeatedly made assertions and filed various court applications seeking a protection order against me, despite the police determining I was the party most in need of protection. If a protection order was granted against me, it could have a significant impact on my ability to remain in Australia while I was on a temporary visa.

WLSQ provided invaluable assistance to ensure I was able to respond to the systems abuse and prioritise my safety.

Their support through various courts never wavered, including arranging advice and assistance for me from pro-bono barristers.

I also received migration law assistance that was provided to me through the TVPP team, leading to me being granted permanent residency. Having the ongoing support of WLSQ through these multiple legal proceedings, together with assistance from RAILS to remove the risk of being deported, has made all the difference.

*Names changed to protect confidentiality

Financial Abuse Prevention Unit

The Financial Abuse Prevention Unit (FAPU) has seen a remarkable evolution this year, both in scope and impact, thanks to the incredible support of our donors and community supporters who raised funds to allow the significant expansion of the FAPU team.

With a growing recognition of financial exploitation as a critical component of abuse, we have seen a significant increase in the number of clients seeking assistance.

The expansion of our team, from two to five skilled professionals, has been a critical step toward meeting this demand, ensuring that we can respond to each client with urgency and care.

The Financial Literacy Workshop series, developed in partnership with the Centre Against Domestic Abuse Wellbeing Hub was introduced in 2023-2024. This program assists women on their recovery journey from DFV by providing essential financial education on topics such as debt management, budgeting and building long-term financial security.

The workshops equip participants with tools to regain control of their finances and helps to restore their confidence in navigating financial systems, empowering them to achieve financial independence and stability.

Looking forward, our goal is to continue to expand our FAPU services across all WLSQ offices. We aim to make financial independence and freedom from economic abuse a tangible reality for all our clients.

548 clients assisted

\$2,728,519

total debt reductions and grants

"The FAPU team have saved my life. I thought I was on my own and had no future for me and my daughter. Without your help I don't think I would have made it through this.

I want you to know how much impact you have had in my life. It's so amazing the work you do, and only angels do this work. Thank you so much."

FAPU client

COMMUNITY Engagement

Education and Engagement

Community Legal Education (CLE) plays a vital role in empowering women by providing essential information about their legal rights and options.

WLSQ continues to deliver accessible resources that provides easy to understand information as well as tailored workshops for professionals, supporting their development and equipping them with knowledge about relevant laws and available legal and non-legal support pathways.

In 2023-2024, WLSQ continued to deliver a wide range of legal and non-legal CLE activities across Queensland. Presentations were made to a variety of stakeholders including Family Law Pathways Network, the Royal Flying Doctor Service, Community Corrections, health professionals, community service providers, community members, and the Queensland Police Service.

WLSQ ACKNOWLEDGES AND THANKS:

The Clayton Utz Foundation, whose support allowed a WLSQ lawyer and social worker to deliver workshops to service providers in Gympie, Hervey Bay and Rockhampton. This funding is providing greater access to justice for women in RRR areas.

The Legal Aid Queensland Community Legal Education Collaboration Fund, which provided grant funding to develop resources for the TVPP in partnership with RAILS.

The Pekol Family, whose generous support has enabled WLSQ to develop a podcast series titled "For Her, With Her." This series aims to explain legal concepts and pathways for support, promoting greater access to justice. This project is currently in development with an expected release date of 2025.





Reconciliation Action Plan – Reflect

WLSQ has made a pivotal commitment to reconciliation by joining Reconciliation Australia's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) program. With the registration of our inaugural Reflect RAP for March 2024 to March 2025, WLSQ joins over 2,500 organisations across Australia dedicated to fostering reconciliation. This Reflect RAP serves as a foundational step towards addressing crucial issues including race relations, equality, and historical acceptance.

Supporting First Nations Peoples

The Reflect RAP marks WLSQ's long-term commitment to supporting legal and social justice outcomes for First Nations peoples. In 2023–2024, only 8% of our clients identified as Aboriginal and/ or Torres Strait Islander, highlighting the need for greater outreach and representation.

Our RAP Working Group has identified key areas for improvement through internal audits and discussions, committing to initiatives that enhance reconciliation. Key activities include forming and maintaining genuine relationships, developing cultural safety training, and amplifying First Nations voices in our work.

Key Activities and Engagement

The WLSQ RAP is focused on fostering meaningful relationships through proactive actions. On the 19th of June 2024, we proudly launched the Reflect RAP at a public event held at kuril dhagun within the State Library of Queensland. Throughout the year, our staff actively participated in key community events, including National Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC Week. Highlights included attending the Birrunga Gallery's Walking Breakfast and participating in "Reflections on the Referendum," hosted by The Uluru Statement and Mob 23.

Looking ahead to the next 12 months, WLSQ is proud to have established a First Nations Advisory Group, made up of six respected First Nations women living in Queensland. Each member brings diverse expertise across governance, media, community facilitation, child protection, social work, and clinical counselling. Meeting regularly, the group aims to guide WLSQ to build strong connections with community leaders, drawing on their knowledge, wisdom, and lived experiences to develop strategies that enhance the experience of both clients and staff within our service.

More information about the WLSQ Reflect RAP can be found in the "About WLSQ" section of our website.







As part of our reconciliation journey, WLSQ's RAP working group collaborated with artist Rachael Sarra in December 2023 to discuss the values, past achievements, and future goals of our service. Rachael was commissioned to create a unique artwork she titled "Her Story," now proudly displayed in our Annerley client reception area. This impactful piece emphasises WLSQ's commitment to empowering women through respect, trust, and community collaboration.

Rachael, a proud mixed-race First Nations woman from Goreng Goreng Country, integrates her creative practice with community leadership, advocating for First Nations voices through meaningful partnerships. She has collaborated with notable clients and created significant public artworks, showcasing her dedication to storytelling and cultural empowerment. We extend our gratitude to Rachael for her continued support and for capturing our mission through her art.



Volunteer Advice Lawyers and Support Workers

WLSQ has continued to be assisted by volunteer solicitors, barristers, support workers and students in providing free legal advice to women across Queensland. Our valued volunteers provided legal advice to 963 women this financial year in person and telephone on Monday evenings and via telephone on Wednesday evenings. The dedication and support of our volunteers allows women to access free legal advice outside of business hours, while also extending the reach of our service.

ADVICE LAWYERS

Aleisha

Amy McBreen

Annabel

Ashlyn Trebbin

Avril Cowarn

Belinda Jeffrey

Breony Dowling

Brooke Nickerson

Candice Bell

Carolyn McKenna

Catherine Bub

Chai Hoe

Chloe Jackson

Clare Dart

Clare Jobson

Debra Effeney

Emily Ownsworth

Gemma Kruger

Gillian Shepherd

Grace Hallewell

Hannah Robinson

Jane Guerin

Janelle Osborne

Jennifer Franklin

Jessica Grumelart

Jessica Matthews

Justine Booth

Kate Alroe

Kathryn McLoughlin

Kelli Martin

Kiarah Grace Kelly

Kirstie Colls

Laura Wainwright

Lauren Baker

Marie Sambanis

Melissa Lanthois

Michelle Close

Michelle

Natalie Powell

Nichola Di Muzio

Nicole Jevtovic

Niki Schomberg

Olivia English

Orlena Moloney

Pravinita Singh-Pillay

Rachel Gillies

Rachel Stuart

Rebecca Bellamy

Sarah

Sarah-Jane MacDonald

Shani Mitchell

Shelby MacDonald

Stacey Glover

Sue Westall

Tarah Tosh

Tarryn Rea

Tracy Maree Connolly

Trish Keyworth

Valeria Leo

Wendy Miller

Yehanka Ranasinghe

Zina Ceric

Zoe Adams

Zoe Busch

PRO-BONO FIRMS AND BARRISTERS

Allens

Judge Anna Bertone

Barry Nilsson

Brianna McKenzie

Clare Dart

Clayton Utz

Dominic Nguyen

Dr Rachel Varshney

HopgoodGanim Lawyers

Jessica Tree

John Cahill

KPMG

MinterEllison

Matthew Coe

Paula Eviston

Paul Carasco

Renae Kirk

Scott Casey

PARALEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

Abbey Caller

Aleek Kaur

Alice Ingabire

Ayak Chol

Bridget Louise Dowdle

Brooke Nickerson

Chloe Leavy

Dhuvaraka Ravishankar

Emily Woodhouse

Eno-obong Akpan

Gemma Rowell

Georgia Jocumsen

Harper Tunney

Joyce Ding

Kano Nawagawa

Kara Batchelor

Laine Sagala

Luz Angela

Rodriguez Garcia

Megan Myers

Michaela Jewell

Mollie Giles

Nimra Amir

Parisa Hedberg

Rie Kocho

Shristi Semwal

Shay

Skye Nicoll

Taylor Neumann

Yehanka Ranasinghe

Volunteer Profile



Clare Dart (15 years)

BARRISTER, NATIONALLY ACCREDITED

MEDIATOR, FDRP, ARBITRATOR

"Volunteering with WLSQ is very rewarding. It allows me to assist women who are often experiencing multiple disadvantages within the system. For some clients, I have the opportunity to assist them to find their way at or around the time of separation and for others there is the opportunity to provide support and advice within the context of proceedings.

It has been wonderful to see WLSQ grow over the years and be able to increase the number of women it can assist. I would encourage all practitioners to become involved in volunteering for this great organisation."



Laura Wainwright (5 years)
SENIOR ASSOCIATE,
HOPGOODGANIM LAWYERS

"I have loved volunteering for Women's Legal Service Queensland these past five years. I deeply identify with the organisation's values in seeking to ensure every woman receives a just and equitable outcome from legal and social systems.

Through volunteering at the service, I have been able to give back to my community and support women as they navigate the complexities of the family law system. It has been incredibly rewarding to contribute to such an important cause and service."

Volunteer Program Supporters

We extend our deepest gratitude to the generous individuals and organisations who have supported our volunteer program throughout the year. Your contributions have been instrumental in our ability to recognise and thank our volunteers for their loyal support.

Avid Reader Bookstore
Dendy Cinemas
Kind Hearts Gift Co

Lovewell Ovolo The Valley

Our Reach

The WLSQ website and social media assists in raising awareness on key issues and provides resources and information on how to access our service.



212,115
WEBSITE VIEWS
+ 40% INCREASE



62,270WEBSITE USERS + 12% INCREASE



92,970 WLSQ HOMEPAGE AND **FACTSHEET VIEWS** +84% INCREASE



8,595 **INSTAGRAM** + 20% INCREASE



in 9,512 **LINKEDIN** + 21% INCREASE



23,393 **FACEBOOK**



OUR Supporters

As we commemorate 40 years of WLSQ, we acknowledge the importance of community involvement and support that are so vital in sustaining WLSQ's essential work.

Over the past financial year, our dedicated community supporters and signature events have collectively contributed necessary funds for our vital programs. A major fundraising initiative this financial year was to expand our Financial Abuse Prevention team to include three additional Financial Capability Workers. Thanks to our incredible community of supporters, we achieved this goal.

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our Patron, Ambassadors, legal professionals, corporate partners, government departments and stakeholders, event participants, sponsors, donors and all who supported our initiatives.

We would also like to sincerely thank our 272 event volunteers who generously gave their time and expertise to make our events so successful. Volunteers play an integral part in our activities, and we could not deliver successful events without their support.

Record-breaking funds for WLSQ were raised at Dancing CEOs, Labels on the Lawn and the Epic Walk for DV, thanks to the dedication and generosity of our supporters. Additionally, individual giving from our loyal donors went to support WLSQ services, for which we are profoundly grateful.

Generous philanthropic support, grant funding and donors have expanded WLSQ's reach, enabling us to launch new projects including a Regional, Rural and Remote Outreach program, enhance our practices, provide community education, and ensure our services are responsive to the needs of the community, providing life-changing and lifesaving assistance.



Dancing CEOs 2024

Dancing CEOs 2024 raised the most funds in the event's ten-year history. The gala event held in Brisbane City Hall's Grand Ballroom was unforgettable. \$1,356,432 was raised through the "All Star and New Legends" anniversary event in support of WLSQ's Financial Abuse Prevention Unit, creating a legacy for women and children rebuilding after financial abuse.

We thank our outstanding CEOs:

- Marisa Vecchio AM and Lorilie Cunningham - All time Record-Breaking Fundraising Champions (\$533,000 raised)
- Brendon Mann and Brendan Smith -Runner-up Fundraising Champions (\$317,074 raised)
- Fleur Madden, Francesca Webster, Katelyn Aslett and Angela Johnson
 Judges' Choice

Champions

- Genevieve Dee and Aishwarya Somal
 - People's Choice Champions
- Katherine Manby, Melissa Wright and Maria Becis - Community Awareness Champions
- Andrew Reid and
 Marguerite O'Sullivan Spirit of Dancing CEOs
 Champions

Dr Rachael Field and the Honourable Margaret McMurdo AC - 2024 Legacy Award

A sincere thanks to our sponsors, donors and volunteer committee.

We also thank MC Josh Holt and the Dancing CEO judges, Sarah Hutson, Karl Schwantes, Holly Brisley and Mark Hodge for their generous contribution.

Epic Walk

New Farm Park was again a sea of purple as over 1,100 people participated in the 2024 Epic Walk for DV prevention. Awareness and close to \$200,000 was raised for WLSQ. The walk was created by WLSQ Ambassadors Brendon Mann and Brendan Smith and with support from sponsors and participants the event continues to grow.



Labels on the Lawn

Labels on the Lawn held by
Ambassador Marisa Vecchio AM featured record-breaking donations of new and pre-loved designer clothing, attendance across a number of labels events, media coverage and funds raised. Months of donation collections, volunteer sorting days and tireless work by Marisa, Lorilie Cunningham and the Hanworth Team resulted in over \$200,000 raised for WLSQ. Thank you to the many volunteers, all who shared their wardrobes and supported in making this extraordinary result possible.



Pub Choir

WLSQ was fortunate to be the beneficiary of the biggest Pub Choir concert to date held at the Brisbane/ Meanjin Riverstage in December. Under the guidance of Astrid Jorgensen OAM and her team, over 6,000 people sang in harmony while raising a record-breaking \$161,000 for FAPU.



River to Rooftop

Over 350 supporters stepped up in support of WLSQ at the 2023 River to Rooftop Challenge. Corporate teams, individuals and multiple climbers scaled the 1,040 steps of One One One Eagle Street in the annual challenge, achieving personal bests and collectively raising over \$100,000 for WLSO.

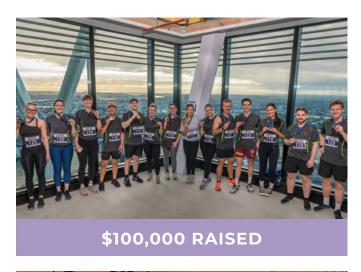
Legal Profession Breakfast

"A Legacy of Care" was the theme of the 10-year anniversary of the Legal Profession Breakfast, attended by 700 members of the profession in November. Kay McGrath OAM led a panel discussion involving the Honourable Margaret McMurdo AC, Lionel Hogg, Dr Rachael Field and Nadia Bromley who discussed domestic violence reforms and the need for continuing reform. The annual Dame Quentin Bryce AD CVO Domestic Violence Prevention Advocate of the Year Award was presented to Kathleen Simpson, DV Lawyer.

All nominees and finalists were commended for their role in addressing domestic violence. Over \$130,000 was raised for WLSQ through sponsorship support and the event raffle.

Walk for Change

Thank you to the inaugural Walk for Change team who completed the beautiful Bay of Fires trek in Tasmania to raise funds for WLSQ. It was a spectacular 4-day hike of fun, friendship and making a difference for women and children impacted by domestic violence.









International Women's Day

A special thank you to everyone who supported WLSQ this International Women's Day. Your enthusiasm to hold raffles, host dinners and bake sales, organise fashion shows, make a special brew and donate was greatly appreciated. Over \$100,000 was raised to support WLSQ services.



"I am very proud to support Women's Legal Service Queensland through my Ubuntu Foundation because, I myself have been in the unfortunate position of not being able to access legal services during my marriage breakdown which was traumatic in itself.

Having good and affordable legal services and nurturing support when you have major trauma issues to deal with is extremely important and empowering and Women's Legal Service Queensland does exactly that."

CAROLYN VINCENT, CAROLYN VINCENT'S UBUNTU FOUNDATION.

In Memory

In deep sadness we pay tribute to two members of the WLSQ community who passed this year.



DEBRA (DEB) SEARLES

Deb joined WLSQ in 1991 on a three-month locum position which became 25 years. Prior to joining WLSQ Deb worked at Legal Aid and also in the Family Court. Her tireless pursuit of justice for women and children impacted by domestic violence and family law matters and lead role in providing advice to women in correctional centres has created an enduring legacy.

Deb was kind, compassionate, humble, wise, a warm host who opened her home to many WLSQ gatherings and a friend to all. WLSQ will continue to be inspired by Deb.



KATE VOLK

Kate served on the WLSQ Management Committee Member for five years including her role as President from 2014 - 2015. Kate was a dedicated lawyer in the sector and a long-term senior member of Legal Aid Queensland.

Kate's commitment to justice and equality was inspiring. Her quick wit, dedication and kindness touched the lives of many.

THANK YOU

To our supporters, thank you for your shared dedication in working towards a safer future for more women and children across Queensland.

GOVERNMENT

Australian Government, Attorney-General's Department

Australian Government, Department of Social Services Brisbane City Council

Legal Aid Queensland

Moreton Bay Regional Council Queensland Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs

Queensland Department of Justice and Attorney-General

COMMUNITY, CORPORATE, PHILANTHROPISTS, TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS

3P Studio 4MBS

Activate Health & Fitness

Adagold Aviation
ADCO Constructions

Aesop AIS Water Allens

Amanda Reboul Champagne

Arc31

Aquarius Health and Medi

Spa Ashurst

Awassi Cheesery

B.OK Ideas Babel Creative

Balloons by Twisted MR

Bar Association of

Queensland

Bayside Women in Business

Belle Property Redcliffe &

Newport Big W

Blonde Designs

Bloom PR

Bowden Liberatore

Brandition

Brazilian Beauty
Brisbane Broncos
Brisbane Jazz Club

Brisbane Racing Club

Brisbane Social Run Club Bunnings Warehouse

Carolyn Vincent's Ubuntu

Foundation

CC's Pampered Pups Charlie's Raw Squeeze

Clayton Utz

Clayton Utz Foundation

Clear Insurance

Club KT

Colin Biggers & Paisley

Comfortel

Coral Sea Marina Resort

Cork & Chroma Brisbane
Corrs Chambers Westgarth

CPX Printing & Logistics

Creative Movement
Dangerous Females

Deloitte

Digital Synergy

DK Active

DLA Piper

Department of Public

Prosecutions

Eden Health Retreat

McMahon Estate Agents

Elite Supplements

Elston

Emporium Hotel

Epic Good Foundation

Epic Hair Designs

Epicure

Establishment 203

Event Letters

Ezybidz

F45 Kangaroo Point

Famin Makes Feel Better Box Felons Brewing Co

Fig & Olive Fish D'vine

Financial Counselling

Foundation Fishbowl FM Global

FractelFreelancing Gems

Gadens

G-Free Donuts Glen and Lisa Richards Family Foundation

Glo Events

Glow Health Co

GOMA

Globite

Habitat Noosa, Everglades

Eco Camp

Hanworth House

Harlow Yoga

Harris Twins Charitable

Legacy

Herbert Smith Freehills

Hey Chica

Hocking-Mackie Fund

HopgoodGanim

Hyatt Regency Brisbane

Ibis Styles Hotels

James Frizelle Charitable

Foundation

Keren Brown Interiors

Kind Hearts Gift Co

King & Wood Mallesons

Konica Minolta

L'Oreal

LEAP

Lions International

Lions Legacy Liz Golding Louenhide

Lumière Brisbane

Mad Dance House

Madame Wu Maison Fleur Mannzilo

Margot McKinney

Mas & Miek Ceramic House

McInnes Wilson MD Photography Merlo Coffee Mills Oakley MinterEllison

Miss Luxe

Mitchell Services

Modern Gentry by The

Fitting Room

Moet Hennessy

Montrachet Restaurant

Mussi Electrical My Giving Table

Myer Community Fund

Nicole Parès Noir Paddington Noosa Gift Co

Nova 106.9 NW Group Oak and Ave

Obsessed Gymwear

One Flex

Opera Queensland

Pandora

Paul White Foundation

Peach Cafe Pekol Family

Phoenix Event Management

Photo Illustrated

Pip Theatre Pub Choir OPAC

Quay 11 Chambers

Queensland Law Society

Queensland Trophy

Distributors Rebel Red

Red Stitch Dog Wear RHP Physiotherapy

Rita's Bar Rob Baile

Rob's Dance Brisbane

Rydges & Bacchus

SFH Designs

Shepherd Family

Foundation

Skylighter Fireworx

Smith & Li Snowscene

Soak Bath House

Stair Climbing Australia

Stephanies Spa

Stock Exchange Hotel

Sunscene Sweet Talk Taste Whitsundays

Tessera Wines

The Consortium Qld The Diamond Group The Fitting Room on

Edward

The Fred Pham Foundation

The GPT Group
The Modern Gentry
The Women Lawyers

Association of Queensland

Thomson Geer

Tillerman Restaurant

Tim Fairfax AC and Gina

Fairfax AC

Titan Caravans

Trading Dynamics

Trainade

Tripure Products

Une Piece

University of Queensland

Student Group Velvet Canyon Vertigo Restaurant, Brisbane Powerhouse

Voco

Warehouse 25

Westpac

White on Whitehaven Long

Lunch

Wolff Coffee Roasters

Woolworths

Xennox Diamonds

Yugenlove

A special thanks to our community of individual supporters and regular donors for their personal donations across the year.

FINANCIAL Summary

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

BOARD'S Report

The Board submits the financial report of Women's Legal Service Qld Limited for the financial year ended 30 June 2024.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The names of the Directors throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

- Anne Dale (commenced 10 Jul 2023)
- · Cindy Noij

· Genevieve Dee

· Helen Baker

Alison de Marco

· Rebecca Culverhouse

· Amanda Rohan

DOMICILE AND LEGAL FORM

Women's Legal Services Queensland Limited is a company limited by guarantee incorporated in Australia. The company's registered office is located at 8 Ponsonby Street, Annerley QLD 4103, Australia. Its principal place of business is at 8 Ponsonby Street, Annerley QLD 4103, Australia.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The principal activities of the company during the financial year were to provide free legal and social work services to Queensland women. The company assists women in the areas of family law, child support, domestic violence and child protection, as well as providing community legal education.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

Women's Legal Service changed legal structure in July 2023, from an Incorporated Association to a Company Limited by Guarantee.

OPERATING RESULT

Genevieve Dee

The profit of the company for the year amounted to \$1,939,140.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Directors:

Chair

Treasurer

indy Noig

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Grants - Recurrent		
- Vulnerable Women's Funding	3,607,221	2,968,513
- NLAP - CLSP - Commonwealth		
Funding	843,933	829,576
- NLAP - CLSP - State Funding	1,301,299	1,239,427
- Department of Communities	260,350	250,972
- Department of Social Services	571,580	525,891
- Legal Aid Queensland	539,838	197,838
- NLAP - WSP Commonwealth	1,972,900	2,271,725
- Financial Counselling Foundation	145,000	130,000
Donations	1,239,178	516,604
Duty Lawyer Services	194,519	220,919
Fundraising	2,081,106	1,244,733
Gain on Sale of Assets	-	43,975
Grants - One Off	217,707	250,806
Interest Income	91,415	34,188
Sundry Income	62,086	1,872
	13,128,132	10,727,039

2024	2023
\$	\$

EXPENDITURE		
Bank Charges	47,315	30,185
Client Disbursements & Support	32,836	25,022
Communications	129,753	143,165
Consultancy Fees	466,794	190,423
Depreciation	184,079	173,235
Depreciation - right-of-use assets	199,515	81,301
Finance, Audit & Accounting	16,295	29,836
Fundraising Expenses	748,403	341,667
Insurance	42,983	47,462
Interest Paid	-	2,173
Interest on lease liabilities	46,431	18,380
Legal Fees	35,005	54,316
Library, Resources & Subscriptions	113,360	89,374
Marketing	18,022	32,771
Meeting Expenses	172,338	157,064
Minor Equipment	56,039	22,546
Office Overheads	375,133	202,645
Other Premises Costs	182,285	190,544
Program & Planning	273	1,790
Repairs & Maintenance	62,252	33,393
Salaries & On-Costs	7,991,966	6,626,526
Staff Recruitment	100,724	30,375
Staff Training	109,322	154,374
Sundry Expenses	6,051	1,113
Travelling Expenses	77,644	71,163
	11,214,818	8,750,843
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	1,913,314	1,976,196
Other Comprehensive Income		
Land And Buildings Revaluation	25,826	(423,108)
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	1,939,140	1,553,088

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 30 JUNE 2024

		2024	2023
	Note	\$	\$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	5,886,115	5,388,864
Trade and other receivables	4	186,424	94,902
Other current assets	5	226,030	146,810
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		6,298,569	5,630,576
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Right-of-use assets	6	802,152	269,616
Property, plant and equipment	7	3,839,664	3,590,768
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		4,641,816	3,860,384
TOTAL ASSETS		10,940,385	9,490,960
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	8	504,304	388,926
Employee provisions	9	558,089	763,316
Deferred income		601,973	1,622,616
Lease liabilities	6	225,554	78,782
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		1,889,920	2,853,640
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Lease liabilities	6	627,466	213,658
Employee provisions	9	60,197	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILIT	IES	687,663	213,658
TOTAL LIABILITIES		2,577,583	3,067,298
NET ASSETS		8,362,802	6,423,662
EQUITY			
Reserves		1,057,928	1,032,102
Retained surplus		5,391,560	3,415,364
Current year surplus		1,913,314	1,976,196
TOTAL EQUITY		8,362,802	6,423,662

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	Land & Building Reserve	Retained Surpluses	Total Equity
	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2022	1,455,210	3,415,364	4,870,574
Surplus after income tax for the year	-	1,976,196	1,976,196
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	(423,108)	-	(423,108)
Total comprehensive income for the year	(423,108)	1,976,196	1,553,088
BALANCE AT 30 JUNE 2023	1,032,102	5,391,560	6,423,662
	Land & Building Reserve	Retained Surpluses	Total Equity
	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2023	1,032,102	\$ 5,391,560	\$ 6,423,662
Balance at 1 July 2023 Surplus after income tax for the year	-	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	-
•	-	5,391,560	6,423,662
Surplus after income tax for the year Other comprehensive income for	1,032,102	5,391,560	6,423,662

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	Note	2024	2023
		\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from customers (inclusive of GST)		8,852,168	8,566,788
Donations and other receipts		3,485,367	1,903,424
Payments to suppliers and employees		(11,562,979)	(8,665,150)
Interest received		91,415	34,188
Net Cash Inflow from Operating Activities		865,971	1,839,250
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(368,720)	(207,730)
Net Cash Outflow from Investing Activities		(368,720)	(207,730)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Repayment of Loan		-	(37,111)
Interest paid		-	(2,173)
Net Cash Outflow from Financing Activities		-	(39,284)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		497,251	1,592,236
Cash at the beginning of the financial year		5,388,864	3,796,628
CASH AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR	3	5,886,115	5,388,864

NOTES

TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

Summary of significant accounting policies

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

BASIS OF PREPARATION

In the Board's opinion, the company is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements.

These are special purpose financial statements that have been prepared for the purposes of complying with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act, the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and associated regulations. The board have determined that the accounting policies adopted are appropriate to meet the needs of the members of Women's Legal Service Qld Ltd.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement requirements specified by the Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ("AASB") and the disclosure requirements of AASB 101 'Presentation of Financial Statements', AASB 107 'Statement of Cash Flows', AASB 108 'Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors', AASB 1048 'Interpretation of Standards' and AASB 1054 'Australian Additional Disclosures', as appropriate for not-for-profit oriented entities.

HISTORICAL COST CONVENTION

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES

The preparation of the financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the company's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions are significant to the financial statements, are disclosed in Note 2.

a) Property, plant and equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment are carried at cost or fair value less,

where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment.

Assets measured using the revaluation model are carried at fair value at the revaluation date less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Revaluations are performed whenever there is a material movement in the value of an asset under the revaluation model.

Land and buildings are revalued by a professional valuer every five years.

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by the Directors to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from these assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows that will be received from the assets' employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have been discounted to their present values in determining recoverable amounts.

In the event the carrying amount of plant and equipment is greater than the recoverable amount, the carrying amount is written down immediately to the estimated recoverable amount. A formal assessment of recoverable amount is made when impairment indicators are present (refer to Note 1(I) for details of impairment).

b) Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis to write off the net cost of each item of property, plant and equipment (excluding land) over their expected useful lives as follows:

Class of Fixed Asset	Depreciation Rate
Property Improvements	2.5% - 20%
Motor Vehicles	20%
Office Furniture & Equipment	20% - 50%

The residual values, useful lives and depreciation methods are review, and adjusted if appropriate, at each reporting date.

An item of property, plant and equipment is de-recognised upon disposal or when there is no future economic benefit to the company. Gains and losses between the carrying amount and the disposal proceeds are taken to profit or loss.

c) Employer provisions

Provision is made for the company's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee provisions have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled. Contributions are made by the company to an employee superannuation fund and are charged as expenses when incurred. Employee entitlements to the non-salary portion of total employment package benefits unpaid at balance date are recorded as a liability.

d) Income tax

The company is exempt from income tax under section 50-10 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

e) Goods and services tax (GST)

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

f) Comparative figures

Comparative figures, where necessary, have been reclassified in order to comply with the presentation adopted in the figures reported.

g) Economic dependence

The company is dependent on Government funding to operate. As at the date of this report the committee has no reason to believe the Government will not continue to support the organisation.

h) Revenue recognition

The entity recognises revenue as follows:

REVENUE FROM CONTRACTS WITH CUSTOMERS

Revenue is recognised at an amount that reflects the consideration to which the company is expected to be entitled in exchange for transferring goods or services to a customer. For each contract with a customer, the entity: identifies the contract with a customer; identifies the performance obligations in the contract; determines the transaction price which takes into account estimates of variable consideration and the time value of money; allocates the transaction price to the separate performance obligations on the basis of the relative stand-alone selling price of each distinct good or service to be delivered; and recognises revenue when or as each performance obligation is satisfied in a manner that depicts the transfer to the customer of the goods or services promised.

Variable consideration within the transaction price, if any, reflects concessions provided to the customer such as discounts, rebates and refunds, any potential bonuses receivable from the customer and any other contingent events. Such estimates are determined using either the 'expected value' or 'most likely amount' method. The measurement of variable consideration is subject to a constraining principle whereby revenue will only be recognised to the extent that it is highly probable that a significant reversal in the amount of cumulative revenue recognised will not occur. The measurement constraint continues until the uncertainty associated

with the variable consideration is subsequently resolved. Amounts received that are subject to the constraining principle are recognised as a refund liability.

SALES REVENUE

Events, fundraising and raffles are recognised when the event occurs, not on the receipt of funds and are carried forward as a liability until the event takes place.

DONATIONS

Donations are recognised at the time the pledge is made.

GRANTS

Grant revenue is recognised in profit or loss when the entity satisfies the performance obligations stated within the funding agreements.

If conditions are attached to the grant which must be satisfied before the entity is eligible to retain the contribution, the grant will be recognised in the statement of financial position as a liability until those conditions are satisfied.

OTHER REVENUE

Other revenue is recognised when it is received or when the right to receive payment is established.

INTEREST

Interest revenue is recognised as interest accrues using the effective interest method. This is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset and allocating the interest income over the relevant period using the effective interest rate, which is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset to the net carrying amount of the financial asset.

i) Trade and other receivables

Trade and other receivables include amounts due from members as well as amounts receivable from donors. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

j) Trade and other payables

Trade and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the company during the reporting period that remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

k) Cash and cash equivalents

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

I) Impairments of assets

At the end of each reporting period, the committee reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value in use, to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognised in profit or loss.

m) Borrowing costs

Borrowing costs directly attributable to the acquisition, construction or production of assets that necessarily take a substantial period of time to prepare for their intended use or sale, are added to the cost of those assets, until such time as the assets are substantially ready for their intended use of sale.

All other borrowing costs are recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income in the period in which they are incurred.

n) New Accounting Standards and Interpretations not yet mandatory or early adopted

The entity has adopted all of the new or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ("AASB") that are mandatory for the current reporting period.

Any new or amended Accounting Standards or Interpretations that are not yet mandatory have not been early adopted.

2 Critical accounting judgments, estimates and assumptions

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts in the financial statements. Management continually evaluates its judgements and estimates in relation to assets, liabilities, contingent liabilities, revenue and expenses.

Management bases its judgements, estimates and assumptions on historical experience and on other various factors, including expectations of future events, management believes to be reasonable under the circumstances. The resulting accounting judgements and estimates will seldom equal the related actual results. The judgements, estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities (refer to the respective notes) within the next financial year are discussed below.

ESTIMATION OF USEFUL LIVES OF ASSETS

The entity determines the estimated useful lives and related depreciation and amortisation charges for its property, plant and equipment and finite life intangible assets. The useful lives could change significantly as a result of technical innovations or some other event. The depreciation and amortisation charge will increase where the useful lives are less than previously estimated lives, or technically obsolete or non-strategic assets that have been abandoned or sold will be written off or written down.

Buildings and Land are estimated at fair market value.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS PROVISION

As discussed in note 1, the liability for employee benefits expected to be settled more than 12 months from the reporting date are recognised and measured at the present value of the estimated future cash flows to be made in respect of all employees at the reporting date. In determining the present value of the liability, estimates of attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation have been taken into account.

	2024	2023
	\$	
3 Cash And Cash Ed	uivalents	
Cash at Bank	4,418,591	3,730,444
Term Deposits	1,467,193	1,658,209
Cash on Hand	331	211
	5,886,115	5,388,864
4 Trade And Other	Receivable	es.
CURRENT		
Trade Debtors	186,424	94,902
	186,424	94,902
5 Other Assets		
CURRENT		
Deposit	103,631	52,335
Prepayments	122,399	94,475
	226,030	146,810
6 Right Of Use Ass	ets	
RIGHT-OF-USE ASSETS		
Leased properties	1,097,508	365,458
Less accumulated depreciation	(295,356)	(95,842)
	802,152	269,616
LEASE LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Leases for properties	225,554	78,782
NON-CURRENT		
Leases for properties	627,466	213,658
	853,020	292,440

2024 2023

\$

7 Property, Plant And Equipment

LAND AND BUILDINGS		
Buildings - At Fair Value	2,525,826	2,500,000
PROPERTY IMPROVEMENTS		
Property Improvements	1,376,004	1,167,346
Less accumulated depreciation	(310,339)	(268,035)
	1,065,665	899,311
Total Land and Buildings	3,591,491	3,399,311
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT		
MOTOR VEHICLES		
Motor Vehicles	94,413	42,403
Less accumulated depreciation	(51,505)	(42,403)
	42,908	
OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT		
Office Furniture & Equipment	585,027	510,492
Less accumulated depreciation	(442,107)	(319,035)
	142,920	191,457
Total Plant and Equipment	185,828	191,457
LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS		
Leasehold Improvements	71,937	
Less accumulated depreciation	(9,592)	
	62,345	
TOTAL PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT	3,839,664	3,590,768

The Entity's properties were revalued on 30 June 2023 by external valuation. Valuations were made on the basis of open market value in an arm's length transaction based on similar properties. An adjustment was made in the prior financial year for the revaluation decrease through the Statement of Profit and Loss and Other Comprehensive Income.

This year a moderate revaluation increase was made through the Statement of Profit and Loss and Other Comprehensive Income.

2024

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2023

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8 Trade And Other Payables					
CURRENT					
Accrued Expenses	78,320	44,580			
Trade Creditors	195,506	87,315			
GST Payable	101,810	125,657			
PAYG Payable	-	105,565			
Other Payables	128,668	25,809			
	504,304	388,926			
9 Employee Provis CURRENT Annual Leave Provision Long Service Leave Provision	ions 438,246 108,401	398,382 352,126			
Paid Parental Leave Payable	-	1,787			
TOIL Payable	11,442	11,021			
	558,089	763,316			
NON CURRENT					
Long Service Leave Provision	60,197	-			
	60,197	-			

618,286

763,316

10 Events after the Reporting Period

No matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2024 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect the entity's operations, the results of those operations, or the entity's state of affairs in future financial years.

11 Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets

The entity has no contingent liabilities and assets as at 30 June 2024 and 30 June 2023.

12 Key Management Personnel

Key Management Personnel costs for 2024 are exempt (2023: also exempt).

13 Auditors remuneration

During the financial year the following fees were paid or payable for services provided by BDO, the auditor of the company:

	2024	2023	
	\$		
AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS*	21,500	20,350	

During the current and prior financial years, the Company received financial statement audit services at a heavily discounted rate as a donated audit service fee. Services received free of charge are recognised as Income when, and only when, a fair value can be reliably determined, and the services would have been purchased if they had not been donated. Use of those services is recognised as an expense. Services received free of charge are recorded as either Income or gains depending on their nature.

^{*} Service received free of charge for the year ended 30 June 2024 was \$63,435 (2023: \$48,370)

STATEMENT

By Directors of the Board

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

In accordance with a resolution of the Board of Women's Legal Service Queensland Limited, the Directors declare that:

- the financial statements as set out on pages 3 to 13 present a true and fair view of the financial position of Women's Legal Service Queensland Limited as at 30 June 2024 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012; and
- 2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Women's Legal Service Queensland Limited will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is signed for and on behalf of the Board by:

CHAIR

TREASURER

Dated: 18.11.2024

WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICE QUEENSLAND LIMITED AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION



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DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE BY R M SWABY TO THE DIRECTORS OF WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICE QUEENSLAND LIMITED

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit of Women's Legal Service Queensland Limited for the year ended 30 June 2024.

R M Swaby Director

Kerfrahy

BDO Audit Pty Ltd

Brisbane, 18 November 2024



Level 10, 12 Creek Street Brisbane QLD 4000 GPO Box 457 Brisbane QLD 4001 Australia

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of Women's Legal Service Queensland Limited

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Women's Legal Service Queensland Limited (the registered entity), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial report, including material accounting policy information, and the responsible entities' declaration.

In our opinion the accompanying financial report of Women's Legal Service Queensland Limited, is in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- (i) Giving a true and fair view of the registered entity's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (ii) Complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations* 2022.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the registered entity in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act) and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

Emphasis of matter - Basis of accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the registered entity's financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Other information

Those charged with governance are responsible for the other information. The other information obtained at the date of this auditor's report is information included in the registered entity's annual report, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.



Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed on the other information obtained prior to the date of this auditor's report, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of responsible entities for the Financial Report

The responsible entities of the registered entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the ACNC Act and the needs of the members. The responsible entities' responsibility also includes such internal control as the responsible entities determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Report

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

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website (http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx) at:

http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf

This description forms part of our auditor's report.

BDO Audit Pty Ltd

R M Swaby Director

Brisbane, 18 November 2024



WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICE INCORPORATED 1908 ROSTER

Colleen Morre Jenny McViegh Lissa Lang

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The service is run by women

will be hosting a function on the 27/2/86 at the Human Bights Commission. 15th

WEDNESDAY

· Catch West End Bus - No. 177

or DROP IN

*Get off at Bus Stop 10 → Walk down Victoria Sheet to Women's House

30 Victoria St. WEST END PHONE 6.30 - 9.30 pm 346 2066 So

Hours THURS

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- wlsq.org.au
- womenslegalserviceqld
- **f** womenslegalservice