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1977 – 1987

**REDFERN
LEGAL CENTRE**

TENTH YEAR REPORT

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71-73 Pitt Street, Redfern 2016
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John Kirkwood

John Kirkwood was one of the founders of Redfern Legal Service.

John was involved with RLC in many ways - as a volunteer lawyer on the roster, a member of the management committee, one of the directors of RLC Ltd. He spent hours negotiating with South Sydney Council (as it was then), UNSW Law School, and other organisations for donations and services for the new legal centre.

From his position as lecturer-in-law at the University of New South Wales, he encouraged his students and fellow staff members to volunteer at RLC. He was actively involved in the Legal Resources Book, the predecessor of the Law Handbook.

John was an inspiration to everyone who knew him - an excellent lawyer, a fierce advocate for justice and a good friend.

In 1979 John learned that he had an incurable brain tumour, but this did not stop his work at RLC, the University, or the Social Security Appeals Tribunal. He went on to write a book on Social Security Law. John fought very hard against his illness, but lost the fight in January 1986.

When he died as a result of the tumour at the age of 37 Redfern Legal Centre lost part of itself.

Introduction

Redfern Legal Centre, the first community legal centre in New South Wales, opened in March 1977. It was born of the initiative of a small number of students, ex-students, lawyers and academics at the University of New South Wales, who sought to build on the example of the Aboriginal Legal Services, and Fitzroy Legal Service which had opened a few years earlier in Melbourne.

The Redfern area is an old part of inner Sydney. Despite the trend towards 'gentrification' of inner city areas, Redfern still has a large traditional population of low income earners, migrants, aborigines, social security recipients, public tenants, and boarders.

RLC opened on Monday, March 14 1977 with a volunteer staff, in premises provided by the South Sydney Council (now City of Sydney Council), with furniture from a large firm of city solicitors, and a donation from the University of New South Wales Law School. From the start, volunteer lawyers gave legal advice and assistance on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, and each weekday evening. The rest of the time the office was staffed by law and other students, who dealt with general enquiries, referrals, and file work under supervision of solicitors. This pattern has remained constant over the ten years of RLC's operation.

In mid 1977 the South Sydney Council

RLC continues its commitment to providing legal services to the most disadvantaged in the community.

RLC has specialised in areas of particular need.

funded the employment of a social worker. The precedent of the first community legal centre worker in NSW being a non-lawyer established a pattern for the development of similar services in the State.

By late 1977, with a grant of \$20,000 from the Commonwealth Attorney-General, RLC had a full-time staff of three. Over the past decade, RLC has grown significantly in size, and expanded some aspects of its service.

While its core operation continues to provide general advice and assistance to the local community, RLC has specialised in areas of particular need where legal services are unavailable or inadequate. These initiatives, in close cooperation with other community groups, have contributed to the growth of legal services and legal education to the most disadvantaged sections of the community.

RLC initiatives include Redfern Legal Centre Publishing, which is responsible for the Law Handbook, the Lawyers Practice Manual, and Streetwise Comics; the Welfare Rights Service; the Intellectual Disability Rights Service; The Accommodation Rights Service; the Consumer Credit Legal Centre; the Prisoners Legal Service; and Campbelltown Legal Centre - all of which are referred to in this report.

RLC has continued to receive funding from various State and Federal bodies and has demonstrated a capacity to generate its own income to supplement grants and project funding.

In 1987 Redfern Legal Centre has 8 full time and 1 part time staff. The Intellectual

Disability Rights Service has 3 full-time and 2 part-time workers, Consumer Credit employs 4 full-time staff, and RLC Publishing and Streetwise Comics have 13 full/part-time workers. It is anticipated that RLC Publishing and the Consumer Credit Legal Centre will assume separate legal identity during 1987.

RLC continues its commitment to providing legal services to the most disadvantaged in the community, to seeking reform of the law where necessary, and to breaking down the mystification which surrounds the legal system.

NOW LET ME GET THIS RIGHT, YOU ARE
IPSO FACTO ACCUSING ME OF BEING AN
EMOTIONAL CRIPPLE BASED ON THE A
PRIORI ASSUMPTION THAT, PRIMA
FACIE, I TREAT OTHER HUMAN BEINGS
LIKE "PIECES OF STALE MULLET?"



RLC and Legal Aid

The growth of Community Legal Centres (CLCs)

Since it opened 10 years ago, Redfern Legal Centre has seen the growth of other community legal centres in New South Wales. There are now 19 such centres in the state - 9 of which are 'generalist' services like RLC (though many of these have specific interest areas of law), and 10 specialist services (such as Welfare Rights, Womens, Consumer Credit, Immigration, Domestic Violence). There is now a Secretariat for NSW community legal centres, as well as RLC Publishing.

Despite this growth, it's fair to say that community legal centres still operate on a shoestring. Although their state and federal funding has grown significantly over 10 years, this still represents less than 2% of the legal aid budgets of both governments. A significant increase in funding for CLCs is in fact a small monetary increase from state and federal sources.

The funding process is still an annual scramble. Any new funds have generally gone to struggling centres to bring them up to a viable level of operation, as well as to meeting the need for new centres.

There is still a political failure to comprehend the value of legal aid services to the community.

Established centres like Redfern have had little effective increase in funding over the years, and have never been able to reach the level of funds recommended for them by the Legal Aid Commission.

There is often concern expressed, particularly at the federal level, about the size of the legal aid budget (currently approximately

The LAC seems content to leave significant areas of legal problems to community legal centres to deal with 'on the cheap'.

\$80 million of federal funds). This represents a large increase compared with 10 years ago, but it is insignificant in comparison with budgets for health and other community services. There is still a political failure to comprehend the value of legal aid services to the community.

Apart from funding, community legal centres have had to battle opposition from many private lawyers, and from some members of the government legal aid services. This opposition is usually based on ignorance. Once a legal centre is established, local practitioners generally realise its benefits - paying work is referred out to private lawyers by the legal centres, and a lot of non paying work taken on by them. Yet despite this, new legal centres often face suspicion and hostility from local lawyers.

CLCs have also had to battle with the Law Society of NSW for professional accreditation, and other concerns like insurance.

Legal Aid Commission NSW (LAC)

RLC welcomes the recent merger of the Legal Services Commission of NSW with the Australian Legal Aid Office. This is long overdue.

The Legal Aid Commission NSW has taken over some of the initiatives developed by Redfern and other community legal centres, e.g. the Prisoners Legal Service, the Mental Health Advocacy Service, and to some extent, the Childrens Legal Service. It

has also followed the example of employing social workers, and giving front office advice without appointment (though this is still far too restricted).

Legal aid services in New South Wales are much healthier now compared with 10 years ago, but serious gaps still exist. The LAC seems content to leave significant areas of legal problems to community legal centres to deal with 'on the cheap'. These include tenancy, immigration, small business problems, summons matters, telephone advice, and civil debts. Most of the LAC's resources go into criminal (and family law) matters, yet many people would rather spend some time in prison than lose their home or business because of debt problems.

Many clients are being referred to RLC by LAC staff because they cannot be given an appointment at regional Commission offices for several weeks. In some cases the client has not been given the chance to explain the urgency of the matter. Even with overworked staff and limited resources, this lack of flexibility is undesirable - a problem recognised by the LAC but still a long way from being solved.

At present in New South Wales there is no guarantee that even people charged with criminal offences will be legally represented. There is no right to legal advice. Many people who appear in court, particu-

larly in civil matters, must do so unrepresented.

There are still inadequate levels of legal service for significant groups in need, e.g. children, migrants, victims of domestic violence, mental health patients, tenants, social security recipients, civil debtors. CLCs cannot hope to bridge this gap without a massive increase in resources.

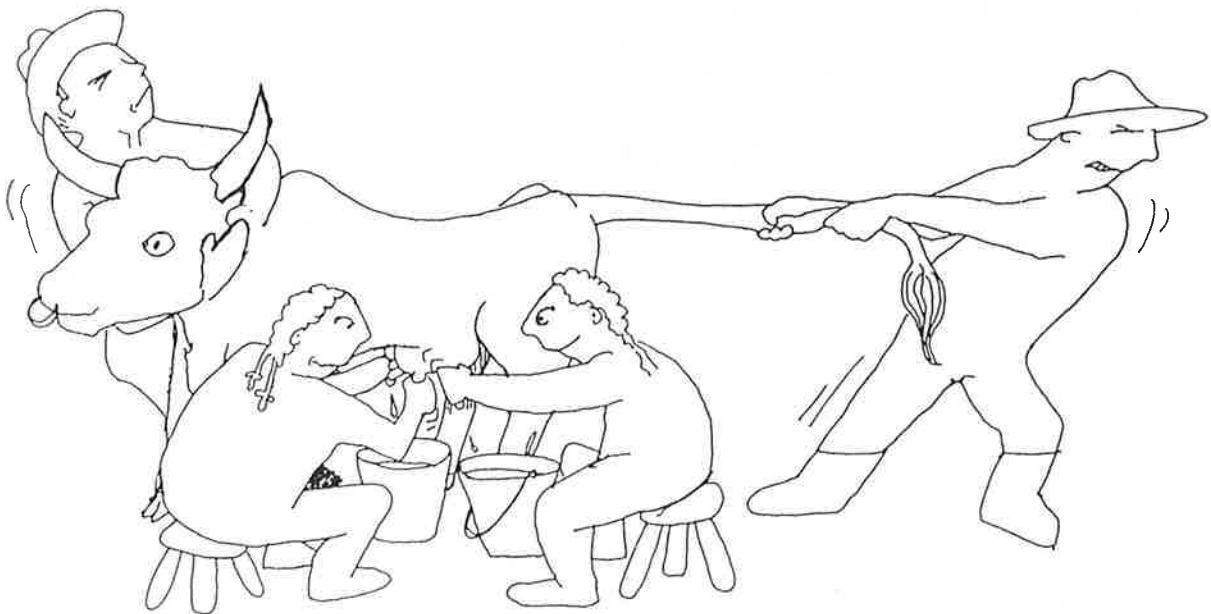
Despite some allocation of resources the LAC has failed to make a substantial com-

Many people who appear in court, particularly in civil matters, must do so unrepresented.

mitment to general advice (often preventive) and to community legal education.

Legal Centres like RLC are sometimes in danger of becoming 'respectable' and part of the legal aid establishment. There is a constant tension with providing the best possible legal service to clients, maintaining secure funding, ensuring reasonable salaries and working conditions for staff, and fulfilling the role of healthy critic of the justice and legal aid systems, and providing innovative legal services.

Whether RLC has managed to find this balance is a matter for the reader to judge.



THE ROLE OF LAWYERS IN THE RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES

Structure of RLC

Redfern Legal Centre is a company limited by guarantee. It has five appointed directors who have delegated most of their functions to the **Centre Management Committee**. This Committee meets monthly, and is made up of all Centre workers (paid or volunteer), lawyers, students, and members of the community with an interest in RLC.

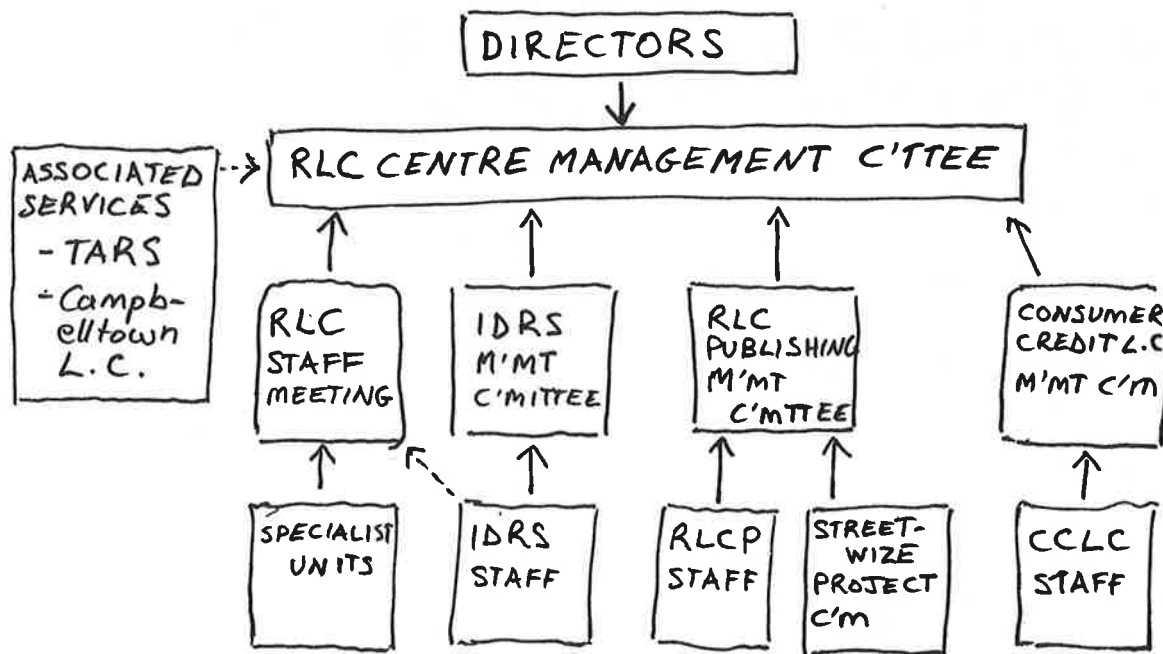
The Management Committee receives reports from subcommittees such as RLC Publishing, and the Intellectual Disability Rights Service (see diagram). The Management Committee retains a right of veto over these subcommittees and is responsible for overall RLC policy.

The subcommittees are responsible for running their particular services and have input from members of the community and community organisations. It is the general

rule and experience that these services develop under the auspices of Redfern Legal Centre, with the objective of becoming separate organisations in the future. An example is the Welfare Rights Centre. It is expected that RLC Publishing and the Consumer Credit Legal Centre will be independently incorporated during 1987.

The paid staff are responsible for the day to day running of the Centre. There are weekly staff meetings. RLC Ltd employs solicitors to operate a legal practice offering advice and assistance to disadvantaged people. The Centre's legal practice is formally conducted by two principal solicitors, Andrew Haesler (RLC general service) and Jim Simpson (IDRS).

REDFERN LEGAL CENTRE- CORPORATE STRUCTURE



RLC Finances

RLC's general service is funded principally through the Legal Aid Commission of NSW. The Commission receives its funds for distribution to community legal centres from the Federal and State Departments of the Attorney-General. It then makes an annual (calendar year) grant, necessitating a funding submission to the LAC each year from Redfern and other community legal centres.

In addition to the LAC funds, Redfern Legal Centre receives financial support from various other sources. The City of Sydney Council continues to pay the salary of RLC's social worker. The Council also makes a significant contribution through its provision of rent-free premises, electricity, printing and stationery, cleaning and maintenance.

The NSW Department of Youth & Community Services provides funding for

If the time of volunteer solicitors and others was costed, it would run into many thousands of dollars each year.

our financial counselling service through the Family Support Services Scheme.

Funds have been obtained through the Legal Aid Commission from the interest on solicitors' trust funds (the so-called 'Westpac' fund) for capital items such as furniture and computers.

Over the years, the Law Foundation of NSW has funded a number of projects undertaken by RLC, especially publications and community legal education.

The other divisions of RLC Ltd have separate funding arrangements. The Con-

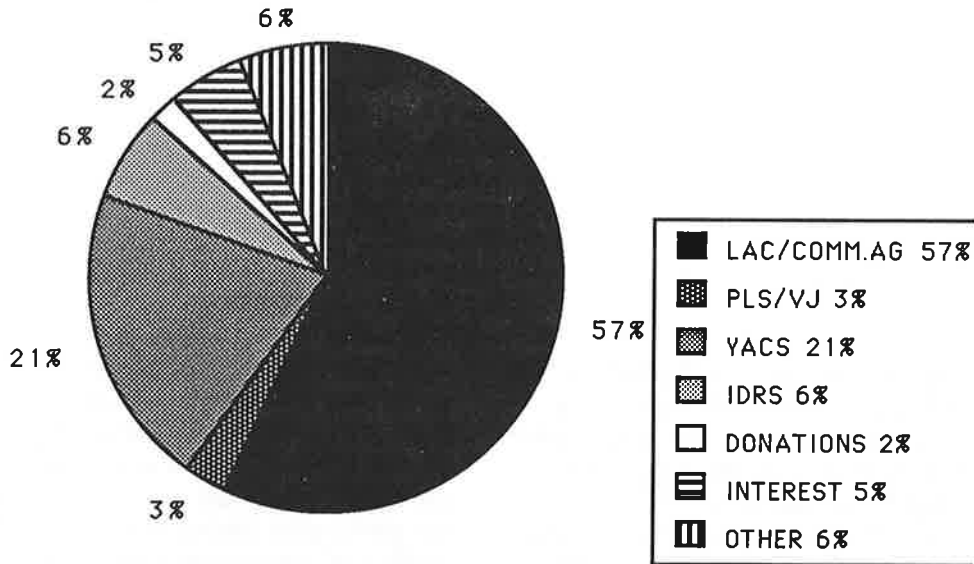
sumer Credit Legal Centre receives funds from the NSW Department of Consumer Affairs and the Legal Aid Commission. RLC Publishing generates its own funds, and receives project funding from the Law Foundation and government departments. The NSW Departments of Health and Youth & Community Services and the Federal Department of Community Services have provided funding for the Intellectual Disability Rights Service during 1986.

From time to time, RLC receives money by way of donations, costs awarded in successful court actions, and sale of T-shirts and publications.

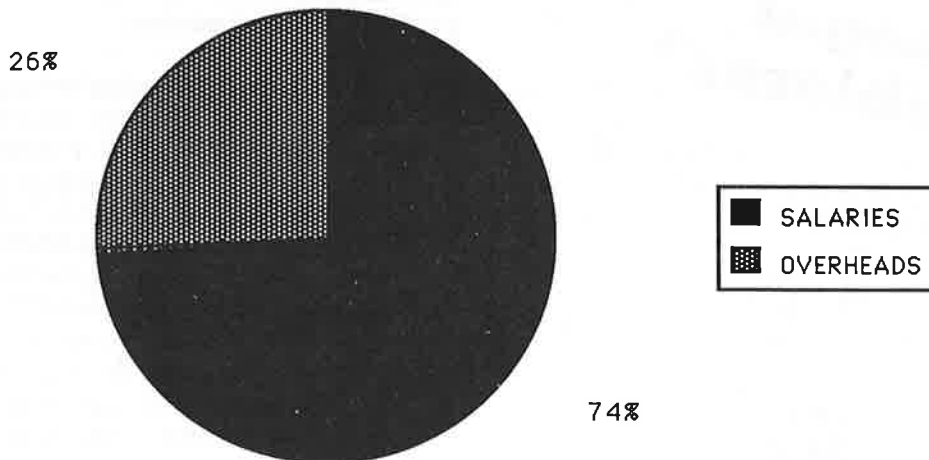
If the time of volunteer solicitors and others was costed, it would run into many thousands of dollars each year.

RLC income & expenditure in 1986

REDFERN LEGAL CENTRE % INCOME 1986



REDFERN LEGAL CENTRE % EXPENDITURE 1986



What we do

RLC Legal Services

Redfern Legal Centre is an independent community legal centre which offers free legal advice and/or assistance to people who:

1. live and/or work in the local area (roughly South Sydney)
2. cannot afford a private solicitor, and
3. do not qualify for legal aid from the Legal Aid Commission (NSW).

We give specialist advice to people outside the local area in tenancy, consumer credit, intellectual disability, domestic violence.

If we can help someone within the above guidelines we will. If we can't, but someone else can, we will explain the situation and refer the person. If we don't think anyone can help, we will say so. If the problem needs the advice and assistance of our social worker or community organisation, we will involve them in the case.

Our **doors are open** from 9.30am to 9.00pm Monday to Friday. We close for a breather at lunchtime between 1-2pm.

We **answer the phone** when it starts ringing (usually around 8.30am) until we go home (about 9.30pm). Sometimes we use an answering machine during lunch.


We give legal advice:

PERSONALLY

Each weekday evening by appointment (when the night is fully booked, people can come that night after about 7pm, and they are seen as quickly as possible); and **between 2.30 to 5.30 on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons** (no appointments are made for these times - people are seen in the order they arrive). These afternoon advice sessions are intended for nightworkers, elderly people, single parents, or others who cannot come in the evening.

BY TELEPHONE

At night, to callers outside the area, or who cannot come into the Centre; **during the day to service providers**, e.g. social workers, youth workers who are calling on behalf of their clients, or to community organisations about their own operational problems. Advice is given to any callers in cases of emergency. Daytime advice is given by the duty solicitor, or any available solicitor.



Legal Problems?

for free
Advice & Assistance
with
Legal Problems
for people in South Sydney

Redfern Legal Centre
73 Pitt Street, Redfern, NSW 2016
Phone: 698 7277

Hours: 10 am-1 pm, 2 pm-9 pm weekdays
Solicitors interviewing times: 6.30-8 pm
weekday evenings

Beyond Casework

What we do

RLC is more than a legal advice and referral service. It is in the nature of community legal centres that different approaches to social and legal problems are adopted. In addition to casework, problems can be addressed through reform activity and lobbying, policy submissions, publicity, legal education, publications, seminars, and the establishment and encouragement of new services.

Specialist units

In early 1985 RLC adopted a policy and structure which resulted in the establishment of specialist units of legal services. Each unit is attached to a night of the week, the aim being to develop a particular expertise among staff and volunteers in handling one type of casework, and developing policy and reform strategies.

It is in the nature of community legal centres that different approaches to social and legal problems are adopted.

Since the end of 1986, three of the original five units have been operating - consumer credit/debt, tenancy, intellectual disability.

The activities of the units are coordinated by the staff member on duty on the evening shift. The units advise and assist in matters within their speciality area regardless of geographical limits.

The following is a brief summary of the unit activities:

CONSUMER CREDIT: Monday nights.

Many people we help have serious diffi-

culty in repaying loans or bills. The Credit Unit assists in negotiations with creditors and gives advice when voluntary bankruptcy may be appropriate.

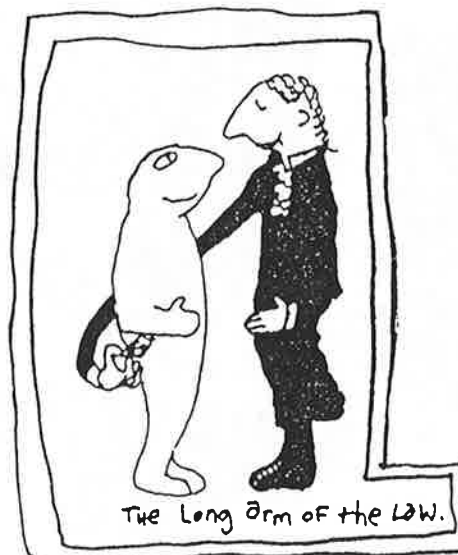
However, the Unit is even more concerned with people who have been deceived or misled by credit providers, or who have entered a contract which may be illegal or unenforceable.

The Unit works closely with the Consumer Credit Legal Service in lobbying for necessary reforms and enforcement procedures in the credit area.

(See page 14 **Consumer Credit** for more details).

TENANCY: Wednesday nights.

The Unit assists tenants who are in dispute with landlords over rent, repairs, bond money, and eviction. Most of the tenancies are under a standard form 5A lease, but many problems arise with protected tenancies, oral leases, and licence agreements.



The Unit has given seminars on tenancy issues, and made submissions and conducted test cases in relation to current reforms to the Landlord and Tenant legislation and to the implementation of the Residential Tenancies Act 1987.

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY: Friday nights.

This Unit has blossomed into a service in its own right - the Intellectual Disability Rights Service. As well as a wide variety of casework to people with intellectual disabili-

ties and their families, the Unit gives advice and support to other agencies and service providers. It also works closely with the NSW Council of Intellectual Disability in campaigning for reform and recognition of the rights of people with intellectual disabilities.

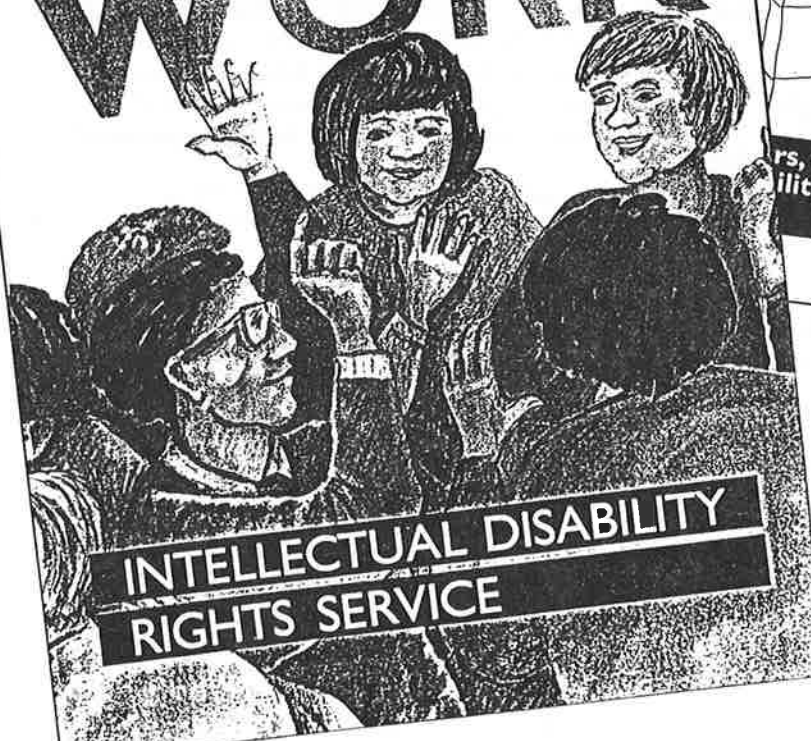
Members of the Unit travel extensively around Sydney and New South Wales giving seminars and workshops.

(See page 16 **Intellectual Disability Rights Service** for more details).

PROTECTING WORKERS' RIGHTS

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY RIGHTS SERVICE

your rights at WORK



INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY RIGHTS SERVICE



rs, educators of people with
ility, families, advocates

Other RLC (Ltd) Services

Prisoners Legal Service(PLS)

For many years, RLC operated a legal service for prisoners, mainly at the Long Bay Prison complex. At first this was done on RLC's initiative, since a serious unmet need obviously existed. From 1985-86 the PLS was conducted under contract to the Legal Aid Commission.

In 1985 we opened over 920 action files, and defended over 220 matters before the Visiting Justice. In the first months of 1986 over 150 matters were commenced.

In early 1986, after much negotiation, the services operated by RLC and other community legal centres were taken over by a new **Prisoners Legal Service** operating as a division of the Legal Aid Commission NSW. This new service coordinates all PLS activity statewide, and has far more resources than those made available to the legal centres. RLC is represented on its advisory committee.

The loss of PLS work and revenue led to some reduction of staff and reorganisation of Centre work. However, we still provide telephone advice to prisoners, to the Glebe half-way house and other prisoner organisations, and act in serious committals where legal aid is almost always refused.

Several test cases and most prisoner files were referred to the new PLS. However, throughout 1986-87 we continued with a number of superior court matters. This litigation primarily concerned the new Probation and Parole legislation. Below is a summary of some of these cases.

Cartwright v Corrective Services Commission (July 1985) led to our client's release within four days of the decision. However, Lee J. held against us on the issue of "street time" for Federal prisoners, i.e. the amount of time served on parole before return to

... the NSW Court of Appeal ordered that our client be released immediately, declaring that Federal prisoners were entitled to the same rights to "street time" as NSW prisoners.

prison. It reduces the period remaining to be served on breach of parole.

This issue was taken to the Full Court of the Federal Court in the matter of *Vella v Grey, Commissioner for Police (Fed)* (August 1985). Although we won the case we didn't get consideration of the street time issue.

The third time we were lucky. In *Burcher v Corrective Services Commission & Ors* (December 1985) the NSW Court of Appeal ordered that our client be released immediately, declaring that Federal prisoners were entitled to the same rights to "street time" as NSW prisoners.

The decision in *Burcher* was appealed by the Crown. In December 1986 the High Court dismissed the Appeal with costs.

Other successful test cases include: *Evans v Parole Board* (December 1985 C. of Appeal). The Parole Board in correcting patent errors must apply the same principles as sentencing judges. *Riley v Parole Board No. 1* (October 1985 C. of Appeal). Royal visit remissions do not reduce non parole periods, and the powers of the Parole Board are limited in considering the non parole periods of transitional prisoners (those sentenced under the earlier Probation and Parole Act).

R v Riley (April 1986 C. of Crim. App.). The Court of Criminal Appeal can specify new non parole periods in situations where the power of the Parole Board is limited. The Court held that where the Court of Criminal Appeal sets a new non parole period, the benefits of the new Probation and Parole Act extend to those previously regarded as transitional prisoners.

Consumer Credit Unit

Since its establishment, RLC has been involved in advocacy on behalf of users of credit. There is little other legal assistance available to people with consumer credit and debt problems, and financial counselling services are still very scarce.

In 1978 RLC obtained funding for a financial counsellor from the Federal Department of Community Services through the Family Support Program (administered by the NSW Department of Youth & Community Services). Since then, employment of a financial counsellor (now called Consumer Credit Advocate) has been a priority for RLC.

The Credit Unit

Although advice on credit problems is provided generally by RLC volunteer lawyers and staff, in 1984 the Monday night advice session began to specialise in consumer credit matters. With the backing of full-time staff, this group became the 'Credit Unit' aiming to:

1. develop expertise in assisting RLC clients with debt and credit problems, and
2. participate in legal education and law reform in this area.

Casework

Much of the casework done by the Credit Unit involves negotiations with credit providers or giving of bankruptcy advice. The Unit tries to focus on cases where credit providers have engaged in unlawful or unfair conduct. It aims to discourage credit providers from such practices through defence of claims arising in such cases, publicity about the credit providers involved, and/or referral to the Department of Consumer Affairs.

Several actions have been commenced in the NSW Commercial Tribunal, and

numerous defences lodged in other jurisdictions.

Law reform and legal education

In 1986 the number of full-time staff working in the credit area was increased. This has allowed more activity in law reform and legal education areas.

1. Involvement in the establishment and activities of the Consumer Credit Legal Centre.

After many years of lobbying by RLC, Macquarie Legal Centre and other groups, funding for this specialist centre was approved in 1986. RLC is represented on its management committee, and the two centres work closely together on law reform and education projects.

2. Publications.

In 1985 we assisted the Parramatta Community Centre with a series of brochures on credit and debt matters. A longstanding project, the **Debt Survival Guide**, will be published in the latter

Several actions have been commenced in the NSW Commercial Tribunal, and numerous defences lodged in other jurisdictions.

half of 1987. This book will be a comprehensive guide to credit and debt law for financial counsellors, community workers, lawyers, and consumers. The Debt Survival Guide is a joint production by RLC and the Consumer Credit Legal Centre, with partial funding by the Law Foundation of NSW.

3. Submissions.

Submissions for reform in credit provision have been made to various government organisations, including:

- a. the Australian Law Reform Commission in its reference on insolvency.
- b. the Department of Consumer Affairs, regarding the Consumer Credit Act 1981, Credit Act 1984 and Credit Regulations 1984. A submission on further proposed changes to the Credit Act has been drafted for the Standing Committee of Consumer Affairs Ministers.

Committee of Consumer Affairs Ministers.

- c. the Privacy Committee NSW, regarding credit bureaux.
- d. the Federal Attorney-General's Department, regarding the Regular Payments of Debts Bill.

4. Legal Education.

Talks and seminars on consumer credit are held frequently. Groups addressed include consumers, financial counsellors, community workers, workers at other legal centres, Department of Social Security social workers, and social work students.

5. Media interviews.

Media interviews aimed at education and reform are done whenever possible.

The top (interest) rate in the 1986 survey was 144%!

6. Interest Rate Survey.

Each year, RLC conducts a survey of interest rates on loans. The surveys of 1985 and 1986 showed only small decreases in the maximum interest rates charged to consumers. The top rate in the 1986 survey was 144%! While exorbitant interest rates have not been outlawed, as called for in our

submissions, the Department of Consumer Affairs has commenced actions objecting to the licences to trade of the highest rate lenders.

The 1986 survey also revealed that some credit providers continue to quote misleading and illegal flat rates, instead of reducible (effective) rates. Information has been provided to the Department of Consumer Affairs for possible prosecutions.

The 1986 survey also revealed that some credit providers continue to quote mis-leading and illegal flat rates.

7. Future Proposals.

Funding has recently been made available to support a project to examine and document the problem of over-commitment of consumers, caused by the overselling of credit. Lobbying will also be undertaken for the provision of more financial counsellors. A member of staff is involved in implementing an education program in credit and debt law for social workers throughout New South Wales.



Intellectual Disability Rights Service (IDRS)

In 1980 a group of RLC volunteers became interested in the legal problems of people with intellectual disabilities. They found that these people often have their rights violated. Many are physically mistreated, discriminated against, and financially exploited. The right to make their own choices in life is often ignored. Violations of these rights often go unrecognised or unremedied.

Through the efforts of RLC volunteers, the IDRS was established in February 1986 with core funding of \$60,000 from the NSW

The aim of IDRS is to ensure that people with intellectual disabilities have a greater opportunity to exercise their rights.

Department of Youth & Community Services. The Federal Department of Community Services provided \$190,000 for an 18 month project which has concentrated on areas of special need such as sheltered workshops, residential facilities, and the problems of intellectually disabled offenders. The Service also received \$14,900 from the NSW Department of Health to design a curriculum for staff training in legal aspects of intellectual disability.

The aim of IDRS is to ensure that people with intellectual disabilities have a greater opportunity to exercise their rights. Various strategies have been employed to achieve this aim.

Casework

In 1986 IDRS gave over 900 advices, continuing work with 80 of these cases. In general, the Service aims to develop the capacity of existing agencies to act for people with intellectual disabilities rather than providing a comprehensive casework service itself.

Common problems dealt with by IDRS include disputes about where people with intellectual disabilities should live; situa-

tions where their money has been 'looked after' by others in a restrictive and sometimes fraudulent manner; proposals to carry out non-therapeutic sterilisations on intellectually disabled women and girls; and sexual assault and harassment cases.

In addition to this advice work, IDRS regularly acts as a consultant to solicitors and services assisting people with intellectual disabilities.

Education

In 1986 IDRS conducted over 250 hours of education programs for people with intellectual disabilities, their relatives, and disability workers. These programs aim to inform participants of the rights of people with intellectual disabilities, and encourage them to pursue those rights more vigorously. They have been presented in a wide range of locations in Sydney and country areas. For programs with intellectually disabled people, the IDRS educator has built up a range of teaching resources, including role plays, videos, and comics.

Volunteers and staff of IDRS wrote and published *Legal Rights and Intellectual Disability - a short guide*, a lay person's guide to the relevant law. Publication costs were met by the Law Foundation of NSW, and over 2500 copies have been sold. At the launching of the book by the NSW Minister for Youth & Community Services, entertainment was provided by intellectually disabled actors in cooperation with producer Aldo Gennaro.

The service has produced two posters for people with intellectual disabilities, one relating to freedom to make their own choices in life, the other to sexual harassment.

Law reform

The Service has been active in pressing for law reform, especially in relation to guardianship of intellectually disabled adults. A significant reform was achieved in July 1987 when the NSW State Cabinet announced new laws which mean that the con-

The lack of adequate laws forces some people to live in squalid and unstimulating environments without any mechanism to extricate them.

People with intellectual disabilities are over-represented in the prison system.

sent of a newly created Guardianship Tribunal will have to be obtained before an intellectually disabled woman over 18 can be sterilised.

The lack of adequate laws forces some people to live in squalid and unstimulating environments without any mechanism to extricate them. Another target of reform is the Crimes Act, which prohibits sexual relationships with 'idiots and imbeciles'. Apart from the archaic language, the relevant sections are objectionable in that they prohibit sexual relationships for many people of intellectual disabilities, including some who have the capacity for informed consent.

Sheltered workshops and residential facilities are important, since they are where many people with intellectual disabilities are gathered. IDRS is producing a 'Rights at Work' training kit, which will include a video, and manuals for people with intellectual disabilities and supervisory staff and management.

The Service is also preparing a manual on rights in residential facilities, covering areas such as rights to privacy and access to personal money, and rights to make choices about life decisions.

Intellectually Disabled offenders

People with intellectual disabilities are over-represented in the prison system. A typical case is a young man who felt a misfit in school because of inadequacies in the special education system. He ended up in prison because he committed many minor property and assault offences and no adequate community alternatives existed for him. In prison he received no adequate training, and was mistreated to the extent of homosexual rape. He emerged from prison more likely to reoffend than when he went in.

A NSW Government report *The Missing Services* starkly documents the extent of this problem and the lack of adequate services and understanding of intellectual disability throughout the criminal justice system. IDRS is pressing the government to implement the recommendations of this report. In addition, the Service is compiling a manual

for lawyers acting for intellectually disabled offenders.

Structure of IDRS

The Service has a management committee which includes representatives of the NSW Council for Intellectual Disability, and a representative from Redfern Legal Centre. Advice is also obtained from a Consumers Committee composed of six people with intellectual disabilities.

Consumer Credit Legal Service

In 1983, at the instigation of Redfern Legal Centre, a committee was formed to consider the need of low income consumers for access to legal advice and assistance with credit and debt problems.

The committee was made up of representatives of many concerned organisations, including the NSW Council of Social Service, the Combined Pensioners Association, the Australian Consumers Association, the Institute of Financial Counsellors and the Combined Community Legal Centres Group.

The Committee drafted a submission to the NSW Department of Consumer Affairs for funding for a Credit Legal Information Centre. The Department indicated its support, and in late 1985 funds became available. The **Consumer Credit Legal Centre** was established in April 1986 with a one-off grant of \$39,400.

At the same time, the Department began a review of its role in funding financial counselling and consumer credit advocacy services in New South Wales. The result was a funding program under which community services may apply for annual funding to enable them to give advice and assistance to consumers in debt. The Consumer Credit Legal Centre was successful in obtaining funds.

For the first 4 months of its existence, the Centre was part of Macquarie Legal Centre at Parramatta. However, for the convenience of its clients (the Centre services the whole of NSW) and because of the need to be near the courts and the Department of Consumer Affairs, the Centre moved to new premises leased by RLC Publishing near Central Station in Redfern. At the same time, the Centre became part of Redfern Legal Centre,

although it will become an organisation in its own right in 1987.

The Centre has:

- provided free advice and assistance, including representation in courts and tribunals.
- given advice in relation to a vast range of consumer credit and debt problems, including repossession, summonses, home loans, bankruptcy, instalment repayments, consumer credit insurance, harassment, interest rates, farmers debt problems, and many more. This advice was given directly to consumers, and to agency workers assisting consumers.
- conducted a number of training seminars on "Legal Aspects of Financial Counselling" for social and welfare

A large number of clients are NSW farmers in serious financial difficulties, being pursued for debts beyond what is legally owing.

workers with clients experiencing financial problems.

- commenced writing a **Debt Survival Guide** in conjunction with Redfern Legal Centre. The project is funded by the Law Foundation of NSW, and will be available in late 1987.
- made numerous written and oral submissions concerning policy issues and law reform to Ministers, Departmental staff and law reform agencies.

Casework

The following are some major problem areas which have come to light so far:

1. a large number of clients are New South Wales farmers in serious financial difficulties, being pursued for debts beyond what is legally owing.
2. consumers buying cars are frequently signed up at the same time by the dealer for finance and for various forms of insurance.
3. 'asset based' lending: an increasingly frequent feature of the lending marketplace is the provision of credit to borrowers with only a marginal capacity to repay but who can offer good security.

4. consumers continue to experience extraordinary difficulties when something goes wrong with their electronic banking accounts.
5. garnishment of wages and bank accounts is a creditors remedy which always causes acute financial distress.
6. many requests were received for advice about voluntary bankruptcy.
7. many finance companies are continuing to quote flat rates of interest on loans to consumers.
8. many complaints were received about information contained on the Credit Reference Association file ('credit rating').

Consultation and reform

In 1986 the Centre participated on a number of consultative bodies and made submissions for reform in consumer credit and debt law and administration, including:

- participating as a consumer representative at a meeting organised by the National Consumer Affairs Advisory Council to address consumer problems in utilizing Electronic Transfer Funds Systems.
- consulting with the Australian Law Reform Commission in relation to its General Insolvency Reference.
- participating in an ongoing review by state Departments of Consumer Affairs of the various Credit Acts. Raising with the Minister of Consumer Affairs the problems faced by low income earners in seeking relief from the Commercial Tribunal of NSW given that the Tribunal has an unfettered discretion to award costs.
- participating in a study of womens access to housing finance conducted by the NSW Department of Housing.

Management

The Centre has its own Management sub-committee which is currently responsible to Redfern Legal Centre. The Management sub-committee is comprised of people with experience in the provision of legal and other advice to low income earners about financial problems. It makes recommendations about major decisions, including staffing, areas of activity, policy directions and major items of expenditure.

CCLC employs 2 solicitors, 1 administrator, and 1 education worker.

Redfern Legal Centre Publishing

Redfern Legal Centre Publishing is a specialist legal and educational publishing service. The service operates as an autonomous arm of Redfern Legal Centre Ltd. The publishing service is funded both from sales of publications and grants income and now employs 13 people. In 1987 RLCP will become a separate incorporated organisation.

Publications are designed as educational and preventive legal aid resources, and are either distributed free or sold at the minimum possible price to ensure wide availability. Any surplus funds generated are used to develop new resources.

A further area of work is in providing advice, assistance and a resources service to community and government groups publishing education materials.

Publications are designed as educational and preventive legal aid resources.

Materials currently being distributed

The Law Handbook - this is the most important of the Centre's community legal education activities. It is the most com-

prehensive guide to the law published in New South Wales.

Lawyers Practice Manual - co-published with the Law Book Company. The Manual is aimed primarily at sole practitioners and legal aid solicitors, and is one of the most successful looseleaf publications in Australia.

Legal Rights and Intellectual Disability - a short guide. A plain English guide to the many legal problems which arise for people with intellectual disabilities. Written for families, friends, care givers.

Crash Kit - (what to do after a road crash) - available from bookshops and newsagents.

If You are Arrested... - written by the Council for Civil Liberties, and published by RLC Publishing.

Legalities - guidelines for running a community organisation. Published in association with the NSW Council of Social Service, it covers all areas of law in relation to community organisations.

Streetwise Comics. Under the umbrella of RLC Publishing, Streetwise is a joint project of Redfern Legal Centre, the Legal Aid Commission of NSW and Marrickville Childrens Legal Service. The purpose of the project is to provide practical legal, health and youth rights information in an exciting, easy to read format, to young people most in need of such information.

A secondary aim is to stimulate young people to think critically about legal and social issues of relevance to them.

Comics produced so far include:



- Nos 1-4. These deal with various legal/social issues, including incest, going to court, bail, relations with police, runaways, the Ombudsman.
- No 5. A special comic for young people with reading problems.
- No 6. Discrimination
- No 7-8. Health issues
- No 9. Social Security
- No 10. Health issues, including domestic violence
- No 11. Skin protection (particularly aimed at country young people)

Posters - legal ages of consent, AIDS, drugs, social security rights. Law Handbook educational posters (debts, Xmas credit, intellectually disabled persons and sexual harassment, family split up.)

RLC Publishing Mail Order Catalogue - a catalogue containing 60 legal educational resource publications, including our own.

In production

Environmental Law Handbook - with the Environmental Law Association.

A Social Security Problem Solver - written by the Welfare Rights Centre.

Debt Survival Guide - Consumer Credit Legal Centre and Redfern Legal Centre.

Rest Assured - A legal guide to Wills, Estates and Funerals.

Human Rights in Australia.

Your Rights at Work - a kit for people with intellectual disabilities in sheltered workshops. Written by the Intellectual Disability Rights Service.

Publishing advice and consultancy service

RLC Publishing often co-produces books with other community agencies. It often gives advice and assistance to other groups producing materials in the legal educational and welfare field. It also undertakes paid consultancy work. The following list includes some of the groups we have worked with or are currently advising:

- Department of Social Security Youth Access Project
- Legal Aid Commission of NSW
- NSW Public Service Association
- Womens Legal Resources Centre
- Legal Education Teachers Association
- Welfare Rights Centre
- Court Support Scheme
- NSW Council of Social Service
- Pearl Watson Foundation
- Penrith Financial Counselling and Information Service
- Immigration Advice & Rights Centre



Associated Services

The Accommodation Rights Service (TARS) *An Advocacy Service for Elderly Residents*

In 1982 Redfern Legal Centre's community lawyer became involved with several community organisations concerned about the elderly in institutional care. The Social Welfare Action Group, the Combined Pensioners Association, the Australian Consumers Association, and Redfern Legal Centre, conducted a phone-in for elderly people and their families. This highlighted serious abuses in many nursing homes, hospitals, psychiatric institutions and residential facilities. The results were documented in a report entitled *Prisoners of Neglect*.

This report was followed by a major research project undertaken by RLC into the legal needs of institutionalised people. This was commissioned by the then Commonwealth Legal Aid Commission. RLC staff and special project workers undertook detailed research into the conditions for residents in a repatriation hospital, general hospital, nursing homes and a psychiatric institution. Their report showed that elderly residents have significant legal needs. Among its recommendations were the widening of the powers of the Ombudsman and the establishment of a legal/educational 'outreach' service to cover aged care accommodation.

RLC's community lawyer gradually became more involved in issues concerning elderly residents, and on behalf of RLC joined a coalition of groups to campaign for increased rights for elderly residents of supported accommodation. RLC's former community lawyer is now employed by TARS on a full-time basis.

In 1984 the Coalition employed a full-time research worker to report on the needs of residents of boarding houses, hostels and self-care units. Residents were central to the process.

All of this work led to the establishment of **The Accommodation Rights Service**, which was opened on 5 March 1986 by NSW Housing Minister, Frank Walker. TARS aims to assist elderly people living in supported accommodation, i.e. nursing homes, hostels,

serviced apartments, boarding houses and self care units, in the following ways:

- a. to establish and maintain the rights and autonomy of elderly residents.
- b. to improve their quality of life.

The main strategies for this are:

1. Legal research and reform aimed at creating enforceable rights for residents. Development of proposals for advocacy and dispute resolution mechanisms.
2. The development and delivery of programs on education, training and support on aspects of community living for residents, staff, management and community workers.

Their report showed that elderly residents have significant legal needs.

3. Limited dispute resolution and legal casework and referral to legal and other services. TARS hopes to expand this aspect of its work in 1988.
4. Consultation and community awareness programs with residents, service providers, community workers, legal workers and government, on the needs of elderly residents, and proposals for reform.

TARS undertakes a small amount of test case work, and provides assistance with the enforcement of rights. The Service aims to focus on research, reform, education and support, as well as short term methods of dispute resolution.

In 1987 the Service was funded by the NSW Departments of Housing, and Youth & Community Services, and the Federal Department of Community Services. Assistance has also been received from the Law Foundation of NSW.

TARS employs 2 education workers, 2 legal/policy/caseworkers, an administrator, and a part time typist/clerkal worker. It operates from RLC premises, and is open 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday, telephone 699 4468, 699 4465.

TARS will be moving to separate premises during 1987.

Campbelltown Legal Centre

In 1985 three RLC volunteers became interested in setting up some kind of legal service in Campbelltown, a far western area of Sydney severely lacking in community resources. Through a successful application for funding to the Law Foundation of NSW, the trio established a legal education project in Campbelltown in May 1986.

By this time, one of the volunteers, Simon Rice, was working at Redfern Legal Centre as a full-time lawyer. In June 1986 he proposed to the RLC Management Committee that he spend up to half a day each week at Campbelltown, acting as a legal resource for the education project. RLC also donated administrative services such as photocopying, typing, and phone calls.

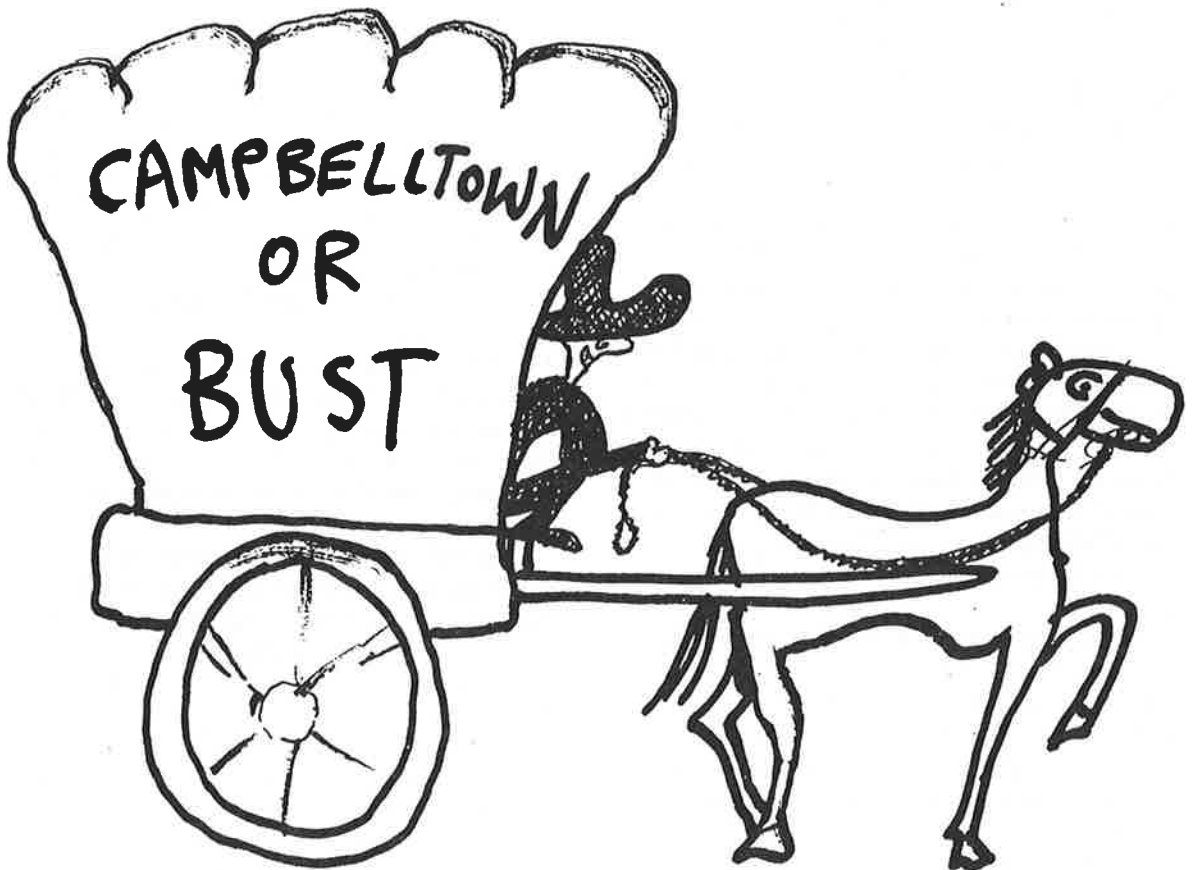
An application for funding for a legal centre was made to the Legal Aid Commis-

sion NSW, and money was obtained from the Commission as well as from the Department of Consumer Affairs.

Campbelltown Legal Centre is now operating, with an administrator/ lawyer, and a solicitor. Simon Rice still attends at Campbelltown half a day each week to monitor the casework, review files, and consult with the staff. The administrative setup is similar to that of Redfern (although Simon insists that it is an improved version!)

RLC related people are on the executive committee of Campbelltown Legal Centre, but the day to day management/policy is conducted through a Management Committee composed of local people residents and service providers.

Campbelltown Legal Centre, 4 Broughton Street, Campbelltown. Phone (046) 282042.



ANOTHER PIONEER HEADS WEST.

Law reform, lobbying, campaigns, education

Tenancy

RLC acted in the first appeal to review the powers of the Residential Tenancies Tribunal. It also supplied the first lawyer given leave to appear before the Tribunal to argue a complicated point of law on the definition of the term 'lodger'.

In co-operation with the Tenants Union, RLC has made numerous submissions for reform of the present tenancy legislation. Extensive telephone advice has been provided to tenants advice service workers.

RLC staff are represented on the Department of Consumer Affairs Committee drafting the regulations and standard lease documents for the new Residential Tenancies Act. We expect to have a representative

The reduction in the number of rental vacancies and the present housing crisis have resulted in a large increase in the number of tenants facing evictions

on the Committee which will oversee the operation of the new Act once it is proclaimed in late 1987 or early 1988.

The reduction in the number of rental vacancies and the present housing crisis have resulted in a large increase in the number of tenants facing evictions - particularly at Redfern Court. In cooperation with the local Magistrate and court staff, RLC now advises and represents many previously unrepresented tenants. The Legal Aid Commission does not generally provide assistance to tenants facing eviction, and the bulk

of this work falls on community legal centres such as RLC (or the tenants are left to fend for themselves).

In a number of cases, RLC has run successful defences against the attempted eviction of protected tenants, and excellent results were achieved for several ordinary tenants by delaying evictions and assisting with emergency accommodation through the Department of Housing.

The establishment of the new Residential Tenancies Tribunal will reduce our representation work for tenants, but the need for advice is expected to increase markedly.

Consumer Credit

A number of debt recovery actions were successfully defended, including three extremely favourable settlements against AGC, Citicorp and National Westminster Finance Ltd.

RLC appeared in the first application to the new Commercial Tribunal for relief under part IX of the Credit Act, which tested the powers of the Tribunal to rewrite the terms of a contract between parties. This matter was settled 'on the steps of the court'.

The Centre also appeared on behalf of a number of debtors in a case affecting more than 2,500 debtors and \$1.25 million in disputed credit charges. Written submissions have been made and the Tribunal's decision should be handed down soon.

In another matter, the Centre was granted leave to join with the Department of Consumer Affairs in an objection to the licencing of Walter Pugh Pty Ltd as a credit provider. This company charges interest of up to 144%, and regularly tops our annual interest rate survey of NSW credit providers.

RLC is participating in the working party advising the Standing Committee of Consumer Affairs Ministers. This committee is briefed to develop a uniform set of credit

The Centre also appeared on behalf of a number of debtors in a case affecting more than 2,500 debtors and \$1.25 million in disputed credit charges.

legislation for all states of Australia. Two major submissions have been prepared by RLC.

RLC has a representative on the executive of the Financial Counsellors Association of Australia, and two representatives on the management committee of the Financial Counsellors Association of NSW and the ACT. Both organisations are strong lobby groups, and RLC has been involved particularly in setting up long term projects to in-

vestigate the impact of the overselling of insurance by credit providers and the problems of overcommitment.

Intellectual Disability

IDRS has been active for lobbying for reform in the areas of sterilisation, guardianship laws and the Anti-discrimination Act, seeking amendment to the 'impairment provisions'. Five meetings with various government Ministers have proven fruitful.

Prison law

1986 saw the phasing out of RLC casework in prison law. However, RLC has maintained its commitment to policy and law reform in this area. The Centre continues to lobby for just legislation regarding the rights of prisoners, and has a member on the Prisoners Legal Service sub-committee of the Legal Aid Commission NSW.



A GREY AREA OF THE LAW.

Criminal law (Committals)

RLC solicitors appear regularly in criminal law matters in local courts, primarily to represent people in committal proceedings after being requested to do so by staff of the Legal Aid Commission. This work of the Centre has been relied upon by the Legal Aid Commission to support the case for comprehensive funding of legal representation for committals.

Domestic violence

RLC has a long involvement in domestic violence policy and legal services. Many victims of violence have been represented at the local court on the first return date. We have found that many domestic violence informations have substance. Accordingly, the defendant, on advice from the Chamber Magistrate, may agree to orders being made against him on the first day in court if the complainant is represented. Such involvement obviates the need for complainants to apply for legal aid and reduces the period of extreme hardship for many victims of domestic violence.

RLC was represented on the original Domestic Violence Task Force set up by the NSW government. This Task Force recommended sweeping changes to the legislation, and to the approach to domestic violence of government agencies including the Police, Departments of Health, Education and Housing.

RLC was represented on the NSW Task Force on Services for Victims of Crime. The report and recommendations of the Task Force were submitted to the Attorney-General in February 1987. Lobbying continues for the reforms identified in the report and further changes in the legislation and police role.

Immigration

The Centre has two representatives on the Migration Law Group, which is active in lobbying the Federal Government on immigration law and the exercise of discretionary power by officers of the Department of Immigration and Ethnic Affairs. A meeting held early in 1987 with the Minister helped to stall the introduction of a review structure which was particularly oppressive. Liaison with senior staff of the Department in Canberra in February 1987 opened up communication channels, and is helping to reverse the bureaucratic and often harsh response of many Departmental staff to immigration queries.

Education

A great many training sessions have been run by the full time and volunteer staff of RLC in the areas of credit and debt law, tenancy, intellectual disability, domestic violence, and 'introduction to law'. These sessions have been for the benefit of the whole community, with audiences including welfare course students, womens groups, government departments, and large forums of solicitors and welfare workers.

We receive at least two requests each week to conduct an education session or lecture from every conceivable community organisation.

Publications

Despite the separation of RLC Publishing, RLC staff are actively involved in a number of major publicity ventures.

Editing and authorship continues for the *Lawyers Practice Manual* (including a new chapter on sentencing), and *The Law Handbook*. In addition, the Centre has been involved directly in the authorship of a number of publications:

- RLC in conjunction with the Consumer Credit Legal Centre has prepared the *Debt Survival Guide*, a 200 page book on credit and debt law in New South Wales.
- August 1986 saw the launch of *Legal Rights and Intellectual Disability*, a 96 page easy to read guide for disability workers and the families of the intellectually disabled. It has sold over 3000 copies.
- A *Rights at Work* kit has been completed by the Intellectual Disability Rights Service. It will be launched in September 1987. It includes a manual for people with intellectual disabilities, a manual for disability workers, a video cassette and an audio cassette.
- A manual on the rights of the intellectually disabled in residential services is near to completion and will be published later in the year.
- A centre staff member assisted the Tenants Union to rewrite the tenancy chapter in *The Court is Open*.
- A number of the full time staff have been directly involved or been consulted for the publication of the *Streetwise Comics* and the *Law Handbook*.

RLC trivia

1. Where are they now?

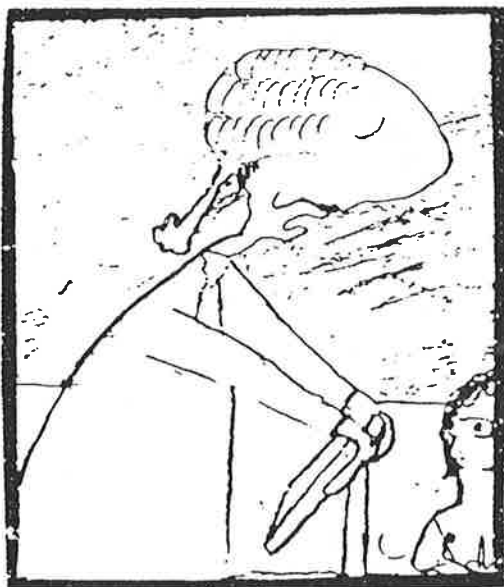
In its 10 years of operation, RLC has seen its staff and volunteers go in many different directions. These include:

- a Logie-winning playwright
- two New South Wales magistrates
- two heads of NSW government departments
- a Public Defender
- 2 television news/current affairs journalists
- 3 independent television producers
- a theatrical union organiser
- 3 newspaper journalists
- a number of senior bureaucrats
- a Deputy Ombudsman
- head of an interstate Legal Aid Commission

- 4 Law Reform Commissioners
- a leading spokesperson for the welfare sector in Australia
- Deputy Director of a Legal Aid Commission
- several Ministerial 'minders'
- the mysterious Ginger de Wynter, star of the 'Golden Years of Television.'
(Oh, and quite a lot of RLC workers have actually gone on to practice as solicitors, barristers and social workers!)

2. Did you know?

- RLC organised the funeral for one of our longstanding clients, after the Centre and the people of Redfern raised over \$900 for his funeral. Local people were strongly in favour of keeping him in the



LIONEL BENCHLEY Q.C.
(1888-1939)

Coined the phrase "to wit", 1924.



SAMUEL CRISPIN
(1511-1566)

First solicitor
to misuse trust fund, 1542.

RLC is the only solicitor's office in the world with its own cartoonists on staff.

area where he lived and was well known, so rumour has it that RLC staff buried his ashes in the local park and erected a memorial plaque on the park bench where he spent much of his time.

- Over the years, RLC has had all kinds of visitors, including:
State and Federal Attorneys-General and other Ministers, head of the Legal Aid Commission of Indonesia, a judge of the High Court of India, the Deputy Secretary of Trade and Foreign Affairs of Vanuatu, delegation of senior judges and court administrators from China, a judge from Thailand, the Vice President of the Legal Services Corporation USA, and Justice Lionel Murphy of the High Court of Australia.
- RLC is the only solicitor's office in the world(?) with its own cartoonists on staff.

3. Can you guess?

- which RLC staff member tried to have 'non government welfare sector' trans-

lated into Chinese for the visiting delegation?

(A. *Dominic Gibson. The attempt failed.*)

- which RLC staff member has worked in the most number of community legal centres.

(A. *Phil Molan, now Phil Molan Magistrate, has been employed at five legal centres in NSW, Victoria and the Northern Territory.*)

- who has worked at RLC the most number of times?

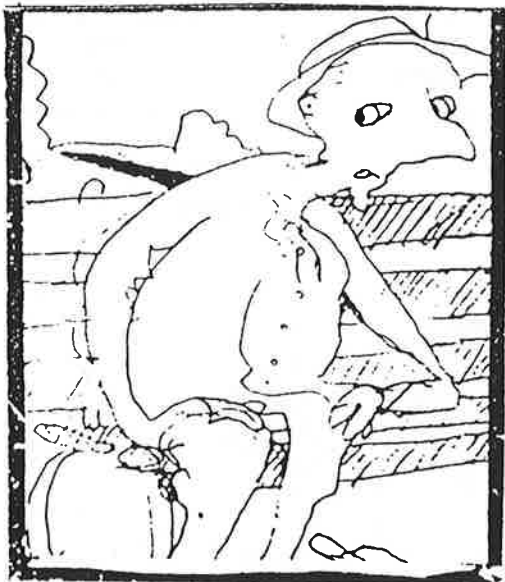
(A. *Debbie Whitmont started at Redfern as a student. She has since been employed at RLC on three separate occasions - as full time administrator, case-work lawyer, and community lawyer.*)

- who holds the record for attending the most National Community Legal Centre Conferences?

(A. *RLC's Andrew Haesler shares the record with Alan Nichol of the Victorian Legal Aid Commission for having been to every conference held so far - 9 in all.*)

- who holds the world record for 'jaccuzying' with prominent government legal aid identities?

(A. *You'll never know!*)



CLAUDE WINGDELL L.L.B.
(1859-1937)

Discovered the doctrine of conspiracy, 1936.



GEOFFREY TRAVERS
(1795-1839)

Invented conveyancing, 1827.

RLC statistics

The following statistics provide a brief picture of the casework side of Redfern Legal Centre's general service over the ten years it has been operating. Some major factors have influenced the pattern of these figures, e.g.:

1. When RLC opened, we attempted to be a legal centre for the local community/geographical area. This succeeded to a large extent, but we were also inundated by clients from all over Sydney (and New South Wales). This reflected the lack of other community legal centres at the time, and the limitations of legal aid provided by the government services (e.g. little assistance for tenants, debtors). It also reflected in part the publicity generated by the new type of legal service offered by RLC, and the poor public profile of the government and other legal aid services. The development of the community legal centre movement gradually enabled RLC to tighten its geographical guidelines, and refer many people outside its area to closer or more appropriate legal services.
2. The Prisoners Legal Service represents a significant proportion of files opened, particularly between 1982-85. When the Legal Aid Commission NSW took over the PLS, this was reflected in a drop in the number of files opened.

It should be noted that the figures for 'Files Opened' include once-only advices, as well as continuing matters.

In 1985 RLC changed its statistical system to distinguish between the two. In 1986 for example, our continuing file matters (excluding Prison cases) were made up as follows:

Credit/Debt 18%, Tenancy 13%, Criminal Law 12%, Wills for Pensioners 9%, Family 6%, with a multitude of other matters making up the balance.

By contrast, the major areas for advice only and referral work were:

Family 15%, Criminal 13%, Credit/Debt 11%, Tenancy 11%, Workers Compensation/ Personal Injury 7%, Motor Vehicle Accidents 7%, Immigration 5%.

Phone advice

RLC has always given telephone advice in cases where,

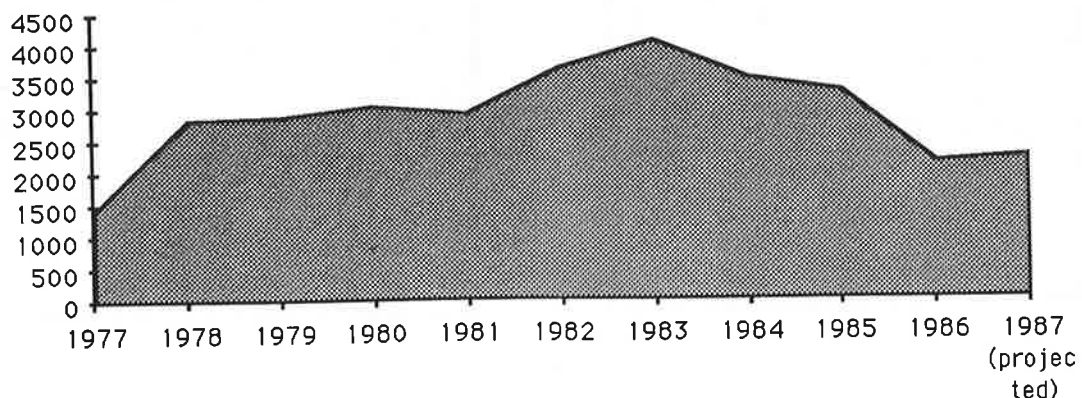
1. there is an emergency
2. the caller cannot come in to RLC
3. the caller needs one-off advice, and referral to an appropriate agency
4. the caller needs referral only to an appropriate agency
5. the caller is a welfare/community worker ringing on behalf of their client, or their own organisation.

Statistics for phone advice are now collected:

Year	Phone Advice
1986	2465
1987 (to June)	1586

Files opened

No. of files opened at Redfern Legal Centre



Centre workers

In the 10 years of its operation, RLC has employed many full-time staff, with literally hundreds of volunteer lawyers, law, social work and other students, typists, social workers, and members of the community.

Redfern Legal Centre workers (as of 1987)

Heather McGillivray, *Administrator*

General office administration, volunteer rosters, all financial matters.

Jeanette Tansey, *Legal secretary*

Word processing, typing, correspondence, general administration.

Clare Farnam, *Typist/WP*

Typing, word processing (*part time*).

Andrea Powell, (*resigned early 1987*)

Michael Hillman, *Social worker*

(*employed by Sydney City Council*)

Casework, community work, liaison with legal staff and volunteers, policy work.

Gordon Renouf, *Consumer credit advocate*

Consumer credit policy, casework, law reform, education.

Andrew Haesler, *Solicitor*

Formal responsibility for casework, tenancy case/policy work, legal administration.

Nanette Rogers, *Solicitor*

Case/policy work, mainly crime, kids, prisons.

Simon Rice, *Solicitor*

General case/policy work, casework supervision, community legal education, Campbelltown Legal Centre.

Ben Slade, *Solicitor*

Case/policy work, mainly consumer credit.

All RLC staff take responsibility for duty work in the front office, and supervision of volunteer work. All represent the Centre on various committees and other community organisations. All take an active part in law reform and legal education.

RLC Volunteer lawyers (as of June 1987)

Mark Anderson	Jim McLachlan	Carolyn Learoyd	Paul Stockley
Leslie Power	Jane Forster	Crash Craddock	Greg Kirk
Helen Campbell	Eric Petersen	Michael Windsor	Paul Millar
Alexis Hailstones	Julian Millar	Rob Bromwich	Chris Komor
Penny Musgrave	Connie Ceramidas	Eddie Neumann	Rod Bretag
Robert Nixon	Paul Farrugia	Graham Jones	Lloyd Jones
Tony Serone	Megan Pitt	Elizabeth Pemberton	Arul Niles
Mark Lynch			

RLC Volunteer Legal Assistants (as of June 1987)

John McGinness	Daphne Anderson	Monique Pirona	Helen Wilson
Alex Borthwick	Peter Stern	Janice Connelly	Hugh Stowe
Liz Devine	Steve Watts	Gabrielle McKenzie	Prue Vines
Jane Paskin	Georgina Waite	Simon Lake	Gary Power
Alison Chivers	Peter Grimshaw	Frances Powrie	Sarah Connell
Anne Whitehead	William De Mars	Jean-Jacques Loofs	Sue Bowrey
Marion Moyes	Miles Condon	Chris Buckley	Sheila Begg
John Cipolla	Paul Moorhouse	Linda De Silva	June Rozen
Charlotte Steer	John Godwin	Matthew Barnard	Will Stubbs
Cathy Kerr	Sian Edwards	Dino Farronato	Natalie Ross
Nigel Vertigan	Francine Esterman	Rachel Petro	Nikki Melnick
Reay McGinness	Amanda Tibbey	Mary Whitehead	Libby Baulch
Karen McGlinchey	Michael Gibson	Merrin Mason	Kim Rosser
Maryanne McMahan	Peter Leonart	Shaun Bilborough	Rae Parker

RLC Volunteer Social Workers (as of 1987)

Nancy Tong	Margaret Egan
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Intellectual Disability Rights Centre workers (1987)

Jim Simpson, Solicitor/coordinator
Advice, education & reform work, co-ordination

Pam Simpson, Community worker/educator
Education programs, media work, education resource development

Penny Harrington, Administrator/secretary
General administration, secretarial work

Jill Anderson, Solicitor
Advice, education & reform work

Janene Cootes, Project worker
Development of education curriculum & manual on rights in residential services (part time)

Anne Rauch, Project worker
Development of Rights at Work Kit (till July).

In addition, the Service has employed two barristers part-time to work on particular projects, namely Roger West and Mark Ierace.

RLC Publishing workers (1987)

Sean Kidney, Publishing manager
General coordination of publications & projects, budgets, finance, art direction, marketing, consulting work.

Ian Close, Co-Publishing manager
Book production and schedules, general admin, consulting work.

Lynne Spender, Editor
Supervising editor for Law Handbook/ other publications, consulting work.

Jane Messer, Marketing/publicity
Marketing/publicity for all publications.

Sue Proudfoot, Receptionist
Reception, admin. support.

Jennie Doyle, Graphic artist
Graphic artist for Law Handbook, promotional & contract work.

Les Robinson, Cartoonist/layout artist
Cartoons/layout for Streetwise, computer design, consultancy work.

Prue Borthwick, Cartoonist
Streetwise cartoons, poster artist.

Vic Smith, Streetwise Editor
Streetwise editor, research and script.

Cherie Ellis, Editorial coordinator
Streetwise editorial, script.

Louise Snowdon, Administration
Despatch, subscription lists, banking. (part time).

Simeon Beckett, Administration
Streetwise subscription, mailing lists. (part time).

Carol Roberts, Accounts
Accounts & bookkeeping (part time).

Richard Mohr, Consultant
Evaluation research(part time).

Frank McLeod, Cartoonist
Streetwise cartoons (part time).

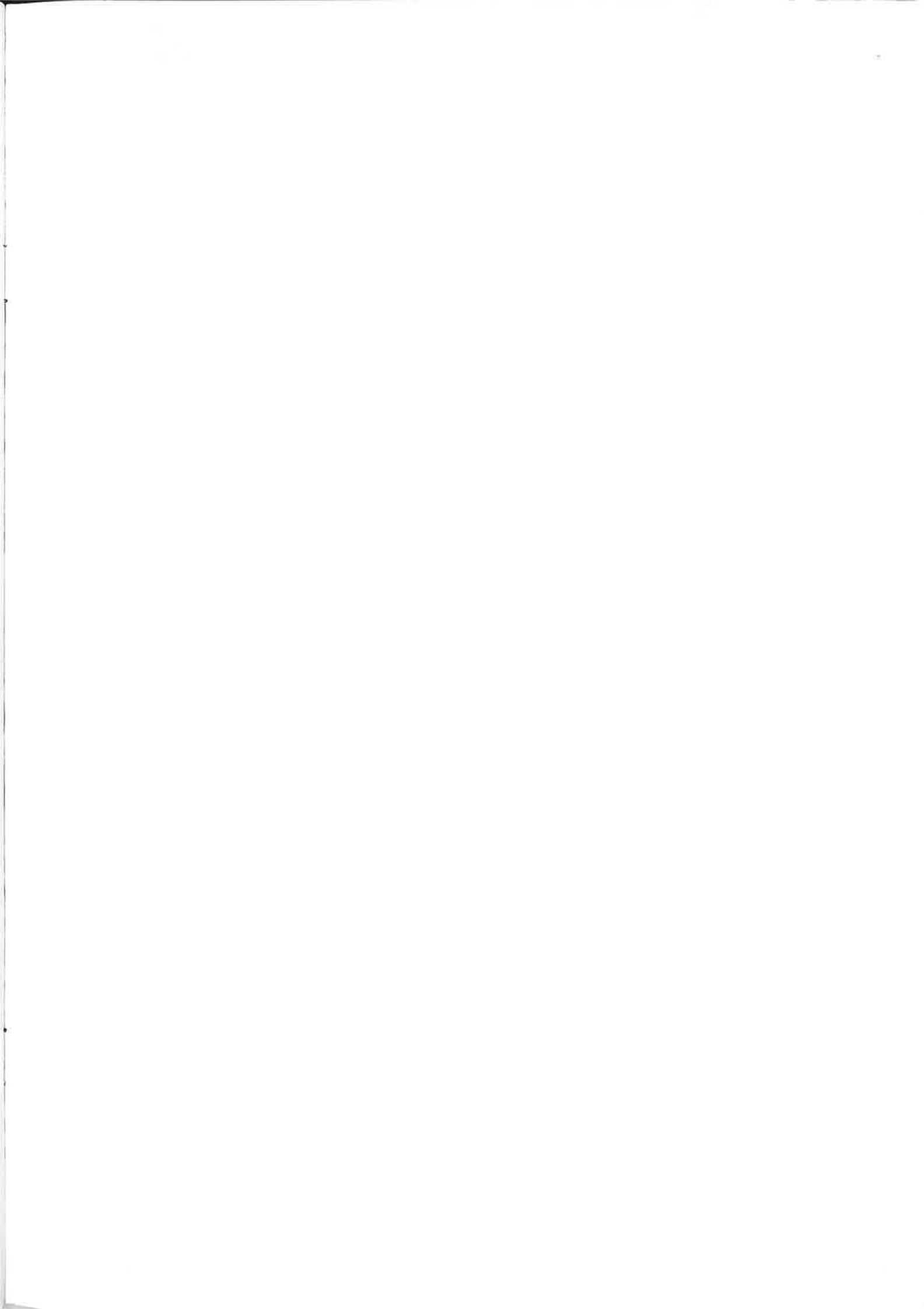
Consumer Credit Legal Centre workers (1987)

Gillian Moon, Coordinator/Solicitor
Principal solicitor, policy & law reform.

Liza Carver, Solicitor
Casework solicitor, litigation, negotiation.

Isis Dunderdale, Secretary/Administrator
Typing, accounts, administration.

Anna Russell, Training Officer
Training community/welfare workers & financial counsellors in credit/debt law (temporary position).



REDFERN LEGAL CENTRE

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(02) 698 7277 DX 937 SYDNEY