



REDFERN LEGAL CENTRE
ANNUAL REPORT 2001-2002

REDFERN LEGAL CENTRE
ANNUAL REPORT 2001-2002

73 PITT STREET REDFERN 2016
TELEPHONE 02 9698 7277
TENANTS ADVICE SERVICE 02 9698 5975
FAX 02 9310 3586
EMAIL: INFO@RLC.ORG.AU
WEBSITE WWW.RLC.ORG.AU

Contents

Our Vision	3
Management Structure	4
Funding	5
Staff and volunteers	6
Client Statistics	12
General Legal Service	13
Credit and Debt	16
Tenants' Service	19
The SRC legal service	22
Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Scheme (WDVCAS)	25
Drugs policy project	29
Directors' Declaration	31
Auditor's Report	32
Financial Performance	33
Financial Position	34
Cashflow statement	35

OUR VISION

Redfern Legal Centre aims to:

- ◆ provide an accessible, appropriate legal information, advice and referral service
- ◆ provide ongoing casework services to people who live or work in the RLC catchment area and who cannot afford the services of a private solicitor nor obtain adequate assistance from Legal Aid
- ◆ identify the inequalities in the laws, legal system, administrative practices and society as a whole that affect our clients and disadvantaged people generally and to work for social and legal change to remove those defects and inequalities
- ◆ promote community legal education
- ◆ provide services in a way that promote empowerment of individuals and communities
- ◆ investigate and where appropriate develop new ways of providing legal services to our clients in the interests of improving access to our services and to ensure that the quality of those services is maintained and improved.

MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

Redfern Legal Centre is a company limited by guarantee. It is a community based organisation which means:

- ◆ it is a legal entity independent from government ie. it is non-government
- ◆ its 'profits' or surpluses are reinvested in the activities of the organisation rather than distributed amongst members or shareholders ie. it is non-profit

Redfern Legal Centre has a Board of six Directors, elected annually at the AGM.

The Redfern Legal Centre is managed day to day by the Director.

Directors as at 30 June 2002

Director	Occupation	How Appointed
Gerard Craddock	Barrister	Elected at AGM
Paul Farrugia	Solicitor	Elected at AGM
Mary Perkins	Community Worker	Elected at AGM
Clare Petre	Social Worker	Appointed to fill casual vacancy, 15.5.02
Peter Stapleton	Solicitor	Elected at AGM
Nigel Vertigan	Solicitor	Elected at AGM
Stamatia Stamatellis	Solicitor	Elected at AGM* * resigned 15 May 2002

FUNDING

In 2001/2 RLC received funding and in-kind support from a range of sources. We thank these Departments, organisations and individuals for their ongoing support of the Centre.

- ◆ The General Legal Service is funded principally through Community Legal Centres Funding Program which is a joint program of the Commonwealth (through the Family Law, Legal Aid Division of the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department) and NSW Governments. The funds are administered by the NSW Legal Aid Commission
- ◆ The Credit & Debt Service is funded by the NSW Department of Community Services, the NSW Department of Fair Trading and the Commonwealth Department of Family and Community Services through its Financial Counselling Program
- ◆ The Students Legal Service (Branch Office) is funded by the Students' Representative Council at Sydney University.
- ◆ The Inner Sydney Tenants Advice & Advocacy Service is funded by the NSW Department of Fair Trading.
- ◆ The Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Scheme is funded by the Legal Aid commission of NSW under its Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Program.
- ◆ South Sydney Council provides the Centre with a community worker, concessional rent, and occasional small grants for specific purposes.

From time to time the centre is successful in gaining funds for non recurrent projects or joint projects. In 2001/2 project funding was provided by

- ◆ Department of Family and Community Services: Volunteer Project; and
- ◆ South Sydney Council:- Boarders and Lodgers Project

STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

PERMANENT STAFF IN 2001/2

Hilary Chesworth, Administrator
Caitlin Perry, Co-ordinator
Denele Crozier, Administrator
Robyn Holden, Volunteer Co ordinator/ Admin Officer
Patricia McDonough, Principal Solicitor
Rebecca Neil, Senior Solicitor
Mathew Deighton, Solicitor Credit & Debt
Penny Quarry, Solicitor Credit & Debt
Matthew Hazard, SRC Solicitor
Emma Golledge, Tenancy Co ordinator
Beth Jewell, Policy and Tenancy Coordinator
Sri Ogden, Tenants' Worker
Polly Porteous, Tenancy Adviser
Ildi Ritzema, Tenancy Adviser
Jacqui Swinburne, Tenancy Adviser
Sue Thomas, Tenancy Adviser /Day Information Service
Timothy Moore, Drug Law Policy
Lyndal Gowland, Coordinator, Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Scheme

CONSULTANTS:

Tilda Communications
Gordon Renouf
Davidson Trahaire
RPR Consulting
Simon Rice
Ann Mara

LOCUMS & CASUAL WORKERS

Fiona Allison, Solicitor
Katherine Biber, Night Advice Service
Kathryn Brooks, Domestic Violence worker
Kate Chater, Day Information Service
Kirsty Crooks, Clerical assistant
Katrina Dawson, Night Advice Service
Julianne Elliott, Tenancy Adviser
Ben Fawcett, Day Information Service
Lauren Finestone, Solicitor
Amanda Frost, Domestic Violence worker
David Graham, Clerical assistant
Michael Hallaway, Solicitor

Kiri Hata, Coordinator
 Ben Hemsworth, Day Information Service
 Katherine Jeffreys, Night Advice Service
 Muhunthun Kanagaratnam, Night Advice Service
 Bridget McDermott, Administration
 Edwina McDonald, Domestic Violence assistant
 Christopher Martin, Tenancy Adviser
 Sarah Nielsen, Day Information Service
 Hung Nguyen, Cleaner
 Vanessa O'Sullivan, Day Information Service
 James Roden, Day Information Service
 Tamara Sims, Day Information Service, Admin assistant
 Nicole Urban, Tenancy Adviser
 Lisa Woodgate, Solicitor

PRO BONO SUPPORT

A number of legal professionals and law firms provide substantial pro bono assistance to our clients or to the Centre. Without this assistance, we would not be able to continue to provide such a comprehensive range of services.

In 2000/2001 we received support from the following:

Firms	Solicitors	Barristers
Blake Dawson Waldron	Suzanne Christie	Michael Windsor
Henry DavisYork	John Eager	Kate Eastman
Clayton Utz	Roxanne Dunkel	Paul Lakatos
Keddies	Paul Farrugia	
Graham Jones		
GVA Grimley		
UBS Warburg		

We also refer clients to the Law Society's Pro Bono Scheme and the Bar Association's Legal Assistance Scheme.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers contribute to all aspects of the Centre's work. Our volunteers are of all different ages and from all walks of life. We had approximately

200 volunteers during 2001/2 – there are usually at least 70 active volunteers on our books at any one time.

Daytime volunteers —“legal assistants”— are generally law students and interested members of the community. They do weekly half day shifts, working on reception, casework (under the instruction of the caseworker), research and administration.

Night time volunteers – mostly solicitors – take instructions and provide legal advice and do either weekly or fortnightly shifts.

All volunteers receive training and all volunteers are supervised by a member of staff. We thank the people who have been volunteers for the Centre during 2001/2.

Paul Ahearn	Alison Davidian	Jonathan Hunt
Christina Alexopoulos	Daniel Delaney	Brooke Hall
Belinda Abey	Steven David	Penny Hollott
Kirsten Anker	Laura Duesbury	Jane Holden
Katherine Biber	Elizabeth Day	Yvette Holt
Carolyn Berry	Anne Dale	Nicole Howard
Melissa Bellanta	Azadeh Dastyari	Nancy Housalas
Mimi Barbaro	Sally Deans	Carmen Iskander
Suzie Brown	Gillian Duggin	Luis Izzo
Rowena Besley	Anne Dale	Katharine Jeffreys
Anne Barnes	Rosalind Dixon	Brian Jebb
Vanessa Bosnjak	Simon Etherington	David Jay
Karen Bulluss	Troy Edwards	Soheila Jones
Alicia Boothby	Katie Ellinson	Simone Jandera
Diana Brown	Annabelle Eakins	Muhunthan
Bridget Burton	Belinda Epstein	Kanagaratnam
Antonio Chan	Ben Fawcett	Steve Kassem
Winnie Ching	Jordan French	Jonathon Kirkwood
Selena Choo	Justin Fung	Gillian Kenny
Kirsty Campbell	Nick Finlayson	Melinda Kunjasich
Michelle Chung	Katie Fraser	Craig Lenahan
Suzanne Christie	Paulina Fusitu'a	Jenny Lovric
Sinead Campbell	Eric Ghosh	Veronica Lavulo
Patrick Chan	Mayank Gupta	Carol Lam
Ian Cheney	Olivia Gossip	Andrew Lee
Gavin Carney	Catherine Gleeson	Helen Lawrence
Kate Chater	Annette Gent	Jeremy Levitt
Isabel Chu	David Graham	Winnie Lui
Winnie Ching	Amber Greenhalgh	Carrie Liew
Bradford Caffrey	Helen Galitsky	Lynette Leung
Bill Cotsis	Sarah Hunt	Joel Lehrey
Katrina Dawson	Robert Hodda	Diana Liu

Katherine Lane
Ross McKinnon
Amelia Montague
Sheila McMahan
Emma Maple-Brown
Kirsti Makinen
Jame Mang
Julie Marcus
Alison McRobert
Jane Muir
Tim McKibbin
Candy Ma
Julia Mathison
Lucy McGrath
Alexander Moriarty
Charles Maltby
Ross Nicholas
Kelly Ngo
Bobak (Bob) Nanva
Rosemary Norgate
Sarah Norgate
Morgan Nyland
Kate Owens
Vanessa O'Sullivan
Sri Ogden
Ju-Lin O'Connor
Karen Preston
Elizabeth Payne
Paul Pang
Ben Peacock
Cherie Pittman

Nameeta (Nam) Pai
Phoebe Poon
Elizabeth Passmore
John Peisley
Sarah Parker
Julia Quilter
Jeremie Quiohilag
Tom Roche
Kirsty Ruddock
Elizabeth Raper
Cameron Roles
Naomi Reiner
Kylie Reid
Jae Rourke
Simone Rees
Miriam Rottenberg
Vaughan Roles
Ben Rolleston
James Roden
Alex Rhodes
Michelle Rabsch
Amy Richardson
Emily Raetz
Abigail Rath
Kristen Rundle
David Sulan
Kaye Sato
Gail Sherlock
Tamara Sims
Lauren Stalley
Jane Stratton

Keith Swan
Nermeen Shadra
Brendan Smith
Rachael Schutzi
Samantha Stuart
Mark Seymour
Julia Sweeney
Sue Thomas
Angela Tao
Ming Lun Tsui
Jim Taylor
Mark Teutsch
Jessica Taylor
Wendy Tang
Nicole Urban
Janette Van Kernebeek
Jenny Vu
Amanda Vogt
Duc Vo
Michael Windsor
Mark Willis
Elizabeth Wright
Chris Wiseman
Lynda Wheelan
Albert Yuen (Alby)
Erik Young
Carli Yung
Chris Yuen
David York

REPORT OF VOLUNTEER CELEBRATION

2001 was the International Year of Volunteers and Redfern Legal Centre celebrated the contribution volunteers make to the provision of free, accessible legal services to those who are unable to afford them by hosting a volunteer party at South Sydney Leagues Club on 29th November.

This event was made possible by the Commonwealth Government IYV 2001 Small Grants program.

Twenty-five years ago Redfern Legal Centre was born of the initiative of a handful of volunteers; 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 celebration was well attended with approximately 200 guests made up of former volunteers, current volunteers, volunteers and workers from the Aboriginal Legal Service and other community services in the local area .

Speakers included a volunteer who was at the Centre on the first day the Centre opened, a former staff member and student volunteer who now teaches at the Law School at Sydney University. Gifts of Redfern Legal Centre T-shirts and lapel pins were presented to eighteen volunteers who were nominated by the staff for their extraordinary contribution to free legal services in the past year. There were also certificates for all current volunteers to take home with them and certificates available to former volunteers who requested them.

We also acknowledged volunteers who have received various awards over past years from the Law and Justice Foundation.

After the event many volunteers expressed how they felt acknowledged for their contribution and the evening had an effect of consolidating our working relationships. It was a time when we were outwardly able to express our appreciation and to reflect on the important contribution made by volunteers not only in our current environment but to community services generally.



“MY TIME IS NOT A GIFT TO GOVERNMENT”

Redfern Legal Centre volunteers took part in a survey of volunteers conducted on behalf of the Combined Community Legal Centres Group by the Institute of Social Change and Critical Inquiry of the University of Wollongong.

The report, “My Time is not a Gift to Government – An exploratory study of NSW Community Legal Centre Volunteers” was published in May 2002.

The synopsis of the report states:

“The study was partly instigated in response to a proposed commonwealth government review of NSW community legal centres... as part of the Commonwealth's increased accountability requirements and rationalisation of services within the community services industry...”

The research found that the majority of volunteers provided legal or paralegal advice or management expertise. Altruism and the centres' activities and reputation were found to be much stronger motivating factors than instrumental personal and professional goals.

It found that: “Most community legal centres operate with a very small core of paid staff ... Many legal centres would not have continued to operate their services without the unpaid and voluntary labour provided by a large number of predominantly legal volunteers...”

The report concludes:

“Volunteers are a very valuable resource in society generally and especially in organisations such as community legal centres... society cannot take for granted the ‘good will’ and ‘commitment’ of volunteers in community legal centres. There is a limit to the amount of social capital and/or altruism that individuals will outlay in a voluntary capacity. There is also a strong personal and political value base underpinning voluntary work in CLCs. Policy makers need to take this into account when formulating policies which have the potential to ‘harm’ volunteering on the community services sector.”(pp.4-8)

CLIENT STATISTICS: GENERAL SERVICE

Total number of clients	9228
Files opened	633
Files closed	670
Ongoing	5914
Information and referral	2077
Face to face advice	2272

MAJOR AREAS OF ASSISTANCE

Domestic Violence	547
Tenancy	1145
Family Law	1249
Credit and Debt	732
Crime	1123
Legal System/Process	95
Wills	161
Motor Vehicle/traffic	176
Victims Compensation	51

TENANCY SERVICE

Total number of clients	2597
Files opened	165
Face to face advice	454

SRC SERVICE

Total number of clients	203
Files opened	82
Information and referral	121
Major areas of assistance	
<i>Tenancy</i>	28
<i>Crime</i>	44
<i>Family</i>	20
Consumer and civil	80
University issues	16

WDVCAS

Total number of clients	1828
Number of ATSI clients	109
Number of NESB clients	364
Number of clients with a disability	308
Number of clients as defendants	142
Time spent follow-up service of AVO	20.9%

GENERAL LEGAL SERVICE

The generalist legal service provides face to face and telephone advice to people who live and or work in the Botany, Leichhardt, South Sydney and Sydney local government areas, and beyond this region in some instances. It also undertakes casework in priority areas of law and relies on a small paid staff and up to 70 volunteers. As well as advice and casework, the general legal services conducts community legal education and participates in law reform and policy activities.

Some highlights of our work in 2001/2 :

VICTIM'S COMPENSATION

RLC continues to conduct casework in the area of victim's compensation, giving priority to cases of sexual assault or domestic violence. The service provides assistance to people who, because of their particular circumstances or any particular disadvantage suffered by them, would not receive adequate representation through the private legal profession.

During the period of this annual report, there were many successful outcomes for client in victims compensation cases. In one case, a young woman received \$40 000 compensation for sexual assault.

RLC also contributed to the Combined Community Legal Centres Group submission to the State Government's review of the Victim Support and Rehabilitation Act.

DISCRIMINATION

RLC has assisted clients who have experienced discrimination, including sexual harassment, racial or homosexual vilification, disability discrimination and other forms of discrimination. RLC has become increasingly frustrated with the time delays of two years or more experienced by clients who have lodged complaints with the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board.

RLC represented an Aboriginal woman in a racial vilification claim. Our client worked as a foster carer for Aboriginal children. The racial vilification and violence from her neighbour was damaging for herself and the children she cared for. The matter went through HREOC and proceedings were commenced in the Federal Magistrates Court. At that stage mediation was conducted. The respondent offered an apology without admissions to our client and he undertook to attend cross cultural training. In addition, an order was made by the court that he was not to repeat the behaviour.

RLC acted for a man who was denied a stablehand's licence due to his criminal history. RLC assisted him in lodging a complaint to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. Our client had convictions which were more than 10 years old and which he had not been required to disclose to the NSW Thoroughbred Racing Board. Nor were the convictions relevant to his work as a stablehand. The Commission decided that discrimination had occurred and made a recommendation for compensation of over \$33 000, as well as recommending a review of the Thoroughbred Racing Board's use of criminal records in licensing matters.

EMPLOYMENT

RLC has assisted numerous people who have been unfairly dismissed, experienced discrimination at work or have not been paid their proper entitlements by their employers.

RLC has achieved successful outcomes for many people in applications relating to unfair dismissal.

In one such case our client was dismissed once she disclosed to her employer that she was pregnant. Gilbert and Tobin provided pro bono assistance for our client and the matter settled, to our client's satisfaction, before the hearing.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE

RLC has assisted numerous people in making complaints against the police. The complaints have ranged from inappropriate comments or lack of action in relation to victims of crime to misuse of the move on powers and unreasonable use of force in arrest.

RLC staff continue to work at a policy level to improve knowledge of police procedures and improve the transparency of the complaints investigation process. RLC staff have worked with the Youth Justice Coalition of NSW to try to improve the accessibility of the complaints system for young people.

In one case, RLC assisted four young people who had been moved on from a block of flats which was the home of one of the boys. The boys had not been doing anything wrong. They were searched by police and resented the intrusion into their lives. They moved on as directed and were not charged with anything, but later sought assistance to complain about the actions of the police. The complaint highlighted issues of the use of public space by young people and the issue of certain groups being targeted by police.

The process in place for complaints about police has been cause for frustration amongst RLC staff and clients alike. The Ombudsman has an oversight process only in the majority of cases and has powers of recommendation only. Although the Ombudsman's office can monitor investigations in some cases, which involves taking a more active part in the investigation, this is done in only very rare instances due to the resources required.

The investigation process is not transparent and it is often difficult to obtain information about what actions have been taken by the investigator. To complainants it often seems that the process acts only to exonerate police from allegations of misconduct. Complaints are investigated by senior officers from the same police station and it is likely that the requirements of confidentiality would be difficult to maintain in these circumstances. Witnesses to the complaint and the officers involved are interviewed by the investigating officer without the complainant or their legal representative present. In addition, the complainant or their legal representative are not usually given access to any statements made by witnesses or the officers involved. This means that the opportunity for any criticising any conclusions made by the investigating officer is not available.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

In 2001/2 RLC staff were active members of the following committees:

- ◆ Youth Justice Coalition
- ◆ NSW Industrial Relations Commission users group

Combined Community Legal Centres Group sub-committees:

- ◆ Human Rights and Discrimination
- ◆ Law Reform and Policy
- ◆ Domestic Violence
- ◆ Victims Compensation
- ◆ Consumer Credit

COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION

RLC provides community legal education to community organisations and the general public. In 2001/2 RLC provided the following workshops and training sessions:

- ◆ Leichhardt Community Women's Health Centre, with workers from there and other organisations, on a range of issues including Victims compensation, confidentiality and subpoenas.
- ◆ Glebe Youth Service drop in: on complaints about police and police powers – with Nadine Miles from the Aboriginal Legal Service.
- ◆ Bankstown Multicultural Youth Service – on police powers
- ◆ 1st year students at Tranby Aboriginal College on young people and police
- ◆ South Sydney Community Aid with Vietnamese Community about legal assistance for various issues
- ◆ Community Legal Education held at the centre with local youth workers and advocates on acting as support person for young people at police stations
- ◆ Millers Point drop in service re domestic violence and family law
- ◆ South Sydney Youth Interagency about police powers, police complaints and recent developments

YOUTH POLICY WORK

RLC staff participated in various projects of the Youth Justice Coalition, including the project called "Young People's Experiences of the Young Offenders Act". This project involved conducting interviews with young people about cautions and conferences under the "Young Offenders Act, with a particular focus on the availability of legal advice,

CREDIT AND DEBT

Our Credit and Debt Legal Service provides legal advice and some casework to people who live and or work in the Botany, Leichhardt, South Sydney and Sydney local government areas, and beyond this region in some instances. We provide telephone and face-to-face legal advice to financial counsellors and their clients across NSW on a day-to-day basis, and our telephone advice is available to people statewide. The Credit and Debt Legal Service also conducts community legal education and participates in law reform and policy activities.

The service is provided by two staff solicitors with assistance of other RLC staff, RLC volunteers and a pro bono solicitor from Blake Dawson Waldron, a firm of private solicitors who help us to provide credit and debt advice and assistance to our clients one day a week.

Below are some highlights of the Credit and Debt Legal Service in 2001/2.

CASEWORK

- ◆ A case still in progress may lead to better protection for those who 'guarantee' loans for the benefit of relatives without independent advice about the risks and their rights. One of the reasons that this case is important is that in *Garcia v National Australia Bank* (1998) 194 CLR 395, a mortgage and guarantee signed by Mrs. Garcia were overturned by the High Court because (among other things) Mrs. Garcia had not benefited from the transaction. In that case, Kirby J. said that the protection which Mrs. Garcia should have, should apply in all situations where there is a relationship of emotional dependence, not just the marriage relationship. Due to her cultural background, our client's relationship with her son-in-law was of the kind which should be included in Kirby J.'s category of protection. (If this argument succeeds, it will extend the categories of protection in relation to guarantees, from marriage relationships to at least one other form of familial relationship).
- ◆ Our client's car was stolen for 3 months, and the thief incurred parking fines which were billed to our client. The SDRO refused to waive the fines, so we wrote to the NSW Attorney General on behalf of our client. The Attorney General made a recommendation to the Governor to have the fines and costs remitted, and she accepted the recommendation.
- ◆ A mobile phone debt matter which had been running for years, finally settled when the telco agreed to waive the debt. Our young client had been told by the phone salesman that she was merely identifying her brother when she signed a phone contract, and that she would not be responsible for the debt.
- ◆ Our client's home was robbed. The thief went to the bank and withdraw our client's life savings out of his account by forging his signature. The bank refused to refund our client, alleging that our client had been involved in a conspiracy to defraud the bank. We contacted the bank's internal complaints resolution department and sought written reasons for the bank's refusal. The bank refunded our client the following day.
- ◆ We assisted a client who signed a mobile phone service contract with a small telecommunications company (telco). Our client's mobile phone handset broke, and as a result our client never actually used the service. Despite this our client received a \$2000 bill from the telco, which claimed that our client had made extensive use of the phone service.

We made an application to the Fair Trading Tribunal (as it then was) on behalf of our client seeking an order that our client was not liable to pay the amount being sought by the telco. Following the submission of the application we rang many of the numbers listed on our client's bill. It became apparent that the calls listed on our client's bill had in fact been made by another caller, using a different SIM card. We obtained affidavits from several of the people we spoke to, and presented them to the Tribunal at the Conciliation hearing. At this point the telco agreed that it had made an error and that our client did not owe it any money.

- ◆ Our client received a CD in the mail. It allowed her 100 hours free internet access. However, it also stated that the user had notify the ISP at the end of the 100 hours if she did not wish to subscribe to the ISP's service. Our client used the 100 hours of free service and then went overseas. When she returned she realised that the ISP had been debiting her Visa account for two years. The marketing material accompanying the CD stated things like '100 free hours' and 'no purchase necessary, no commitment and no risk'. In tiny print on the back of the CD cover it stated "Your free trial must be used within one calendar month of your initial sign-on ... Unless you cancel your account before the end of your free trial ... you will be charged a monthly membership fee."

We wrote to the ISP alleging that the material accompanying the compact disk was misleading or deceptive. We also alleged that the contract ought to be set aside on the basis that undue influence, unfair pressure or unfair tactics had been used to form the contract.

Initially the ISP refused to refund our client. However, after we made an application to the FTT seeking to have the contract set aside the ISP agreed to refund our client. Whilst this was a good result for our client it may have been to the benefit of many more consumers if the matter had been adjudicated upon by the FTT. We were left wondering how many other consumers had been misled and deceived by this particular ISP.

POLICY AND LAW REFORM ACTIVITIES

- ◆ In May, we attended an ADR conference in Melbourne. The conference was attended by consumer representatives from around Australia, together with the Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman the Australian Banking Industry Ombudsman, and staff from the Insurance Enquiries and Complaints Scheme, the Financial Industry Complaints Service and the Australian Securities and Investments Commission.

- ◆ Together with other consumer representatives from around Australia, we wrote to the ACCC regarding a submission by the Australian Bankers' Association (the 'ABA') for authorisation for a "Basic Bank Account".

- ◆ The NSW Law Reform Commission is investigating the protection of guarantors, particularly whether the incidence of relationship debt has a more severe impact on particular groups, such as those from non-English speaking backgrounds. We provided de-identified client details to the Commission's researchers.

- ◆ We participated in an Australian Communications Industry Forum (ACIF) working committee. The committee has been set up to develop guidelines for consumer telecommunications contracts.

◆ With representatives from other CLCs, we wrote to the Attorney General regarding the operation and administration of the Fines Act by the SDRO, and met with the Attorney General, Bob Debus. In essence we proposed that the SDRO show more leniency towards those fine defaulters who genuinely were unable to pay their fines. The SDRO accepted that some sections of the community were unfairly affected by the SDRO sanctioning regime and agreed to introduce greater flexibility into the fines recovery system.

COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION

YOUNG PEOPLE AND MOBILE PHONES: - Together with the National Children's and Youth Law Centre, the Legal Aid Commission and the Consumer Credit Legal Centre, we obtained funding for the production of an information package about mobile phones, targeted at young people and children.

LAW HANDBOOK: - We updated the 8th edition of the RLCP Law Handbook chapter on "Credit and Banking".

VIRTUAL RIP-OFF: - We produced a brochure (entitled "Virtual rip-off") on e-commerce and the benefits and risks of shopping online.

FINES ACT: - Work continued on a booklet on the Fines Act, in association with Shorefront and the Inner City Legal Centre.

TENANTS' SERVICE

Redfern Legal Centre receives funding from the Department of Fair Trading to run the Inner Sydney Tenants' Advice and Advocacy Service.

The service in 2001-2002 continues to provide advice and assistance to large numbers of tenants in the Botany, Sydney, South Sydney and Leichhardt Local Government Areas.

In 2001 - 2002

- ◆ 2597 tenants received advice and assistance from our service;
- ◆ 454 tenants received face to face advice
- ◆ 165 files were opened.

Some examples of our work:

ASSISTING BOARDING HOUSE TENANTS ASSERT THEIR RIGHTS

The Inner Sydney Tenants' Advice and Advocacy Service recently assisted an elderly woman living in a boarding house. She contacted the service through the number listed on the back of the Renting Guide.

She called the service out of desperation as the roof in her room in the boarding house was leaking. Her bed was being soaked and she couldn't keep her few possessions dry. When she had asked for the caretaker and the landlord to attend to the problem she was told she would be evicted.

ISTAAS arranged to visit her home, (ensuring that we looked like a friend not her legal advisor!) as the client didn't have access to a phone. From our discussions and from our inspections of her room we formed the view that the client was a tenant under the *Residential Tenancies Act 1987*. From our discussion with the client it further emerged that she had received at least eight years of illegal rent increases.

We advised the client to take action to seek the return of the overpaid rent and repairs at the Residential Tribunal. We also represented the client at numerous hearings at the former Residential Tribunal, as the landlord engaged a Solicitor to act in their attempts to terminate her tenancy.

The client was able to settle her claim with the landlord for a fixed term tenancy agreement, payment of a lump sum in over paid rent and a lower rent, the repairs were also attended to.

As IS TAOS had concerns for the tenants' mental health and long term housing needs we referred the client to an aged care service to assist her apply for Department of Housing and make contact with support workers.

ADVOCACY IN THE SUPREME COURT ON BEHALF OF A DISADVANTAGED TENANT

Late in 2001 ISTAAS was contacted by an Aboriginal tenant who lived in community housing. She approached our service as she believed her landlord was acting in a discriminatory manner. Several defective notices of termination had been issued which the tenant believed were discriminatory on the basis of her Aboriginality. A caseworker from ISTAAS attended the Tribunal with the client and was successful in the termination notices being ruled defective.

ISTAAS next heard from the client when she attended Redfern Legal Centre with her two children. She said that the police and a sheriff had told her that morning she had to vacate immediately. When she left the building she found a letter in her mailbox from

her landlord indicating that an urgent Tribunal hearing had occurred and that immediate orders for possession had been made. Neither the tenant nor ISTAAS had been informed of the hearing.

It emerged that serious allegations had been made against the tenants' brother in relation to a dispute in the street. ISTAAS immediately sought the advice of the Principal Solicitor of Redfern Legal Centre and the Solicitor of the Tenants' Union. Both were of the opinion that a denial of natural justice had occurred and that urgent action should occur in the Supreme Court. Meanwhile, the tenant was homeless and was living in her car with her two children. The caseworker, Jacqui Swinburne briefed a Solicitor from Legal Aid who was prepared to act. At the Supreme Court the landlord agreed to allow the tenant to re-enter the property and the matter returned to the Residential Tribunal for a hearing.

As the client felt uncomfortable remaining at the property, at conciliation in the Tribunal the Solicitor for the Tenants' Union agreed to a new fixed term agreement for the tenant, in order to enable the tenant to find alternate housing. The tenant remains housed with the community housing provider without further incident. ISTAAS has assisted her in applying for Department of Housing accommodation.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

- ◆ Consumer Trader and Tenancy Tribunal (CTTT) Consultative Committee
- ◆ Boarders & Lodgers Action Group (BLAG)
- ◆ TAAP Access & Equity Committee
- ◆ TAAP NESB Committee
- ◆ PHIWP (Public Housing Issues Work Party)
- ◆ PHWG (Public Housing Working Group)
- ◆ Tenants' Union IT Committee (website etc)
- ◆ Tenancy Legal Working Party (TLWP)
- ◆ Staff also attended TAAP Network Meetings, including one at Batemans' Bay hosted by the Aboriginal TAAP Service

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

- ◆ Sydney University Orientation Week
- ◆ Public Housing Reform Forums
- ◆ Attendance at CTTT as Duty Advocates

TENANCY SERVICE REVIEW

A Review of the Service conducted by the Department of Fair Trading and released in May 2001 recommended the discontinuance of the service at Redfern Legal Centre. The Review recommended the amalgamation of the three inner city services with cuts to worker numbers. The Review had a huge impact on the work undertaken by the tenancy team during 2001-2002. With funding extended only on an interim basis the service could not make long term plans. Of most concern was the impact on our most disadvantaged clients with the prospect that a smaller, amalgamated service would be unable to see clients face to face or represent them in the Tribunal.

Our Tenants' Service along with Eastern Area Tenants' Service and Inner West (located at Marrickville Legal Centre) began a campaign to fight our defunding. This included meetings with the Minister for Fair Trading, meetings with our local members and garnering community support. The campaign against our defunding was run by Beth Jewell who left the service in January 2002. Beth's contribution to the rights of tenants through her work around the Olympics as well as her skills during this time were invaluable. Polly Porteous a long time tenancy caseworker also left the service in August 2001 to pursue projects abroad. Both Polly and Beth were dedicated to tenants' rights and were crucial in the fight against defunding.

We are happy to report that in May 2002 it was confirmed by the Department of Fair Trading that the decision to amalgamate the services had been abandoned.

In May 2002 Redfern Legal Centre successfully submitted an Expression of Interest for triennial funding of the tenancy service. The saving of the tenancy funding was the biggest achievement of the service in this reporting year. Special thanks to Emma Golledge who was largely responsible for saving the service and for writing the expression of interest that enabled us to receive triennial funding.

Exceptional thanks must go to all the staff at Redfern Legal Centre for their support and assistance to the tenancy team. All staff made the life of the tenancy workers at this time easier: whether it was taking on extra duty shifts or providing moral support.

Thanks also to everyone who worked at Redfern when we could only offer locum positions including: Chris Martin, Ben Heraghty, Julianne Elliott and Sri Ogden, Nicole Urban, and in particular Emma Golledge, Jacqui Swinburne and Sue Thomas who kept the service running.

MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS

Motor vehicle accidents continue to be a major source of legal problems for students. The advice in this area is often to young drivers who are liable for the damage to another and have no property damage insurance. We have also advised students in relation to their rights and obligations arising out of their own contracts of insurance in matters such as disclosure and legal fees.

Debts claimed can be significant and where possible we have assisted the client to negotiate a favourable settlement or withdrawal of proceedings against them.

One successful case of negotiation involved assisting a student sued for property damage incurred as a result of a car hitting our client who was a pedestrian. Our client had spent 9 days in hospital and the plaintiff sued for \$11,000.00. After correspondence with the Plaintiff's solicitors the statement of claim was withdrawn.

CRIME

A significant number of students sought advice on criminal matters. The service represented over 13 students in relation to charges which included assault police, resist arrest and hinder police in the context of demonstrations and hotel incidents. There were a few charges involving the possession and/or supply of drugs. One client was had 26 charges of fraud in relation to a department store. There were a number of traffic charges.

TENANCY

Many students, particularly young and overseas students find themselves enmeshed in legal problems related to share housing, boarding and tenancy, and we help clients to negotiate these problems. Tenants have no automatic right to be represented before the Residential Tenancy Tribunal (now part of the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal).

CONSUMER

We continue to have a number of inquiries about consumer matters. These problems arise with students purchasing goods and services and then finding themselves vulnerable either to aggressive sales techniques or the victim of dodgy sales or credit contacts.

DISCRIMINATION

There were a number of enquiries in this area and two claims were made on behalf of one client to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission. The complaints were against the University itself and against a well known provider of accommodation to overseas students. The provider of accommodation had discriminated against our client on the basis of her disability i.e. her depression and the University had failed to respect her privacy by releasing information about her without her consent to various persons. Both claims were conciliated and the claim against the accommodation provider was settled on the basis that 3 months free accommodation be provided. The claim against the University did not proceed any further despite an admission of a breach of privacy. Our client returned to her homeland a few months after the conciliations.

EMPLOYMENT

Most students work part time and many experience difficulties with employers over pay and other conditions. A number of students were successfully assisted in the recovery of

unpaid wages at the end of their employment. Unfair dismissals are also common, the solicitor attended one conciliation conference at the Australian Industrial Relations Commission but no settlement was reached. In another unfair dismissal case a settlement of over \$4000.00 was made without any attendance at the Commission.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

The solicitor assisted the SRC with a number of matters relating to University procedures and SRC internal procedures.

POLICY AND LAW REFORM/ LEGAL EDUCATION

The SRC solicitor undertook policy work related to the student community.

Back up advice was also provided to the Welfare and Education workers at the SRC.

REDFERN COMMUNITY WORK

The SRC solicitor acted for 13 clients in the Redfern and Waterloo areas in a Licensing case. Commercial interests applied to open a hotel on a site next to the Redfern Returned Services Club close to Redfern Railway.

The case was heard in October 2001. The SRC solicitor represented in court 13 clients, including an Indigenous resident of Eveleigh Street Redfern, the Sydney Regional Aboriginal Corporation Legal Service, the Aboriginal Housing Company Ltd, the Redfern Waterloo Community Drug Action Team (CDAT) the local State Member Clover Moore and several other residents. Our clients were opposed to the proposed hotel with gaming facilities going ahead as there were more than enough hotels in the area and an additional hotel would add to and exacerbate the present social and criminal problems. The hearing lasted for 6 days.

Unfortunately the application to grant the licence was allowed, however 18 conditions were attached to the licence, one of which requiring the licensee to hold meetings for residents and others to ask questions in relation to hotel operations and the conduct of security guards.

The gaming licences are subject to a freeze imposed by the NSW State government and to date no renovations have started on the premises. The licensee may not go ahead with the proposed hotel if he cannot install gaming machines.

PRO BONO ASSISTANCE

The SRC service received invaluable assistance from a number of people including the following.

- ◆ Clive Evatt, barrister provided advice in relation to defamation matters for Honi Soit and others.
- ◆ Barbara Maher provided advice in relation to Immigration law
- ◆ Michael Crowley, barrister provided advice in relation to criminal law
- ◆ Neale Dawson, barrister provided advice in relation to employment law

WOMEN'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT ASSISTANCE SCHEME (WDVCAS)

The Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Scheme was developed in 1991 in response to the recognition that women seeking protection from violent relationships were finding it difficult to negotiate the court system and obtain legal information or advice. Further many women were not receiving follow up services and these problems were often exacerbated by communication difficulties for women of non-English speaking backgrounds, Indigenous women and women with disabilities.

Redfern Legal Centre's Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Scheme operates at both Redfern and the Downing Centre Local Courts. The scheme provides assistance and support to women seeking legal protection from domestic violence'— a process which can be confusing and disempowering without support. The scheme co-ordinator arranges a roster system where local community workers and a solicitor are available to represent and support women seeking Apprehended (Domestic) Violence Orders on the courts' list day.

Highly skilled workers from approximately fifteen community organisations participate in the scheme through a roster system. In January 2002, four of the contributing agencies were Indigenous-specific.

Women who are not represented by the police prosecutor or private solicitor may obtain representation and support through the scheme. Redfern Legal Centre, Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre and pro bono solicitors from Craddock, Murray and Neumann provide representation to women at Redfern Local Court. Pro Bono solicitors from Gilbert & Tobin, and Blake Dawson Waldron provide representation to women for hearings at the Downing Centre Local Court.

CULTURALLY SENSITIVE ASSISTANCE

The scheme has a commitment to assisting women in a culturally sensitive manner. The establishment of an identified Aboriginal position affirms the scheme's ATSI access and equity strategy. The implementation of inclusive approaches to assisting women through the court process is also demonstrated by the "Walking through the Court" Project.

Lyndal Gowland, the WDVCAS Co-ordinator, found that more than seventy per cent of Apprehended Domestic Violence Orders that go to a hearing with assistance from the Redfern WDVCAS are to protect woman from non-English-speaking backgrounds and that there is no appropriate information available to support them.

She established an the inter-agency team including South Sydney Domestic Violence Liaison Committee and Immigrant Women's Speakout which developed a series of brochures, posters and a training module explaining the legal process and outlining support agencies. The brochures are available in English, Chinese, Arabic and Vietnamese. Thanks to the Violence against Women Unit and the Department of Corrective Services for financial support for the printing costs.

*CREATING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND IMPROVING SERVICES
TO ABORIGINAL WOMEN*

Last year the WDVCS was successful in our application to the Anti-discrimination Board to have the position of Assistant Co-ordinator of the Scheme made an Identified Aboriginal position. This not only creates improved employment opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, but also enhances the quality of support and assistance available to Aboriginal women through the service. We welcome Narelle Anderson, Assistant WDVCS Co-ordinator, to the position.

Thanks to Lyndal Gowland for these great initiatives.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE WOMEN'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT ASSISTANCE SCHEME

During 2001/2 the following local community organisations seconded staff to work on the Scheme:

- ◆ Aboriginal Children's Service
- ◆ Australia-Chinese Association
- ◆ Elsie's Refuge
- ◆ SCARBA
- ◆ Women's Information & Referral Service
- ◆ Department for Women
- ◆ Harris Community Centre
- ◆ The Factory
- ◆ Broadway Early Childhood Centre
- ◆ Mudgingal Aboriginal Corporation
- ◆ Wallamulla Family and Community Support
- ◆ The Shop: Women and Children's Centre
- ◆ Kirkton Road Drug and Alcohol Centre
- ◆ Darlinghurst Community Health Centre

Legal representation is provided for clients at both courts. We would like to thank the following law firms, community legal centres and individual practitioners for their support for the scheme in 2001/2:

- ◆ Wirringa Baiya: Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre
- ◆ Gilbert and Tobin
- ◆ Blake Dawson & Waldron
- ◆ Clayton Utz

COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION

- ◆ Child Protection & Domestic Violence Pilot Project.

In collaboration with Scarba House and the South Sydney Domestic Violence Liaison Committee, the WDVCS piloted the provision of support groups for women and children survivors of domestic violence.

- ◆ Regional Domestic Violence Advisory Forum

POLICY & LAW REFORM

◆ Apprehended Violence Legal Issues Coordinating Committee (AVLICCC)

The co-ordinator continues to represent WDVCAS Network, which is convened by the NSW Attorney-General's Department. Lyndal Gowland successfully lobbied to ensure that information about court processes and protection from domestic violence is available in community languages.

The focus during the year was on streamlining apprehended violence order processes, information in plain English and community languages.

Safety at court, mediation, and prosecutor standard operating procedures were also considered.

◆ WDVCAP Legal Aid Advisory Committee

The co-ordinator continues to be a representative of the WDVCAS Network, which is convened by Legal Aid. This committee is responsible for the management of the Court Assistance Schemes. The main focus this year has been on increasing the funding available to meet the needs of Indigenous and culturally diverse communities.

◆ Redfern WDVCAS Policy & Procedure Manual

This vital resource has now been completed and is in use at the Redfern Legal Centre.

PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Lyndal Gowland, WDVCS Co-ordinator, is Chair of the South Sydney Domestic Violence Liaison Committee. The South Sydney International Women's Day event celebrated the enfranchisement of women at the Redfern Aboriginal Dance Theatre on Saturday, 9 March 2002. The theme of 2002's International Women's Day was to celebrate the "Centenary of voting rights for Australian Women". The organising committee's opinion was that this theme failed to acknowledge that Australian women are not a homogenous group. In respect for the cultural diversity of South Sydney women the South Sydney event honoured the fact that women from diverse communities have won the right to vote, albeit at different times. It was also acknowledged that the fight continues in some parts of the world.

The programme was designed to be inclusive and representative of our diverse local community and successfully displayed a culturally diverse range of local entertainment and works. The programme clearly delighted an audience of over 340 people who were representative of the increasingly diverse range of cultural and socio-economic groups which constitute the South Sydney community.

Eora Elder, Sylvia Scott, welcomed the audience to country. Esther Carrol, Mrs Scott's sister, facilitated the Event's programme. The Governor, Professor Bashir, was the keynote speaker. She spoke warmly of her lifelong connection to the South Sydney area, particularly Redfern. The Governor and the Elder both spoke of the battles won by women in the fight for racial and gender equality.

Throughout the day local women's art and craft groups exhibited a wide range of works, for example, quilting and mosaic. Workshops included interactive Self-defence and Tai chi. The art of making, and busting a piniata was thoroughly enjoyed by both adults and children. Entertainment included the fabulous Aboriginal blues singer, Marlene Cummins, Choral singers, Older women's Theatre Group, multi-cultural flamenco dancers and traditional Chinese music. Lunch was provided by the local Multicultural women's cooking group.

A highlight was the Latino performance. The community's spirit was delightfully demonstrated when women from disparate cultural groups joined together to dance and sing exuberantly along with the Latino performance.

An extremely successful part of the event was the Women on Wheels film festival as this showcased a select group of films which were directed by women. The famous actress Judy Davis was sighted in attendance.

One important aim of the event was to provide local women with information to reduce the impact of violence. Participants each received an IWD 'shopping bag' which contained information about women and children's safety and local support services in culturally and linguistically appropriate formats. The message to stop domestic violence was emblazoned across the info bags in eight languages.

DRUGS POLICY PROJECT

The Redfern Legal Centre Drug Law Reform Project began in 1994. Its objectives were to promote informed public discussion about drug law reform, and to contribute to bring forward reform of the drug laws. Redfern Legal Centre became involved in this project for a number of reasons:

- 1 Drug Prohibition fosters crime. Abandoning prohibition would be the simplest single way to achieve a noticeable reduction in property crime, and to a lesser but still important extent violent crime.
- 2 Those affected by drug related crimes are primarily the socially disadvantaged. Drug law reform is desirable as a social equity measure.
- 3 Prohibition contributes to police corruption. It is not chance that the Wood Royal Commission identified drug squads and the corruption surrounding enforcement of drug laws as the primary source of corruption in the NSW police force. Recent events in this arena have shown that while drugs prohibition remains then the issue of police corruption also remains.
- 4 Prohibition has a significant impact on the legal system. Drug related crime and drug charges consume significant court time and of even more concern imposes a huge burden on the legal services provided to assist the poor and disadvantaged.
- 5 Public health outcomes are hindered by laws which drive drug use underground.

Despite the reduction of the use of criminal law to control moral or personal choice – gambling, sex work, censorship are just a few examples- the drug laws remain a notable exception.

There are two types of harm associated with drug use. The first type is the personal harm suffered through drug abuse by the user. This should be treated as a health problem with the relevant and appropriate services to provide necessary and effective treatment.

The second type is social harm and this relates directly to the legal status of the drug usage. To successfully address the social harm created by legal status then a range of reforms need to be undertaken.

The key proposals for law reform from *Beyond Prohibition* were:

- 1 Personal use and possession
 - ◆ Abolish offences for use and possession
 - ◆ Abolish the offence of self administration only
 - ◆ Vary enforcement activities
 - ◆ Better directed police discretion
 - ◆ Formal police cautions
 - ◆ On the spot fines
- 2 Remove prison as sentencing option for drug use or possession
- 3 Allow cannabis for medical purposes
- 4 Allow possession of drug equipment as well as needles and syringes

- 5 Provide safe injecting spaces
- 6 Allow use, possession and supply of Narcan without prescription

These objectives have remained at the centre of the project as we have known it over the last 8 years.

THE DRUG SUMMIT OF 1999.

This event changed the nature of the movement in NSW as it for the first time provided the venue for discussion and debate at a senior political level. RLC played a key role in assisting with the co-ordination of the progressive forces at the summit ensuring the victory of a strong harm minimisation position. This was a crucial victory as with federal support a prohibitionist position was gaining ground.

This however was a two edged victory. The argument for legalisation as opposed to harm minimisation was excluded and this trend has continued beyond the summit with even user groups now engaged in the inevitable debate between service provision(funded) and the compromises that this entails verses a more radical social change position.

Having said that the Drug Summit ensured that a number of RLC's original objectives were achieved. For all their failings the cannabis cautioning scheme, the drug courts, the trialling of an injecting facility, the expansion of methadone and other treatment programs amongst other summit initiatives are all big advances on the past and have effectively blocked the Howard/Watters alternative.

MEDICAL CANNABIS

The previous worker played a major role in the medical cannabis campaign. This is an ongoing campaign with the key task now to get a political response to the parliamentary enquiry. There are some opportunities leading up to the State election however realistically the key work on this issue needs to be undertaken in the period immediately following the election as it is unlikely any "courageous decisions"" will be taken in the pre-election period.

SNIFFER DOGS

A major public reflection of RLC work was the sniffer dog campaign. This campaign has gone off the boil however it remains an outstanding issue. In complete contradiction to the direction of law enforcement as agreed to at the Drug Summit the use of dogs targets users and not suppliers. It disproportional targets disadvantaged and working class young people (public transport users) and in effect counterbalances other initiatives such as the cautioning scheme.

DUAL DIAGNOSES

The project has identified that a key area still needing attention is the failure in the expansion of rehabilitation funding to provide adequate services for those with a dual diagnosis. Neither those with a mental illness who use drugs nor those drug users with a mental illness have adequate service provision with both mental health services and D&A services allowing these people to fall through the cracks.

Thanks to Chris Dodds for completing the project. Redfem Legal Centre is considering a follow-up project examining the difficulties faced by people who have both mental health and substance abuse problems.

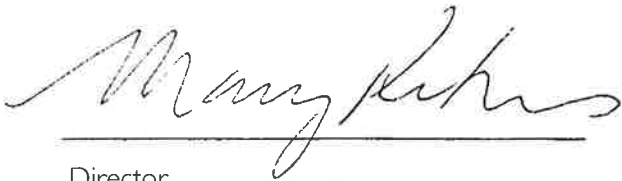
REDFERN LEGAL CENTRE LIMITED

DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

The Directors declare that:

1. The financial statements and notes thereto as set out on pages 4 to 14 are drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2002 and performance of the Company for the year ended 30 June 2002, including the income and expenditure and state of affairs with respect to fundraising appeals;
2. The financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2002 and notes thereto comply with accounting standards;
3. At the date of this declaration, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable;
4. The provisions of the Charities Fundraising Act, the regulations under the Act and conditions attached to the authority have been complied with; and
5. The internal controls exercised are appropriate and effective in accounting for income.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Directors.



Director

Dated at Sydney this 23 day of October 2002.

Director's Declaration

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF
REDFERN LEGAL CENTRE LIMITED

**Deloitte
Touche
Tohmatsu**

SCOPE

We have audited the attached financial statements of Redfern Legal Centre Limited for the financial year ended 30 June 2002, comprising the Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Financial Performance, Statement of Cash Flows, Notes to the financial statements and directors' declaration. The company's directors are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements and the information they contain. We have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on them to the members of the company.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards, other mandatory professional reporting requirements (Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views) and statutory requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the company's financial position, the results of its operations and its cashflows.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

AUDIT OPINION

In our opinion, the financial report of the Redfern Legal Centre Limited is in accordance with:

- (a) the Corporations Act 2001, including:-
 - (i) giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2002 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
 - (ii) complying with Accounting Standards and the Corporations Regulations; and
- (b) other mandatory professional reporting requirements to the extent described in Note 1.

DELOITTE TOUCHE TOHMATSU

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu

Chartered Accountants

Catherine Hill

Catherine Hill

Partner Sydney, 25 October 2002

REDFERN LEGAL CENTRE LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2002

	Note	2002 \$	2001 \$
Revenues from ordinary activities		860,313	818,165
Employee benefits expense		(772,540)	(719,130)
Depreciation		(19,670)	(21,091)
Rent		(8,043)	(8,067)
Repairs, maintenance and utilities		(7,564)	(8,606)
Library and subscriptions		(19,397)	(16,429)
Communication		(11,586)	(12,988)
Travel		(9,102)	(11,224)
Other expenses from ordinary activities		(74,250)	(72,904)
Profit/(Loss) From Ordinary Activities Before Income Tax Expense	2	(61,839)	(52,274)
Income tax expense relating to ordinary activities	1(d)	-	-
Net Profit/(Loss)		(61,839)	(52,274)
Total changes in equity other than those resulting from transactions with owners as owners.		(61,839)	(52,274)

Financial Performance

REDFERN LEGAL CENTRE LIMITED

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2002

	Note	2002 \$	2001 \$
Current Assets			
Cash assets	3	154,049	424,639
Receivables	4	7,037	7,927
Other financial assets	5	250,000	-
Other	6	18,401	20,032
Total Current Assets		430,203	452,598
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	7	36,054	43,284
Total Non-Current Assets		36,054	43,284
Total Assets		466,257	495,882
Current Liabilities			
Provisions	8	93,053	89,593
Other	9	99,708	69,276
Total Current Liabilities		192,761	158,869
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions	8	28,465	30,143
Total Non-Current Liabilities		28,465	30,143
Total Liabilities		221,226	189,012
Net Assets		245,031	306,870
Equity			
Reserves	10	57,150	57,150
Accumulated Funds	11	187,881	249,720
Total Equity		245,031	306,870

Notes to these financial statements may be obtained on request to the Centre.

REDFERN LEGAL CENTRE LIMITED
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2002

	Note	2002 \$	2001 \$
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Receipts from services provided		24,546	21,542
Grants and other donations		921,708	462,008
Interest received		17,747	25,927
Payments to suppliers and employees		(971,435)	(800,450)
Net cash provided by (used in) Operating Activities	13 (a)	<u>(7,434)</u>	<u>9,027</u>
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
(Investment)/Redemption of Term Deposit		(250,000)	200,000
Payment for property, plant and equipment		(12,440)	(15,609)
Net cash provided by (used in)Investing Activities		<u>(262,440)</u>	<u>184,391</u>
Net Increase (Decrease) in Cash Held		(269,874)	193,418
Cash at beginning of the Financial Year		424,639	231,221
Cash at End of Financial Year	3	<u>154,765</u>	<u>424,639</u>

Cashflow Statement