

Annual Report 2010



Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia (Inc)



ABORIGINAL LEGAL SERVICE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT Rosetta Sahanna



This is my first term as President of the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia (ALSWA) and I am deeply honoured to take on this role.

I have a great commitment to the future of our organisation and I share the vision of our past and current Members in taking our organisation forward and advancing the rights of our people throughout Western Australia.

The past year has been an extremely busy one and I would like to thank our Management and staff for their tireless efforts in fulfilling their roles.

I also acknowledge the ongoing work that our Civil Unit has done with members of our Stolen Generations. Redress WA placed increased demand on our services, however it was vital that ALSWA embraced this opportunity to assist our people with telling their story and completing their Redress WA applications. I know that it must have been a very emotional time for all involved but also vital in acknowledging the hardship that has been faced by many of our Stolen Generations.

Our legal service continues to provide a high standard of legal support and representation and it is through the commitment of all involved with ALSWA that our organisation remains firmly focused upon creating better pathways for our future generations. Our children are our future and we must do whatever we can to ensure that they can grow up in a State that is fair and equitable and full of opportunities.

To our CEO Dennis Eggington, your dedication and hard work is greatly appreciated, and you bring a wealth of experience to your role. I would like to congratulate you on being named the 2010 National 'NAIDOC Person of the Year'. This Award is testament to your hard work and the continued effort that you have made in addressing the injustice faced by our peoples.

To our Executive Committee members representing all of Western Australia, thank you for your input and contribution to ALSWA. I look forward to embracing the challenges that lay ahead and know that the dedication and commitment of our Executive Committee, Management and staff will ensure that ALSWA continues to play a vital and much needed role within Western Australia's justice system.

Rosetta Sahanna
President

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT Dennis Eggington



It gives me a great sense of pride to present my report for the 2010 Annual Report. This report covers the financial year 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010.

The report is a requirement of our contract with the Commonwealth Government and our Constitution under section 31. Section 31 is to ensure our financial statements for the reporting period are made available to the members.

The report also gives us the opportunity to inform our members about the activities the organisation has carried out over the 12 months and introduce our elected Executive committee to you all. It is a way of showcasing all the great work that the ALSWA does.

Our organisation had its biggest year of operation since its humble beginnings thirty six years ago. An expanded Law and Advocacy branch and the final transfer of six Family Violence Preventative Legal Services (FVPLS) to the organisation during this time saw our operation increase significantly. This expansion coincided with unprecedented staff numbers through the Country Lawyers Program.

The ALSWA and the WA Family Violence Prevention Legal Service Incorporated successfully moved the operations of these FVPLS to this new body. We wish the board and staff all the very best for the future.

Our staff at ALSWA have continued to perform above and beyond normal duties. Their dedication and hard work is acknowledged by the Senior Management and Executive Committee of our organisation. Our country staff are facing unbelievable numbers of our people on a daily basis. Working in remote and rural WA is difficult at most times. These areas continue to throw challenges at us around recruitment and retention.

The demand on our organisation continues unabated. Infact we are in demand more now than we have ever been. It is indicative of a much more serious problem that is inflicted upon our communities and families. In many ways our service, like the health sector, are litmus tests on our wellbeing. WA's insistence on tougher laws, more power for police intervention have a very detrimental effect on our relationship with the criminal justice system.

All fair minded WA citizens should be ashamed of the current position we face and demand better of our government. The issues surrounding Mr. Ward and Mr. Spratt are indicative of deeper problems. Our people should not be treated this way and it is the public of this state that needs to stand up and be counted. It is why we have deliberately developed the capacity to do human rights activities.

The year has presented many challenges to us all. We have continued to present to the public of WA a strong voice amid some very negative reporting of Aboriginal issues. Orchestrated attacks by government, the police, their union and whoever wanted to have a go at us came thick and fast. On all occasions our position on such issues as the use of tasers, prison transport and the treatment of our people by those in authority have been vindicated as the results of inquiries and inquests are made public.



ABC TV's Stateline WA filming at ALSWA in 2010

I am also pleased to inform our membership that we have been able to purchase the down stairs area of our Perth Office. This major purchase will mean that we no longer help a third party get rich but in turn ensure our community has a major asset that it owns. We have also renewed our commitment to securing an ALSWA owned office in Kalgoorlie. Our Egan Street block will be used for this purpose.

The ALSWA is now in the last remaining months of our present contract with the Federal Attorney Generals Department (AG's). This is the second contract we have entered into for the delivery of Legal and Preventative Services to our communities across our state. It is not yet confirmed but it seems likely that the AG's will not offer contracts in the future. These services may once again be offered through a grants process. Changes of this nature will not have a big impact on our service. We will however once again be seen as an organisation that relies on government funding. This may in turn have us face the same negative perceptions that we are a waste of taxpayer's funds.

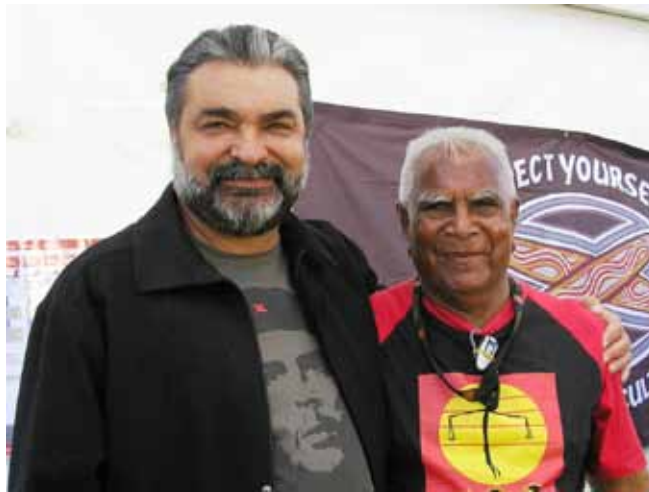


L-R ALSWA's Robyn Ninnette, Dennis Eggington, Federal Attorney General Robert McClelland, ALSWA's Gulmina Mioceovich, Rob Owens, John Bedford and Mara Barone

In numerous past Annual Reports I have raised the issue of preparing the organisation for the future. To this end I have put the argument forward for a change to the way our organisation delivers the service and what type of corporate governance structure might carry that service. I still feel we must be prepared for this change. I know this is not an easy task for our community and for the executive committee who represent our membership. It is one of our biggest challenges. Bringing changes to an institution that has been around for 36 years should not be taken lightly. But to stay in the past and not prepare ourselves to cope with change is doing the organisation and our community a disservice.

We have been trying hard to bring an old operation into line with a new way of service delivery. In an ideal world we should have had the opportunity to create a new organisation to fit the tender specifications. Unfortunately the majority of Aboriginal Legal Services have had to try and modify their operations to fit the tender. The creation of a new corporate structure is the easy part. The hardest decision will be to leave what we have or at least change what we have. We have fought hard for community control over our affairs. But change is needed. The will and desire to make this change is needed by our membership who will in turn nominate and vote for an Executive to bring this reform about.

Our organisation like other Aboriginal institutions highly values and respects our Elders. Recently two of our most respected Elders retired from the ALSWA.



Dennis Eggington with Sam Dinah during Perth NAIDOC celebrations in 2009

Mr. Sam Dinah (*above*) who for many years was a Court Officer with the service before moving into working with our men and young people in detention. Sam offered cultural guidance to all staff and was affectionately known to all as 'Uncle Sam'.

Mr Paul Sampi has been an ALSWA Executive Committee member representing the West Kimberley for nearly two decades. Mr Sampi was instrumental in the work we have done on Aboriginal Customary Law and his wisdom and knowledge helped give strength to our board and their deliberations. Our organisation is stronger and better because of their involvement and contribution over many years.

Paul Sampi (*pictured below*) has been made a Life Member by his fellow Executive Committee members. Both men will be missed.



(ALSWA) Dennis Eggington, John Bedford, Peter Collins, Liang Xu (ALSWA Executive Committee) Rosie Sahanna, Paul Sampi, Kevin George Phyllis Simmons, Ian Tucker, Beverly Thomas, Preston Thomas, Michael Blurton, Olivia Roberts, Veronica Williams-Bennell, Victor Woodley, Lorraine Whitby, Violet Whitby, Trevor Eades (Photo courtesy Flip Prior)

Members will be pleased to know that Ms Rosetta Sahanna is our new President. Ms Sahanna comes from Broome and represents the West Kimberley. Our first female President was Mrs Lorna Hume who held the top job in 1974.

ALSWA is proud that our board comprises of 50% women. We are also proud to announce that all of our internal units have women as head lawyers. Ms. Robyn Ninnette sits on Senior Management and will act as our Director of Legal Services when needed.

A special thanks to our Board Members who give their time freely and give so much.

Dennis Eggington
Chief Executive Officer



ALSWA CEO Dennis Eggington with ALSWA's Gulmina Mioceovich, Kim Axford, Wendy Rea-Young, Madge Mukund, Kristy Gaunt, Margaret Stephens, Nancy Taco, Pia Castelli Wendy Hughes, Sorgi Eggington. This photo and photo of CEO by James Rogers Courtesy of Lavan Legal

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Office Bearers



ROSETTA SAHANNA President

(West Kimberley Region) is a proud mother and grandmother from Broome and has a great interest in social and legal justice issues. She advocates for equality and empowerment and strives to make a difference by contributing, participating and being involved in decision making to improve our people's lifestyle.



MURRAY YARRAN Vice President

(Central/Metropolitan Region) is a Noongar man with traditional ties to the Balladong and the Swan River people. He believes that working with government in a culturally appropriate law and justice system will provide our people with a fairer and more equitable opportunity and assist in providing better opportunities and lowering incarceration rates.



VERONICA WILLIAMS-BENNELL Secretary

(Goldfields Region) is a Nyoongar/Mirrning woman from Esperance and is committed to ensuring a better future for young people, a fairer justice system within the courts and combating issues related to drugs and alcohol for our people.



IAN TUCKER Treasurer

(Goldfields Region)

Ian is a Wongi man from Menzies who has a great interest in Aboriginal justice issues and ensuring that important information is getting back to his community. He is interested in statewide issues to determine what does or does not work for our people.

ALSWA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICE BEARERS AS AT 1 JULY 2009

Terry Whitby RIP (President), Murray Yarran (Vice President), Rosetta Sahanna (Secretary), Ian Tucker (Treasurer). Following the passing of Terry Whitby in September 2009, Murray Yarran became Acting President and Michael Blurton Acting Vice President and Victor Woodley represented the Pilbara region. After Elections, the newly appointed ALSWA Executive Committee became Rosetta Sahanna (President), Murray Yarran (Vice President), Veronica Williams-Bennell (Secretary), Ian Tucker (Treasurer).

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Members



PAUL SAMPI (West Kimberley Region) is a Bardi Elder from One Arm Point. He is committed to doing what he can to prevent alcohol and drug related issues and to ensure a better future for Aboriginal children. Through his involvement on ALSWA's Committee, Mr. Sampi ensures that his community are aware of ALSWA services and the law in WA.



BEVERLY THOMAS (Central Desert Region) is from Kalgoorlie and has lived in Kanpa Community for the last 16 years. With a long association with ALSWA's Executive Committee, she is committed to the issues facing our people and the important role played by ALSWA.



PRESTON THOMAS (Central Desert Region) is from Laverton and has lived in Kanpa Community for the last 16 years. He has been involved with ALSWA's Executive Committee for many years and has a great interest in ALSWA's work and the justice system in Western Australia.

ALSWA - Striving for justice



MICHAEL BLURTON (Central Metro Region)

Michael is a Noongar man originally from Quairading who has served many years on ALSWA's Executive Committee. He is committed to working towards a better future for our people.



LORRAINE WHITBY (Murchison/Gascoyne Region)

is a Yamatji woman from Carnarvon with a long history of representing the interests of Aboriginal people. She is committed to working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to achieve a better outcome for a brighter future.



VIOLET WHITBY (Murchison/Gascoyne Region)

is a Yamatji woman from Carnarvon who is committed to ensuring that our people have a greater understanding of legal issues and the justice system in Western Australia.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Members



OLIVIA ROBERTS (Southern Region) is a proud woman from the Weirlumun tribe and is committed to self-determination and empowerment for our people. She is supportive of the important role played by healing and rehabilitation.



DEAN COLBUNG (Southern Region) is a Nyoongar man who has a great commitment to community politics at a local level. He is proud to represent the southern region through his role on ALSWA's Executive Committee.



PHYLLIS SIMMONS (Pilbara Region) is a Yamatji woman from the Karratha (Pilbara) region who is committed to women's issues and justice for our people. She is concerned about prison overcrowding and the importance of healing and rehabilitation centres and would like to see more diversionary processes to reduce prison intake.



VICTOR WOODLEY (Pilbara Region) has a long association with ALSWA through his previous work as a Court Officer and as a former President and Vice President of ALSWA's Executive Committee. He believes that ALSWA is a national 'best practice' example for the legal representation of our people".



JUDITH BUTTERS (East Kimberley Region) is from the Halls Creek region, East Kimberley. She is committed to bridging the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people and reducing the incarceration rate by ensuring there is a greater understanding of the laws governing this Country.



GEORGE HAMILTON (East Kimberley Region) is originally from Wyndham and is a representative of the East Kimberley region. He has always had an interest in justice and in ensuring that our people get 'a fair go'.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT John Bedford




As we enter into the final year of a three year contract with the Commonwealth Attorney Generals Department, I would like to firstly acknowledge our dedicated staff for the contribution they have made and assistance they have provided and continue to provide to our people both here in the metropolitan area and throughout the state.

Staff Recognition

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our CEO Dennis Eggington, who was named the 2010 National NAIDOC Person of the Year. This is a wonderful acknowledgement of our CEO who has worked tirelessly over many decades to ensure that there is a brighter tomorrow for our future generations. We are extremely proud of Dennis' commitment and the vital role that he plays within WA's justice system.



The 2010 National NAIDOC Award recipients: Front row L-R Aunty Ali Golding, Ali Drummond, Lester Bostock, Megan Davis, Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Jenny Macklin, Dennis Eggington, Back row L-R Lewis Langton, Lucas Kickett, Jessica Smith, Vince Coulthard, Daryl Lacey, Rohanee Cox
(Photo by Mahala Strohfeltd courtesy of Koori Mail)



I'd also like to recognise Margaret Stephens in our Civil and Human Rights Unit who in 2010 celebrated 21 years with ALSWA. Margaret's contribution over this long period is something that we are very proud of and I and other members of Senior Management would like to acknowledge Margaret's valued contribution to this organisation.

(Margaret is pictured in the Civil Unit photo of this Annual Report)

Family Violence Prevention Legal Service

I would also like to acknowledge all those ALSWA staff who contributed their time and efforts in assisting to develop and establish the West Australian Family Violence Prevention Legal Service and assisting with the auspice arrangements in respect to the six country Family Violence Prevention Legal Service's (FVPLS) which are located in Kununurra, Broome, Port Hedland, Carnarvon, Geraldton and Kalgoorlie. The work that was undertaken by these people in addition to their other duties cannot be understated and I thank them sincerely.

For the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA, from the outset we recognised and understood that to take on the FVPLS's, we would encounter some difficult challenges. However, we were prepared to take on these challenges knowing full well that ALSWA had a sense of responsibility to our community to ensure the needs and interests of victims of domestic violence were looked after and services that the FVPLS's provided were maintained with a degree of confidence.

On 30 June 2010 ALSWA formally ended its auspice arrangement with the Attorney Generals Department and handed over administrative arrangements of the newly created WA Family Violence Prevention Legal Service (WAFVPLS). There are some staff members who I'd like to publically thank and acknowledge that contributed to making all this possible, they include Kim Axford, Tina Ward, Alison Wilson, Peter Coole, Mark Johnston, Liang Xu and Lynette Jenkins. Also thanks to former staff members Maria Lovison, Rhonda Stott and Katrina Carlisle for their efforts and contribution.

I'd also like to acknowledge and thank Margaret Beatty and her staff from the Attorney Generals Department and also the WAFVPLS interim committee for their counsel and support, without it our job would have been made all that more harder.

Staffing

During the 2009/2010 financial year ALSWA employed approximately 110 fulltime and part-time staff throughout the state in 17 regional offices and its Perth office to deliver a range of services. Of the total number, approximately 48 percent identify as Aboriginal. During this same period, there were 14 Indigenous lawyers employed by ALSWA - the highest it has been for some time.

As has been the case in previous years, staff retention continues to be an issue. Senior Management have continued to explore innovative ways in which to attract and retain staff. ALSWA is not alone in this regard as evidence suggests that other ALS's throughout the country face a similar situation.



ALSWA's Perth based Family Law Unit L – R Sally Savini, Garth Melvold, Mary Chape, Susie Marshall, Jonathon Reid, Neil Anderson

Finances

As we enter into the last year of our three year contract we have strived hard to adapt and maintain our operations primarily due to changes to legislation, additional court circuits in some areas and high cost factors in relation to recruitment in remote areas.

During this period of change, ALSWA has redirected its focus and placed its resources in areas of most need. Whilst we have recognised these challenges, we have tried hard to balance off maintaining an acceptable level of service to our communities and to our people with the limited resources that we available have us.

To assist us in maintaining an acceptable level of services, we have been fortunate enough to have sought and obtain additional one off funding in addition to our main contract monies. These funds which were made available to us from the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department have been invaluable to our organisation and assisted us greatly. However, these funds are for specific use and considered "one off" and cannot be considered in meeting our "ongoing" financial commitments.

Our commitment to ensuring a continuity of services and maintaining acceptable staff salary levels continue to be ongoing priorities.

Finally, I would like to again thank my colleagues on Senior Management for their support and counsel which is very much appreciated. I very much look forward to the next contract period with renewed optimism.

***John Bedford**
Executive Officer*

DIRECTOR OF LEGAL SERVICES Peter Collins



Since 2004, the numbers of criminal charges faced by Aboriginal people in summary courts has increased exponentially. For example, in the Broome region, there has been a 96.6% increase in the number of criminal charges faced by adult Aboriginal persons and a 164.2% increase in the number of charges faced by juvenile Aboriginal persons. In the Carnarvon region, there has been a 72% increase in the number of charges faced by adult Aboriginal persons and a 107.8% increase in the number of charges faced by juvenile Aboriginal persons. There have been comparable increases in many other regions of Western Australia, including Perth metropolitan courts.




L-R ALSWA's offices in Broome and Carnarvon

These increases have placed ALSWA solicitors and court officers under greatly increased pressures as they endeavour to meet the legal needs of the WA Aboriginal community. Despite these pressures, the dedication and commitment of ALSWA's solicitors and court officers cannot be faulted and is consistently reflected in the high standard of legal advice and representation provided to ALSWA's clients.



ALSWA Court Officers Kyle Anderson and Leashay Eggington



This has occurred against a background where the chronic under funding of ALSWA continues largely unabated. ALSWA continues to fare poorly in comparison to the funding provided to the Legal Aid Commission of Western Australia. However, ALSWA services a number of court circuits where Legal Aid does not attend at all and routinely appears on behalf of the vast majority of people appearing in summary courts in regional areas. In the absence of ALSWA in some of these areas, the justice system would arguably collapse, leading to many Aboriginal people appearing in court unrepresented, increased numbers of Aboriginal people in custody and increased risks of Aboriginal deaths and injury in custody. ALSWA has continued to press the State Government to provide it with funding, but to no avail.

In addition, recent changes to the funding model utilised by ALSWA's funding agency, the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department, has meant that ALSWA has been placed under increasing pressure in order to maintain services in regional WA. The situation is particularly acute in the Pilbara region where ALSWA competes against the mining industry in relation to the recruitment and retention of staff and accessing suitable accommodation for staff. These pressures are not reflected in appropriate funding for ALSWA to properly service areas such as the Pilbara. To compound the situation, funding for unmet legal need in civil and family law in regional and remote WA is almost non-existent.


Despite these difficulties, ALSWA's solicitors and court officers have worked tirelessly to serve the needs of their clients and I would again like to commend them for their efforts.

In my 2009 annual report, I referred to ALSWA's commitment to employ Aboriginal solicitors. I am pleased to report that ALSWA has three Aboriginal solicitors, including a managing solicitor, working in regional offices and nine Aboriginal solicitors working in the Perth office.

Justice Issues

Since the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody almost two decades ago, more than \$400 million has been spent by Governments across the country attempting to reduce the numbers of Aboriginal people in custody. However, the grim picture of the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in custody dominates the WA criminal justice landscape. There are no signs that the situation is about to improve. The statistics tell the story and require repeating again in this report. The rate of adult Aboriginal imprisonment in WA is about 26 times the non-Aboriginal imprisonment rate. The rate of detention for Aboriginal juveniles is about 45 times the rate for non-Aboriginal juveniles. Per head of population, WA locks up its Aboriginal people at a greater rate than any other State or Territory in Australia. The imprisonment rates for Aboriginal males in WA are arguably higher than those for African American males in the US, which imprisons more people than any other. Hence, Aboriginal males in WA are amongst the most imprisoned group in the world. At the time of writing this report, about one in every 13 Aboriginal men in WA is in jail.

Imprisonment as a tool for preventing criminal behaviour by Aboriginal people is a dismal failure. The rates of reoffending for Aboriginal adults are stark, with nearly 70% of males and 55% of females returning to custody after having been released from their sentences. The situation is worse for juveniles, with 80% of male juveniles and 55% of female juveniles returning to custody after having been released from their sentences.



The situation has been compounded by a reduction in the number of prisoners being released to parole, following the appointment of a new chair of the Prisoner Review Board in March 2009. Since then, the WA prison population has increased by approximately 25% from about 3,900 prisoners to approximately 4,700 prisoners. WA prisons have a design capacity for about 3,500 prisoners. During the same period, there has been a 65% decrease in the number of prisoners released into the community on parole.

As a consequence, the issue of prison overcrowding has reached crisis proportions. For example, ALSWA has become aware that cells that were designed to house two or three prisoners have been made to accommodate eight prisoners, while in other parts of the prison system, prisoners are sleeping on mattresses next to toilets. In Rangeview Remand Centre, female detainees are locked up for over 12 hours in non-air-conditioned cells which reach temperatures of up to 45C in summer. These conditions are tolerated and permitted by Government simply because many prisoners are Aboriginal.

Over Policing of Aboriginal People

ALSWA continues to be confronted with the blunt edged results of punitive over policing practices enforced against Aboriginal people.

In March 2010, WA Police undertook a review of their compliance with various diversionary options available to police and prescribed in the Young Offenders Act 1994. The review noted a decline in the number of Juvenile Justice Team referrals in the period 2003/04 to 2008/09. However, the review concluded that WA Police was compliant with the intent of the Young Offenders Act 1994 in 82% of the cases where young offenders were referred to the judicial system. These findings are contrary to the experience of ALSWA.

The following three cases illustrate this:

1. In November 2009, a 12 year-old Aboriginal boy was charged by police with receiving a stolen Freddo Frog chocolate bar, valued at 70 cents. The boy faced a further charge involving the receipt of a stolen novelty sign, which read, 'Do not enter, genius at work'. The boy had no prior convictions. The boy missed the first court appearance due to a family misunderstanding and was apprehended by police at 8.00am on a school day and taken into custody where he was imprisoned for several hours. The charges were eventually withdrawn, despite police defending their actions as "technically correct".
2. In April 2010, a 16 year old boy with a serious intellectual disability and a limited record of prior convictions was charged with receiving a stolen \$2 soft toy. The boy was arrested by police and granted police bail with curfew conditions. The police later visited the boy's home, found that he was not there and considered him to be in breach of the curfew bail conditions. The police returned to the family home the next morning and took the boy into custody. The boy appeared before a Magistrate on a Friday. The Magistrate remanded the boy's matter to another court date and removed all bail conditions, including the curfew condition. On the Friday evening, the boy was arrested and taken into custody for breach of bail curfew conditions when there was no curfew ordered or current at that time. That arrest took place at around 10:25 pm.

The boy was subsequently taken to Rangeview Remand Centre. He remained in custody until he appeared in court on the following Monday, being in custody unlawfully for three days. The police explanation was that the bail conditions recorded on the Police computer system had not been removed. The receiving charge was later discontinued by the prosecution.

3. In August 2010, a girl aged 10 years and 4 months was charged with stealing an eyeliner pen which was later returned undamaged. The girl had no prior convictions. The offence was allegedly committed while the girl was in the company of older children. The charge was later discontinued by police.

These cases are literally the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the over policing of the Aboriginal community in WA. On an almost daily basis, ALSWA acts for clients charged with minor offences which should not be the subject of formal police prosecutions. Complaints made to the WA police about over policing practices invariably fall on deaf ears and hence, charges of the type referred to above, continue to needlessly immerse Aboriginal people in the justice system.



Peter Collins addresses the media during an ALSWA Press Conference about the Freddo Frog matter

The Death in Custody of Mr Ward

Following the 2009 Inquest into the death of Mr Ward, ALSWA has been acting for Mr. Ward's partner and their four children in seeking an ex gratia payment over his terrible death while being transported in the rear of a GSL prisoner transport vehicle on 27 January, 2008.

On 29 July, 2010, the WA Attorney General announced an ex gratia payment of \$3.2 million to Mr. Ward's partner and their four children.

The Attorney General said the ex gratia payment was an "unequivocal and sincere apology" from the Government and an acknowledgement that the family of Mr. Ward had "suffered a terrible loss".

This welcome announcement was the culmination of months of protracted negotiations between ALSWA and the State Government. During all of this, however, the multi national prisoner transport company responsible for transporting Mr. Ward, G4S (which was known as GSL at the time of Mr. Ward's death), has been conspicuously silent. The Coroner's findings in relation to the role of G4S in Mr. Ward's death were damning, including that Mr. Ward's death "was not only preventable but easily foreseeable" and

that “..the quality of the supervision, treatment and care of Mr. Ward in the hours before his death was disgracefully bad....”. ALSWA has repeatedly called on G4S to acknowledge and apologise for its role in Mr Ward’s death and to make an appropriate offer of compensation to Mr. Ward’s family.

On 28 June, 2010, the Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr. Joe McGrath, announced that no criminal charges would be laid against anyone involved in the death of Mr. Ward. Mr. McGrath stated, “I’m acutely aware that the death was tragic, avoidable and rightly creates outrage in the wider Australian community”. Mr. McGrath said all offence options were considered but the circumstances of the death meant the one which was the most likely fit was manslaughter by criminal negligence but there was not sufficient evidence to support a case.

Prior to this decision, ALSWA had written to the DPP, arguing that there was a strong prima facie case for the drivers of the Mazda van, Mr. Powell and Ms Stokoe, being charged with the unlawful killing of Mr. Ward on the basis of manslaughter by criminal negligence. ALSWA has consistently maintained this position and remains of the view that the issue of criminal liability should have been determined by a jury at a trial.

In light of the decision by the DPP not to lay criminal charges against any person involved in Mr Ward’s death, ALSWA has been liaising with WorkSafe WA which has launched its own investigation into whether Mr. Ward’s death involved any breach of the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

I would like to thank the managing solicitor of ALSWA’s Civil and Human Rights Law Unit (pictured below), Gulmina Miocevich, solicitor Madge Mukund and other staff in the Unit for their dedication and hard work in securing the ex gratia payment on behalf of Mr. Ward’s family.



*ALSWA's Civil Unit Front Row L-R Madge Mukund, Tahnee Davies, Margaret Stephens,
Back Row L-R Meenakshi Burr, Gulmina Miocevich, Parames Karpusamy, Kim Axford, Pia Castelli, Kristy Gaunt*

Tasers

Taser weapons were provided for the general use of WA police in June 2007. According to the Police Commissioner, their introduction was justified on the basis that police officers were the subject of increasing violence and were “not punching bags for the criminal element in our community”. Police guidelines specifically state that a taser can only be used to prevent injury and cannot be used for the purpose of gaining compliance.

In October 2010, the Crime and Corruption Commission published a report entitled “The Use of Taser Weapons by the Western Australian Police”. The report constitutes a most disturbing critique on the use of tasers by WA police. The report found that WA is only one of two jurisdictions in Australia where the threshold for the use of a taser weapon is low, resulting in the potential for taser use in a large number of situations. The report also found that tasers have become the force option of “choice” for police in WA, resulting in a 25% increase in the use of tasers since 2007 and substantial drops in the use of other options including capsicum spray and handcuffs.

Of particular concern is the finding that the use of tasers against Aboriginal people has almost doubled in the three year period since tasers were introduced in 2007. In addition, an Aboriginal person is almost 30% more likely to have a taser deployed on them in comparison to non Aboriginal people. The CCC referred to seventeen case studies in its report, the majority of which involved complaints lodged by ALSWA. ALSWA has also recently commenced litigation against the Government of Western Australia in relation to the actions of police officers in the use of tasers.

Stolen Generation Litigation

On Sorry Day 2010 (May 26), an Aboriginal family split up by the WA Government's past policy of forcibly removing Aboriginal children, launched proceedings in the Supreme Court seeking compensation.



National Sorry Day emblem, the Native Hibiscus

The proceedings were commenced by Lavan Legal instructed by ALSWA. The children of the family were removed without consent by state officials and placed in state care. The children, along with their parents, are plaintiffs in the proceedings. The proceedings are the first of their type instituted in WA. The proceedings could constitute a test case for many other Aboriginal people subjected to removal policies.

Finally, I would like to thank Dennis Eggington, John Bedford and Robyn Ninnette of ALSWA's senior management team and ALSWA's Executive Committee for their assistance and support this year.

Peter Collins
Director Legal Services

LAW AND ADVOCACY UNIT Manager Tammy Solonec

Introduction

The Law and Advocacy Unit (LAU) advocates for improved social justice outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in WA via a number of project activities. The Unit has a dual purpose. One side involves advocating for law reform for the benefit of Aboriginal peoples via the media, policy submissions, presenting at conferences and forums, international engagement and delivering community legal education including human rights training. All submissions and interventions from the Unit are now available publicly on the ALSWA website and we are working to upload our presentations. The law reform work of the Unit is supported by ALSWA's library services. The other side is the growing Prisoner Support Program which takes complaints and provides advocacy to incarcerated Aboriginal adults and juveniles in WA. The Unit has had a growth in staff in 2009-2010 with the employment of a dedicated community legal education solicitor and the expansion of our Prisoner Support Program, including the engagement of a Social Worker.



*2010 Law & Advocacy Unit
Seranie Gamble, Cassie Riley, Wendy Rea-Young, Jodi Hoffmann, Shanna Satya, Tammy Solonec*


Domestic Policy and Law Reform

LAU is actively involved in influencing policy and law reform on a state and national level. This is achieved through submission writing, lobbying parliamentarians, presenting at forums and seminars and advocating to and advising government agencies and other organisations. The Unit's work in policy and law reform is a combined effort of the solicitors in the Unit, with special acknowledgment to our new Policy Officer, Shanna Satya, who commenced in May 2010.

Submissions

During 2009-2010, the Unit completed and circulated ten written submissions (excluding those related to human rights as listed in this report), on issues including:

- the National Indigenous Law and Justice Framework,
- Homelessness, 'Cross border' and 'Stop and Search' legislation';
- the high level of Indigenous juvenile involvement in the criminal justice system;
- the transport of adult and juvenile detained persons in WA;

- 
- prisons;
 - Remote Aboriginal Community Housing;
 - the implementation of the Coroner's recommendations following the Inquest into the tragic and avoidable death of Mr Ward; and
 - in response to the Department of Child Protection's (DCP) Permanency Planning consultation.

Presentations

LAU has delivered a myriad of seminars, presentations and workshops in 2009-2010 to raise awareness and understanding of issues affecting Aboriginal peoples in WA. In relation to Aboriginal Community Housing alone, ALSWA presented at the Australasian Residential Tenancies Conference and WA Community Legal Centres Conference 2010 and conducted a workshop with policy officers from the WA Departments of Housing and Commerce.

Collaborative ATSILS Projects

ALSWA's LAU has worked in collaboration with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services (ATSILS) across Australia to contribute to a Conflict of Interest project, Dispute Management Services proposal, Pro Bono Guide publication and Interpreter Services submission. The Unit also maintains communication with other ATSILS to monitor national policy issues.

Committees and Working Groups

The LAU has remained active in advocating for improvements and substantive equality for Aboriginal peoples in WA through ongoing involvement in committees and working groups. In 2009-2010, the Unit has remained a member of the WA Equal Opportunity Commission's Section 80 Implementation and Monitoring Committee overseeing the implementation of the 'Finding a Place' Report into the existence of discrimination in public housing in WA. The Unit has also been a regular attendee of Prisoner Transport Client Agency Group meetings to monitor and advocate for safer and more humane transport conditions for detained persons. The Unit attended a Department of Corrective Services (DCS) Adult Custodial Women's External Reference Group meeting and an Aboriginal Advisory Group Meeting of the Commissioner for Children and Young People. The Unit has supported the creation of the WA Aboriginal Lawyer's Committee of the WA Law Society and has been a member of the Australian Inquest Alliance which advocates for coronial reform across Australia.

Advocacy Meetings

The Unit has organised and attended a host of advocacy meetings through 2009-2010 with Government departments including DCP, DCS, Housing and Commerce and with other organisations such as Amnesty International, the Greens, the Tenants Advice Service of WA, individual MPs and the Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services. The LAU also monitors a range of policy issues and their impact on Aboriginal peoples.

International Law and Human Rights

The Unit has been expanding into international law and human rights advocacy in 2009-2010. Again, this is a combined effort of the solicitors in the Unit, however special acknowledgment goes to our International Law and Human Rights Solicitor, Seranie Gamble.

Submissions

The Unit has prepared a number of submissions in 2009-2010 at the national and international level in partnership with the other ATSILS, coalitions of NGOs and in our own right about improved protection of human rights in Australia, for example:

- Australia's Universal Periodic Review under the UN Human Rights Council;
- NGO Shadow Report on Australia's poor performance of its obligations under the International Covenant on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination;
- implementation of the UN Human Rights Committee's recommendations about improved civil and political rights, and the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights' recommendations about economic, social and cultural rights; and
- role and function of the proposed new Human Rights Parliamentary Scrutiny Committee.

Human Rights and Advocacy Training

ALSWA was a key partnering organisation in the empowerment of Aboriginal leaders and activists for the Indigenous Peoples Diplomacy Training Program: Human Rights Advocacy, in Perth in February 2010. The success of this four-day program has led to the partnering organisations committing to support ALSWA coordinate human rights training in Perth as an annual event. ALSWA partnered with the Diplomacy Training Program, Oxfam International, the Centre for Aboriginal Studies and Centre for Human Rights Education at Curtin University, the School of Indigenous Studies at the University of WA and the Indigenous Human Rights Network of Australia. The Unit is in the process of developing a human rights education program for delivery in schools about young peoples' rights and responsibilities and has sought funding for this through the Australian Government's commitment to improved human rights education, and through the United Nations Small Grants scheme to promote awareness about human rights.



Participants from the Indigenous Peoples Human Rights and Advocacy Training for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Advocates in Perth with Shadow Treasurer Ben Wyatt MLA who was one of the presenters at the training.

ALSWA at the United Nations

The Unit provided support for Dennis Eggington to attend the Ninth Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York in April 2010 as part of an Australian delegation of Aboriginal organisations, and supported Tammy Solonec's attendance as an Oxfam Youth Delegate. This included preparing and delivering interventions and a report on a range of human rights issues including Indigenous children and youth in detention and custody, and on the study on the impact of the Doctrine of Discovery on Indigenous Peoples.

Tammy Solonec also attended the Third Session of the United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) in Geneva in July 2010 as part of an Australian delegation of Aboriginal organisations. This involved preparing and delivering interventions on human rights issues, including Indigenous Peoples' right to participate in decision-making and on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The Unit also prepared an application for ALSWA to gain special consultative status as a Non-Government Organisation (NGO) with the United Nations Economic and Social Council to gain special speaking rights and greater involvement in the United Nations system.



Above left to right: Dennis Eggington outside of the General Assembly building, Inside the General Assembly, and Tammy Solonec at the UNPFII after delivering the intervention on the Doctrine of Discovery

Community Events

The Unit attended numerous events over 2009-2010 where we held stalls and distributed ALSWA pamphlets and promotional materials.

Promotion of ALSWA services occurred at the Back to Mogumber Reunion, Yadgalah Aboriginal Corporation NAIDOC Festival in Shark Bay, NAIDOC Perth Opening Ceremony, Beananging Kwuut Institute, NAIDOC Day, Noongar Sports Association NAIDOC Event, Mirrabooka NAIDOC Family Fun Day, Ashfield NAIDOC Family Fun Day, Midland TAFE, NAIDOC in September event, various Aboriginal Seniors Events, through the Seniors Recreation Council of WA, Deaths in Custody Watch Committee Institutional Racism Kills Seminar, Seniors Have a Go Day, Wardarnji Cultural Festival in Fremantle, Too Solid Festival in Perth and a Seniors Event in Bunbury in the south west.



Clockwise: Jodi Hoffmann, Lorretta McNamara, Tammy Solonec, Kenny Sutton, Seranie Gamble, Alana at Too Solid Festival, Cassie Riley @ NAIDOC Perth Opening Ceremony, Lorretta McNamara, Kenny Sutton, Georgina Boddington and Seranie Gamble at Wardarnji Cultural Festival, Wendy Rea-Young and Jodi Hoffmann Ashfield NAIDOC Family Day

Pamphlets

ALSWA has provided community legal education to Aboriginal peoples in WA via ALSWA's pamphlet range, which is available in print and on the ALSWA website. ALSWA distributed these brochures and the Law Matters four Volume CD Series throughout WA via our 17 Offices and at community events we attended.

Current titles include *Arrest, Bail, Conflict of Interest, Compensation for Motor Vehicle Injury, Criminal Injuries Compensation, Defamation, Discrimination, Extraordinary License, Going Surety, Guardianship and Administration, Making a Will, Prisoner Support Team, Restraining Orders, Services at ALSWA, Traffic Offences, Video Record of Interview, Your Rights as a Consumer.*



Community Legal Education

In 2009-2010 ALSWA provided community legal education through the strong work of our Media Officer, Jodi Hoffmann and Community Legal Education Solicitor, Wendy Young, who commenced in the Unit in May 2010.

Media

ALSWA maintains a strong media presence and is highly sought by media to contribute to current debate on wide ranging issues. Our voice continues to add an authentic Indigenous perspective to many of the issues facing our people. These issues are often complex, but our organisation remains strong in keeping a high profile within the media.

Jodi Hoffmann is ALSWA's Media Officer and coordinates all incoming media enquiries, produces ALSWA's Law Matters newsletter and will also produce and present our fortnightly 'Law Matters' radio program when it commences on 6NME Noongar Radio in October this year.

During this reporting period ALSWA has spoken extensively with both mainstream and Indigenous media representatives about many issues, including Deaths in custody, Redress WA, Stolen Generations, Stolen Wages, Prohibited Behaviour Orders, Tasers, Over-representation of Indigenous people within the justice and prison systems, Prisoner Transport and community courts.

ALSWA was also featured on ABC TV 'Stateline' WA in a segment about community legal centres and on 'Momentum' on National Indigenous TV in 'Boys Behind Bars' focusing upon young people within the criminal justice system.



ALSWA will commence its 'Law Matters' radio program on 6NME Noongar Radio in October 2010. Pictured in the 6NME studios are ALSWA CEO Dennis Eggington, Solicitor Monica Collard and Court Officer Manager Kenny Sutton

Library Services

Angela Bromfield is ALSWA's long serving Librarian who manages all aspects of the ALSWA law library service for Perth and the state regional offices, offering reference and research assistance as well as training for the various databases that are subscribed to.

The Library has a collection of primary and secondary materials including texts, loose leaf subscriptions, law reports, WA statutes, journals, videos and DVDs that relate to the criminal, civil and family practice of ALSWA. Catalogues of all these materials are maintained and are accessible to in-house staff via the ALSWA Intranet site. The Library's focus is currently on the provision of electronic information via each desktop computer. Comprehensive access to online services ensures that regional offices are also offered subscriptions that are tailored to the variant practice areas of the legal professional.

Document delivery is provided predominantly via email, with regular alerts to staff regarding legislative amendments, catchwords from the superior courts, media and library accessions. The Library acknowledges the Memoranda of Understanding with Legal Aid WA and the online access provided to services and select data bases via the WA Supreme Court Library.

Prisoner Support Program

The Prisoner Support Program is a new program for ALSWA that has funding for three Prisoner Support Workers (for adult prisons), one incarcerated Juvenile Support Worker and a Senior Social Worker. The ALSWA staff members who work on this program are known as the 'Prisoner Support Team'.

During 2009-2010 the Team suffered the loss of a number of staff members including the retirement of two long serving ALSWA employees Samuel Dinah and Lorretta McNamara. As a result, we have had an influx of new staff including Raymond Gidgup and Linc Ugle (Prisoner Support Workers), Tamara Gillespie (Incarcerated Juvenile Support Worker) and Thomas Quayle (Senior Social Worker) *Pictured below with Tammy Solonec.*

Significant effort over 2009-2010 has been expended on creating an appropriate administrative environment for the new Prisoner Support Team including a file management system, appropriate recording of clients and policies and procedures. Having completed this, we are now in a position to take on new clients and statistically record the work of the Team. Special thanks to the Unit Secretary, Cassandra Riley, for her work in this regard.



Much of the work of the Team involves taking complaints from Aboriginal prisoners and incarcerated youth regarding a variety of matters including health concerns, parole, abuse and intimidation by Prison staff, racial vilification and discrimination, prisoner transport, opening mail, refusal of visits and phone calls and punishment. Another significant service of the Team is in providing assistance to the Criminal, Civil and Family Law Units of ALSWA in legal matters and in providing referrals to these Units from Aboriginal prisoners.

A final component of the Team, which is still developing, is to provide 'through care' services to Aboriginal prisoners to assist in their transition from incarceration back into the community and to assist in reducing recidivism. To do this, the Team is actively engaging with DCS and external organisations involved in through care and developing referral processes and relationships with these organisations.

Tammy Solonec

Law and Advocacy Unit Manager

ALSWA History Project Update



The **ALSWA history project** is nearly finished, and the manuscript of the book has been submitted to UWA Publishing. After editing and production design, the book is scheduled to be released in August 2011. Project co-ordinator and author Fiona Skyring (*pictured above*) spoke with over sixty people who had been involved with the establishment and development of the Aboriginal Legal Service, and researched the history in ALSWA's archival files and other library collections. The project was funded with grants from Lotterywest, AIATSIS, the Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department. Minara Resources supported Fiona's research trips to Laverton. ALSWA gratefully acknowledges the funding and financial assistance from all of these sponsors. ALSWA staff in the regional offices provided invaluable support during Fiona's visits across the State to interview people. Fiona could not have done the project without the help of ALSWA colleagues nor without the generosity of the interviewees who gave their time and information in talking with her. The Chief Justice of the High Court of Australia, Robert French AO, was one of the founders of the Aboriginal Legal Service in 1972 and Fred Chaney AO was one of its early supporters. Along with Emeritus Professor Geoffrey Bolton, ALSWA CEO Dennis Eggington and former Executive Committee member Clarrie Cameron, they are members of the reference group who have helped to guide the project from its beginning in late 2005. **ALSWA is delighted that the Chief Justice has agreed to write the foreword to the book.**

MOORDITJ MURAL PROJECT

The Aboriginal Legal Service of WA (ALSWA) was the proud sponsor the 2010 Moorditj Mural Project, having been approached with the initiative midway through 2010.

As part of the project, students studying through the David Wirrpanda Foundation (DWF) and Central Institute of Technology (Central) 'Solid Futures' program researched ALSWA and its beginnings before completing a vibrant mural depicting our historical journey towards social justice of Indigenous Western Australians. Acclaimed Noongar artist Peter Farmer worked with the students and together the group spent many hours researching and producing this significant artwork (*see front cover*).

When ALSWA was contacted about this project, CEO Dennis Eggington said the organisation was thrilled to support and be involved in such an important project.

The mural is not only significant because of the history and images that have been captured visually, but also because the mural has been created by so many of our community members from various regions throughout WA. "This was a wonderful community collaboration by everyone involved in creating this spectacular mural and also a fine example of what can be achieved when agencies work together" said Mr. Eggington.

Participating in the Moorditj Mural Project were students Gilbert Calyun, Jolene Farrell, Travis Hansen, Darren Hart, Megan Holiner, Devin Indich, Deborah Jones, Whitney Joseph, Jamie-Lee Little, Glen Miller, Karina Riley, Candice Nundle, DWF Mentors Dale Kickett, Alicia Janz, Eddie Brown, and Central lecturers Peter Dooley and Chris Hodson.

The completed mural was unveiled at a launch at ALSWA which was attended by over 80 people, and the mural is now proudly displayed at ALSWA's Perth head office where it will both inform and inspire all who visit.

SOLID FUTURES



The Moorditj Mural in progress L-R DWF students Darren Hart, Jamie-Lee Little and Karina Riley, ALSWA CEO Dennis Eggington and artist Peter Farmer



Classroom becomes Art room: Travis Hansen, Jolene Farrell, DWF Mentor Alicia Janz, Devin Indich, Darren Hart, ALSWA CEO Dennis Eggington, Youth Work student, Artist Peter Farmer, Glen Miller, Karina Riley, Youth Work student, Deborah Jones, Central Lecturer Peter Dooley, Candice Nundle, DWF Mentor Dale Kickett, student Jamie-Lee Little.



David Wirrpanda, Dennis Eggington, Peter Farmer and Miranda Farmer at the mural's launch (Photos Jodi Hoffmann)



DWF students Glen Miller, Jolene Farrell, Jamie-Lee Little, Craig Hill, Amanda Sampi, Jordan Gliddon, Gilbert 'Jack' Calyun, Darren Hart, Travis Hansen, Candice Nundle, Amanda Hansen and 3 Youth Work students (Photo courtesy Tamara Binamat ABC Local)

FINANCIAL REPORTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2010

As prepared by Accountant Tina Ward



ALSWA achieved a surplus of \$1,088,877 (2009: \$2,117,593) from total revenues of \$18,149,495 (2009:\$15,481,566) during the 2009/2010 financial year. Of the \$1,088,877 declared surplus for the 2009/10 financial year, 90% was income brought into account to create reserves from unexpended funds.

The strategic objectives of the organisation as set out in the Strategic Plan 2008-2011 were attained during the year. ALSWA provided legal services and other specific services in accordance with the Attorney General's Department contractual obligations remaining within its financial constraints. ALSWA was also able to sustain a professional, adaptive and culturally secure work environment whilst building beneficial partnerships with community and other stakeholders.

As part of its statement of activities and performance ALSWA undertook the auspicing of the six Family Violence Prevention Legal Services (FVPLS) throughout Western Australia, the accounts this year reflect the consolidation of both FVPLS and ALSWA. This auspicing arrangement finished on 30 June 2010 and the accounts will revert back to single entity accounts for future financial years.

Highlights of the year also include ALSWA's ability to purchase the lower floor Perth offices, 7 Aberdeen Street, through a long term loan. ALSWA has taken a proactive role in asset management, strategic planning of technology to enhance future operations and continues to maintain a positive approach to continuing improvements throughout the organisation.

The following statements are the audited consolidated financial accounts for the year ended 30 June 2010. Further detailed accounts of specific grants are available from the ALSWA office in Perth.

Tina Ward
Chief Financial Officer

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT by Deloitte



Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu
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Independent Auditor's Report to the members of Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia (Inc)

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia (Inc), which comprises the balance of trust funds at 30 June 2010 and a schedule of movements in trust funds for the year ended 30 June 2010 ("the financial report").

The Responsibility of the Executive Committee for the Financial Report

The Executive Committee of the entity are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the financial report is appropriate to meet the financial reporting requirements of the trust fund beneficiaries and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The responsibility of the Executive Committee also includes establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Executive Committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to the members for the purpose of fulfilling the Executive Committee's financial reporting requirements to the trust fund beneficiaries. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

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

Auditor's Independence Declaration

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

Member of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT by Deloitte

Deloitte

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the balance of trust funds held by Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia (Inc) as at 30 June 2010 and its movements for the year ended on that date.

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu

DELOITTE TOUCHE TOHMATSU

C May
Conley Maniff
Partner

Chartered Accountants
Perth 18 October 2010



STATEMENT BY CHAIRPERSON/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

In our opinion:

The accounts and schedules set out on pages 5 to 15 present fairly the consolidated financial position of the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia (Inc) at 30th June 2010 and the results of its operations for the year ended 30th June 2010, in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Note 1 to the accounts and are based on proper accounts and records.

The grants received from the Attorney Generals Department (AGD) for the financial year 2009/2010 have been used towards the achievement of goals for which they were provided and all conditions included in the AGD letter of offers have been complied with.

Dated at Perth this

18

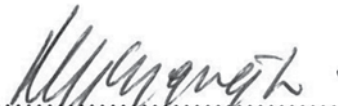
day of

October

2010



.....
PRESIDENT



.....
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

This Schedule is established in respect of the 2009/2010 financial year.

Provider: Aboriginal Legal Service of WA (Inc)

Contact Officer: John Bedford

Telephone: (08) 9265 6666

- (i) Services have been provided in accordance with the requirements of the contract, including the Policy Directions;
- (ii) The terms and conditions of the Contract have been met;
- (iii) The annual Report and Audited Financial Statements are attached.

Signed for and on behalf of the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia

By



Dennis Eggington



Rosetta Sahanna

In the presence of



Tina Ward

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30TH JUNE 2010

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2010

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2010</u> \$	<u>2009</u> \$
<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>			
Cash	2	9,341,249	7,900,821
Receivables	3	146,125	377,796
Total Current Assets		<u>9,487,374</u>	<u>8,278,617</u>
<u>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</u>			
Property, furniture and equipment	1(B), 4	4,867,720	3,168,081
Leasehold improvements	1(B), 5	113,062	78,038
Motor Vehicles	1(B), 6	42,899	70,457
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>5,023,681</u>	<u>3,316,576</u>
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>		<u>14,511,055</u>	<u>11,595,193</u>
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>			
Accounts payable	1(E), 7	2,023,290	924,286
Provisions	8	1,380,705	1,641,125
Unexpended AGD/ATSIS Grants	10	4,210,905	4,751,011
Family Violence Assets		90,978	90,978
Total Current Liabilities		<u>7,705,878</u>	<u>7,407,400</u>
<u>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>			
Provisions	9	76,322	99,032
Long Term Loan – 7 Aberdeen Street		1,591,205	-
Total Non-Current Liabilities		<u>1,667,527</u>	<u>99,032</u>
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES</u>		<u>9,373,405</u>	<u>7,506,432</u>
<u>NET ASSETS</u>		<u>\$5,137,650</u>	<u>\$4,088,761</u>
<u>Accumulated Funds:</u>			
Retained surplus/(deficit)		3,895,617	3,828,850
Asset Revaluation Reserve		219,911	259,911
Long Service Leave Reserve		550,000	-
Special Purposes Reserve		93,184	-
Redress Reserve		338,938	-
<u>TOTAL FUNDS</u>		<u>\$5,137,650</u>	<u>\$4,088,761</u>

The accompanying notes form part of and are to be read in conjunction with these Consolidated Financial Accounts

PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2010

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2010</u> \$	<u>2009</u> \$
<u>INCOME</u>			
Grants		16,489,660	14,394,381
Interest		311,786	394,626
Other income		1,348,495	692,559
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		18,149,495	15,481,566
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>			
Salaries		10,408,686	8,521,789
Depreciation		239,908	222,638
Loss (profit) on sale of Assets		-	(2,965)
Other operating expenses		6,412,025	4,622,511
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		17,060,619	13,363,973
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net surplus/(deficit) for year	11	\$1,088,877	\$2,117,593
		<hr/>	<hr/>

The accompanying notes form part of and are to be read in conjunction with these Consolidated Financial Accounts

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2010

		2010 Inflows (Outflows)	2009 Inflows (Outflows)
<u>Cash flows from operating activities:</u>			
AGD/ATSIS Funds		16,089,577	14,394,381
Interest received		311,786	394,626
Other receipts		1,158,624	692,558
Payments to suppliers and employees		(15,626,989)	(14,019,528)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash from/(used in) operating activities	A	1,933,000	1,462,038
		<hr/>	<hr/>
<u>Cash flows from investing activities:</u>			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(492,571)	(2,588,418)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		-	2,965
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash used in investing activities		(492,571)	(2,585,453)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		1,440,429	(1,123,415)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Opening balance of cash held		7,900,820	9,024,235
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash balance at the end of the year	(2)	<u>\$9,341,249</u>	<u>\$7,900,820</u>
 <u>A RECONCILIATION OF NET CASH PROVIDED FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES TO NET INCOME/ (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR</u>			
Net income/(deficit) for year		1,088,877	2,117,593
Loss/(Profit) on sale of assets		-	(2,965)
Depreciation		239,908	222,638
Provisions		(283,130)	373,360
Receivables		328,447	(164,247)
Creditors and Accruals		1,099,004	(288,541)
Unexpended Funds (including previous years)		(540,106)	(795,799)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash from/(used in) operating activities		<u>\$1,933,000</u>	<u>\$1,462,038</u>

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2010

1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

A) BASIS OF ACCOUNTING & CONSOLIDATION

These financial statements are 'Special Purpose Financial Statements' that have been prepared in order to satisfy the terms and conditions of the Grant. No accounting standards have mandatory applicability.

The consolidated financial accounts comprise the accounts of the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA (Inc) and other entities which received grants from the Attorney Generals Department (AGD) for which the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA (Inc) acts as grantee and is responsible for. Details of the contribution to the consolidated net surplus/(deficit) by each entity is included in Note 11.

The accrual basis of accounting has been applied. All reports have been prepared on the historical cost basis.

B) NON-CURRENT ASSETS

Non-Current Assets (except Land & Buildings) have been recorded in the financial statements at 1 July 1995 valuation and subsequent acquisition cost, less accumulated depreciation or amortisation. Land and Buildings have been re-valued at 30/06/07. Depreciation/amortisation is calculated on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets. Assets with a cost less than \$1000 are fully depreciated in the year of purchase.

Useful lives for each class of depreciable asset are:

Computer equipment	3 years
Office equipment	4 years
Furniture and fittings	5 years
Motor Vehicles	4 years
Renovations	4 years
Buildings	25 years

C) GOING CONCERN

The ALSWA has been awarded a public tender from the Attorney Generals Department for the period 1/7/08-30/06/11 to continue operations in legal aid.

D) COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

Certain comparative information has been re-classified to ensure consistency with current year's disclosure.

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2010

E) ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Accounts Payable, including accruals not yet billed, are recognised when the obligation arises to make future payments as a result of a purchase of assets or services. Accounts payables are generally settled within 30 days.

F) SICK LEAVE

A provision for sick leave was brought to account for the first time in 2006 as a result of changes in the ALSWA certified agreement 2004-06.

G) ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE

Land and Buildings at Kalgoorlie and Derby were subject to independent valuation by licensed real estate agents Murphy Boyden and Hutchinson Real Estate in September 2007. As a result a revaluation reserve of \$259,911 was created to recognise the increase in asset values effective at 30 June 2007.

H) LONG SERVICE LEAVE RESERVE

A long service leave reserve was created out of unexpended funds to retain a cash equity for future long term leave liabilities.

I) LONG TERM LOAN

The Aboriginal Legal Service of WA ground floor offices in 7 Aberdeen Street, Perth were purchased during the 2009/2010 financial year.

J) FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION LEGAL SERVICE – AUSPICING

The auspicings of the Family Violence Prevention Legal Services throughout various locations within Western Australia was completed on 30 June 2010.

K) OTHER RESERVES

A Redress Reserve and a Special Purposes Reserve were created from current funds to declare income received in the 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 financial years.

	<u>2010</u> \$	<u>2009</u> \$
2. <u>CURRENT ASSETS - CASH</u>		
Payroll Account	49,349	10,064
Cash Management Accounts	8,532,075	6,530,422
Branch Imprest	8,218	6,080
General Accounts	192,603	1,346,111
BWA – Security Deposit	10,861	10,001
Salary Packaging (Credits)/Debits	(1,857)	(1,857)
Long Service Leave Reserve	550,000	-
	<u>\$9,341,249</u>	<u>\$7,900,821</u>

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2010

	<u>2010</u> \$	<u>2009</u> \$
3. <u>CURRENT ASSETS - RECEIVABLES</u>		
Prepayments	61,259	67,602
Organisatiol Trust	4,879	4,879
Others - General	22,144	32,899
Accrued Income	57,843	272,416
	<u>\$146,125</u>	<u>\$377,796</u>
4. <u>NON-CURRENT ASSETS – PROPERTY, FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT</u>		
Land and Buildings		
At valuation 30 December 2009	660,000	660,000
At Cost 30 June 2009	3,959,983	2,291,204
Accumulated depreciation	132,503	59,257
Total land and buildings	<u>\$4,487,480</u>	<u>\$2,891,677</u>
Furniture and Equipment		
At committee's valuation, 1 July 1995	217,468	217,468
Accumulated depreciation	217,468	217,468
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
At cost	1,571,580	1,379,231
Accumulated depreciation	1,191,340	1,102,827
	<u>380,240</u>	<u>276,404</u>
Total furniture and equipment	<u>380,240</u>	<u>276,404</u>
Total Property, Furniture and Equipment	<u>\$4,867,720</u>	<u>\$3,168,081</u>

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2010

	<u>2010</u> \$	<u>2009</u> \$
5. <u>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</u>		
Leasehold Improvements		
At committee's valuation 1 July 1995	424,392	424,392
Accumulated amortisation	424,392	424,392
	—	—
	—	—
At cost	457,373	376,358
Accumulated depreciation	344,311	298,320
	—	—
	113,062	78,038
	—	—
Total Leasehold Improvements	\$113,062	\$78,038
6. <u>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</u>	=====	=====
Motor Vehicles at cost	113,391	108,423
Accumulated depreciation	70,493	37,966
	—	—
Total Motor Vehicles	\$42,899	\$70,457
7. <u>CURRENT LIABILITIES – ACCOUNTS PAYABLE</u>	=====	=====
Sundry accruals	612,512	111,058
Other Creditors	1,040,969	708,588
Accounts Payable	364,328	104,640
	—	—
	\$2,023,290	\$924,286
	=====	=====
8. <u>CURRENT LIABILITIES - PROVISIONS</u>		
Annual Leave	720,275	854,000
Long Service Leave	337,398	393,968
Sick Leave	297,550	356,000
FBT	25,482	37,157
	—	—
	\$1,380,705	\$1,641,125
	=====	=====

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2010

9. <u>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>	<u>2010</u> \$	<u>2009</u> \$
Long Service Leave	76,322	99,032
Long Term Loan – 7 Aberdeen Street	1,591,205	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$1,667,527	\$99,032
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Accounts payable to related body grants at balance date are:

10. <u>CURRENT LIABILITIES – UNEXPENDED FUNDS</u>	<u>2010</u> \$	<u>2009</u> \$
Prisoner Support – Male	-	21,069
Prisoner & Incarcerated Juvenile Support	304,639	414,380
Kimberly Restorative Justice	-	87,735
Aboriginal Advisory	162,750	64,309
Expensive Criminal Case Fund	1,022,339	1,946,699
Redress WA	-	190,975
One off Capital Funding	-	119,110
Aboriginal Community Court	-	4,700
History Project	5,191	7,500
Community Legal Education - Media	-	22,172
Pilot Program - Liquor	34,075	48,989
Indigenous Justice Taskforce	321,225	394,176
Property Purchases	357,760	452,508
Website Development	-	8,236
Stolen Wages	10,157	10,157
Country Lawyers	-	235,000
Broome Family Violence Prevention Legal Service 145,661	73,680	-
Kalgoorlie Family Violence Prevention Legal Service 53,855	6,876	-
Kununurra Family Violence Prevention Legal Service 209,445	-	-
Port Hedland Family Violence Prevention Legal Service 268,715	-	-
Geraldton Family Violence Prevention Legal Service 108,842	-	-
Carnarvon Family Violence Prevention Legal Service 225,095	-	-
Rio Tinto	5,354	-
Bidyadanga Grant	-	10,000
Main Legal Aid Grant	669,512	632,740
Family Violence Prevention Legal Service Contingent Liability	35,000	-
Culture & Arts Project	3,526	-
Principal Legal Officers Trust	120,626	-
Kalgoorlie Property Trust	147,138	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	4,210,905	4,751,011
	<hr/>	<hr/>

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2010

11. <u>CONTRIBUTION TO SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</u>	<u>2010</u> \$	<u>2009</u> \$
Law and Justice Grant	36,771	138,885
Expensive Indigenous Criminal Case Fund	891,554	-
Kimberley Restorative	-	(470)
Property Purchases	94,747	1,979,178
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net surplus/(deficit) for year	\$1,088,877	\$2,117,593
	<hr/>	<hr/>

12. CONTINGENT LIABILITY

A contingent liability of \$35,000 was set up to provide for any post 30 June 2010 Family Violence Prevention Legal Service invoices included in the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia's creditors. The balance of any unencumbered funds will be forwarded to the new entity WA Family Violence Prevention Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation for the continuing provision of services.

13. OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS

Rental property commitments across various sites are:

Less than one year	\$766,725
Greater than one year but less than five years	\$2,258,763
Greater than five years	-
Total commitments	<u>\$3,025,488</u>

14. LONG TERM LIABILITY

The Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia was able to obtain a long term bank loan for the purchase of the offices on the lower floor of 7 Aberdeen Street in Perth.

15. RETAINED EARNINGS

Retained Earnings of \$3,828,850 stated in the 2009 Annual Report was varied by \$40,012 for adjustments pertaining to the 2008/2009 financial year.

INFORMATION FOR AGD PURPOSES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2010

Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia Inc			
FINANCIAL REPORT AS AT 30 June 2010			
	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	VARIANCE TO DATE
PROVIDER INCOME			
Surplus Deficit from previous year	1,153,090	1,153,090	-
Commonwealth	9,767,000	9,767,000	-
Other - transfers	891,554	-	(891,554)
Service Generated Income	-	-	-
- Interest	288,547	250,000	(38,547)
- Costs Recovered & Retained	103,761	-	(103,761)
- Sundry Income	118,376	20,000	(98,376)
- Program Income	106,077	300,000	193,923
A. Total Provide Income	12,428,405	11,490,090	(938,315)
B. Provider General Purpose Income			
PROVIDER EXPENSES			
Salaries	6,932,046	6,153,511	(778,535)
Superannuation	544,492	543,355	(1,137)
On Costs	(212,284)	420,923	633,207
Rent	705,428	849,750	144,322
Repairs and Maintenance	24,365	36,708	12,343
Other Premises Costs	-	-	-
Staff Training	50,098	69,290	19,192
Staff Recruitment	335,487	141,384	(194,103)
Communications	184,097	160,000	(24,097)
Office Overheads	466,572	793,730	327,158
Insurance	108,319	125,000	16,681
Finance, Audit & Accounting	16,192	30,750	14,558
Library, Resources & Subscriptions	231,880	174,310	(57,570)
Travel	631,564	608,987	(22,577)
Client Disbursements	318,626	308,000	(10,626)
Leases - Vehicles	542,330	643,435	101,105
Depreciation	176,658	-	(176,658)
Other	152,326	88,580	(63,746)
Capital	30,349	-	(30,349)
D. Total Operating Expenses	3,943,942	4,029,924	85,982
E. Total Provider Expenses(ex Cap)	11,055,869	11,059,133	3,264
E1. Total Provider Expenses	11,238,544	11,147,713	(90,831)
F. Surplus/(Deficit)	1,189,862	342,377	(847,485)

INFORMATION FOR AGD PURPOSES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2010

	<u>2010</u> \$	<u>2009</u> \$
<i>Reconciliation with Statutory accounts</i>		
Operational surplus/(deficit) (for AGD/ATSIS Purposes)	1,189,862	1,153,090
Total	<hr/> 1,189,862	<hr/> 1,153,090
Unexpended Grant	(1,153,090)	(1,014,205)
Capital expenditure	-	-
Profit / (Loss) on sale of assets	-	-
Depreciation	-	-
Net surplus/(deficit) for year per Income and Expenditure Statement	<hr/> 36,771 <hr/>	<hr/> 138,885 <hr/>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ALSWA Opening hours

8.30 am to 5.00 pm weekdays: Perth, Albany, Bunbury, Carnarvon, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Northam, Halls Creek. 8.00 am to 4.30 pm weekdays: Broome, Derby, Fitzroy Crossing, Kununurra, South Hedland. *Non standard hours of operation apply for the following offices and matters can be referred to the office in brackets: *Meekatharra (Carnarvon), *Laverton (Kalgoorlie), *Warburton (Kalgoorlie), *Newman (South Hedland).

ALSWA Figures


ALSWA staff gave legal advice in 3365 matters, duty lawyer assistance in 8057 matters and casework in 12,479 matters totaling 23,901 matters.

Access and Equity

ALSWA's clients meet eligibility requirements, including a means test and a merit test, with certain categories of case getting highest priority. ALSWA provides a culturally appropriate service by recruitment and processes and work conditions that ensures Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff at every organisational level, all employees have a demonstrated commitment to social justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and where reasonably possible, country staff are locals, staff receive cultural training and non-Indigenous staff receive assistance with cultural matters as needed; 17 country offices, legal assistance on court circuits, a toll free telephone number, after-hours emergency assistance by telephone, anonymous survey forms as well as complaint processes to obtain and act on client feedback.

Staff Training

ALSWA staff attend regular training, conferences and seminars as deemed appropriate within each unit. In addition to this, the Family Law Unit attends regular seminars run by Family Law Practitioner's Association and nominated representatives from the Civil/Human Rights Unit have participated in or attended: Public Trustee- Mental capacity of clients, Public Trustee- Protecting the interests of the Elderly; Powers of Attorney, Criminal Injuries Compensation update seminar, Helen Porter- Chief Assessor, An Insight into the Stolen Generations G Mioceovich, Updated Sentencing Cases 2010- Tom Percy, Sexual Assault Trials, Ethics in Criminal Law - Law Society, Access of Law Access to Justice- Julian Burnside AOC, The widening justice gap in the United States and the Obama Administration response by Ambassador Jeffrey L Bleich, Community Legal Centres- The case for funding by Dr John Falzon, Michael Brennan and Father Frank Brennan SJ AO, Prisoners and barriers to their access to legal services by Greg Barns, The role of pro bono in access to justice by Esther Lardent, Legal Aid funding - why is it important to the criminal justice system by The Hon John Jerrard QC and David Neal SC, International pro bono -by Esther Lardent & Naomi Burke-Shyne, Collaboration to defeat the tyranny of distance by Jane Stewart, David Hillard, Liz O'Brien and Anthony Reilly, Criminal Law Conference- Criminal Law Association of the Northern Territory. Law and Advocacy Unit: Australasian Residential Tenancies Conference in QLD, included Tammy Solonec presenting 2 seminars), National Association Community Legal Centres Conference, (Perth), included Dennis Eggington presenting, ALSWA CPD Seminar: OPCAT & Custodial Issues, 19th Annual Diplomacy Training Program in Timor Leste, Tammy Solonec attended, ALSWA CPD Seminar: Advocacy and Personal Opinion, Seranie Gamble and Wendy Rea-Young attended, Diplomacy Training



Program, UWA, Perth, Cassie Riley attended, Tammy Solonec presented, Seranie Gamble worked on program and Jodi Hoffmann presented Media session, Community Legal Centres WA - Legal Practice and PII Training Day (Perth) Seranie Gamble, Racism Revisited: Anti - Racism Leadership and Practice Symposium at Murdoch University, Tammy Solonec presented, WA State Association of Community Legal Centres Conference, (Perth) (Dennis Eggington, Tammy Solonec, Seranie Gamble and Wendy Rea-Young presented), Law and Order Forum, University Notre Dame, (Perth), DTP UNPFII Training - 2 day preparatory training program for the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, facilitated by the Diplomacy Training Program in Sydney, Tammy Solonec attended, Family Pathways Network Conference - ALSWA attended in the Family Pathways Network Conference in Fremantle Shanna Satya attended, Cultural Awareness Training provided by Joyleen Koolmatrice Shanna Satya, Wendy Rea-Young and Seranie Gamble attended.

Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia Staff

Perth 4 Senior Management, 2 Personal Assistants, *Criminal Law Unit* 17 Lawyers, 2 Articled Clerks, 1 Para Legal, 3 Secretaries, *Family Law Unit* 5 Lawyers, 1 Family Support Worker/Court Officer, 2 Secretaries, *Civil Unit* 5 Lawyers, 1 Secretary, *Law and Advocacy Unit* 4 Lawyers, 1 Secretary, 1 Women's Support Officer, 3 Prisoner Support Officers, *Court Officer Unit* 4 Court Officers, *Administration* 11, 1 Media Officer, 1 Librarian, Albany 1 Lawyer, 1 Court Officer, 1 Secretary, Broome 3 Lawyers, 1 Court Officer, 1 Secretary, Bunbury 2 Lawyers including 1 Country Lawyers Program lawyer, 2 Court Officers, 1 Secretary, Carnarvon 2 Lawyers, 1 Court Officer, 1 Secretary, Geraldton 3 Lawyers, 1 Court Officer, 1 Secretary Kalgoorlie 3 Lawyers including 2 Country Lawyers Program Lawyers, 2 Court Officers, 1 Secretary, Kununurra 2 Lawyers, 1 Articled Clerk, 1 Court Officer, 1 Secretary, South Hedland 1 Lawyer, 1 part-time Court Officer, 1 Secretary, Derby 1 Court Officer, 1 Secretary Northam 1 Court Officer, 1 Secretary, Warburton 1 Court Officer, Halls Creek 1 Court Officer, Fitzroy Crossing 1 Court Officer.

Family Violence Prevention Legal Service Staff (ALSWA as Auspicing Body)

Perth 1 Manager, 1 Executive Assistant, 1 Finance Officer, Broome 1 Community Legal Education Officer, 1 Community Support Worker, 1 Receptionist/Admin, Carnarvon 1 Receptionist, Geraldton 1 Community Education Worker, 1 Counsellor, 1 Receptionist, Kalgoorlie 1 Coordinator, 2 Sexual Assault Workers, 1 Receptionist, Kununurra 1 Coordinator, 1 Receptionist, Port Hedland 1 Coordinator.

ALSWA gratefully acknowledges the financial assistance of the Commonwealth Department of the Attorney General and the assistance of Lexis Nexis in publications.

The 2010 ALSWA Annual Report was designed & compiled by ALSWA Media Officer Jodi Hoffmann.

The front cover of this report features the Moorditj Mural done by participants in the 2010 David Wirrpanda Foundation and Central Institute of Technology 'Solid Futures' program. This project was proudly sponsored by the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA.

*Cover artwork by David Wirrpanda Foundation and
Central Institute of Technology 'Solid Futures'
students with artist Peter Farmer.*



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