

Annual Report 1999-2000



Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia, Inc



CONTENTS

President's Foreword	3
Chief Executive Officer Report	4
ALSWA Elected Executive Members	6
Deputy Chief Executive Officer Report	11
Principal Legal Officer Report	12
Financial Report	14



PHILOSOPHY

The Aboriginal Legal Service aims to empower Aboriginal people and advance the interests and aspirations of the Aboriginal community through provision of a comprehensive range of legal and support services throughout Western Australia.

In contemporary and traditional Aboriginal society, it is important to recognise the significance of land, family relationships, language, cultural values and customary law. The Aboriginal Legal Service recognises the needs of Aboriginal people and is committed to protecting and advancing Aboriginal rights and aspirations.

The law and legal system are to be used to bring about social justice for Aboriginal people as a whole. This requires that strategies be developed and utilised in areas of legal advice, legal representation, legal education, legal research, policy development and law reform.

The Aboriginal Legal Service believes that responsibilities go hand-in-hand with rights. While recognising that many people are victims of unjust systems in the wider community, the Aboriginal Legal Service encourages groups and individuals to accept and exercise personal responsibilities.

The Aboriginal Legal Service remains responsive to change and is committed to developing a Statewide network of services that are accessible by all Aboriginal people. It understands that co-operation with other Aboriginal organisations, Government, other legal services and relevant agencies is an essential component of the work that it does. The contribution of Executive Committee members, staff members, the Aboriginal community and volunteers and supporters from within the general community is highly valued. The Aboriginal Legal Service seeks to encourage such positive relations and to promote unity of purpose within the organisation, within the Aboriginal community, and ultimately, within the wider Australian community.



PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD

The end of the 1999- 2000 financial year marks the beginning of a significant period of transition for the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia (Inc).

It has been at least four years since the Executive Committee first begun its moves to have customary law recognised in the mainstream legal system. In the past twelve months the ALSWA have successfully lobbied the State Attorney-General, gaining his endorsement both for the concept of customary law and for a combined effort in the drafting of legislative amendments.



The Executive Committee has placed great emphasis on reforming the constitutional structure of the organisation to ensure that not only the functions of the Executive Committee, but also the day-to-day operations of the ALSWA fall under Aboriginal control. We hope to ratify these changes in the next financial year.

Much energy was spent by Senior Management in trying to gain recognition by the Federal government of the ALSWA as a Representative Body for the purposes of representing claimants. It is regrettable that the Minister has decided not to recognise the ALSWA. His decision has meant the break up of an efficient Land & Heritage Unit, with a concentration of expertise unmatched in the country. The ALSWA had a record of success unheard of in other States, and was widely accepted as the representative of Aboriginal claimants throughout the State.

I thank and commend my fellow Executive Committee members for their work both on the main committee and on various sub-committees, including those considering customary law and the constitution. On behalf of the Executive Committee I also thank Senior Managers for their continued efforts in 'Striving for Justice'.

Glen Colbung



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



It is my pleasure to present this report on the activities and operations of the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia (Inc) (ALSWA) for the 1999/2000 financial year.

It has become clear to us all that the ALSWA has been significantly underfunded for at least the last three years. The changes that have taken place in the workplace over this time have not been recognised by our major funding body. These changes increase the costs of staffing an effective legal firm, costs that bite into the number of staff we can afford to employ.

Increasingly, the ALSWA is providing opportunities that will lead to the development of future leaders. We have supported many employees who have sought to increase their potential through further study. The effect of this will not be seen in the short term, but is part of the long term strategy of the ALSWA to develop the leadership potential of the younger members of our community.

Other Senior Managers and myself have been involved in intensive discussions with regional organisations and all levels of government with regard to Native Title matters. The process of re-recognition of Representative Bodies had the potential to divide Aboriginal people throughout the State, and the ALSWA has worked particularly hard to prevent excess damage.

The ALSWA has argued in strong terms the need for an apology from all levels of government for the crimes of the past, for an end to the mandatory sentencing laws, and for compensation for the Stolen Generations.

The ALSWA is at the forefront of media consideration of issues concerning Aboriginal people. We have consistently encouraged other organisations to promote similar arguments. This has been part of the continuing association that the ALSWA has with Federal, State and community bodies.

I was proud to represent the ALSWA at one of the most important events of the year, Corroboree 2000 in Sydney. It is easy to criticise the reconciliation movement. All too often it seems that reconciliation is just about Aboriginal people forgiving and forgetting. It sometimes seems like non-Aboriginal people don't have to really do anything. The walk across Sydney Harbour Bridge showed to me the very real goodwill that exists in a large section of the Australian population. I then returned to Western Australia, and realised that the challenges to reconciliation are strongest in this State.

Dennis Eggington



Dennis Eggington with Assistant Police Commissioner Mel Hay after signing a cooperation protocol with the Western Australian Police Service in May.



ALSWA ELECTED EXECUTIVE MEMBERS



Glen Colbung was Vice-President of the Executive Committee of the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia (Inc) for three years prior to being elected President in 1999. He is the 12th President of ALSWA since the Service began operating in 1973. Mr Colbung was elected to the National Aboriginal Conference in 1978 and re-elected in 1982. He has been a member of the Aboriginal Cultural Materials Committee; the Aboriginal Lands Trust; the Aboriginal Housing Board; the State Aboriginal Justice Committee; is the founder of the Southern Aboriginal Corporation; and has served two terms as councillor on the ATSIC Kaata Wangkinyiny Regional Council.



Maitland Hedlam is a Yamatji person elected to the Executive Committee of the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia (Inc) in 1998 and elected as Vice-President of the Committee. Mr Hedlam represents the Murchison-Gascoyne region where he has lived most of his life. Mr Hedlam is interested in seeing Aboriginal History included in the State Education system so that the wider Australian community will have a better understanding of Aboriginal people. He has seven children involved in sport and encourages them and all young Aboriginal people to set life goals.



Lorraine Whitby represents the Central region on the ALSWA Executive Committee (Inc) and is Secretary of the Committee. Ms Whitby is the ALSWA representative on the National Aboriginal & Islander Legal Service Secretariat (NAILSS) and was previously an appointed member of the Police Ministers Council on Aboriginal/ Community Relations. Ms Whitby is heavily involved in a number of community issues on a voluntary basis through her ongoing commitment to the Aboriginal community in the Perth metropolitan region. She is committed to ensuring the rights of women and championing the cause for women to play an important role in politics in this State.



ALSWA ELECTED EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Wilfred Hicks represents the Pilbara region on the ALSWA Executive Committee. He is a member of the ATSIC Ngarda-Ngarli-Yarndu Regional Council and is involved in the management of the Community Development Employment Program in Roebourne. He has worked for the Roebourne Shire, Main Roads Department, Public Works Department and Karratha Station. Mr Hicks helped build the railway line from Tom Price to King Bay, the road from Pannawonica to Cape Lambert, and the railway line from Port Hedland to Newman.



Clarence Cameron is a Yamatji man representing the Murchison/ Gascoyne region on the ALSWA Executive Committee. He is Chairperson of the Yamatji Language Centre which is responsible for producing the newspaper 'Yamatji News', and is a member of the Street Worker's Association in the Yamatji area. He was previously a committee member of the Yamatji Land and Sea Council and has taught art part-time at schools and prisons. Mr Cameron was a relieving Court Officer for the North-West region and was previously employed by ALSWA as a Court Officer in Port Hedland from 1980 until 1985. He worked for the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority (now the Aboriginal Affairs Department) and was a stockman and station worker in the Pilbara area. He also worked in asbestos, tin and gold mines in Marble Bar.



Michael Blurton, originally from Quairading, is a Noongar man representing the Central region on the ALSWA Executive Committee. Mr Blurton works for the Noongar Land Council as a Field Officer and is involved Native Title claims in the Wheatbelt area. He would like to see the day when Native Title is recognised in Noongar country but expressed it would be much harder to prove because many Noongar people were dispossessed from their country.



Judi Butters is a Gidja woman who was elected to the Executive Committee of the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia (Inc) in 1998. Judi is Administrator of Ngoonjuwah Council Aboriginal Corporation, a resource centre for the communities in the Halls Creek region. She is Vice-chairperson of the Kimberley Stolen Children committee and a member of the Police Crime Prevention Committee in Halls Creek. She is also a member of the Kimberley Group Training Committee and a member of the Aboriginal Justice Council of the East Kimberley. She is a Justice of the Peace in Halls Creek.





ALSWA ELECTED EXECUTIVE MEMBERS



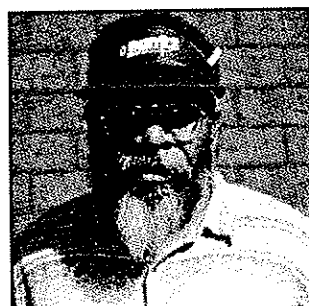
Trevor Penny is a Noongar man originally from Ongerup who represents the Southern region. He is currently a member of the South West Commission of Elders, the Homeswest Board in Narrogin, local Police Committee in Narrogin and a member of Bernhardt Museum. He also continues to work closely with CALM in the identification of Aboriginal sites in the area. Mr Penny is very concerned about the need for Aboriginal people to become more involved in their own communities to ensure the future of our children.



Paul Sampi is an Executive Committee member for the West Kimberley region of the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia (Inc). He lives at One Arm Point and is a tribal Elder and leader of the Bardi people. Part of his role is to take care of the community's traditional country, the people and sacred sites. The Bardi people live in three separate communities surrounding Broome. A combined total of 900 people live in the Djarindjin, Lombadina and One Arm Point communities. The Djarindjin and Lombadina communities were established approximately 100 years ago and One Arm Point, established 30 years ago.



Bruce Smith is a Ngartjatjarra man representing the Goldfields region on the ALSWA Executive Committee. He is Deputy Chair of the Western Desert Regional Council and has a lot of involvement with the Western Desert, Warburton and Cunderlee Aboriginal communities. He worked as a police aide in Laverton from 1988-92 and also worked at the Department of Community Development (DCD). At the DCD, Mr Smith was involved in programs aimed at encouraging young Aboriginal people not to abuse drugs and alcohol but to become involved in sports and education. Mr Smith is also a member of the Ngartjatjarra Council.



Charlie Wright, from Bidyadanga, was elected to the Executive Committee in the 1998 election. He currently lives at the Bidyadanga Community, situated 170km from Broome. Mr Wright has held a number of community positions such as the CDEP Project Officer at Bidyadanga and the Mining Field Officer at the Kimberley Land Council for several years. He was also previously elected to the Shire Council, representing the Dampier Ward and was an inaugural member of the Kullari ATSIC Regional Council for their first three year period of operation. He is employed as the community's mechanic, after completing a 5 year apprenticeship some time ago.



ALSWA ELECTED EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Trevor Bedford, from Halls Creek, is a Gidja/Bunaba man who represents the East Kimberley region. Mr Bedford is the Supervisor at the Halls Creek CDEP, overseeing various contracts. He is a Regional Councillor on the Wunan ATSIC Regional Council and was previously a member of the Yura Yungi Medical Service Executive Committee, and the Ngoonjuwah Council Executive. He also previously served on the ALSWA Executive Committee as the proxy member for the Wunan ATSIC Regional Council Chairperson.



Trudy Hayes is a Thalanyji woman from Onslow representing the Pilbara region on the ALSWA Executive Committee. She is a trained nurse and has worked within the Health Department for 30 years in various hospitals and community health bases around the State. More recently, she has worked for the Women's Centre in Port Hedland as a Lecturer in Aboriginal Studies and is now working for the CDEP program in Port Hedland. Ms Hayes is the Chairperson of the ASSPA committee at St Cecilia's Catholic School in Port Hedland and was a past Chairperson of the Wangka Maya Aboriginal Language Centre in Port Hedland. She has involvement with the Aboriginal Medical Service in Port Hedland and the Hedland College.



Ron (Doc) Reynolds represents the Goldfields region on the ALSWA Executive Committee. He is the Manager of the Bay of Isles Aboriginal Corporation and is a member of the Goldfields Land Council Executive Committee, Chairperson of Nooda-Ngelugoo CDEP program in the Wongutha (Goldfields) region and a member of the Goldfields Regional Aboriginal Justice Council.

Mr Reynolds is committed to seeing a marked reduction in the current rate of incarceration of Aboriginal people. He is very interested in seeing the appointment of additional ALSWA Field Officers around the State with dual roles, which would enable them to deal with legal issues, as well as community problems.







DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

1999/ 2000 will be remembered at the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia (Inc) as the last year the organisation took on new Native Title claims. The impact of this loss has already been deeply felt, and will continue to have repercussions for how these claims are dealt with in this state.

When it became clear that the ALSWA was not going to be recognised as a Representative Body, Senior Management immediately set about minimising the pain for staff. This meant ensuring that funds were kept available for redundancy packages, and encouraging staff to apply for other positions in the organisation. Unfortunately, there were never going to be enough positions for all Land & Heritage Unit staff, and thirteen staff members were made redundant.



This is by no means the end of the ALSWA's involvement in Native Title. We are still engaged by the Njaluma Indjibandi claimants, and in the hearing of the Miriuwong Gajerrong High Court Appeal. We have negotiated an agreement with Yamatji Land & Sea Council to provide for a fee whatever services they might require of us to aid with their claim work.

The past year has also seen a transition in the person of our Principal Legal Officer. When Mr David Imlah left the organisation in March, Civil Unit Assistant Manager Mr John O'Connor filled the breach as Acting Principal Legal Officer. Both Dennis and myself express here our thanks to John for undertaking this role.

After a rigorous selection process, Mr Mark Cuomo was appointed at the beginning of June to the position of Principal Legal Officer. Immediately prior to this appointment, Mr Cuomo was working as a barrister. Previously, he has been State Secretary of the Australian Labor Party and counsel for the Transport Workers Union. Mark also has a long term association with the Kimberley Land Council.

The funding situation of the ALSWA continues to be a problem of immense proportions. In fact, great benefit to the whole organisation has been derived by the existence of the Land & Heritage Unit. Its loss is greater than simply the loss of the most successful Representative Body in the country. We also lose the significant financial benefit of the centralised structure of the ALSWA's combined Native Title and Law and Justice operations.

This has led to the ALSWA arguing to ATSIC that new funds made available to Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Legal Services should be directed at overcoming the already existing discrepancy between the underfunded, like us, and the proportionately overfunded.

Colleen Hayward



PRINCIPAL LEGAL OFFICER



The past year has seen the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia make some valuable inroads in the representation of issues that have been under consideration for some time.

There have been a number of cases in the past year where the ALS has successfully argued that the application of customary law should be taken into account in sentencing. This has meant recognition by the court that the people being sentenced face the prospect of effectively being sentenced twice: once by their own people, and a second time by the court.

Courts have increasingly shown that they are willing to accept traditional punishment as relevant to sentencing. Further to this, the ALS has petitioned the Governor of Western Australia to encourage him to exercise the Royal prerogative of mercy to allow the application of customary law.

The ALS continues to fight for an end to prison brutality. Specifically, we are in the process of representing several prisoners who were harshly dealt with by prison officers during and immediately after the Christmas riots of 1998. The ALS has instituted proceedings in the Supreme Court in one matter and is pursuing civil action in three cases. Although these cases are not due to be heard until early 2001, the impact of the criticisms we have made have begun to influence the system of imprisonment in Western Australia.

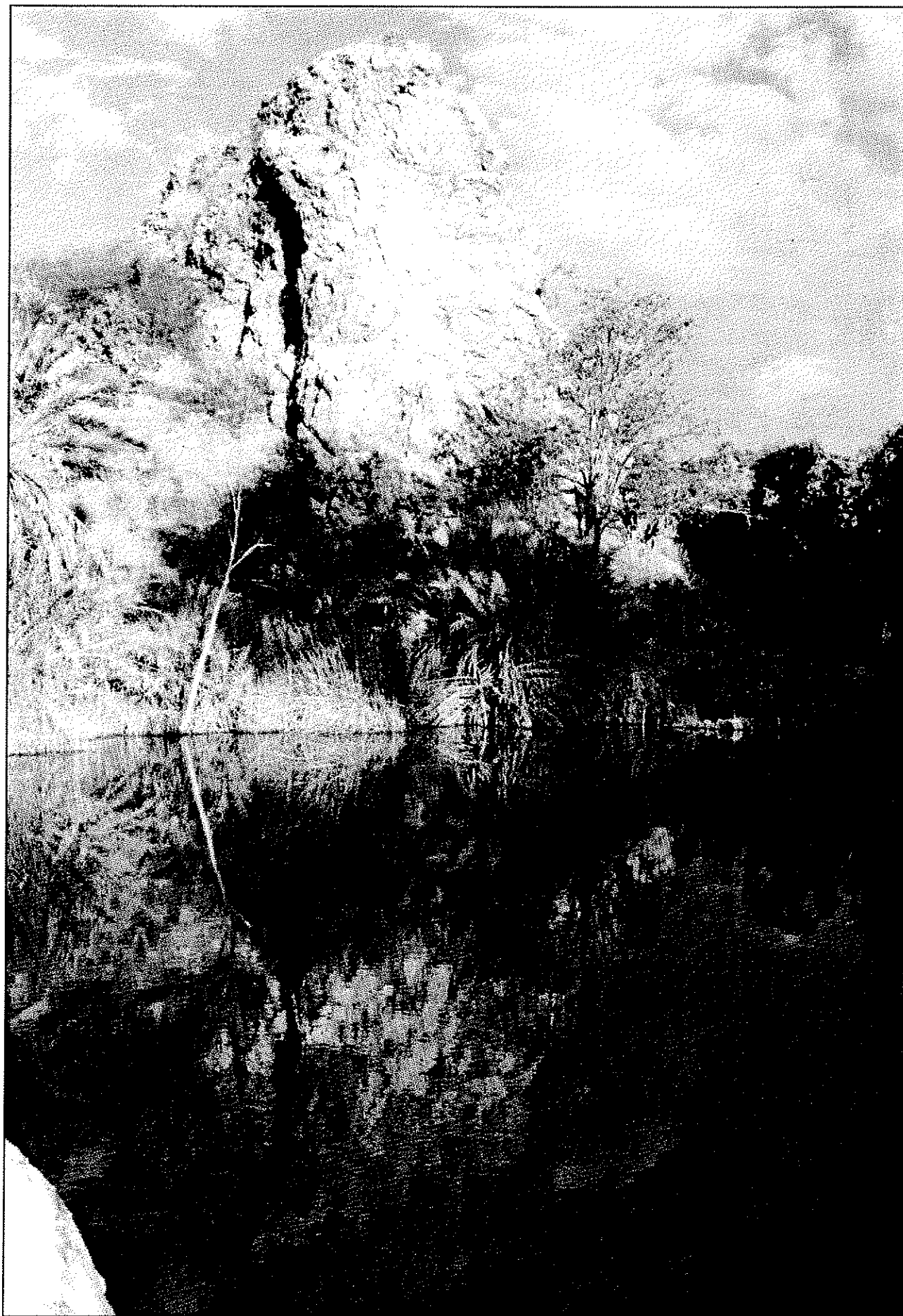
The Civil Unit of the ALS has shown an increase in income for the past financial year. The Unit has dealt with a number of motor injury compensation cases concerning sums in excess of \$1 million.

The Land & Heritage Unit continued to perform well for the financial year, despite the set back of the Full Federal Court ruling on the Miriuwung Gajerrong claim. The Court supported the appeal by the State government on the original ruling by Lee J, but the ALS has successfully applied for leave to appeal to the High Court. That appeal will be heard in 2001.

Unfortunately, the ALS was not recognised as a Native Title Representative Body for the 2000-2001 financial year. Representation of claimants has been a very rewarding experience, both for the organisation as a whole and for the particular employees who have undertaken the cases. As of June 30, 2000, the ALS will only be involved in claims where litigation has commenced, namely, Nganawongga Wadjarrri, Njaluma Indjibarndi and Miriuwong Gajerrong.

Finally, I would like to thank John O'Connor, Greg Benn and David MacLean for their help in preparing this report. I have only been in this position for a matter of weeks, and their views have been instrumental in reporting on the past year.

Mark Cuomo





INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

Independent Audit Report for the Consolidated Financial Accounts

Scope

We have audited the attached consolidated financial accounts comprising the Balance Sheet, the Income and Expenditure Statement, Information for ATSIC purposes, Notes to and Forming part of the Accounts and attached Schedules to the Accounts as set out on pages 4 to 15 of the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia (Inc) consolidated financial accounts for the year ended 30 June 2000. The Aboriginal Legal Service of WVA (Inc) have determined that the accounting policies used and described in Note 1 to the consolidated financial accounts are appropriate. We have conducted an independent audit of the consolidated financial accounts. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, and described in Note 1, are appropriate.

The consolidated financial accounts have been prepared to satisfy a requirement of the terms and conditions of the grant. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the consolidated financial accounts to which it relates to any person other than for the purpose for which it was prepared.

Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the consolidated financial accounts, and the evaluation of significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the consolidated financial accounts are presented fairly in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the entity's financial position at 30 June 2000 and results of its operations for the year ended 30 June 2000. (These policies do not require the application of all Accounting Standards and other mandatory reporting requirements).

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



INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

Audit Opinion

In our opinion, the Consolidated Financial Accounts for the year ended 30th June 2000 are properly drawn up:

- a) So as to give a true and fair view in accordance with the accounting policies in Note 1 to the Consolidated Financial Accounts;
- b) Are based on proper accounts and records and are in agreement with those accounts and records and are in accordance with information and explanations obtained;
- c) Adequate financial controls have been maintained by the entity; and
- d) Are in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements. As the entity is not a reporting entity Accounting Standards have only been applied as described in Note 1 to the consolidated financial accounts.
- e) All assets with a written down value exceeding \$1000 are included in the asset register and have been insured with an approved insurer.

PKF

PKF
Chartered Accountants
(Western Australian Partnership)

IAN P OLSON
Partner

Signed at Perth, Western Australia, this

8th day of December 2000.



STATEMENT BY CHAIRPERSON/ACCOUNTANT

In our opinion:

The accounts and schedules set out on pages 4 to 15 present fairly the consolidated financial position of the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia (Inc) at 30th June 2000 and the results of its operations for the year ended 30th June 2000, 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Commission (ATSIC) for the financial year 1999/2000 have been used towards the achievement of goals for which they were provided and all conditions included in the ATSIC letter of offers have been complied with.

Signed at Perth, Western Australia, this 7 day of September 2000.

Chairperson

Accountant



BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30TH JUNE 2000

	Note	2000 \$	1999 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash	2	957,585	1,840,180
Receivables	3	195,828	140,330
Total Current Assets		<u>1,153,413</u>	<u>1,980,510</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, furniture and equipment	1(B), 4	335,211	462,877
Leasehold improvements	1(B), 5	83,753	133,593
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>418,964</u>	<u>596,470</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>1,572,377</u>	<u>2,576,980</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Accounts payable	1(E), 6	541,137	364,455
Provisions	7	374,500	504,000
Unexpended ATSIC Grants	11	424,939	1,300,931
Total Current Liabilities		<u>1,340,576</u>	<u>2,169,386</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	8	135,000	231,000
Total Non-Current Liabilities		<u>135,000</u>	<u>231,000</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>1,475,576</u>	<u>2,400,386</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>\$ 96,801</u>	<u>\$176,594</u>
Accumulated Funds:			
Reserves	9	741,633	741,633
Retained surplus		(644,832)	(565,039)
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>\$ 96,801</u>	<u>\$176,594</u>

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



INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2000

	Note	2000 \$	1999 \$
INCOME			
ATSIC grants		9,745,170	8,434,360
Interest		68,810	76,371
Other income		547,796	171,090
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		10,361,776	8,681,821
		<hr/>	<hr/>
EXPENDITURE			
Salaries		5,735,443	5,073,642
Depreciation		218,627	244,870
Other operating expenses		4,486,162	4,269,768
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		10,440,232	9,588,280
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Net surplus/(deficit) for year	12	(79,793)	(906,459)
Retained surplus/(deficit) at the beginning of the financial year		(\$565,039)	364,549
Transfer to Unexpended ATSIC grant – Derby	11	--	(23,129)
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Retained surplus/(deficit) at the end of the financial year		(\$644,832)	(\$565,039)
		<hr/>	<hr/>

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



CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2000

Note	2000 Inflows (Outflows)	1999 Inflows (Outflows)
Cash flows from operating activities:		
ATSIC Funds	8,905,773	8,434,360
Unexpended ATSIC Funds		1,300,932
Interest received	68,810	76,372
Other receipts	547,796	171,090
Payments to suppliers and employees	(10,363,508)	(9,259,525)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash from/(used in) operating activities A	(841,129)	723,229
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Payments for property, plant and equipment	(41,066)	(391,644)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash used in investing activities	(41,066)	(391,644)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	(882,195)	331,585
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Opening balance of cash held	1,840,180	1,508,595
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Cash balance at the end of the year	\$957,985	\$1,840,180

A RECONCILIATION OF NET CASH PROVIDED FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES TO NET INCOME/ (DEFICIT) FOR YEAR

Net income/(deficit) for year	(79,793)	(906,459)
Loss/(Profit) on sale of assets	(154)	21,690
Depreciation	218,628	244,870
Provisions	(225,500)	219,000
Receivables	(55,498)	(20,610)
Creditors and Accruals	176,682	(113,065)
Unexpended Funds	(875,494)	1,300,932
Expended funds from previous year		(23,129)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net cash from/(used in) operating activities	(\$841,129)	\$723,229



NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2000

I. 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Commission (ATSIC) 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 12.

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 have been recorded in the financial statements at 1 July 1995 valuation and subsequent acquisition cost, less accumulated depreciation or amortisation. 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
Renovations	4	years
Buildings	25	years

C) GOING CONCERN

It is considered appropriate to prepare the accounts on a going concern basis as continued funding from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Commission (ATSIC) is expected.

D) COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

Certain comparative information has been re-classified to ensure consistency with current years disclosure.

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 payable are generally settled within 30 days.



**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2000**

	2000 \$	1999 \$
2. CURRENT ASSETS - CASH		
Payroll Account	(581)	4,694
Cash Management Accounts	285,463	1,026,153
Branch Imprest	3,610	4,429
Petty Cash Imprest	1,821	2,900
General Accounts	(42,136)	52,004
Short term Deposits	709,408	750,000
	<u>957,585</u>	<u>\$1,840,180</u>
3. CURRENT ASSETS - RECEIVABLES		
Prepayments	95,708	73,775
Organisation Trust	--	68,241
Others - General	100,120	(1,686)
	<u>195,828</u>	<u>\$140,330</u>
4. NON-CURRENT ASSETS - PROPERTY, FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT		
Land and Buildings		
At committee's valuation 1 July 1995	74,626	74,626
Accumulated depreciation	17,929	14,690
	<u>56,697</u>	<u>59,936</u>
At cost	23,760	23,760
Accumulated depreciation	4,513	3,562
	<u>19,247</u>	<u>20,198</u>
Total land and buildings	<u>75,944</u>	<u>80,134</u>
Furniture and Equipment		
At committee's valuation, 1 July 1995	217,468	217,468
Accumulated depreciation	217,468	217,468
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
At cost	763,268	1,004,005
Accumulated depreciation	504,001	621,262
	<u>259,267</u>	<u>382,743</u>
Total furniture and equipment	<u>259,267</u>	<u>382,743</u>
Total Property, Furniture and Equipment	<u>\$335,211</u>	<u>\$462,877</u>



NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2000

	2000 \$	1999 \$
5. NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Leasehold Improvements		
At committee's valuation 1 July 1995	424,392	424,392
Accumulated amortisation	424,392	424,392
	-----	-----
	-----	-----
At cost	229,377	229,376
Accumulated depreciation	145,624	95,783
	-----	-----
	83,753	133,593
	-----	-----
Total Leasehold Improvements	83,753	\$133,593
	-----	-----
6. CURRENT LIABILITIES - ACCOUNTS PAYABLE		
Sundry accruals	276,792	137,467
Other Creditors	195,031	(81)
Accounts Payable	69,314	227,069
	-----	-----
	541,137	\$364,455
	-----	-----
7. CURRENT LIABILITIES - PROVISIONS		
Annual Leave	265,000	384,000
Long Service Leave	109,500	120,000
	-----	-----
	374,500	\$504,000
	-----	-----
8. NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Long Service Leave	135,000	231,000
	-----	-----
	135,000	\$231,000
	-----	-----
9. RESERVES		
Asset Revaluation Reserve	\$741,633	\$741,633
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Due to the introduction of full accrual accounting on 1 July 1995, the value of property, plant and equipment recognised at that date was \$741,633. This reserve accordingly reflects the initial recognition of such assets.



**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2000**

	2000 \$	1999 \$
II. CURRENT LIABILITIES - UNEXPENDED FUNDS		
Law and Justice Grant	151,791	308,335
Test Case Grant	110,960	176,885
Derby Solicitor Grant	14,026	23,129
Land and Heritage Unit	50,293	245,750
West Pilbara Representative Body	95,071	499,141
Western Australian Native Title Working Group	2,798	11,097
W.A. Native Title Working Group Negotiation Team	--	36,594
	<hr/> \$424,939	<hr/> \$1,300,931
12. CONTRIBUTION TO SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		
Law and Justice Grant	(160,799)	(289,641)
ATSIC Derby Grant	(1,912)	(41,043)
Land and Heritage Unit	72,614	(54,335)
West Pilbara Representative Body	10,303	(514,688)
National Indigenous Working Group	--	(3,841)
Western Australian Native Title Working Group	--	(8,883)
Media & Awareness Campaign	--	5,971
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net surplus/(deficit) for year	\$(79,794)	\$(906,460)





ALSWA OFFICES

PERTH

Piccadilly Suites Nash Street East Perth
PO Box 8194 Stirling Street East Perth 6849
TEL (08) 9265 6666 - toll free 1800 019 900
Fax (08) 9221 1767

ALBANY

125/133 Grey Street West, Albany 6330
PO Box 1016 Albany 6330
TEL (08) 9841 7833 - toll free 1800 016 715

BROOME

Unit 2/ 14 Napier Terrace Broome 6725
PO Box 389 Broome 6725
TEL (08) 9192 1189 - toll free 1800 351 067
(08) 9192 1845

BUNBURY

123 Spencer Street, Bunbury 6230
PO Box 1765 Bunbury 6230
TEL (08) 9791 2622 - toll free 1800 630 375

CARNARVON

58 Robinson Street, Carnarvon 6701
PO Box 766 Carnarvon 6701
TEL (08) 9941 1534 - toll free 1800 645 942

DERBY

Unit 8 Clarendon Arcade
298 Clarendon Street Derby 6728
PO Box 333 Derby 6728
TEL (08) 9191 1407

FITZROY CROSSING

Shop 7 Tarunda Shopping Complex
Fitzroy Crossing 6765
TEL (08) 9191 5147

GERALDTON

15 Forrest Street
Geraldton 6530
TEL (08) 9921 4938
toll free - 1800 016 786

HALLS CREEK

Ngoonjuwah Resource Office
Cnr Bridge St & Duncan Hwy
PO Box 123 Halls Creek 6770
TEL (08) 9168 6156 A/H (08) 9168 6209

KALGOORLIE

202 Hannan Street Kalgoorlie 6430
PO Box 1077 Kalgoorlie 6430
TEL (08) 9021 3666 - (08) 9021 3816
toll free 1800 016 791

KUNUNURRA

12 Cotton Tree Avenue Kununurra 6743
PO Box 2 Kununurra 6743
TEL (08) 9168 1635 - (08) 9168 1544

LAVERTON

Lot 398 Euro Street Laverton 6440
PO Box 3 Laverton 6440
TEL (08) 9031 1156

MEEKATHARRA

7 Main Street Meekatharra 6642
TEL (08) 9981 1712

NEWMAN

H/Block, Room 133, Lot 14 Newman Drive
Newman 6753 TEL (08) 9175 0763

NORTHAM

1 Beavis Place Northam 6401
PO Box 1096 Northam 6401
TEL (08) 9622 5933

SOUTH HEDLAND

Unit 7 Lotteries Houses Leake Street
PO Box 608 Port Hedland 6721
TEL (08) 9173 1977 - A/H (08) 9172 1628

ROEBOURNE

Harding Street Roebourne 6718
PO Box 185 Roebourne 6718
TEL (08) 9182 1107