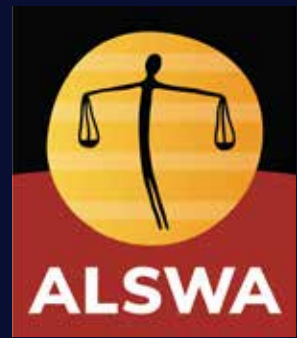


# 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

ABORIGINAL LEGAL SERVICE OF WA LTD

ACN: 617 555 843



## CELEBRATING



## YEARS





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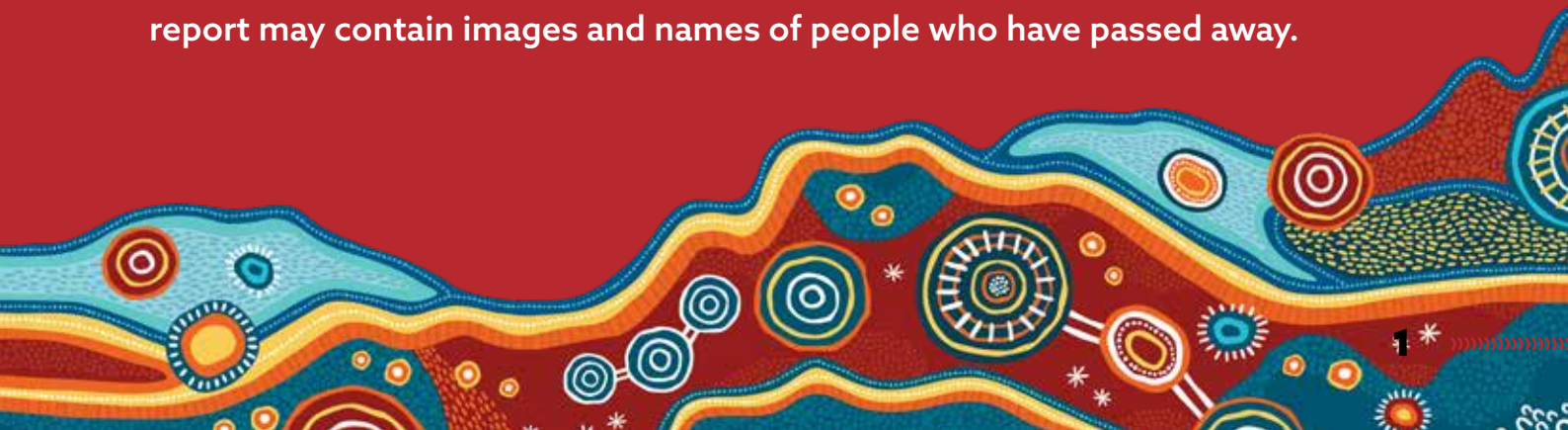
## Acknowledgement of Country

The Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia Ltd (ALSWA) acknowledges the Traditional Owners on which our offices stand. We recognise the continuing connection to land, sea, Culture and community and pay our respects to Elders, past and present.

Sovereignty was never ceded. Always was, Always will be, Aboriginal Land.

## Cultural Warning

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers are advised that this annual report may contain images and names of people who have passed away.





# Chairperson's Report

## MICHAEL BLURTON

Welcome to the 2025 Annual Report of the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA Ltd (ALSWA).

The past year has been one of the most challenging years in the history of our organisation.

We ended 2024 on a high, having commemorated our incredible 50 year milestone at City Farm in November. This was a wonderful event that brought together old and new faces to reminisce in our long and proud history and all that we have achieved over the years.

Here we stood, proud in our achievements and optimistic about the future and the important role that we play within the justice system in this state.

Fast forward just four months, and we suffered the devastation of ALSWA head office at 7 Aberdeen Street in Perth being gutted by an overnight fire.

The impact of this was enormous. 120 displaced staff members and daily court commitments that still needed to be fulfilled. Then there was the loss of irreplaceable historical documents, keepsakes and other items pertaining to the 50 year history of ALSWA.

I commend our Executive Management Team, for their tireless work and leadership in ensuring that ALSWA carried on, business as usual. Their diligence and unrelenting efforts ensured that ALSWA staff, clients and community members, were able to move forward as easily as possible, albeit under enormously challenging circumstances.

I'm aware how unsettling this has been and I'd like to commend everyone for their perseverance and strength in continuing the great work of our organisation.

We are still here and we have survived and will pick up the pieces and continue our work for the next fifty years and beyond.

I am so proud of ALSWA and am honoured to have played my own role in its history and its future.

Enjoy reading this annual report, which I know will give you a great insight into our important work here in Western Australia.





# Governance

Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia Limited (ALSWA) was registered with the Australian Securities and Investment Commission as a public company limited by guarantee on 10th March 2017 and is governed by an Aboriginal board.

This board commit time, cultural and business expertise to provide leadership and governance. The combined skills and expertise of ALSWA's board and executive management team have played a major role in improving ALSWA's

corporate governance and operations, since the implementation of a new constitution and company structure.

The last Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place in Perth on 14th November 2024 and the 2025 AGM will take place in Perth on 18th November.

Information on becoming a Member of ALSWA can be found on the ALSWA website: [www.als.org.au](http://www.als.org.au)

## Meet the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA Ltd Board of Directors



**ALSWA's Board of Directors L-R:** Michael Blurton (Chairperson/Director), Selina King (Director), Paul Baron (Director), Donald Abdullah (Director), Murray Jones (Director), Kathy Watson (Deputy Chairperson/Director), Preston Thomas (Director)





## **MICHAEL BLURTON**

### **Chairperson / Director**

Michael Blurton is a Ballardong Noongar from the Wheatbelt town of Quairading, and has a long association with ALSWA. His involvement with the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA spans back to the 1970's when he worked as a Field/ Court Officer for seven years. Greatly committed to the work of ALSWA, Michael supports and promotes the vital role this organisation plays in striving for justice and supporting our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples within the justice system.



## **PAUL BARON**

### **Director**

Paul Baron is a Baiyungu man from Carnarvon who has been involved with ALSWA since 2015. Paul supports the promotion of ALSWA's important work and is committed to continuing to highlight the organisation's fresh outlook for the future. Issues of importance for Paul include the provision of appropriate legal services for our people and the expansion of core legal and other unique services developed and delivered by ALSWA.



## **KATHY WATSON**

### **Deputy Chairperson / Director**

Kathy Watson is a Nyngina woman on her mother's side and Gidga on her father's and is from Broome in the West Kimberley. She is passionate about legal issues for our Community members and staff of the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA. For Kathy, all issues facing our people are important but she would like to see more Cultural input into court matters, particularly within District Courts.



## **SELINA KING**

### **Director**

Selina King has been part of the ALSWA Board since February 2023 and was appointed to fill a casual vacancy of elected directors. Selina lives in Broome and her mother is Karrijarn and her father is Nyikina. Selina has been a welcomed addition to the ALSWA board.



**MURRAY JONES**

## Director

Murray Jones is a Ballardong Nyoongar Maam (man) from Quairading in the Wheatbelt region. With an Associate Degree in Aboriginal Development and Community Development, Murray is the Managing Director of Waaliti Hydroflow Pty Ltd. Committed to striving for justice, Murray has formerly represented the Black Deaths in Custody Watch Committee in Geneva Switzerland at the United Nations on issues of inhumane treatment and torture in prisons. His contributions were also acknowledged at the UN World Racism conference in Durban, South Africa.



## Director

[illegible]



# Our Activities

*All figures are for the financial year ending 30 June 2025*

## Clients assisted by Law Type Service General

Service	General
Discrete Assistance	2,665
Duty	9,489
Representation	6,868
Total	12,572

## Clients Assisted by Priority

Rural or Remote Clients	6,589
Children/Youth	2,397
Homelessness	1,101
In Custody	6,317

## Matters Undertaken by Law Type

33,229	 Criminal
1,889	 Civil
998	 Family

## Matters Undertaken by Law Type – Special Services

Family - Vulnerable Womens Fund	370
Family Mental Health	54
Family - Family Violence Protection	351
Criminal - Mental Health	1
Criminal – Family & Domestic Violence	4,716
Criminal – Bail Support Services	1
Civil – Mental Health	9
Civil – Inquests	7

**Custody Notification Service (CNS):** Received 42,988 CNS notifications from WA Police as well as 897 non-mandated notifications

**CUSTODY Wellbeing Service (CWS):** Provided face-to-face support at the Perth Watch House for 268 adults from 14 October to 30 June 2025

**Bail Support Service (BSS) Metro:** Provided wraparound support for 185 adult clients

**Bail Support Service (BSS) Broome:** Provided wraparound support for 73 adult clients

**PRISON In-Reach (PIR):** Provided legal advice/representation to 583 adult clients

**Old Ways New Ways (OWNW):** Provided wraparound support and engagement activities for 128 young people

**Work and Development Permit (WDP Service):** Assisted 379 clients with fines-related issues and liaised with 280 approved or potential sponsors

**Youth Engagement Program (YEP) Metro:** Provided wraparound support for 46 young people

**Youth Engagement Program (YEP) West Kimberley:** Provided wraparound support for 43 young people

**Youth Engagement Program (YEP) East Kimberley:** Provided wraparound support for 22 young people

**Youth Engagement Program (YEP) Halls Creek:** Provided wraparound support for 31 young people

**Youth Engagement Program (YEP) Fitzroy Crossing:** Provided wraparound support for 13 young people

*\*Due to the fire at ALSWA's Perth head office on 25 March 2025, access to files has been very limited. This has had a substantial impact on data collection as data is calculated by reference to files which have been completed and are closed.*



# About ALSWA

The Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia (ALSWA) Limited is a not for profit public company limited by guarantee and a Public Benevolent Institution. Our strong history of striving for justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples spans over 50 years.

## Our Purpose

ALSWA works in collaboration and partnership with our communities and key government and non-government partners to rectify legal policies and practices that impact adversely and disproportionately on the legal and human rights of Western Australia's First Peoples under Australian Law.

## Our Vision

Justice for Western Australia's First Peoples.

## Our Values

The cultural values of Care, Share and Respect form the foundation of our organisation and underpin our commitment to our clients, their families and communities.

## At ALSWA

- **We Care** for the human and legal rights, safety and psychological well-being of clients, their families and communities.
- **We Share** a common understanding of client problems, issues, challenges and needs and diligently strive to deliver the highest quality legal services.
- **We Respect** the cultural diversity, values and beliefs of our clients and sustain the delivery of confidential, innovative, professional, culturally proficient legal services.

## Our Guiding Principles

### Human Rights

The Articles contained in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples underpin everything we do.

We acknowledge, value, honour and respect Customary lore. Our lore is not compromised or devalued in the delivery of our services.

### Leadership

Our decisions and actions are guided by strong cultural knowledge, leadership and governance.

### Integrity

Our integrity is measured by the way we put our values into action and through the accountable, open, honest and ethical business and management systems we sustain. Diversity Our value and respect for diversity is acknowledged across our communities, reflected in the composition of our executive and staff and through the sensitive way in which we deliver our services. Unity We work in unity and share a mutual responsibility, dedication, commitment and passion for the delivery of high quality services to our clients.

### Our Services

ALSWA provides legal support and representation in Civil Law and Human Rights Law, Criminal Law and Family Law – Care and Protection.

Additional services are provided through the Bail Support Service (BSS) and Prison In-Reach Legal Service (PIR), Community Legal Education (CLE), Law Matters radio program, Media and Public Relations, Custody Notification Service (CNS), Custody Wellbeing Service (CWS), Old Ways New Ways (OWNW), Work and Development Permit Service (WDP), Youth Engagement Program (YEP) and Family and Domestic Violence Hubs/Healing Services.

### Our Roots

Our growth and development would not have been possible without the support of our communities and the dedicated services and work of countless executive and staff members since our inception in the late 1960s.





# Quick Facts



Western Australia is Australia's largest state, with a total land area of **2,527,013** square kilometres.



In Australia, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make up approximately **3.8%** of the population.



Approximately **120,000** of the **984,000** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia, reside in Western Australia.



In November 2024, the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA Ltd (ALSWA) commemorated its **50th anniversary**

Closing the Gap targets are **worsening in Western Australia** for adult imprisonment.

**Over 600**

First Nations Peoples have died in custody since the 1991 Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

On 25 March 2025, a faulty paper shredder caused an **overnight fire** at ALSWA's Head office at 7 Aberdeen Street Perth.

The **2025 John Toohey Oration** was delivered by Aboriginal Legal Service of WA Ltd CEO Wayne Nannup.



# Chief Executive Officer

## Wayne Nannup

As I pen my report for this year's Annual Report, it's challenging to find the right words to convey what the past year has signified for the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA Ltd (ALSWA).

Without question, a major highlight was our 50th Birthday commemorations in November 2024 (see pages 12 - 19 for full coverage). You don't reach such a significant milestone without triumph and tragedy along the way, and as ALSWA entered its 51st year, we realised just how resilient we actually are.

In March 2025, a late evening phone call revealed that a fire was well underway at 7 Aberdeen Street, Perth, ALSWA's head office and workplace for approximately 120 staff members. The cause was a faulty paper shredder and the results were devastating and included the loss of irreplaceable historical items from over fifty years.

We were faced with collapsed roofing, exposed electrical wiring and a heat so intense, that metal mouldings were disintegrated. Then there was the toxic element, created by printer cartridges stored in the same room as the paper shredder.

There was no option but to carry on, and I am truly grateful for the exemplary efforts of our staff throughout this challenging period.



I want to acknowledge the unwavering support of our Board of Directors, Executive Management Team and staff members. Despite such a challenging year, ALSWA has continued to provide a quality service for our communities and clients throughout it all. This has been no mean feat, and watching our organisation in survival mode has made me even more proud to lead this incredible organisation. ALSWA continues to go from strength to strength in the face of adversity and this occurs in all areas of our work.

Just weeks before the ALSWA fire, WA Labor achieved a convincing victory in the State Election. We are extremely grateful to WA Premier Roger Cook and his team, particularly the Treasurer and Attorney General, for their \$250,000 act of grace payment in June 2025, which enabled ALSWA to continue our critical service delivery during this period.





I am also grateful to our clients, community members and the Courts, for their understanding and patience during this time.

ALSWA's programs continue to grow, with the expansion of the Youth Engagement Program (YEP) into Geraldton and positive outcomes achieved through the 'Old Ways New Ways' diversionary program for our young people. Working collaboratively with other organisations such as Wadjak Northside Aboriginal Corporation, HOPE Community Services and the Stephen Michael Foundation for OWNW has shown just how powerful programs such as this can be, in changing the lives of our young people, their families and the community at large.

Our growth and independence as an organisation is also evident in our ongoing asset accumulation, particularly within the Carnarvon and Port Hedland regions in the state's north.

Now in my third year leading this great organisation, I can assure you that we will continue to work in the best interests of our community members throughout Western Australia. The past year has clearly demonstrated our resilience and commitment to serving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in this state and working collaboratively to ensure a more equitable future for our people.



*ALSWA head office fire*







## The Importance of Speaking out about Injustice

As CEO of the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA Ltd, Wayne Nannup is committed to informing, educating and speaking out about the injustice faced by First Nations Peoples. This is done through regular media coverage, guest speaker appearances and public comments through ALSWA's social media. Wayne is proud to be in a position where he can speak out and advocate on behalf of those whose voice is not heard.

Some of Wayne's guest speaker roles include at the State Solicitor's Office which was established back in 1838, just five years after the death of Noongar Warrior, Yagan. Here he discussed the importance of actions speaking louder than words and reflected upon the 2025 National Reconciliation Week theme of 'Bridging Now to Next', creating the ongoing connection between past, present and future.

Wayne also addressed employees at the DLA Piper law firm and the IGO Company, providing an insight into systemic racism and walking in the footsteps of a First Nations person. He was also invited and honoured to present the 2025 John Toohey Oration in September 2025, providing his reflections on the criminal justice system in WA.

Wayne Nannup is pictured below speaking with the media during the 2024 ALSWA staff conference. He was responding to the news that five police cars had arrived at the Old Ways New Ways (OWNW) program without warning and arrested three boys from the justice reinvestment youth diversionary program.



2025 John Toohey Oration: L-R ALSWA staff Hayley O'Hara, Paula Sutherland, Peter Collins and Lydia Taylor, Dougie Nelson (UWA Law School Lecturer), Nick Abraham (Welcome to Country), ALSWA's Angela Crombie, Professor Sharon Mascher, UWA Dean and Head of UWA Law School, ALSWA CEO Wayne Nannup, Professor Ian Murray (UWA Head of School – Community & Engagement) and ALSWA's Victoria Williams





# ALSWA Commemorates 50 Years

The Aboriginal Legal Service of WA Ltd (ALSWA) commemorated 50 years with a community celebration on 12th November 2024.

Held in the barn and courtyard at City Farm in East Perth, the venue provided the perfect gathering space for old and new faces to reconnect.

Historically, this location is a very significant place, as it's near the site of the old Claisebrook water course and wetlands. Known as Goongoongup, it was a great source of fresh water and edible plants and aquatic life including bulrushes and gilgies (freshwater crayfish). It was also an important camping spot for Noongar people.

Dr Jim Morrison (Yokai Healing our Spirit) performed the role of MC. Jim has an extensive understanding of ALSWA and its people, and was also the MC (alongside Narelda Jacobs) for ALSWA's 40th, ten years earlier.



MC Dr. Jim Morrison

**ABORIGINAL LEGAL SERVICE OF WA LTD TURNS 50 THIS YEAR**

AND TO COMMEMORATE THIS MILESTONE, WILL HOST A **FREE COMMUNITY EVENT**  
FEATURING A WELCOME TO COUNTRY, GUEST SPEAKERS AND ENTERTAINMENT

**TUESDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2024**

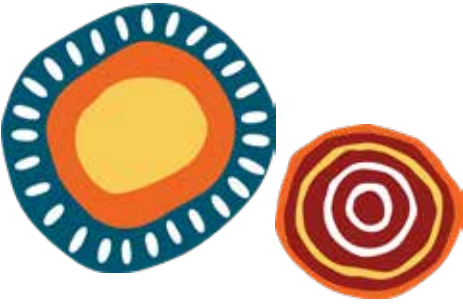
**1:00pm - 4:00pm** | arrive at 12:45 pm for a 1:00 pm start  
City Farm, 1 City Farm Place, East Perth

Registration Essential  
scan the QR code to register your interest

Afternoon Tea provided  
This is an alcohol free event

The Yellow Cat bus stops at City Farm and the closest train station is Claisebrook

**WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

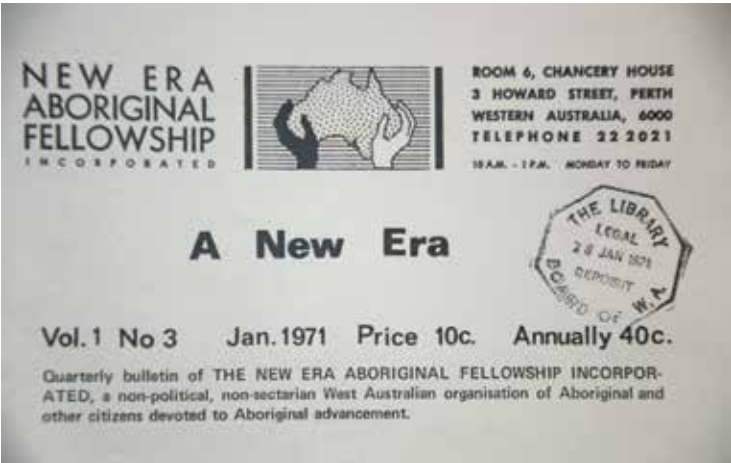


Len Yarran gave a heartfelt Welcome to Country and ALSWA CEO Wayne Nannup welcomed those attending, approximately 200 in all.

The event itself was testament to the history and resilience of a legal service which had commenced in the early 1970's with just a handful of volunteers and legal practitioners, determined to ensure that our people had access to justice.



Wayne Nannup ALSWA CEO



Len Yarran, Wadjak Northside Aboriginal Corporation

## THANK YOU .....

**The commitment of all involved with ALSWA over the past 50 years is incredible and if you have played a part in ALSWA's long and proud history, we sincerely thank you.**





*Helen 'Ulli' Corbett (in pink) pictured with the UN Special Rapporteur James Anaya and others at ALSWA in 2009*

Helen 'Ulli' Corbett also attended and was acknowledged for her tireless work in human rights, spanning many years. A former ALSWA Executive Officer and ALSWA CEO in 1988 and 1989 (with the Rob Bonson), Helen has dedicated her life to advancing the rights of First Nations Peoples on a local, national and international level. In 1983, she co-founded the Committee to Defend Black Rights. As its National Chairperson, Helen, with the Committee, were at the forefront of a campaign which forced the Federal Government to establish the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (RCIADIC).



*Rob Riley addressing the media*

The crowd was filled with old and new faces including current and former staff, members of the legal fraternity, community members, magistrates and other key stakeholders working within Western Australia's justice system.

Also present were family members of the late Rob Riley, with special mention given to his valued contributions to ALSWA over many years, including his role as CEO in 1980, 1981 (with Daryl Kickett), 1990 (with Rob Bonson) and from 1991 to 1995 inclusive.

**For a full history of ALSWA, we recommend the award-winning book 'Justice: A History of the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia' by Fiona Skyring (UWA Press)**





Special mention was also given to Dennis Eggington, CEO of ALSWA from 1996 to 2023. Dennis reigned as CEO for 26 years and had also held previous roles on its Executive Committee. A former National NAIDOC Person of the Year and John Curtin Medal recipient, it was under Dennis' leadership that ALSWA was awarded the National Human Rights 'Community Award' in 2012.

Greg McIntyre SC shared some of his memories from working as a lawyer with ALSWA in the mid-seventies in Kalgoorlie and Perth.







Myra Chulung,  
ALSWA Kununurra  
Secretary/  
Receptionist



Raymond Muir,  
ALSWA Albany  
Senior Court Officer



Margaret  
Ugle, ALSWA  
Bail Support  
Worker



Murray Stubbs,  
ALSWA Kalgoorlie  
Senior Court Officer



Jodi Hoffmann,  
ALSWA Public  
Relations/  
Media Manager



Current staff members including Myra Chulung (Kununurra), Raymond Muir (Albany), Margaret Ugle (Perth) and Murray Stubbs (Kalgoorlie) also spoke, each providing their own perspectives on an organisation that has played a major role in their respective careers and Jodi Hoffmann read out statements on behalf of Rob Riley's family and Helen 'Ulli' Corbett.

*\*Myra's grandfather, the late Mr. Frank Chulung was one of ALSWA's very first Field Officers, starting with ALSWA in 1974 and working in various roles including Field Officer, Court Officer and member of ALSWA's Executive Committee.*

## Thank you

MC - Dr. Jim Morrison

Welcome to Country - Len Yarran

Guest Speakers

City Farm

Caterers - Kuditj Kitchen

Commemorative cakes - Shayla Eggington

Entertainers - Maatakitj featuring Clint Bracknell, Kylie Bracknell, Della Morrison and Talya Valenti ([www.maatakitj.com](http://www.maatakitj.com))

Entertainers - Flewnt and Inkabee (Josh and Ethan Eggington) with JJ Vacant (Jacob Eggington)  
[www.facebook.com/flewntmc/](http://www.facebook.com/flewntmc/)

Event Photographer - Cole Baxter

Event Videographer - Callum Smith,  
Csmith Photography

Event Post Production video highlights -  
Bayley Simonds, Atlas Film Studios

Just For Kiks, Vintage caravan photo booth

Tori Watts and The Event Mill

















# Director Legal Services

**Peter Collins**

## **Fire at ALSWA's Perth Head Office**

2025 will go down in the annals of ALSWA history as the year of the fire.

At about 10:30pm on 25 March 2025 an electrical malfunction to a paper shredder caused widespread and extensive fire, heat, and water damage to ALSWA's Perth head office. The shredder had been serviced prior to the fire and the fire service and insurers have indicated that no fault rested with ALSWA over the cause of the fire. Large areas of the office have not been accessible since the fire on health and safety grounds. See next page for more information and photos of the fire damage.

Since the fire ALSWA has taken steps to:

- operate the legal practice effectively from different premises, at 200 Adelaide Terrace and 17A Aberdeen Street;
- assess the nature of damage to client hardcopy files at head office;
- recreate hardcopy client files so far as possible;
- retrieve and ensure integrity of all electronic information from hard drives and back up servers; and
- communicate with impacted clients and obtain new instructions where necessary

Importantly, legal representation and assistance to clients was minimally impacted and largely carried on normally.

This is due in no small measure to all staff at ALSWA who have shown enormous resilience, patience and commitment in responding to the fire to ensure that clients continued to receive high quality legal services.



I want to especially commend all those involved in ALSWA's legal practice – lawyers, court officers, support workers and administrative staff – who have risen to the occasion at every turn in the face of an incredibly disruptive and stressful situation.

I would also like to thank Chief Magistrate Heath, Chief Judge Wager, President Quail, the Director of Public Prosecutions, Rob Owen SC, Acting Superintendent Shannon McGeown of WA Police and the staff at the Department of Justice for their assistance, understanding and support during this difficult time.

## **Inquest into the death of Master Dodd in Unit 18 at Casuarina Prison**

The inquest into the death of Cleveland Dodd in Unit 18 at Casuarina Prison continued throughout 2025. ALSWA obtained the leave of the State Coroner under the Coroner's Act 1996 to appear on behalf of the Aboriginal community of WA at the inquest into the death.

Master Dodd was just 16 years old at the time of his death.

Master Dodd spent the last three (3) months of his life in Unit 18 in circumstances where he had no access to running water, sunlight or fresh air. Master Dodd's out of cell time was such that his opportunities to exercise, mix and eat with other detainees and undertake education was at vanishing point. On his last night, Master Dodd was even deprived of sufficient water.





For several hours leading up to the discovery of his body in his cell, Master Dodd made multiple calls on an intercom to the control desk in Unit 18, asking for water. Over time, his requests for water merged with increasing threats of self-harm. His threats were ignored and ultimately escalated to action.

ALSWA's focus in the inquest was on the failings of Unit 18, including that it was not an appropriate facility to be a detention centre, or to be a facility for young people with disabilities; that it failed to have a model of care; that it was not a trauma informed environment; that it was not a culturally safe environment; and that compliance with the Department of Corrections own risk management manual was practically impossible.

ALSWA submitted that Master Dodd's death was predictable and preventable. Further, what transpired begged the question as to how Master Dodd could die in such awful circumstances while in State care?

The importance of ALSWA appearing on behalf of the Aboriginal community at the inquest was starkly illustrated by the evidence. Underpinning the analysis of Master Dodd's living conditions prior to his death was the grim reality that Aboriginal children are disproportionately represented in youth detention. Of the first cohort of 16 children sent from Banksia Hill Detention Centre to Unit 18, 13 were Aboriginal. Of those 13 boys, 10 of them were listed as at risk on the Department of Correction's risk management system and nine (9) of those 10 were recorded as having a disability. On the night of Master Dodd's death, all the children detained in Unit 18 were Aboriginal boys. At any one time, Unit 18 almost exclusively held Aboriginal boys. Experts called to give evidence at the inquest observed that Unit 18 was a prison for Aboriginal children.

ALSWA highlighted through its cross examination of witnesses that, over time, the failure to appropriately care for the psychological needs, general welfare and cultural needs of Aboriginal boys in Unit 18 prior to the death of Master Dodd became systemic and eventually institutional. Regardless of intention, it was institutionally



*Casuarina Prison in Orton Road Casuarina, where Unit 18 is located*

cruel by failing to address the specific needs of Aboriginal children. This included the acute effects of isolation and separation from culture and community experienced by Master Dodd and other Aboriginal boys in Unit 18.

The effects of how Unit 18 operated from its commencement quickly became discriminatory. Because it was institutionally harmful to Aboriginal boys, ALSWA submitted that it was appropriate to characterise Unit 18 as an institutionally racist detention centre.

The deprivations Master Dodd endured were prolonged. The time he spent alone, and the negligible amount of education or stimulating activities he was given, became the norm. As the Director General of the Justice Department at the time of Master Dodd's death conceded in his evidence at the inquest, this kind of systems abuse was worse than individual acts of abuse.

ALSWA submitted that the evidence supported a finding by the Coroner that in the months leading up to Master Dodd's death the Department of Corrections failed to ensure the needs of Aboriginal young people were met in the running of Unit 18 and that this failure gave rise to institutional racism.

ALSWA's involvement in the inquest was a team effort, with barristers Julian McMahon SC and Amber Harris working very closely with lawyers from ALSWA's Civil and Human Rights Law Unit. All should be lauded for their extraordinary efforts in shining on light on one of the most deplorable episodes in the history of juvenile justice in WA.

The Coroner has not yet published his findings.



*The ALSWA team who appeared at the Inquest into the Death of Cleveland Dodd  
L-R Julian McMahon SC (Counsel), Yovela Tamba, Emma Dawson, Lexi Lachal, Yovundhi Jayasekera,  
Amber Harris (Counsel) and Olivia Roberts*

## **Inquest into the death of JC**

The State Coroner has published her findings following an inquest into the death of JC, who was fatally shot by former WA Police Officer Brent Wyndham on a suburban street in Geraldton on 17 September 2019. JC was shot just by Mr Wyndham just 16 seconds after he arrived at the scene in circumstances where seven (7) other police officers were already present and had control of the situation.

The State Coroner was satisfied that JC's death was preventable and made adverse findings against Mr Wyndham as well as findings that WA Police missed opportunities to effectively train the police officers who attended the incident which led to JC's death.

The State Coroner said in her Findings:

*I do not consider that there was sufficient recognition or understanding of JC's mental distress, complicated by her being a member of*

*the Aboriginal community, that has historically experienced negative interactions with police, that can generate ongoing suspicion and fear. A clearer understanding of the impacts of intergenerational trauma, how it can contribute to substance abuse, to foetal alcohol spectrum disorder, and to volatility and impulsivity may have placed some of JC's behaviour into context and may have prompted a consideration of de-escalation options.*

Following submissions from ALSWA, the State Coroner made several important recommendations aimed at ensuring that police and health services interact with the Aboriginal community in a culturally secure fashion. Another important recommendation was the introduction of Aboriginal cultural awareness training for police which is co-designed by Aboriginal people, presented by Aboriginal people, is delivered regularly, face to face and is tailored to specific regions.





The State Coroner also recommended continued funding of the Mental Health Co-Response which provides crisis intervention, support and care to people experiencing a mental health emergency.

It would, however, be a cruel betrayal of the memory of JC for the State Coroner's recommendations to sit on a shelf gathering dust. The need for urgent change cannot be ignored. It is incumbent on all who deal with people experiencing mental health emergencies, especially police and health care services, to reform their practices in a culturally secure manner. The approach moving forward should focus on ensuring that those who are suffering from mental ill health are treated with dignity, respect and restraint, rather than cruel indifference and fatal violence.

The State Coroner's recommendations should also be a catalyst for police to do the work to repair a broken relationship with Aboriginal people in WA, because the current approach, underpinned as it is by punitive and heartless policing practices, is an unmitigated failure and does the wider community no favours.

In an extraordinary move, Mr Wareham was promoted by WA Police after the shooting before eventually leaving the force.

Former ALSWA lawyer, now barrister, Kathleen Heath, acted for JC's sister at the inquest. Kathleen and the lawyers from ALSWA's Civil and Human Rights Law Unit and the ALSWA team performed admirably at the inquest.



*Clare Brennan, ALSWA Criminal Law Unit Counsel and Murray Stubbs, ALSWA Kalgoorlie Senior Court Officer*

## **Celebrating the losses as well as the wins at ALSWA**

It is important to recognise the losses as well as the wins at ALSWA.

Damien Rictor has been an ALSWA client for many years. His personal story is a unique one; Damien is a 'first contact' person having emerged out of the desert as a child with his family, for the first time, in 1986. Damien is therefore living history but tragically is also the embodiment of the corrosive influence of colonisation on Aboriginal people.

In 2019, Damien was charged with murder and ALSWA began acting for him again. Damien pleaded not guilty. Damien was convicted after a trial in the Supreme Court, lost his Court of Appeal appeal against conviction and his application for special leave to appeal against the conviction was refused by the High Court. ALSWA acted for him in each of these proceedings. Over the long course of the matter, several current and former ALSWA lawyers have acted for Damien, including:

1. Cillian Stockdale – now a Magistrate;
2. Kelly Thompson – now a Magistrate;
3. Yovundhi Jayasekra;
4. Clare Brennan;
5. Leneva Polmear; and
6. Will Yoo - now a Magistrate.

The ALSWA Kalgoorlie office also showed great care and compassion by attending to Damien's requests for assistance while he was in custody at Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison. ALSWA senior court officer, the legendary Murray Stubbs also provided invaluable Cultural guidance to the lawyers. At every step of the way, every ALSWA lawyer who acted for Damien provided him with first class representation and support.

Special acknowledgement needs to be made of the efforts of Clare Brennan who acted for Damien at his trial and at his appeals.



Yovundhi Jayasekera captured the nature of Clare's role perfectly:

Damian's matter was factually and culturally complex, besieged by procedural obstacles, and, by the time Clare took carriage, consisted of several bookcases worth of material.

As always, Clare demonstrated courage, grit, and unrelenting advocacy that served the highly unique circumstances of Damian's background and the particular complexities of this trial (and the appeals).

## The colour of injustice – the policing of Aboriginal people in WA

From whatever angle it is approached, the policing of Aboriginal people in WA is at crisis point, with no end in sight.

It starts with the calls received by the CNS; when the CNS started in 2018, WAPOL told ALSWA to expect about 19,000 calls a year. Currently calls are tracking towards 43,000 per year, very arguably the highest in the country.

Drilling down even further, information from the CNS reflects that scores of Aboriginal people are routinely refused bail and locked up by police for minor offending – stealing, disorderly behaviour, breaching police orders, trespass etc – where the penalty on conviction would never involve a sentence of imprisonment.

Aboriginal people are also disproportionately impacted by the recently introduced Protected Entertainment Precinct laws which enable police to ban individuals from places such as the Perth CBD. These laws have been used to ban the homeless, the addicted, the mentally ill and the cognitively impaired from places they habitually attend because that is where they live, fraternise with family and friends or access essential services. When charged, these people are inevitably also refused bail by police. It is hard not to think that these laws are enforced as a form of ethnic cleansing.

It is also equally hard not to think that some police conduct themselves in a way which denies the very humanity of the Aboriginal people they are interacting with. Two examples highlight why this is so.

In Kalgoorlie, Aboriginal man Lance Stewart gestured at police from across the street with his middle finger. Police body worn camera footage shows Mr Stewart approaching police and continuing to hold up his middle finger. Mr Stewart then says to police: "You gonna arrest my finger?"

In an inexplicably thin skinned display, police tell Mr Stewart that he would be issued with a move-on notice because of "anti-social behaviour" and asked him for identification, which he then produced. After a couple of minutes, Mr Stewart started reaching out in the direction of a female police officer, asking her to return his paperwork.





Sergeant Richard Busby told Mr Stewart to "leave her alone" before he pushed Mr Stewart back from the female officer. Mr Stewart then asked Sergeant Busby: "Why are you touching me?" and "What ya gonna do, man?" Senior Constable Michael Gordon then forcefully shoved Mr Stewart backwards, resulting in him stumbling backwards onto the ground. "Now stay down there, and wait there until we're finished with ya, or we'll do it again," Senior Constable Gordon can be heard saying.

Mr Stewart got off the ground and walked slowly back to the group of officers.

Senior Constable Gordon told him, "Stop, enough," and then shoved him to the ground again, forcing him to fall back several metres. "You're going to get arrested," Sergeant Busby warned as Mr Stewart slowly got to his feet. Mr Stewart then took a harmless fighting stance and said, "Don't touch me, don't touch me, boss boss boss," as he took his shirt off.

Mr Stewart was then tasered by Sergeant Busby and collapsed to the ground. Two officers pinned Mr Stewart down and handcuffed him while Sergeant Busby threatened to deploy the taser again, saying "I'll cycle it [the taser] again".

Mr Stewart was charged with disorderly conduct and obstructing police and was refused bail by police. The charges were unarguably a ruse to cover up the appalling conduct of police. When Mr Stewart appeared in court, the presiding magistrate remarked, without having seen the footage, that it would be a "pretty strong case" of disorderly conduct if "the police had to taser him". How wrong he was.

The charges were later discontinued.

An internal police investigation of the incident inexplicably found the use of force was "proportionate and appropriate under the circumstances with no issues identified". The finding also highlights just how hard it is (when police investigate their own) to achieve an outcome where police are held accountable for their behaviour, even when it is demonstrably

egregious, as was the case with Mr Stewart.

The other example involves the death of Linton Ryan in Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison. At the time of his arrest by police in Kalgoorlie, Mr Ryan was in an extremely vulnerable state. A female police officer dealt with Mr Ryan while he was in police custody.

After learning of his death in prison, the same officer communicated with a friend in the following terms:

I interviewed a man the other day, and he was like, 'I'm gonna kill myself'

And I was like, 'yeah whatever. Put him in the cells. He went to prison the next day and then he killed himself.'

The officer concludes her comments with a giggle, "um, lol", then sends a follow-up message.

"Don't tell anyone that."

The sheer callousness of the comments so soon after Mr Ryan's tragic death in custody beggars' belief.



*Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison in Vivian Street South Boulder*





## Pre-birth Planning Conferences

The Family Law Unit continues to do important work with parents at maternity hospitals in relation to pre-birth planning conferences.

With a focus on family led, culturally secure advocacy, the Unit strives for solutions which keep new born children with parents, in their communities and on country to avoid disputed care arrangements escalating into court proceedings. As the managing lawyer of the Family Law Unit and Aboriginal man, Jonathon Reid has observed:

Sharing in the pre-birth process that can empower, listen to and meaningfully adopt *our ways* and maintain *the things integral to our families* is a new way of doing things.



Jonathon Reid, ALSWA Family Law Unit Managing Solicitor

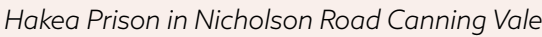
For example, the Unit assisted teenage, first-time parents from a remote community at a pre-birth planning conference. The parents had travelled to Perth for pre-natal care at a maternity hospital. Guided by the cultural authority and leadership of both maternal and paternal grandmothers, the conference was able to deal with alleged difficulties in the parents' relationship and secure the support of the Department of Communities for the child to remain with family and return to country.

## Conditions in Hakea Prison

Over the last several years ALSWA and many other organisations have repeatedly raised concerns with the WA Government about the harsh and inhumane conditions under which prisoners are being held at Hakea Prison.

In December 2024 ALSWA began sending individual complaints to the Commissioner of Corrective Services on behalf of clients. To date, ALSWA has submitted complaints on behalf of 40 individual clients detained at Hakea Prison. Each complaint letter has asked that all the concerns of clients be fully investigated.

The letters of complaint have highlighted the endemic overcrowding, ongoing lockdowns, unhygienic conditions and poor access to mental and physical health services at Hakea Prison. Clients continue to report occasions where they have been locked down in their cells all day or have received as little as 30 minutes out of their cell. Access to fresh air or exercise outside remains very limited, and many clients eat most of their meals in their cells. In some instances, clients have waited for up to two (2) months before being provided with fresh bedding or clothing. One client reported being unable to shower for four consecutive days. Social and legal visits are routinely cancelled without warning and attempts to access mental health support and counselling remain restricted.



ALSWA also considers that the conditions and confinement practices being used at Hakea Prison may breach Australia's obligations under international human rights law, including its obligations under the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*, and the *Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*, which prohibit the use of torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Further, it is clear that many of the universally accepted minimum expectations and standards for the treatment of prisoners as enshrined in the *United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (The Mandela Rules)* are not being met at Hakea Prison, such as entitlements to clean clothing and bedding, access to one hour of exercise in the open air every day, sleeping accommodation that is free from overcrowding, and adequate access to bathing and shower installations.

ALSWA has also written to the Federal Government to bring these issues to its attention, particularly considering Australia's obligations under international human rights treaties.

ALSWA thanks the following law firms and individual lawyers for their generous pro bono assistance.

Allens, Ashurst, Blumers, Corrs Chambers  
Westgarth, DLA Piper, Gilbert & Tobin, Hall  
& Wilcox, King & Wood Mallets, Maurice  
Blackburn, Minter Ellison, Moray & Agnew and  
Norton Rose Fulbright.



## Individuals

David Bayly SC, Bettina Mangan SC, Julian McMahon SC, Matthew Crowley, Marina Georgiou, Richard Graham, Amber Harris, Kathleen Heath, Tom Lettenmaier, Verity Long-Droppert, Ian Murray, Kate Turtley Chappel, Liam Nicholls, Adam Nolan, Rebecca O'Brien, Kate Pedersen, Alexandra Pieniazek, Blake Primrose, Delaney Quinlan, Adam Sharpe, Benjamin Tomasi, Christopher Taylor-Burch, Jesse Winton, Kate Bones, Julie Condon KC, Craig Lenahan SC, Craig Lenahan SC and Thomas Wood.

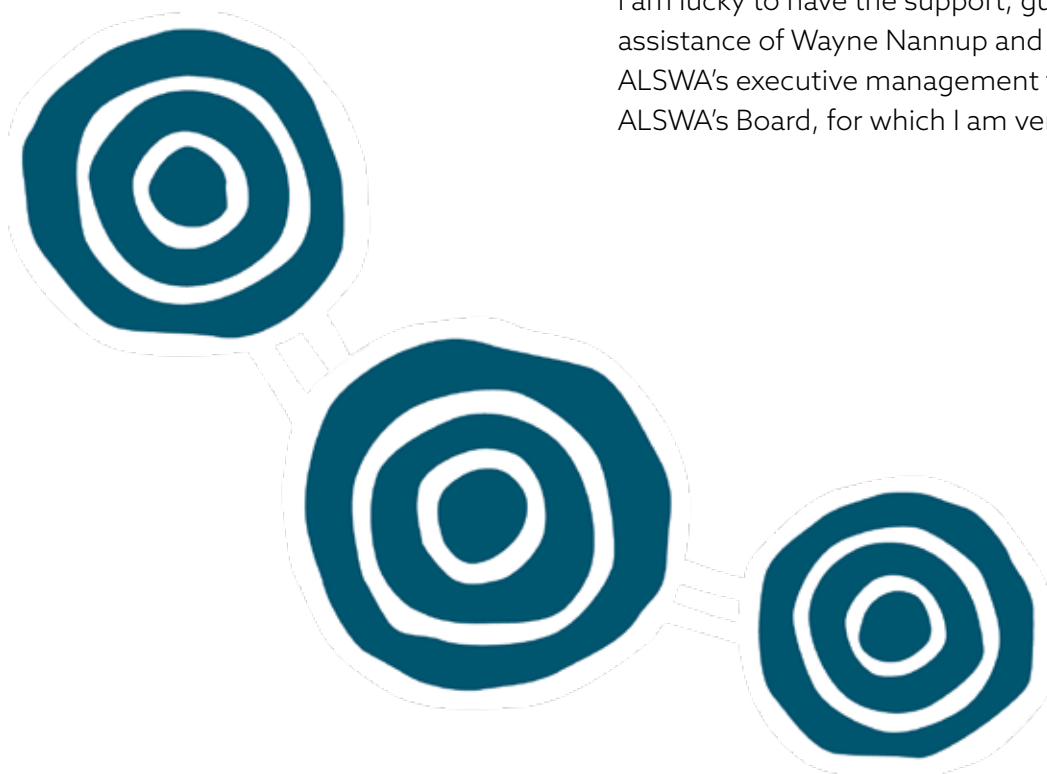
## Appointments and farewells

I would like to congratulate the following on their judicial appointments:

- (a) Ruth Dineen – appointed as a Magistrate. Ruth was the much loved managing lawyer of the Perth Criminal Law Unit.
- (b) Andrew Wadham – former ALSWA lawyer, appointed as a Magistrate.
- (c) Paul Tobin – who has left ALSWA to work in private practice after many years of dedicated service.

## Acknowledgments

I am lucky to have the support, guidance and assistance of Wayne Nannup and Julie Waud of ALSWA's executive management team and from ALSWA's Board, for which I am very grateful.







# Fire at ALSWA Head Office

Around 10.30 pm on the evening of Tuesday 25th March 2025, ALSWA Management received a call advising that the head office at 7 Aberdeen Street Perth was on fire.

The investigation that followed found that the fire was started downstairs by a faulty paper shredder.

The fire and smoke damage was extensive. The ground floor was destroyed and the remainder of the building, including upstairs, suffered significant heat and smoke damage. The building was unusable, inaccessible and dangerous to enter due to toxic fumes.

Laptops, printers, court robes, library materials, office furniture and general supplies were destroyed, and it was a massive blow for an organisation, that just months earlier,

had commemorated its 50th anniversary, celebrating ALSWA's resilience and the vital role that it plays within the WA justice system.

ALSWA CEO Wayne Nannup commended ALSWA staff who, despite the many challenges faced, ensured that service delivery and court appearances continued. Mr Nannup also thanks community members for their patience and understanding during this difficult time.

In the months that followed, over 100 Perth based staff members either worked from home or out of temporary office space.

It's anticipated that staff will be able to return to work at 7 Aberdeen Street in late 2026.

**The following article by Jessica Evensen, appeared in The West Australian the following day:**

## **WA Police rule out arson after structure fire at the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA**

WA Police have ruled out arson after investigating an overnight blaze at a Perth legal practice. The Department of Fire and Emergency Services rushed to the blaze at the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA on Aberdeen Street in Perth about 10.45pm on Tuesday. Two people working in the building managed to escape. They were not hurt. The arson squad and DFES investigators attended the scene on Wednesday morning, confirming that the fire was suspicious. The cause of the blaze is not known. **End of article.**





In June 2025, the WA Cook Labor Government approved a \$250,000 act of grace payment for ALSWA, to support the vital continuation critical service delivery. ALSWA is extremely grateful for this payment.

**WA Attorney General Dr Tony Buti said:**

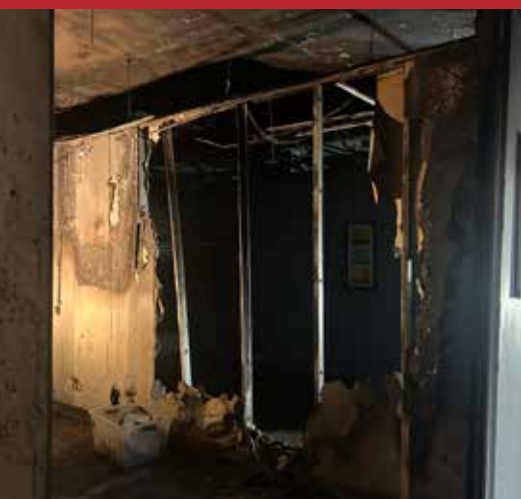
"The Aboriginal Legal Service WA acted quickly to modify its operations following the fire, securing temporary office space and sourcing necessary equipment. However, this comes with immediate expenses and, as a not-for-profit, any cash reserve the Service may have has been already committed to frontline services and program delivery. Whilst insured, it will take some time for the ALSWA's claim to be assessed and settled, so this payment will ensure critical services can continue in the interim."



*WA Attorney General Dr Tony Buti and ALSWA CEO Wayne Nannup pictured at ALSWA's temporary office space in Adelaide Terrace Perth.*











# Director, Policy and Programs

## VICTORIA WILLIAMS

ALSWA operates several programs in the Perth Metropolitan area and across regional Western Australia. These programs incorporate culturally secure non-legal support (often integrated with legal support) for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and adults in community and custody settings. The ALSWA Programs area employs approximately 75 full-time, part-time and casual employees with additional workers employed by partners working onsite at ALSWA.



### Custody Notification Service

The ALSWA Custody Notification Service (CNS) has now been operating for almost five years (commenced 2 October 2019). Up until 30 June 2025, the CNS was funded jointly by the National Indigenous Australians Agency and the WA Department of Justice. From 1 July 2025, the CNS is funded via the National Access to Justice Partnership (Commonwealth) with additional funding provided by the WA Department of Justice.

The CNS is a phone service operating 24 hours per day 7 days per week every day of the year for Aboriginal people in Western Australia who are detained by WA Police in a police facility. WA Police are required to phone the CNS every time an Aboriginal person is arrested or apprehended and detained in a police facility throughout the state, irrespective of the reason. This applies to both children and adults. Approximately 18% of all notifications are for children. The police are required to provide the CNS with certain details and provide the person detained with an opportunity to speak to a CNS staff member.

The CNS aims to provide a holistic wellbeing check to reduce preventable deaths in custody and related harm.

The CNS undertakes a wellbeing check with a focus on immediate safety and health needs. In addition, the CNS provides legal information and advice to address immediate legal needs. This includes, where possible, referrals to legal assistance providers (including ALSWA) and external programs and services. The CNS made 18,397 referrals to legal assistance providers in this financial year.

The CNS had a mix of full-time (8), part-time (1) and casual staff (10) including a Managing Lawyer, Assistant Managing Lawyer, lawyers and Aboriginal support workers. This hardworking and dedicated team work tirelessly around the clock to ensure that the CNS phone line is answered as soon as possible. The CNS team was extremely responsive and adaptable following the ALSWA fire in March 2025; the CNS was offline for approximately one and half hours only.

From 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, the CNS received 42,988 CNS notifications from WA Police, an increase of 3,568 notifications from the previous financial year (9% increase). However, since the financial year ending 30 June 2022, CNS notifications have increased by 67% from just over 25,000 notifications to almost 43,000 notifications per year.



## Custody Wellbeing Service

The Custody Wellbeing Service (CWS) is funded by Western Australia Police to provide in-person culturally secure support for Aboriginal people detained at the Perth Watch House. The CWS commenced operations in October 2024 and employs one male and one female Aboriginal support worker. The CWS support workers assist detainees by identifying immediate medical and other wellbeing needs; providing cultural counselling and mentoring; providing referrals to ALSWA services (for legal needs and supports) and to external services (where appropriate); and supporting and facilitating contact with the detainee's family and/or other support persons as required. The CWS support workers work onsite at the Perth Watch House from Monday to Thursday 4 pm to midnight. The program is currently funded until 31 October 2025.

From mid-October 2024 until 30 June 2025, the CWS provided face-to-face support for 268 Aboriginal detainees. During this period, 72 warm referrals were made to other support services and the CWS contacted the detainee's family upon request on 48 occasions. Detainees are asked to complete a client survey by the support workers and from February to May 2025, 73 surveys were completed. The responses showed that 90% of detainees responded with the highest rating for 'feeling comfortable discussing personal issues with the CWS' and 100% of detainees responded with the highest rating for 'feeling culturally supported by the program'.

## Bail Support Service/Prison In-Reach Legal Service

The metropolitan Bail Support Service (BSS) and Prison In-Reach Service (PIR) commenced in April 2020, and the Broome Bail Support

**Kanya!** Are you an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person and in need of a yarn with someone?

**ALSWA CUSTODY WELLBEING SERVICE**

**Aboriginal Legal Service of WA Ltd (ALSWA) CWS Aboriginal Support Workers are on site to support you with:**

- Immediate health and welfare concerns
- Cultural needs
- Social and emotional wellbeing needs
- Health needs
- Connecting you to services to assist with any issues you are facing
- Referrals to legal services to address legal needs
- Contacting family members
- Cultural counselling and mentoring
- Support, advocacy and encouragement

**Ask the monatj (police) to take you to see an ALSWA Custody Wellbeing Service Aboriginal Support Worker**

**Monday to Thursday - 4:00pm until Midnight**

**ALSWA CUSTODY WELLBEING SERVICE**

**The Aboriginal Legal Service of WA Ltd (ALSWA) Custody Wellbeing Service (CWS) is on site to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples detained at the Perth Watch House.**

**CWS Aboriginal Support Workers can assist with:**

- Immediate health and welfare concerns
- Cultural needs
- Social and emotional wellbeing needs
- Health needs
- Connecting the detainee to services to assist with any issues they are facing
- Referrals to legal services to address legal needs
- Contacting family members
- Cultural counselling and mentoring
- Support, advocacy and encouragement

**Ask Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples if they would like to have a yarn with an ALSWA Custody Wellbeing Service Aboriginal Support Worker.**

**Monday to Thursday - 4:00pm until Midnight**



Service (Broome BSS) commenced in November 2020. These programs are funded by the WA Department of Justice until December 2026. The overall objective of the BSS/PIR is to reduce avoidable remand by providing earlier access to bail to suitable applicants through the provision of bail support and prison in-reach legal services, and by supporting accused persons to comply with bail conditions and undertakings.

The BSS Metro and BSS Broome teams include an Aboriginal Team Leader and 10 Aboriginal Support Workers (including one Assistant Team Leader and one Data Coordinator). The PIR employs three lawyers. These staff work closely together to ensure that clients are released from custody as early as possible and to support clients to maintain compliance with their bail conditions. Referrals to other support services and programs are undertaken when appropriate. In this financial year, for those clients where the outcome was known at exit, 52% of BSS clients successfully complied with their bail period.

In August 2023, the BSS Post-Sentence Support (PSS) worker commenced in Perth to provide ongoing support to BSS clients after they have been sentenced. The aim of this initiative is to ensure that clients comply with their sentencing orders (with the overall aim of reducing imprisonment). The PSS provided supports to 17 adult clients. For those matters where the outcome was known at the time of exit, 87.5% of PSS clients successfully completed their sentencing order.

The BSS teams provided support to 275 adult clients and PIR provided legal support to 583 adult clients.

## Family and Domestic Violence Hubs

In 2021, ALSWA entered into an agreement with Hope Community Services Limited (Hope) to provide a paralegal for the Mara Pirni Healing Place in Kalgoorlie. This hub is operated by Hope in partnership with Wanslea Family Services, Ngunytju Tjitji Pirni (NTP), One Tree Community Services and ALSWA. The ALSWA paralegal provides legal information to clients at the hub including warm referrals to appropriate legal assistance providers as well as undertaking community legal education.

In 2023, ALSWA entered into another agreement with Hope to provide a lawyer for the new Armadale Family and Domestic Violence Hub. The Armadale hub incorporates the Waullo Dawn Healing Service and Koorlark Healing Service both operated by Hope in partnership with Yorgum Healing Services, Ngala, Ishar Multicultural Women's Health Services, Women's Legal Service, Marmum Mia-Mia Aboriginal Corporation, 360 Health, Ruah Community Services and ALSWA.

## Old Ways New Ways

ALSWA is funded by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department to deliver Old Ways New Ways (OWNW) in conjunction with Wadjak Northside Aboriginal Corporation, Stephen Michael Foundation Ltd and Hope Community Services Ltd. OOWNW is an Aboriginal-led justice reinvestment initiative designed to break the cycle of youth offending in the Metropolitan Area and is funded under the National Justice Reinvestment Program for two years until 30 June 2026. OOWNW provides culturally secure holistic wrap around support via case management, mentoring, educational







activities, cultural activities (including on-country camps) and community throughcare supports for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people who are at risk of or already involved in the formal criminal justice system.

OWNW commenced operations in October 2024 with a six-week pilot Activity and Wellbeing Course (including an overnight camp). Twenty-eight (28) Aboriginal young people participated in the pilot course with 60% of participants attending four or more of the six weekly sessions. In early 2025, OOWNW commenced its full program offering case management along with ten-week courses in each school term.

From October 2024 to 30 June 2025, OOWNW has received 169 referrals from a wide range of sources including Youth Justice Services, the Department of Communities, the Department of Education, WA Police, local schools, community organisations and individuals. OOWNW provided direct support to over 128 young people during the 2024/2025 financial year with approximately 50 of these young people receiving intensive case management support.



*Old Ways New Ways staff and guests at the Armadale Hub Bob Blackburn Centre/Champion Centre and the Semester 1 Graduation Ceremony at the Wadjak Northside hub*



OWNW operates an Activity Day Course at Wadjak Northside in Balga on Thursdays (males) and Fridays (females) from 11 am to 2 pm. Since Term 2, 2025 the OOWNW Activity Day Course has been available at the Bob Blackburne Centre in Armadale on Tuesdays (males) and Wednesdays (females), also from 11 am to 2 pm. For the Balga hub, 56 Aboriginal young people attended at least one session in Term 1, and 51 Aboriginal young people attended at least one session in Term 2. For the Armadale hub, 33 Aboriginal young people attended at least one session in Term 2. In addition, 61 Aboriginal young people attended the five overnight cultural camps in this financial year (Fairbridge Pinjarra, Boshack Outback, and Nanga Bush Camp). Furthermore, as part of the Activity Course, participants have attended cultural activities at Rottnest, Kings Park, Yanchep, and the Perth Museum as well as undertaken a family tree activity with an Aboriginal Elder. OOWNW is supported by several Aboriginal Elders and leaders along with community mentors.

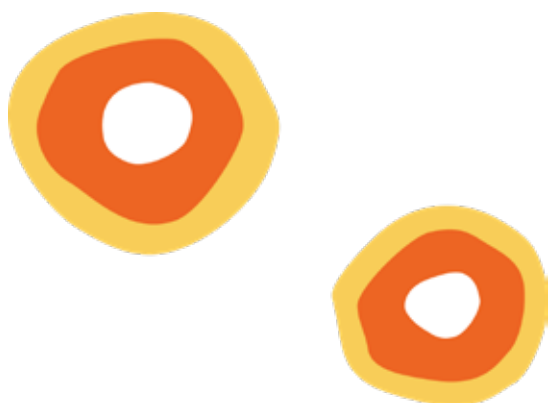
Client, stakeholder and family member survey responses coupled with data analysis shows that OOWNW is achieving significant outcomes including reduced contact with the justice system; improved social and emotional wellbeing; increased access to programs and services such as educational and training programs, health services and mental health supports; and increased connection to culture.



*Nixon Hamlet, Brendon Ah Chee, Isiah Winder and Isiah Walley Stack from Old Ways New Ways*



*Elissa Massey and Amandine Hamilton-Smith from Old Ways News Ways*







Youth Engagement Program (YEP) staff pictured at a Cultural activity outside of Broome in November 2024. Left to right: Arthur Malay-Murphy (YEP Fitzroy Crossing), Roy Blurton (YEP Metro & Assistant Manager), Adam BinBusu (YEP West Kimberley), Cody Petrevski-Seton (YEP Halls Creek) and Jack Roberts (YEP West Kimberley)

## Youth Engagement Program

The metropolitan Youth Engagement Program (YEP-M) has been operating for over nine years and is currently funded by the WA Department of Justice until June 2027. YEP was expanded to the West Kimberley (YEP-WK) in early 2021 and is funded under the Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy until June 2026. On the back of the success of YEP-M and YEP-WK, the National Indigenous Australians Agency provided funding to ALSWA in November 2022 to establish the YEP in two new sites. YEP-East Kimberley (based in Kununurra) commenced in March 2023, and YEP-Halls Creek commenced in July 2023. YEP has recently expanded its reach to Fitzroy Crossing with Halls Creek YEP workers visiting Fitzroy Crossing every fortnight. YEP-East Kimberley and YEP-Halls Creek are currently funded until 31 December 2025. The WA Department of Justice has recently provided funding to ALSWA to deliver a YEP in Geraldton and this program is expected to commence in the second half of 2025.

YEP provides holistic, culturally secure, individualised and flexible support to ALSWA clients appearing in the Perth, Broome, Derby, Kununurra, Wyndham, Fitzroy Crossing and Halls Creek Children's Courts. Across all sites, YEP employs 13 staff (92% Aboriginal staff) including a statewide YEP Manager and Administrative Assistant. Once YEP-Geraldton commences (extending to Geraldton and Mullewa Children's Courts), there will be 15 staff. YEP provides a range of services including mentoring; court support; advocacy; referrals to external services; case management; transport assistance; support at appointments with various external agencies including Youth Justice Services; accommodation assistance; assistance to reengage in education and/or training; support to attend medical appointments and check-ups; practical help (such as obtaining birth certificates, Medicare cards, bank accounts and Centrelink payments) and participation in positive recreational activities. Many participants have successfully completed their youth justice/court orders and reengaged in education/training and/or other prosocial activities.





In November 2024, YEP held a two-day on-Country cultural activity in the West Kimberley and this event was reported in the Kimberley Juvenile Justice Strategy Newsletter.

In June 2025, YEP-East Kimberley and YEP-Halls Creek conducted YEP's first overnight camp at El Questro. Three young people along with five YEP staff members attended the camp and activities included fishing, swimming at various gorges in the region, and evening yarning sessions.

The young participants shared positive feedback, expressing that they enjoyed the camp because it provided them with an opportunity to visit beautiful places they had never seen.

From 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, YEP provided comprehensive support to 155 Aboriginal young people across Western Australia.

## Work and Development Permit (WDP) Service

The ALSWA WDP Service commenced on 29 September 2020. The WDP Service is part of the Work and Development Permit Scheme partnership between the Department of Justice, ALSWA and Legal Aid WA. The WDP Scheme is designed to assist people experiencing hardship to reduce or clear their unpaid court fines through completing approved activities, treatments, services and programs under the supervision of an approved support service (WDP sponsor).

The WDP Service works with Aboriginal communities/organisations/networks (and other culturally secure service providers), including ALSWA staff, across Western Australia including regional and remote Aboriginal communities. One of the key goals of the WDP Service is to identify and assist potential sponsors as well as to provide ongoing support for existing WDP sponsors. In addition, the WDP Service receives referrals and assists clients with fines-related services across the State.

# CAN'T PAY YOUR COURT FINES?

## TALK TO US - WE CAN HELP

A Work and Development Permit lets you reduce or clear your fines by engaging in treatments, services, programs and activities in place of paying the amount owed.



**Fines Enforcement Registry**  
Phone: 9235 0235  
Email: [ferwdp@justice.wa.gov.au](mailto:ferwdp@justice.wa.gov.au)

**Legal Aid WA**  
Phone: 9261 6353  
Email: [wdpservice@legalaid.wa.gov.au](mailto:wdpservice@legalaid.wa.gov.au)

**Aboriginal Legal Service of WA Ltd**  
Phone: 6371 4600  
Email: [wdpservice@als.org.au](mailto:wdpservice@als.org.au)



← SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION  
OR VISIT [JUSTICE.WA.GOV.AU/WDP](https://justice.wa.gov.au/wdp)





From 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025, the WDP Service assisted 379 clients with fines-related issues and liaised with around 280 approved sponsors or potential sponsors including other stakeholders related to the WDP Scheme (delivering at least 70 information sessions/presentations/meetings). Clients have been provided with individual fines analysis and support including advocacy services and legal advice; payment plans; Fines Expiation Orders; and WDP Sponsor options. The WDP Service made 161 client referrals to WDP sponsors during this period. The WDP Service has also met regularly with the Scheme's partners including contributing to regular WDP Scheme Governance Group and Operational Group meetings to focus on the strategic and operational needs of the Scheme. Further, the WDP Service continued to provide a strong focus on education and promotion across a range of internal and external networks and service providers.

As at 30 June 2025, the WDP Service team consisted of the program management role (filled by the Manager, Policy and Programs) and the new role of 0.8 FTE Aboriginal Sponsor Engagement Officer. With the departure of both Aboriginal Support Workers in March 2025, the recruitment of those roles was underway. A new Aboriginal Support Worker commenced in July 2025. Current funding will enable the WDP Service to continue to operate until 30 June 2026.

**COURT FINES?  
CAN'T PAY?  
DON'T IGNORE  
THEM  
THEY WON'T  
GO AWAY**

If you've got court fines, you may be able to apply for a **Work and Development Permit (WDP)**. This means that you could reduce or clear your fines by doing activities in place of paying the amount owed.

**WANT TO KNOW MORE?**

If you are an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person and are facing hardship, the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA Ltd (ALSWA) can assist, no matter where you live in WA.

ALSWA can provide information about Work and Development Permits (WDP) and other legal matters relating to your fines.

Contact ALSWA for advice about the different options which may help to **reduce or clear your court fines.**

**Contact ALSWA WDP Service Team on 08 6371 4600  
WA Freecall 1800 019 900 or [wdp-service@als.org.au](mailto:wdp-service@als.org.au)**

To find out more visit [www.justice.wa.gov.au/wdp](http://www.justice.wa.gov.au/wdp)

The Work and Development Program Scheme is a partnership between the Department of Justice, Aboriginal Legal Service of WA Limited and Legal Aid WA

 **Work and Development  
Permit Scheme**

 **Government of Western Australia  
Department of Justice**

 **ALSWA**







## Partnerships

ALSWA gratefully acknowledges its formal partners and supporters:

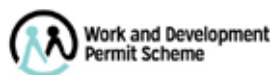
1. Old Ways New Ways Consortium Members – Wadjak Northside Aboriginal Corporation, Stephen Michael Foundation and Hope Community Services.



2. Hope Community Services for the partnership for the delivery of Mara Pirni Healing Place, Waullo Dawn Healing Centre and Koorlark Healing Centre.



3. The Department of Justice and Legal Aid WA for the delivery of the Work and Development Permit Scheme.



4. GIVIT and People Helping People International Foundation for their invaluable assistance in facilitating donations to our clients in need.



## Consultations and submissions during 2024-2025

### Formal submissions

- ALSWA Submission to the Australian Human Rights Commission's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner's Informing the Agenda Project (September 2024).
- ALSWA Submission to Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee Inquiry into Australia's youth justice and incarceration system (October 2024).
- ALSWA Submission to Access to Justice Section of the UPR Joint NGO Report (May 2025).
- ALSWA Submission to the Law Reform Commission of Western Australia, Review of the Guardianship and Administration Act 1990 (WA), Project 114, Discussion Paper 1 (30 May 2025).
- ALSWA Submission to the Law Reform Commission of Western Australia, Review of the Guardianship and Administration Act 1990 (WA), Project 114, Discussion Paper 2 (11 June 2025).

### Written feedback

- ALSWA feedback on the Draft National set of Human Rights Compliant, Culturally Appropriate Monitoring Standards for Police Custody to Andrea Lachs, Churchill Fellow (February 2025).
- ALSWA feedback to the Department of Justice on Electronic Monitoring (February 2025).





- ALSWA Submission to NATSILS and the Department of Justice on Bail and Diversionary Support Service (February 2025).
- ALSWA Submission to Western Australian Office of Crime Statistics and Research (WACRSAR) on Police Orders (March 2025)
- Submission to the Department of Justice on Judicial Commission (March 2025).
- ALSWA feedback in relation to conditions of overcrowding and reduced services in adult prisons to The Hon Michelle Rowland, Federal Attorney-General of Australia (August 2025); The Hon Roger Cook, Premier of Western Australia (August 2025); and to The Hon Paul Papalia, Minister for Corrective Services (September 2024).

### Consultations | Presentations

ALSWA's Civil Law and Human Rights Law Unit presented two lectures to first year Murdoch students on the Coroner's Jurisdiction (October 2024 and May 2025).

ALSWA's Director of Legal Services presented a lecture to first year Curtin University Law School students studying Indigenous Peoples, Law and Justice (September 2024)

### Committees

- Collaborative Service Planning Group and State Jurisdictional Forum
- Kimberley Floods Legal Assistance Response Working Group Project Reference Group
- ATSILS Data Working Group
- ATSILS Police, Youth Detention and Prison Advocacy Community of Practice Group
- ATSILS Coronial Inquest Community of Practice Group
- Driver's Licence Reform Working Group (convened by Community Legal WA)
- Equal Justice for WA Coalition (convened by Circle Green)

- Justice Policy Partnership Bail and Remand Working Group
- Justice Reinvestment Network Australia
- Juvenile Justice Stakeholder Roundtable (convened by the WA Attorney General)
- Law Access Stakeholder Advisory Committee
- Law Access Wills Pro Bono Engagement Steering Committee
- Legal Assistance Workforce Subcommittee
- NATSILS Law Reform and Justice Network
- Old Ways New Ways Stakeholder Liaison Committee
- Restraining Order Amendment Bill Stakeholder Working Group
- Social Reinvestment WA
- Social Reinvestment WA Law Reform Subcommittee.
- Superior Courts Criminal Practice Forum
- Superior Courts Case Management Working Group
- The Federal Human Rights Act Advisory Committee
- Youth Detention Practice Group
- WPD Scheme Governance Group and Operational Group
- Western Australia for a Human Rights Act Steering Committee





# ALSWA Staff Conference

**Novotel Langley Boorloo  
(Perth) 13 – 15 November 2024**



With twelve offices located throughout Western Australia, an all-of-staff conference, provides the perfect opportunity for ALSWA staff to get together, support each other and undertake professional development opportunities.

Specific training opportunities are tailor made to suit ALSWA's legal and administrative staff,

to ensure ongoing professional service delivery, throughout the state. This includes workshops delivered by staff and external stakeholders.

Cultural immersion also plays a large role in ALSWA conferences, with First Nations staff and guest speakers sharing their knowledge and experiences.



*ALSWA staff in Perth at the 2024 staff conference*







## ALSWA Staff Conference







## ALSWA Staff Conference







## ALSWA Staff Conference





During the ALSWA staff conference, ALSWA CEO Wayne Nannup was interviewed by the ABC for the following article.

ABC Article by Herlyn Kaur, Irene Ceranic and staff – Friday 15 November 2024

## Aboriginal Legal Service of WA says police arrest of teens at crime diversion program 'completely unacceptable'

An Indigenous leader in WA says participants in a program encouraging at-risk youth to stay away from crime were left "disturbed" when police arrived and arrested three teenagers in front of the group.

The boys have been charged with several aggravated burglary and stealing charges, and police say body-worn camera footage of the arrest showed calm, respectful interactions.

But Aboriginal Legal Service of WA chief Wayne Nannup said it was not the time or place.

An Indigenous leader in Western Australia claims at-risk children were left "traumatised" after police arrested three teenage boys while they were attending a program designed to keep them out of trouble.

Detectives attended the Wadjak Northside Aboriginal Community Centre in Perth's northern suburbs on Thursday and arrested three 16-year-old boys, charging them with a string of offences.

Aboriginal Legal Service of WA (ALSWA) chief executive Wayne Nannup claimed the arrests happened in front of children attending a session of a federal government-funded program aimed at steering kids away from the criminal justice system.

Mr Nannup told the ABC up to a dozen police officers arrived at the Old Ways New Ways meeting to arrest the three boys.

He said the incident was "disturbing" and had distressed and traumatised other participants and staff who were present.

"For me it's just completely unacceptable on all levels, when we are trying to put together a program that's going to assist community and take kids away from the [justice] system and we have to deal with this, it's just unbelievable," he said.

**” It was just very confronting for everybody, we’ve worked so hard as Aboriginal people to find alternative ways in supporting kids in community.**

Mr Nannup said police could have approached the matter in a different way.

"It takes a lot of work to get these kids' trust and now we've got to take three, four steps back again," he said.

### Boys charged with burglary

WA Police said on Friday morning they had charged three boys with a total of 20 offences following an investigation into burglaries across Perth in the past two months.

Two of the boys were charged with aggravated burglary and stealing a motor vehicle, and the third was charged with attempted aggravated home burglary.

### High-profile child researcher among those concerned about a lack of change in WA's youth detention system

A year ago, WA's youth detention system reached what was meant to be its lowest point — a child's death in custody. What has changed?

Police would not say how many officers attended, but said body-worn camera footage of the incident had been reviewed and "it is clear officers acted in a calm and professional manner".

**” All interactions appear respectful and the arrests were actioned without incident, a WA Police spokesperson said.**

"No formal complaint has been received in relation to this incident."

Mr Nannup said despite the alleged offences, the arrest of the boys at the meeting was not the time or place.







# Community Legal Education and Media

Community Legal Education (CLE) plays a vital role in ensuring that our communities have access to important legal information, that is delivered in a way that is easily understood.

The ALSWA model for CLE prioritises listening to community to learn what legal issues and unmet legal needs should be the focus of ALSWA's CLE. The model's aims are to empower individuals and communities through the sharing of legal knowledge in a Culturally appropriate way. There is a focus on community-led, plain language resources and the respectful sharing of legal knowledge to prevent avoidable contact with the justice system and to minimise legal problems.

In February 2025, ALSWA Senior Lawyer Hayley O'Hara took on the position of ALSWA CLE Officer. Hayley brings a fresh approach to the role and has extensive knowledge about the law and the importance of CLE, having previously worked in ALSWA's Criminal Law Unit, Civil and Human Rights Unit and as the former manager of ALSWA's Custody Notification Service (CNS).

The plan going forward is for CLE at ALSWA to continue to grow and compliment the work of other ALSWA units, by providing a wide range of legal information and resources which are relevant to our communities in the regions as well as in the metropolitan area.



*ALSWA's eye-catching legal information and promotional merchandise is a popular drawcard at community events*







## Aboriginal Legal Service of WA Ltd Community Legal Education

If you'd like ALSWA to take part in outreach or events and share information about the law, ALSWA services and your legal rights, **we'd love to hear from you!**

ALSWA provides **FREE** community legal education (CLE) on a range of topics and can cater to a diversity of groups, including communities, schools, legal firms, organisations and more.

Fines  
Infringements

Juveniles and  
the law

Working  
with  
Aboriginal  
clients

Bail and bail conditions  
Restraining Orders  
Sentencing and Orders  
Family Violence

Choose your  
own topic

ALSWA services:  
Family, Criminal, Civil & Programs

Police powers  
(arrest and search)

Right to silence



**Contact our CLE team for more information**

Phone (08) 9265 6666 or WA Freecall 1800 019 900  
or email [CLE@als.org.au](mailto:CLE@als.org.au)







ALSWA participated in numerous community events and promoted many important dates of significance for our people. Here's just a snapshot!



## Ochre Ribbon Event

**Kalgoorlie – February 2025**

The Ochre Ribbon campaign raises awareness of family and domestic violence in Aboriginal communities. In 2025, Aboriginal Family Legal Services commemorated its 10th anniversary and ALSWA was honoured to take part in this important event.

ALSWA's Leslie Slater, Kelsie Slater, Christie Penlington and Faith Piuk with representatives from Legal Aid, HOPE and AFLS.



## Ochre Ribbon Event

**Victoria Park – 14 February 2025**

ALSWA has been proud to take part in the Ochre Ribbon Event in recent years. This event is organised by the Aboriginal Family Legal Service and provides the ideal opportunity to show our support for such an important service, and let our community members know about ALSWA's work within the criminal justice system in WA.

Angela Crombie ALSWA Senior Policy Officer, Governance, Hayley O'Hara ALSWA CLE Officer and Georgia Nannup Trainee Court Officer set up a stall at the Perth Ochre Ribbon event



## Aboriginal Expo

**Lakelands Senior High School – 7 February**

ALSWA had a stall at Lakelands SHS, which provided the ideal opportunity to talk about legal rights, ALSWA services and employment opportunities in the legal sector.

L-R Andrew McCarrey (The Stephen Michael Foundation), Angela Crombie (ALSWA Senior Policy Officer, Governance), Kyra Collard (ALSWA Court Liaison Officer), Hayley O'Hara (ALSWA CLE Officer), Georgia Bennett (The Stephen Michael Foundation) and Darlene Summers (ALSWA Senior Court Officer)



ALSWA's Angela Crombie ALSWA Senior Policy Officer, Governance and Hayley O'Hara ALSWA CLE Officer with pictured with Darren, Steve, Imogen and Manuela from the Sheridan Institute

*Kelsie Slater Admin Assistant, Leslie Slater  
Senior Legal Secretary and Faith Piuk from  
ALSWA Kalgoorlie*

*L-R: Kylee Clune, Amber Casalino, Tianah McBride, Julie Waud, Angela Crombie, Renee Matters, Victoria Williams, Hayley O'Hara, Annie Wishart, Kelly Custodio, Belinda Albertini, Emily Heatlie, Jenna Cowie, Josephine Kennedy*

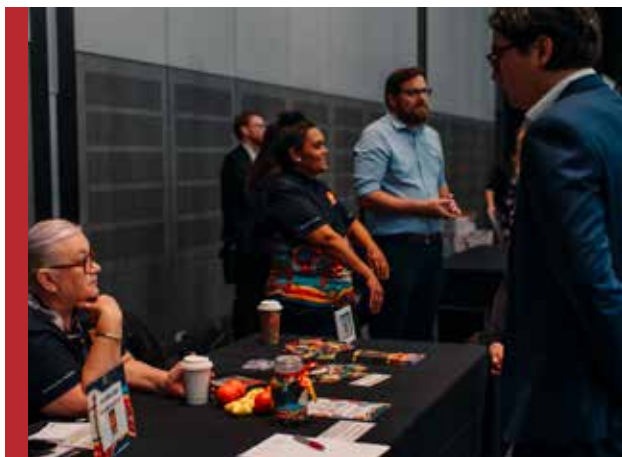




## Perth Law Careers Fair

**Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre - 5 May 2025**

ALSWA participates in this event annually and thanks the Blackstone Society for waiving the stall registration fee for ALSWA.



*Hayley O'Hara ALSWA CLE Officer and Angela Crombie ALSWA Senior Policy Officer, Governance*

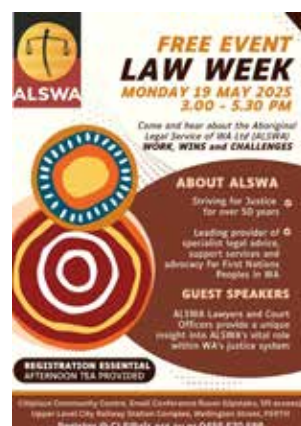
## Law Week Event Hosted by ALSWA

**Citiplace Community Centre, Perth – 19 May 2025**

ALSWA hosted a free event during Law Week (19 to 23 May), providing the opportunity for attendees to gain an insight into the vital role of ALSWA lawyers and court officers and the wins and challenges of striving for justice.



*ALSWA's Chloe Wood ALSWA Civil & Human Rights Unit Senior Managing Lawyer, Kiara Mondy ALSWA Civil & Human Rights Unit Lawyer and Julie Waud (on right) ALSWA Deputy Chief Executive Officer*



*ALSWA Senior Court Officer  
Darlene Summers*





## Law Week in Broome

**19th May 2025**

ALSWA staff joined with the Aboriginal Family Legal Service to set up a stall during Law Week in Broome. Law Week is an annual event organised by The Law Society of Western Australia.

ALSWA Broome: Pauline BinSali Senior Secretary, Ronald Bin Swani Court Officer, Jack Roberts Diversion Officer, Sherilee Lane Admin Assistant



## Walk for Justice

**Perth City Foreshore – 20 May 2025**

Each year, some of ALSWA's legal team participate in the Law Access Walk for Justice. This event celebrates the pro bono work of the legal profession and raises funds for Law Access, which is a charitable organisation that facilitates the giving of pro bono legal assistance to those who cannot afford a lawyer.

L-R: Lawyers from ALSWA's Civil & Human Rights Unit Giorgia Papalia, Kiara Mondy, Isabella Matson and Olivia Roberts at the annual Walk for Justice in Perth



## Sorry Day

**26 May 2025**

Hayley O'Hara ALSWA CLE Officer and Angela Crombie ALSWA Senior Policy Officer, Governance





## Community Connect

**Churchill Park Hall, Busselton – 28 May 2025**

ALSWA attended this event and held a stall and took part in a yarning circle. Events such as this are not only a great way to promote ALSWA services, but also to network with other service providers in the community.

*Angela Crombie ALSWA Senior Policy Officer, Governance and Stephen Goodall Equal Opportunity Commission Senior Aboriginal Education & Conciliation Officer*



## Hampton Senior High School Careers Expo

**26 June 2025**

Taking part in career days at high schools provides the perfect opportunity to let our young people know about their legal rights and also the job opportunities that are available for them once they finish school.

*Sofie Msenga ALSWA Secretary and Admin Support/Reception*



## NAIDOC Week

**Bob Blackburn Reserve,  
Seville Grove – 8 July 2025**

ALSWA welcomed the opportunity to set up a stall at the NAIDOC Festival held at Seville Grove during NAIDOC Week.

*Hayley O'Hara ALSWA CLE Officer and Lee Hayden ALSWA Bail Support Worker*





## NAIDOC Week

### Perth Children's Court – July 2025

ALSWA attended the Perth Children's Court to share in the celebrations of NAIDOC Week.

*L-R: Stephanie Monk, Cherokee Ugle, Emily Collard, Samantha Websdale, Magistrate (Kim) Farmer (former ALSWA lawyer) and Brooke Capelli (ALSWA Civil & Human Rights Unit Senior Lawyer)*



## NAIDOC Week

### Albany – 10 July 2025

ALSWA and Legal Aid Albany shared in the celebrations of NAIDOC Week, alongside The Great Southern Community Legal Service and PIVOT Services. Facilitated by ALSWA's Raymond Muir and Lucy Bourne from LAWA, the event featured talks and lunch.



*Lawyer Lillie Carney, Raymond Muir ALSWA Senior Court Officer and Georgia Herford Managing Lawyer ALSWA Albany pictured with Legal Aid WA and Great Southern Community Legal Services staff and the CEO of PIVOT Services, Dr. Moira Watson*





## NAIDOC Week

**Mirrabooka – 10 July 2025**

Always great NAIDOC celebrations at Mirrabooka. Here's some of the Old Ways New Ways staff on the tongs!

*Lee Hayden ALSWA Bail Support Worker and Georgia Nannup ALSWA Trainee Court Officer at NAIDOC Mirrabooka*



*Amandine Hamilton-Smith and Annashae Michael from Old Ways New Ways*



*Amandine Hamilton-Smith and Jess Flood from Old Ways New Ways*



*Jerome Garlett and Brooke Wren from Old Ways New Ways*



## Polly Farmer Foundation Follow the Dream Careers Expo

**Optus Stadium – 20 August 2025**

The Polly Farmer Foundation does amazing work and it's always great to share ALSWA career options and legal rights with our young people.

*L-R Hayley O'Hara ALSWA CLE Officer, Genna Blurton ALSWA Executive Assistant/Senior Court Officer, Courtney McGuire ALSWA Senior Secretary and Admin Officer and Angela Crombie ALSWA Senior Policy Officer/Governance*





L-R ALSWA's Lydia Taylor ALSWA Records Officer, Hayley O'Hara ALSWA CLE Officer, Angela Crombie ALSWA Senior Policy Officer, Governance and Jodi Hoffmann ALSWA Public Relations/Media Manager

## Perth NAIDOC Opening Ceremony

**Moort-ak-Waadiny (Wellington Square)**

**September 2025**

With Perth as the national Host City for NAIDOC Week this year, there were plenty of events taking place across Western Australia to share in the celebrations.

Due to weather considerations, the NAIDOC Perth Opening Ceremony took place in September, rather than July and ALSWA was on hand with a stall, providing legal information and promotional items.



## Boorloo Deadly Jobs Expo

**North Metropolitan TAFE East Perth Campus - August 2025**

ALSWA employs over 200 people throughout WA so it's always good to get the word out about the law and career pathways with our organisation.

Hayley O'Hara ALSWA CLE Officer and Kylee Clune ALSWA Manager, HR Employee Relations, Data and Secretarial/Admin Support







## Yamatji On-Country Event

**Bundiyarra Aboriginal Community Aboriginal Corporation – 10-11 September 2025**

It was a wonderful experience for ALSWA to participate in this event in Geraldton and share information about our work and services.



## Community Connect Event

**Kununurra**

Yovundhi Jayasekera and Ninka Parker are ALSWA's Civil & Human Rights Unit Outreach Lawyers for the East Kimberley region. They took part in the Ombudsman's Regional Awareness and Accessibility Program (RAAP) trip which provided the ideal opportunity to conduct community and stakeholder engagement in Kununurra, Warmun and Wyndham.

*Yovundhi Jayasekera and Ninka Parker, ALSWA Civil & Human Rights Unit Outreach Lawyers for the East Kimberley region.*







## ALSWA Outreach

### Regional WA

Outreach is another important area of ALSWA's work, ensuring that community members have access to justice, legal support and services, and community legal education in regional and remote WA.

*Yovela Tamba ALSWA Civil & Human Rights Unit at a Complaints Services Expo in Albany*



*Outreach in regional WA – ALSWA Civil & Human Rights Unit Lawyer Olivia Roberts near the WA/NT border and with ALSWA Civil & Human Rights Unit Managing Lawyer Chloe Wood at Mirima National Park in Kununurra*





## Law Matters

ALSWA's Law Matters national fortnightly radio program has now been on air for 15 years.

Broadcast live from the 100.9FM Noongar Radio studios in Boorloo (Perth), the program is repeated in WA through Waringarri Media in Kununurra, 6DBY Larrkardi Radio in Derby and nationally via the National Indigenous Radio Service (NIRS).

Guests over the past year include: National NAIDOC Elder of the Year Kim Collard, RUAH, Homelessness Australia CEO Kate Colvin, Australian Human Rights Commission Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Katie Kiss, hip-hop artist Flewnt, NT Children's Commissioner Shahleena

Musk, Aboriginal Interpreting WA CEO Deanne Lightfoot, AIWA Interpreters Gail Yorkshire and Curtis Taylor, 13YARN and 2025 NSW Aboriginal Woman of the Year Marjorie Anderson, Human Rights Watch Annabel Hennessey, Yokai Healing our Spirit Dr Jim Morrison, Australian Electoral Commission Director of Operations WA Jayde Perry, Law Society of WA CEO Kate Wellington, Kimberley Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation CEO Tania Bin Bakar, National Children's Commissioner Anne Hollonds and NATSILS General Manager Melissa Clarke.

ALSWA staff also feature regularly on the program to ensure that listeners are kept up to date with ALSWA news, services and law and justice issues in Western Australia.



Angela Crombie ALSWA Senior Policy Officer, Governance and Hayley O'Hara ALSWA CLE Officer



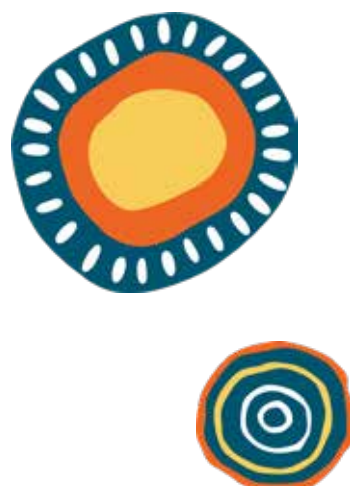
Jodi Hoffmann ALSWA Public Relations/Media Manager and producer/presenter of Law Matters



ALSWA CEO Wayne Nannup



Lydia Taylor ALSWA Records Officer







# LAW MATTERS

## NOONGAR RADIO 100.9FM



PRODUCED AND PRESENTED BY

**THE ABORIGINAL LEGAL SERVICE OF WA LIMITED**

**ALTERNATE WEDNESDAYS  
11.05am to 12.00 noon**

Repeated on the National Indigenous Radio Service



**LIVESTREAM THROUGH [WWW.NOONGARRADIO.COM](http://WWW.NOONGARRADIO.COM)**



TUNE IN TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS,  
HOW THE ABORIGINAL LEGAL SERVICE OF WA CAN ASSIST YOU,  
AND THE COMPLEX ISSUES FACING ABORIGINAL AND TORRES  
STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLES WITHIN THE JUSTICE SYSTEM.

LAW MATTERS — BROADCASTING SINCE 2010





## Lotterywest Grant

In late 2024, the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA Ltd moved into new premises in Carnarvon and commenced doing up the dated building.

Thanks to a Lotterywest grant, ALSWA was able to refurbish the office, providing a welcoming environment for community members to access services in Carnarvon and the Gascoyne region.

ALSWA CEO Wayne Nannup acknowledged that some of ALSWA's regional offices were quite old and in some instances, a little run down. He was pleased that the grant would provide fresh beginnings for the new office at 9 Hill Street.

"Our service delivery caters to some of this state's most disadvantaged and vulnerable peoples and to be able to provide a Culturally safe, welcoming and comfortable environment, means a lot to us" said Mr. Nannup.

ALSWA is extremely grateful for the support of Lotterywest, and acknowledges the important role that they play in delivering projects and initiatives that achieve outcomes for Western Australians.

THANK YOU Lotterywest and Peter Foster, MLC, Member for Mining & Pastoral Region, for your generosity!



The \$207,358.00 Grant was presented to ALSWA by Peter Foster, MLC, Member for Mining & Pastoral Region. Pictured L-R are Wayne Nannup ALSWA CEO, Julie Waud Deputy CEO, Peter Foster MLC, John Poroch ALSWA Chief Financial Officer and Robert Wilson ALSWA Operations Manager





# In Loving Memory of STEVEN CARTER



It's with great sadness and many fond memories that the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA Ltd (ALSWA) acknowledges the very sad passing of Steve Carter in December 2024.

Steve spent many years working with our organisation as a Senior Court Officer in Halls Creek and Fitzroy Crossing.

He was a lovable larrikin and one of the worlds' great characters, who always had a yarn and a laugh to share.

He was known for his big heart, cheeky smile and ever-present outback hat and was much loved and admired by all who knew him.

Steve was also a very effective advocate for his community and provided much valued Cultural information and guidance to the many ALSWA lawyers who worked with him over the years.

Steve Carter was one of a kind and we will miss him dearly.



# Chief Financial Officer

## John Poroch

The year ended 30 June 2025, was both significant and challenging from an operational and financial perspective. It marked the final year of the National Legal Assistance Partnership (NLAP) funding cycle, and from 1 July 2025 the commencement of the new National Access to Justice partnership funding agreement 2025 -2030.

Operationally the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia Limited (ALSWA) has increased to approx. 200 fulltime equivalent personnel enabling the delivery of more front-line services than ever before. During the year the head office at 7 Aberdeen Street Perth sustained substantial fire damage. This tested our disaster recovery systems and procedures and required the relocation of legal, administration and other supportive services to temporary premises and others where possible to work from home. Despite these changes and disruptions ALSWA continued to provide frontline and administrative services across 21 grants and service agreements with only minor interruptions.

I am pleased to report that for the year ended on 30 June 2025 the ALSWA has reported total comprehensive income of \$3,427,919 consisting of \$2,545,463 operational profit and \$882,456 increase in the fair value of land and buildings. Total revenue of \$35,026,020 being an increase of 47% over the previous year. The increase in revenue was mainly due to more services



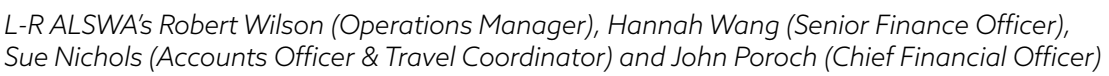
provided during the year, this also increased total expenses to approx. \$32,480,557 million the majority or approx. 74% was salary/wages and employee benefits.

The balance sheet has also improved with total net assets increasing by approx. 33% to \$13,872,159 and working capital has increased over the period by approx. \$2 million to \$7,501,678, a current asset to current liability ratio of 1.38:1. This will continue to be the platform to carry and expand operations forward.

The Company remains committed to delivering culturally appropriate high-quality legal and supportive services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people throughout Western Australia.

I would like to acknowledge the dedication of the staff of the ALSWA who with limited budget and challenging workloads continue to work tirelessly for the benefit of our clients.







**ABORIGINAL LEGAL SERVICE OF WA LTD**

ACN: 617 555 843

# Financial Report 2025

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## Directors' Report

In respect of the financial report of the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia Limited ("ALSWA" or "the company") of the financial year ended 30 June 2025.

### 1. Responsible Directors

The following persons were directors of the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia during the financial year:

- Mr Michael Blurton
- Ms Kathy Watson
- Mr Preston Thomas
- Mr Donald Abdullah
- Mr Paul Baron
- Ms Selina King
- Mr Murray Jones

### 2. Directors' details

**Michael Blurton** was appointed a Co-Opted director on 18 November 2021. He previously served for 5 years as an Initial Elected Director and Chairman on registration of the Company as a public company limited by guarantee on 10 March 2017 and as an Executive Committee member for 13 years. He is a Ballardong Noongar man from the wheat belt town of Quairading. His involvement with the organisation spans back to the 1970s when he worked as a field/court officer. Michael supports and promotes the vital role that the Company plays in striving for justice and support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within the legal justice system.

**Kathy Watson** was appointed as an Initial Elected Director on registration of the Company as a public company limited by guarantee on 10 March 2017 and was re-elected on 18 November 2021. She had previously been an Executive Committee Member since 2011. Kathy is from Broome in the west Kimberley. She is passionate about legal issues for our community, she would like to see more cultural input into court matters, particularly within court districts.

**Preston Thomas** was appointed as an Initial Elected Director on registration of the Company as a public company limited by guarantee on 10 March 2017 and was re-elected on 18 November 2021 as the Chairman of the Board. He previously has been a member of the Executive Committee since 2006. He is from Laverton and has lived in Kanpa Community for over 20 years. Preston has also had a long affiliation with the organisation. Preston is deeply committed to the issues facing our people and will support the vital work

undertaken by the Company for the benefit of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

**Donald Abdullah** was appointed as an Initial Elected Director on registration of the company as a public company limited by guarantee on 10 March 2017 and was re-elected on 21 November 2019. He previously had been an Executive Committee member since 2015. He is a Wongi man from Esperance on the south east coast of Western Australia. Donald is dedicated to supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and feels strongly about keeping our young people out of prison. He is also supportive of women who face domestic violence and providing guidance on legal matters.

**Paul Baron** was elected as a director on 18 November 2021. He has previously served as a Co-Opted Director for 5 years on the registration of the Company as a public company limited by guarantee on 10 March 2017 and prior to this as a long standing Executive Committee member. He is a Yamatji man from Carnarvon.

**Selina King** was appointed on 16 November 2023. She lives in Broome, her mother is Karrijam and father is Nyikina. She will be eligible for election as an elected director at the next annual general meeting.

**Murray Jones** Was appointed as a Co-Opted director on 16 November 2023. He brings a wealth of experience in Aboriginal management and engagement that underscores his commitment to fostering collaboration and development. Mr. Jones has demonstrated expertise in external relations, mining, civil, and construction. His unique skill set enables him to bridge cultural gaps and empower individuals across local, urban, and remote indigenous communities. He was the inaugural chairperson for the Southwest Land and Sea Council. He has worked in remote areas, spearheading projects aimed at developing life skills, work readiness, and employment opportunities for indigenous youth and adults. Mr. Jones played a pivotal role in the Noongar native title claim win in 2002.

### 3. Principal Activities

ALSWA is a public company incorporated under the *Corporations Act 2001*.

The principal activity is to provide legal service to disadvantaged and under-privileged Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People of Western Australia.

### 4. Results

The Company's total comprehensive income for the year was \$3,427,919 (2024: \$542,787)





## 5. Review of Operations

The Company's revenue for the year ended 30 June 2025 was \$35,026,020 (2024: \$24,149,066), a 45.04% increase over the previous year.

## 6. Change in State of Affairs

During the year ALSWA entered into the Criminal Law Impairment Funding agreement.

## 7. Contribution in Winding Up

The Company is incorporated under the *Corporations Act 2001* as a public company limited by guarantee. If the Company is wound up, the constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$10 each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the Company. As at 30 June 2025, the total amount that members of the Company are liable to contribute if the Company is wound up is \$1,270 (2024: \$1,230).

## 8. Future Developments

The Company plans to continue with its principal activities as noted above in the foreseeable future.

## 9. Insurance of Officers

During the financial year the Company paid a premium of \$24,591 to insure the directors, secretary and officers of the Company. The liabilities insured are the legal and ancillary costs that may be incurred in defending civil or criminal proceedings that may be brought against the officers in the capacity as officers of the Company. During the year the company has been required to lodge claims to recover expenses in relation to court and consultant fees.

## 10. Events Subsequent to Balance Date

ALSWA offices at 7 Aberdeen Street, Perth Western Australia was significantly damaged by fire. An insurance claim has been lodged for the damage sustained by the fire. It is anticipated that a settlement of approx. \$958,000 will be reached with the insurance company.

Other than this no other matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2025 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect:

- (a) The Company's operations in future financial years
- (b) The results of those operations in future years
- (c) The Company's state of affairs in future financial years.

## 11. Directors' Meetings

The number of meetings of directors held during the year and the number of meetings attended by each director is as follows:

	No. meetings entitled to attend	No. meetings attended
Michael Blurton	4	4
Kathy Watson	4	4
Preston Thomas	4	4
Paul Baron	4	4
Donald Abdullah	4	4
Selina King	4	4
Murray Jones	4	4

## 12: Environmental Regulations

The Company complies with the Environmental Protection Act 1996. It has not contravened any of its regulations during the financial year.

## 13. Independent Auditor's Independence Declaration

The lead auditor's independence statement is set out on page 3 and forms part of the directors' report for the year ended 30 June 2025.

This report is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board.

Chairman  
Perth, Western Australia  
Date: 19 September 2025





## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ABORIGINAL LEGAL SERVICE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA LIMITED

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia Limited ("the Company"), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025, the statement of net surplus and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion:

- a. the accompanying financial report of the Company is in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:
  - (i) giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2025 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
  - (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards and *Corporations Regulations 2001*.

#### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report is free from material misstatement. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's *APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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





To the Members of Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia Limited (Continued)



## Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members of Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia Limited (Continued)

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Company to express an opinion on the financial report. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the Company audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide the directors with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.



To the Members of Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia Limited (Continued)

Hall Chadwick.

A. H. H. H.





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**Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2025**

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	<b>Note</b>	<b>2025</b> \$	<b>2024</b> \$
<b>Revenue</b>	2	35,026,020	24,149,066
Depreciation and amortisation expenses		1,152,938	763,981
Electricity & gas expense		118,886	62,388
Employee benefits expense		24,077,472	18,165,799
Information Technology		433,015	144,979
Impairment expense/(increment)		(63,740)	(121,498)
Interest expense		87,059	41,631
Library resources		173,129	170,757
Loss on disposal		58,493	45,460
Office expenses		404,876	42,320
Other expenditure		3,426,571	1,708,425
Property expenses		250,026	234,699
Rent		537,492	783,094
Lease expenses		307,300	351,700
Telephone & internet		187,742	163,868
Training		272,242	63,119
Travel & accommodation		1,057,058	985,557
Profit/(loss) before income tax		2,545,463	542,787
Income tax		-	-
Profit/(loss) after income tax attributable to the members of ALSWA		2,545,463	542,787
Other comprehensive income			
Fair value movement land and buildings		882,456	-
Income tax relating to components of other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the period		3,427,919	542,787

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



**Statement of Financial Position**  
**As at 30 June 2025**

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
		\$	\$
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	23,298,617	18,979,043
Other financial assets	6	2,981,012	2,897,272
Receivables	7	791,074	998,840
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<u>27,070,703</u>	<u>22,875,155</u>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	8	7,404,359	5,379,684
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<u>7,404,359</u>	<u>5,379,684</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<u>34,475,062</u>	<u>28,254,839</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Accounts Payables	9	2,098,000	910,162
Provisions	10	5,591,019	4,575,727
Unexpended grants	11	11,382,874	11,298,953
Lease liabilities	12	497,132	566,531
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<u>19,569,025</u>	<u>17,351,373</u>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>			
Provisions	13	181,874	293,696
Lease liabilities	14	852,004	165,570
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<u>1,033,878</u>	<u>459,266</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<u>20,602,903</u>	<u>17,810,639</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u>13,872,159</u>	<u>10,444,200</u>
<b>Equity</b>			
Members funds	15	1,270	1,230
Retained earnings		9,188,178	6,642,715
Asset revaluation reserve	8(a)	2,120,584	1,238,128
Discretionary reserves	16	2,562,127	2,562,127
<b>Total Equity</b>		<u>13,872,159</u>	<u>10,444,200</u>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



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**Statement of Changes in Equity**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2025**

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	<b>Note</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
		<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Retained earnings</b>			
Balance at the beginning of the financial year		6,642,715	6,099,928
Profit/(loss) after tax for the year		<u>2,545,463</u>	<u>542,787</u>
Balance at the end of the financial year		<u>9,188,178</u>	<u>6,642,715</u>
<b>Discretionary reserves</b>			
Balance at the beginning of the financial year		<u>2,562,127</u>	<u>2,562,127</u>
Balance at the end of the financial year	16	<u>2,562,127</u>	<u>2,562,127</u>
<b>Members contribution</b>			
Balance at the beginning of the financial year		1,230	1,220
Additional members contribution for the year		<u>40</u>	<u>10</u>
	15	<u>1,270</u>	<u>1,230</u>
<b>Asset revaluation reserve</b>			
Balance at the beginning of the financial year		1,238,128	1,238,128
Increase in asset value		<u>882,456</u>	<u>-</u>
Balance at the end of the financial year	8(a)	<u>2,120,584</u>	<u>1,238,128</u>
Total equity at the end of the financial year		<u>13,872,159</u>	<u>10,444,200</u>

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.





**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2025**

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2025</u> \$	<u>2024</u> \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Grants received		36,575,777	27,092,535
Payments to suppliers and employees		(32,575,073)	(25,828,306)
Interest received		1,044,094	844,591
Interest paid		(87,059)	(41,631)
Rent received		106,139	70,405
Sundry income		916,975	570,286
<b>Net cash provided by operating activities</b>	21	5,980,853	2,707,880
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Payment for the purchase of property, plant & Equipment		(848,814)	(1,155,995)
Proceeds from sale of assets		-	25,308
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		(848,814)	(1,130,687)
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Repayment lease liability		(812,505)	(443,378)
Members contribution		40	10
<b>Net cash used in financing activities</b>		(812,465)	(443,368)
<b>Net increase in cash and cash equivalents held</b>		4,319,574	1,133,825
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the financial year		18,979,043	17,845,218
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial year</b>	5	23,298,617	18,979,043

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.



## 1. Summary of significant accounting policies

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, Australian Accounting Standards including Australian Accounting Interpretation and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board.

The financial report covers the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia Limited (the "Company"). The Company is a not for profit company incorporated and domiciled in Western Australia.

The following summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the Company in the presentation of the financial report, and have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

### (a) Basis of Preparation

The accounting policies set out below have been consistently applied to all years presented.

#### *Reporting Basis and Convention*

The financial report has been prepared on an accrual basis and under the historical cost convention and does not take in account current valuations of non-current assets, except for land and buildings that are measured at revalued amounts or fair value as explained in accounting policy 1(k) below.

#### *Going Concern*

The financial report has been prepared on a going concern basis.

The Company is dependent upon the ongoing receipt of Commonwealth Government grants (Commonwealth Department of Attorney General) and community and corporate donations to ensure the ongoing continuance of its programs. At the date of this report, the directors have no reason to believe that this financial support will not continue. The directors believe that the company has implemented appropriate operational policy and secured its cashflow and is a going concern.

### (b) Foreign currency translation

#### *(i) Functional and presentation currency*

Items included in the financial statements of the company are measured using the currency of the Primary economic environment in which the Company operates ("the functional currency").

The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars which is the Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia's functional and presentation currency.

### (c) Revenue recognition

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable. The Company recognises revenue when; the amount can be reliably measured; the Collection is probable and when criteria for each of the Company's different activities have been met and described as follows:

#### *(i) Government grants*

A number of the Company's activities are supported by grants received from federal, state and local governments or agencies. Grants are recognised on a systematic basis over the period in which the Company recognises as expenses the related costs or which the grants are intended to compensate. Specifically, the wage subsidy received under the Job Keeper Scheme are presented as other income in the profit and loss.

If conditions are attached to a grant, which must be satisfied before the Company is eligible to receive the contribution, recognition of the grant as revenue is deferred until those conditions are satisfied.

Where a grant is received on the condition that specified services are delivered to the grantor, this is considered a reciprocal transaction. Revenue is recognised as services performed and at year-end a liability is recognised until the service is delivered.

Where a grant is required to be repaid if certain conditions are not satisfied, a liability is recognised at year-end to the extent that conditions remain unsatisfied.

#### *(ii) Sale of goods*

A sale is recorded when goods have been despatched to a customer and associated risks have passed to the carrier or customer.

#### *(iii) Provision of services*

Revenue from the provision of services is recognised in the period in which the customer obtains the benefit of the service.

#### *(iv) Gifts and donations*

Gifts and donations are recognised at their fair value when the Company obtains control, economic benefits are probable and the amount of the donation can be reliably measured.

#### *(v) Interest income*

Interest income is recognised on an accrual basis using the effective interest method.



## 1. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

### (v) Dividend income

Dividend income from investments is recognised when the shareholder's right to receive payment has been established (provided that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the Company and the amount of income can be reliably measured).

### (d) Operating expenses

Operating expenses including expenses relating to the grants, are recognised on an accrual basis.

### (e) Income Tax

The Company is exempt from paying income tax under Div.50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

### (f) Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Tax Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis, except for the GST components of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

### (g) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value, and bank overdrafts.

### (h) Trade and other receivables

Trade receivables are recognised at original invoice value and subsequently measured at amortised cost, less provision for doubtful debts. Trade receivables are generally settled in 30-60 days.

Collectability of trade receivables is reviewed on an ongoing basis. Debts that are known to be uncollectible are written off. A provision for doubtful receivables is established when there is objective evidence that the Company will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of receivables.

### (i) Financial assets

Financial assets are classified into the following specified categories: financial assets 'at fair value through profit or loss' (FVTPL), 'held-to-maturity' investments, 'available-for-sale' (AFS) financial assets and 'loans and receivables'. The classification depends on the nature and purpose of the financial assets and is determined at the time of initial recognition. All regular way purchases or sales of financial assets are recognised and derecognised on a trade date basis. Regular way purchases or sales are purchases or sales of financial assets that require delivery of assets within the time frame established by regulation or convention in the marketplace.

#### *Financial assets at FVTPL*

Financial assets are classified as at FVTPL when the financial asset is (i) contingent consideration that may be paid by an acquirer as part of a business combination to which IFRS 3 applies, (ii) held for trading, or (iii) it is designated as at FVTPL.

A financial asset is classified as held for trading if:

- it has been acquired principally for the purpose of selling it in the near term; or
- on initial recognition it is part of a portfolio of identified financial instruments that the Group manages together and has a recent actual pattern of short-term profit-taking; or
- it is a derivative that is not designated and effective as a hedging instrument.

Financial assets at FVTPL are stated at fair value, with any gains or losses arising on re-measurement recognised in profit or loss. The net gain or loss recognised in profit or loss incorporates any dividend or interest earned on the financial asset and is included in the 'other gains and losses' line item.

### (j) Property, Plant and equipment

#### *(i) Revaluation Basis*

Land held for use in production or administration is stated at re-valued amounts. Re-valued amounts are fair market values based on appraisals prepared by external professional valuers' once every three years or more frequently if market factors indicate a material change in

fair value. The last external valuation date for each property is set out in Note 8.

Any revaluation surplus arising upon appraisal of land is recognised in other comprehensive income and credited to the revaluation reserve in equity. To the extent that any revaluation decreases or impairment loss has previously





## 1. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

been recognised in profit or loss, a revaluation increase is credited to profit or loss with the remaining part of the

increase recognised in other comprehensive income.

Downward revaluations of land are recognised upon appraisal or impairment testing with the decrease being charged to other comprehensive income to the extent of any revaluation surplus in equity relating to this asset and any remaining decrease recognised in profit or loss. Any revaluation surplus remaining in equity on disposal of the asset is transferred to retained earnings.

As no finite useful life for land can be determined, related carrying amounts are not depreciated.

### (ii) Cost basis

All other property, plant and equipment are stated at historical cost less depreciation. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the items.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the Company and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the income statement during the financial period in which they are incurred.

The depreciable amounts of all fixed assets, other than freehold land, are depreciated over their estimated useful lives using the straight-line method.

Leasehold improvements are amortised over the unexpired period of the lease or the lease or the useful life, whichever is the shorter.

The following estimate of useful lives has been applied:

- Buildings: 25 years
- Furniture & fittings: 5 years
- Improvement residential properties: 5 years
- Motor vehicles: 4 years
- Capital & leasehold improvements: 4 years
- Computer equipment: 3 years

The asset's residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each balance sheet date.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with carrying amount. These are included in the income statement. When revalued assets are sold, it is the Company's policy to transfer the amounts included in other reserves in respect of those assets to retained earnings.

The amount of the provision is the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated cash flows, discounted at the effective interest rate. The amount of the provision is recognised in the income statement.

### (iii) Low value asset capitalization

Low value asset items costing less than \$2,000 are expensed immediately.

## (k) Impairment of assets

At each reporting date, the Company reviews the carrying value of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and the value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the income statement.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable value of an individual asset, the group estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

## (l) Trade and other payables

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Company prior to the end of financial year which are unpaid. These amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 – 60 days of recognition. These are presented as current liabilities unless payment is not due within 12 months after the reporting period.

## (m) Borrowings

Borrowings are initially recognised at fair value, net of transactions costs incurred. Borrowings are subsequently measured at amortised cost. Any difference between the proceeds (net of transaction costs) and the redemption amount is recognised in the income statement over the

period of the borrowings using the effective interest method.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the Company has an unconditional right to defer settlement



## 1. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

of the liability for at least 12 months after the balance sheet date.

### (n) Employee benefits

#### (i) Wages and salaries and annual leave

Liabilities for wages and salaries, including non-monetary benefits expected to be settled within 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in other payables in respect of employees' services up to the reporting date and are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled.

Annual leave expected to be settled within the 12 months of the reporting date are recognised in current liabilities as a provision.

#### (ii) Long service leave and sick leave

The liability for long service and sick leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits and measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service. Expected future payments are estimates of the probability of payout based on length of employee service and past historic trends.

#### (iii) Retirement benefit obligations

Contributions to the defined contribution fund are recognised as an expense as they become payable. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that a cash refund or a reduction in the future payments is available.

Liabilities recognised for salaries and wages are recognised in payables. Unpaid liabilities recognised for annual leave, long service leave and sick leave entitlement are recognised in provisions.

### (o) Provisions, contingent liabilities and contingent assets

Provisions are measured at the estimated expenditure required to settle the present obligation, based on the most reliable evidence available at the reporting date, including the risks and uncertainties associated with the present obligation. Where there are a number of similar obligations, the likelihood that an outflow will be required in settlement is determined by considering the class of obligations as a whole. Provisions are discounted to their present values, where the time value of money is material.

Any reimbursement that the Company can be virtually certain to collect from a third party with respect to the

obligation is recognised as a separate asset. However, this asset may not exceed the amount of the related provision.

No liability is recognised if an outflow of economic resources as a result of present obligation is not probable. Such situations are disclosed as contingent liabilities, unless the outflow of resources is remote in which case no liability is recognised.

### (p) Unexpended grants – deferred income

The liability for deferred income is the unutilised amounts of grants received on the condition that specified services are delivered on conditions are fulfilled. The services are usually provided or the conditions usually fulfilled within twelve (12) months of receipt of the grant. Where the amount received is in respect of services to be provided over a period that exceeds twelve (12) months after the reporting date or the conditions will only be satisfied more than twelve (12) months after the reporting date, the liability is discounted and presented as a non-current liability.

### (q) Critical accounting estimates and judgements

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that may have a financial impact on the Company and that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The Company makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are discussed below.

#### (i) Estimated useful life of property, plant & equipment

Management determines the estimated useful life of depreciable assets, based on the expected useful life of the asset and this could change significantly as a result of technical innovations. Management will increase the depreciation charge where useful lives are less than previously estimated. Technically obsolete or non-strategic assets that have been abandoned or disposed of will be written down or written off.

#### (ii) Impairment

The Company assesses impairment at each reporting date by evaluating conditions specific to the Company that may lead to impairment of assets. Where an impairment

trigger exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is determined. Value-in-use calculations performed in



## 1. Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

assessing recoverable amounts incorporate a number of key estimates.

The Company applies the revaluation model to measure its land and buildings. This requires that the fair value of the asset be assessed on a regular basis. Independent external property valuers are engaged every 3 years or sooner if required to assess the fair value.

### (iii) Long service leave and sick leave entitlements

The measurement of the provision for long service leave and sick leave entitlements require that the Company

make an estimate of the payout likely to occur in the future. Management applies a probability factor to the

likelihood of a payout based on the length of service and past historic trends of employees continuing employment.

### (r) Right-of-use asset and lease liability

#### *Right-of-use assets*

ALSWA assesses whether a contract is or contains a lease, at inception of the contract. ALSWA recognises a right-of-use asset and a corresponding lease liability (refer notes 12 and 14) with respect to all lease arrangements in which it is the lessee, except for short-term leases (where the lease term is 12 months or less) and leases of low value assets (such as personal IT equipment). For these leases, ALSWA recognises the lease payments as an operating expense on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease unless another systematic basis is more representative of the time pattern in which economic benefits from the leased assets are consumed.

The right-of-use assets comprise the initial measurement of the corresponding lease liability, lease payments made at or before the commencement day, less any lease incentives received and any initial direct costs. They are subsequently measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Right-of-use assets are depreciated over the shorter period of lease term and useful life of the underlying asset (refer below). The depreciation starts at the commencement date of the lease.

ALSWA has elected to adopt the practical expedient permitting a lessee not to separate non-lease components, and instead account for any lease and associated non-lease components as a single arrangement.

#### *Lease liabilities*

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments that are not paid at the commencement date, discounted by using the rate implicit in the lease. If this rate cannot be readily determined, ALSWA uses its incremental borrowing rate.

The lease liability is subsequently measured by increasing the carrying amount to reflect interest on the lease liability (using the effective interest method) and by reducing the carrying amount to reflect the lease payments made.

ALSWA remeasures the lease liability (and makes a corresponding adjustment to the related right-of-use asset) whenever changes are made to:

- The lease term or there is a significant event or change in circumstances resulting in a change.
- The assessment of exercise of a purchase option
- The lease payments due to changes in an index or rate
- The lease contract such that the modification is not accounted for as a separate lease.

ALSWA did not make any such adjustments during the periods presented.

Refer to note 21(a) for a reconciliation of interest bearing liabilities to financing cash flows.

### (s) New Accounting Standards issued

The Company has adopted all new and revised standards and interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board that are relevant to its operations and effective for an accounting period that begins on or after 1 July 2022.

Any new or amended accounting standards or interpretations that are not set mandatory have not been early adopted. The adoption of these accounting standards and interpretations did not have any significant impact to the financial performance or position of the Company.





## 2. Revenue

### Note

2025

2024

\$

\$

### Income

Grant income:

National Legal Assistance Partnership	17,898,631	14,340,197
Youth Justice grant	454,474	393,850
Custody Notification Service grant	2,086,055	1,592,638
Bail remain and prison in-reach services	1,641,634	1,496,186
Work Development Permit Scheme grant	296,406	324,006
Youth Engagement Program Kimberley	425,122	361,442
FDV Hope community grant	84,185	77,961
Mental Health Conditions	1,763,208	1,278,042
Workplace Sexual Harassment grant	179,569	11,658
Coronial Inquiry and Complex Expensive Cases funding	353,811	367,289
Justice Policy Partnership	185,239	94,017
Youth Engagement Extension	909,606	813,143
Vulnerable Women's funding	906,697	650,428
FDV Hope community Grant Armadale Hub	112,496	55,188
Therapeutic Children's Court Pilot	673,150	428,099
Coronial Inquiry funding	332,925	106,967
Disaster Flood Recovery Kimberley funding	131,619	1,544
Community Wellbeing Service	97,945	2,055
Old Ways New Ways grant	2,336,459	5,897
Criminal Mental Health Conditions	16,460	-
Legal Contribution Trust	1,689,277	-
Western Australian State Government	250,000	-
Lotterywest	178,364	-
	<u>33,003,332</u>	<u>22,400,607</u>

### Other income

Rental income	92,130	82,152
Recovery of costs	674,636	480,310
Interest	981,428	915,033
Dividends	173,570	129,293
Other	100,924	141,671
	<u>2,022,688</u>	<u>1,748,459</u>
	<u>35,026,020</u>	<u>24,149,066</u>

## 3. Auditor's remuneration

Remuneration for audit of the financial reports of the Company

Hall Chadwick Audit Pty Ltd	23,860	31,144
Total remuneration	<u>23,860</u>	<u>31,144</u>

## 4. Directors' remuneration

Income paid or payable, or otherwise made available, to directors by the Company and related parties in connection with the management of the affairs of the Company

Short term employee benefits	104,583	84,064
Post-employment benefits	12,027	9,247
	<u>116,610</u>	<u>93,311</u>



#### 5. Current assets - Cash and cash equivalents

	<b>Note</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
		\$	\$
Cash at bank and on hand		3,623,928	3,136,575
Term deposits	(i)	19,674,689	15,842,468
		<u>23,298,617</u>	<u>18,979,043</u>

(i) Term Deposits

The term deposits are bearing interest at a rate of 4.75% (2024- 4.75%)

#### 6. Current assets - Other financial assets

Financial assets carried at fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL).		<u>2,981,012</u>	<u>2,897,272</u>
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Investment at call with the Indigenous prosperity funds managed by  
Indigenous Business Australia - Commonwealth Government of Australia

#### 7. Current assets - Receivables

Trade Debtors and accrued income		240,362	548,160
Security Bonds		94,549	51,715
		<u>334,911</u>	<u>599,875</u>
Prepayments		456,163	398,965
		<u>791,074</u>	<u>998,840</u>

#### 8. Non-current assets property, plant & equipment

Freehold land & buildings at fair value	(i)	5,020,000	5,235,800
Less: Accumulated depreciation		-	(1,006,309)
		<u>5,020,000</u>	<u>4,229,491</u>

Leasehold improvements at cost		558,468	605,833
Less: Accumulated depreciation		(401,451)	(439,471)
		<u>157,017</u>	<u>166,362</u>

Plant & equipment at cost		1,629,760	1,351,992
Less: Accumulated depreciation		(713,994)	(1,057,607)
		<u>915,766</u>	<u>294,385</u>

Right of use assets		2,329,770	1,649,925
Less: Accumulated amortisation		(1,018,194)	(960,479)
		<u>1,311,576</u>	<u>689,446</u>
Total property, plant & equipment		<u>7,404,359</u>	<u>5,379,684</u>

Notes to the financial statements



	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
	\$	\$
(a) Asset revaluation reserve		
Opening balance	1,238,128	1,238,128
Add valuation increment	882,456	-
Closing balance	<u>2,120,584</u>	<u>1,238,128</u>

(i) Land held for use in production or administration is stated at re-valued amounts. Re-valued amounts are fair market values based on appraisals prepared by external professional valuers' once every three years or more frequently if market factors indicate a material change in fair value. The last external valuation date was as at 30 June 2025.

#### Reconciliations

Reconciliations of the carrying amounts of each class of property, plant and equipment at the beginning and the end of the current financial year are set out below.

	Freehold land & Buildings \$	Leasehold Improvements \$	Plant & Equipment \$	Right of Use Assets \$	Total \$
Carrying amount at 30 June 2023	3,486,924	242,722	161,780	720,671	4,612,097
Additions	877,224	7,403	203,563	443,378	1,531,568
Disposals	-	-	-	(290,239)	(290,239)
Depreciation expense	(134,657)	(83,763)	(70,958)	(474,603)	(763,981)
Depreciation on disposals	-	-	-	290,239	290,239
Carrying amount at 30 June 2024	<u>4,229,491</u>	<u>166,362</u>	<u>294,385</u>	<u>689,446</u>	<u>5,379,684</u>
Additions	88,830	107,279	754,042	1,429,541	2,379,692
Disposals	(40,664)	(116,943)	(605,456)	(749,696)	(1,512,759)
Depreciation expense	(160,776)	(91,948)	(92,796)	(807,418)	(1,152,938)
Depreciation on disposals	40,663	92,267	565,591	749,703	1,448,224
Revaluation increment	862,456	-	-	-	862,456
Carrying amount at 30 June 2025	<u>5,020,000</u>	<u>157,017</u>	<u>915,766</u>	<u>1,311,576</u>	<u>7,404,359</u>



**9. Current Liabilities - Accounts payable**

	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
Unsecured		
Accrued expenses	73,799	549,966
Taxes payable	184,172	133,545
Credit cards	63,408	42,512
Superannuation payable	344,125	70,047
Other payables	1,432,496	114,092
	<u>2,098,000</u>	<u>910,162</u>

**10. Current Liabilities - Provisions**

Employee Entitlements		
Annual Leave	2,764,848	2,206,282
Long Service Leave	1,875,102	1,555,613
Sick Leave	951,069	813,832
	<u>5,591,019</u>	<u>4,575,727</u>

**11. Current Liabilities - Unexpended grant**

National Legal Assistance Partnership	920,359	2,439,988
Youth Justice Program	87,505	66,180
Custody Notification Service Grant	93,885	152,178
Bail support & prison in-reach services	520,176	452,548
Work Development Permit Scheme grant	453,089	135,710
Youth Engagement Project - West Kimberley	201,128	171,435
Disability Legal Advice Service	154,565	154,565
FDV Hope Community Grant Kalgoorlie Hub	205,604	289,788
Employee of the year grant	5,000	5,000
Kids out of detention	3,968	3,968
Bike rescue grant	2,758	2,758
Mental Health Conditions Grant	279,230	1,004,490
Coronial Inquiry and Complex and Expensive Case Grant	1,659,973	1,211,786
Workplace Sexual Harassment Grant	422,610	447,629
Vulnerable Women's Funding	1,061,147	950,192
Youth Engagement Expansion Grant	737,486	1,117,092
Therapeutic Pilot Children's Court Gant	576,208	516,920
FDV Hope Community Grant Armadale Hub	42,800	58,162
Coronial Inquiry Funding Grant	2,160,108	1,453,033
Disaster Recovery Kimberley Floods	466,248	291,102
Old Ways New Ways Program	937,660	183,436
Criminal Law Mental Impairment Grant	238,315	-
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (NSW)	124,058	-
Lotterywest	28,994	-
Justice Policy Partnership Grant	-	93,048
Community Wellbeing Service Grant	-	97,945
	<u>11,382,874</u>	<u>11,298,953</u>

Notes to the financial statements



	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
	\$	\$
<b>12. Current Liabilities - Interest bearing liabilities</b>		
Unsecured		
Lease liabilities	<u>497,132</u>	<u>566,531</u>
<b>13. Non-Current Liabilities - Provisions</b>		
Employee Entitlements		
Long service leave	<u>181,874</u>	<u>293,696</u>
<b>14. Non-Current Liabilities - Interest bearing liabilities</b>		
Lease liabilities	<u>852,004</u>	<u>165,570</u>
<b>15. Members funds</b>		
Opening balance	1,230	1,220
Increase	<u>40</u>	<u>10</u>
Closing balance	<u>1,270</u>	<u>1230</u>
<b>16. Discretionary Reserves</b>		
Residential Property Reserve	83,873	83,873
Long Service Leave Reserve	672,000	672,000
Asset Replacement Reserve	520,077	520,077
Kalgoorlie Property Reserve	392,037	392,037
Special Projects Reserve	55,396	55,396
Contract Reserve	<u>838,744</u>	<u>838,744</u>
Closing balance	<u>2,562,127</u>	<u>2,562,127</u>

- (i) Residential property reserve is for the repairs and maintenance and improvement of residential properties owned by the Company and which are caveated by the Attorney General department for specific purpose. The reserve increases annually from rents received and decreases as expenses are incurred.
- (ii) Long service leave reserve declares the reserves required by the Company to satisfy current employee entitlement liability.
- (iii) Asset replacement reserve is used to offset future capital purchase requirements that may arise.
- (iv) Kalgoorlie property reserve recognises the probability of the development of a future building on the Company's freehold land in Kalgoorlie.



- (v) Special projects reserve is created from non-Attorney General Department surplus funds to be used for special projects in the future.
- (vi) Contract reserve being the surplus retained from "Legal Services Contract Tenders" 2004 to 2011 identified and preserved for future projects.

Reserves are created by prudential financial decision making by the executive committee and senior management and reflect the planned use of accumulated funds. Funds will be released back to retained earnings should the need no longer exist.

#### **17. Contract reserve**

The Company was a party to a contract, on a fee for service basis, with the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department, for the provision of legal services during the period 2004 to 2011. Surplus funds were retained following the successful delivery of the agreed services. A contract reserve within the discretionary reserves has been established to identify and preserve the funds earned by the Company – Note 16 (vi)

#### **18. Commitments for expenditure**

There is no capital expenditure contracted for at the end of the reporting period (2024: Nil).

#### **19. Financial risk management and policies**

The Company's principal financial instruments comprise cash and short-term deposits, receivables, payables, and Lease liabilities. The Company manages its exposure to key financial risks, including interest rate risk, in accordance with the Company's financial risk management policy. The objective of the policy is to support the delivery of the Company's financial targets whilst protecting future financial security.

The main risks arising from the Company's financial instruments are interest rate risk and credit risk. Monitoring of specific credit allowances is undertaken to manage credit risk.

Primary responsibility for identification and control of financial risks rests with the Executive Committee. Unless otherwise stated, the Company does not have any derivative instruments. Each of the risks are identified as follows:





## Risk exposures and responses

### (a) Interest rate risk

The Company's exposure to interest rate risks relates to short-term deposit and long term borrowings. Short-term deposits form part of the cash and cash equivalents that bear fixed interest rates on maturity. Borrowings form part of the current and non-current interest bearing liabilities. Borrowings are contracted at various rates.

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2025</u> \$	<u>2024</u> \$
Financial Assets			
Cash & cash equivalents	5	23,298,617	18,979,043
Other financial assets	6	2,981,012	2,897,272
Receivables	7	334,911	599,875
Total Financial Assets		<u>26,614,540</u>	<u>22,476,190</u>
Financial Liabilities			
Accounts payable	9	2,098,000	910,162
Unexpended grants	11	11,382,874	11,298,953
Lease liabilities - current	12	497,132	566,531
Lease liabilities - Non-current	14	852,004	165,570
Total Financial Liabilities		<u>14,830,010</u>	<u>12,941,216</u>
Net Financial Assets		<u>11,784,530</u>	<u>9,534,974</u>

### (b) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that a counterparty fails to pay or discharge an obligation to the Company. The Company does not have significant credit risk exposure to any counter party(s) under financial instruments entered into by the Company. The maximum exposure to credit risk is limited to the carrying amount of financial assets recognised at the reporting date. The Company constantly monitors defaults of clients and other counterparties.

### (c) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk management involves maintaining sufficient cash and the availability of funds to satisfy debts as and when they fall due and payable. Management effectively manages the Company's liquidity needs by monitoring forecast cash flows, following up trade and other receivables and ensuring that adequate credit facilities are maintained.

### (d) Market risk

The Company is exposed to market risk through its use of financial assets and specifically to interest rate and certain price risks, which result from both its operating and short-term deposit investing activities.



#### (e) Sensitivity Analysis

As at reporting date the effect on profit and equity as a result of changes in interest rate, with all other variables remaining constant would be as follows:

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
		\$	\$
Change in profit			
Increase in interest rates by 1%		249,305	211,442
Decrease in interest rates by 1%		(249,305)	(211,442)
Change in equity			
Increase in interest rates by 1%		(249,305)	(211,442)
Decrease in interest rates by 1%		249,305	211,442

No sensitivity analysis has been performed on foreign exchange risk, as the Company is not exposed to foreign exchange fluctuations.

#### (f) Maturity analysis

The risk implied from the values shown in the table below, reflects a balanced view of cash inflows and outflows. Financial assets and liabilities are considered in the Company's liquidity risk.

	<u>Within 1 year</u>		<u>1 to 5 years</u>		<u>Over 5 years</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>2024</u>
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial Assets								
Cash & cash equivalents	23,298,617	18,979,043	-	-	-	-	23,298,617	18,979,043
Other financial assets	2,981,012	2,897,272	-	-	-	-	2,981,012	2,897,272
Trade receivables	334,911	599,875	-	-	-	-	334,911	599,875
	<u>26,614,540</u>	<u>22,476,190</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>26,614,540</u>	<u>22,476,190</u>
Financial Liabilities								
Trade & other payables	13,480,874	12,209,115	-	-	-	-	13,480,874	12,209,115
Lease liabilities	497,132	566,531	852,004	165,570	-	-	1,349,136	732,101
	<u>13,978,006</u>	<u>12,775,646</u>	<u>852,004</u>	<u>165,570</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>14,830,010</u>	<u>12,941,216</u>
Net maturity	<u>12,636,534</u>	<u>9,700,544</u>	<u>(852,004)</u>	<u>(165,570)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,784,530</u>	<u>9,534,974</u>

The Company monitors liquidity reserves regularly on the basis of expected cash flows. The aggregate net fair values and carrying amounts of financial assets and financial liabilities are disclosed in the balance sheet and in the notes to the financial statements, the fair value of which are materially equal to their carrying values.

#### 20. Capital Management

Management controls the capital of the Company in order to maintain a good debt to equity ratio, to ensure that the Company can fund its operations and continue as a going concern.



## 21. Reconciliation of Profit after income tax to net cash inflow from operating activities

21(a) Reconciliation of liabilities arising from financing activities

## 22. Events occurring after reporting date

- (a) the Company's operations in future financial years; or
- (b) the results of those operations in future financial years; or
- (c) the Company's state of affairs in future financial years.

## Notes to the financial statements







# Acknowledgements

## Financial Assistance

The Aboriginal Legal Service of WA Ltd gratefully acknowledges the support and financial assistance of:

- The Commonwealth Department of the Attorney General (for baseline legal services funding, the Custody Notification Service and the Old Ways New Ways program.
- The National Indigenous Australians Agency (for the Custody Notification Service (CNS) and the Youth Engagement Program (YEP) Expansion Project);
- The WA Department of Justice (for the Custody Notification Service (CNS), Bail Support Service (BSS)/Prison In-Reach Service (PIR), Work and Development Permit (WDP) Service, the Youth Engagement Program (YEP) Metro and West Kimberley, Criminal Law (Mental Impairment) funding, Dandjoo Bidi – Ak funding, Disaster Recovery – Kimberley Floods funding );
- Hope Community Services for the ALSWA paralegal role at the Mara Pirni Healing Place and ALSWA lawyer at the Waullo Dawn Healing Service and Koolark Healing Service (South East FDV hub);
- WA Police Force for the Custody Wellbeing Service.

## Donations

We express our sincere gratitude to those who have generously donated to ALSWA to assist in our ongoing work. For more information on making a donation to ALSWA, please see [www.als.org.au](http://www.als.org.au)

## Subscriptions

Lexus Nexus for online and hard copy subscriptions.

## In Loving Memory – Page 63

The family of the late Steven Carter wish to acknowledge the love and support of the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA Ltd, both during Steve's long career with ALSWA and after his passing.

*The 2025 Aboriginal Legal Service of WA Ltd Annual Report was compiled by ALSWA Public Relations/Media Manager Jodi Hoffmann.*



# Corporate Directory

## Corporate Directory

### Company

Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia Limited

ACN 617 555 843

ABN 61 532 930 441

### Directors (alphabetically)

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Mr Paul Baron

Mr Michael Blurton

Ms Selina King

Mr Murray Jones

Mr Preston Thomas

Ms Kathy Watson

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# Notes



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