Proudly celebrating our first 20 years
"We can’t speak highly enough of everyone at SCALES."
OUR SERVICE

HOW WE HELPED

723 clients assisted with legal services
979 provisions of one-off advice
266 cases opened
129 cases closed
67 community legal education sessions

LAW CLINIC STUDENTS

51 Law Clinic students
64 Introduction to Legal Practice
7 Practical Legal Training students

CLIENTS

71% female
28% male
7% CaLD
8% Aboriginal

CLIENT AGE

24% at risk of homelessness
46% experiencing family violence
76% experiencing financial disadvantage
10% have a disability and/or mental illness
10% had zero income

LEGAL ISSUES

84% of family law matters are related to arrangements for children

11% aged 17–24
74% aged 25–49
11% aged 50–64
4% aged 65+

42% Family law and domestic violence
39% Tenancy
5% Immigration
6% Criminal
8% Other civil

SCALES 2016/17 Annual Report
About SCALES

SCALES is a not for profit community legal centre operating in the Rockingham and Kwinana regions. Members of the community can access our services for advice and support on a wide range of legal issues including family and domestic violence, civil matters, family law, criminal injuries compensation and tenancy issues.

This year we are celebrating our 20th anniversary with a variety of events. You can read about significant milestones and champions from our first 20 years elsewhere in this Annual Report.

How we make a difference

► Through legal advice, representation and advocacy we assist community members to work through their legal issues.
► By hosting the Murdoch University Law Clinic, we provide law students with valuable practical experience in the law.
► Through our community legal education activities we inform the community so they can help themselves.
► By our work in policy and law reform we aim to affect positive and lasting change.

Vision, mission and values

Everyday we work towards our vision – a community where human rights are respected and people are able to assert those rights in a fair, affordable and accessible justice system.

Our mission is to achieve our vision by:

• working in partnership with others to provide access to justice through holistic legal services including individual assistance, community education and systemic advocacy, and
• providing opportunities for clinical legal education programs that develop the skills and ethical practice of law students within a human rights framework.

“Thank you for all your wonderful help at this very difficult time in my life.”
Our values underpin all our activities and interactions with people.

- **Respect** for people and place
- **Diversity** of people and communities
- **Partnership** alone we can travel faster, but together we can travel further
- **Integrity** in all that we say and do
- **Excellence** a commitment to providing a quality service

“Your guidance and advice through some very overwhelming and daunting times showed empathy and understanding.”
Chairperson's report

This year marks our 20 year anniversary at SCALES. Since joining the Management Committee, I have been on a constant learning journey about the rich history of our organisation, and our strong community roots. We hope you enjoy this anniversary edition of our annual report, which showcases some of our story over the last 20 years.

This year marked another challenging year for the community legal sector in terms of funding and uncertainty. At the time of writing this, we have a very short reprieve; however nothing in life is certain. As an organisation, a community legal sector, and as a community services sector, we must understand our impact, and use the evidence to communicate the essential nature of our support for people experiencing vulnerability and disadvantage. However, we must also be courageous, open and willing to do things differently. This balancing act is a key challenge for all of us at this time.

The staff of SCALES have continued to do this, and carried on in an environment of uncertainty. I am thoroughly impressed by the workload that the staff continues to carry, and their ongoing commitment to finding more effective and impactful ways of doing things. I also find it impressive that many of our staff have been with SCALES for a very significant chunk of the last 20 years! Thank you for your ongoing service and commitment – you are all amazing.

We remain very grateful for the strong relationship with Murdoch University. The Law School is wonderful to work with, and we support and respect their work as much as they support and respect ours. We hope to have more opportunities to work with Murdoch into the future.
I also think it worth noting that SCALES alumni permeate every area and sector of the profession. We find them working for government, in private practice, and of course in community legal centres. They are lawyers, partners, pro bono coordinators, researchers and advocates. Our clinic, a key element of our partnership with Murdoch, has had a significant impact on the legal profession in WA.

Finally, I’m very lucky to be able to enjoy and leverage the extensive experiences of a diverse Committee. I thank all of them for their contributions this year, and look forward to working with them in years to come.

On behalf of the Management Committee, thank you for your support of SCALES.

Kylie Hansen
Chairperson

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“A family’s story

Fearing for their lives, a family fled from a situation of violence and persecution in their home country. After arriving in Australia they waited for many years to be allowed to apply for a permanent protection visa. When they were given that opportunity, they had difficulty making the application. The form consisted of 86 questions in English, and with no access to legal assistance or interpreters, it seemed impossible.

Students from the SCALES Law Clinic assisted the family in filling in the form and drafting a comprehensive statement about why they could not return to their home country. During this process they discovered the family had a severely disabled son who was confined to a wheelchair with only minimal ability to communicate. We referred them to appropriate supports within the health system, so their son could receive medical treatment including physical and occupational therapies.

Within a year, the boy was communicating and walking short distances without his wheelchair. He started to attend school and due to a high intelligence level, did very well. The family was granted a five-year protection visa, with a possible pathway to permanent residency.

“You have helped my family to reunite which has given us new life.”

“With your help the end result will help our grandchildren have a safe and stable future.”
Managing Director's report

It has been another busy year at SCALES with 723 clients assisted with legal services and 979 provided with one-off advice. You can see all of our statistics for the year in the Our Service section of this report and read about the year’s activities in more detail in Our Work.

Threats and challenges
The past year has seen significant funding changes bringing threats and cuts to the Community Legal Centre (CLC) sector including SCALES.

The announcement in April this year by the Federal Attorney General, George Brandis that the 32% cuts due to commence on 1 July 2017 would not go ahead was a great relief.

Staff and students participated in the national Community Law Australia #FundEqualJustice campaign lobbying against the cuts by writing to local papers, stakeholders, state and federal members of parliament and candidates in the WA state election. The national campaign brought strong and vocal support for the CLC sector from the community, legal profession, business and government. I must mention Federal Member for Brand, Madeleine King for her support of our services in parliament and in the media.

Successes and celebrations
At the 2016 AGM, Mrs Margaret Flower was awarded life membership of SCALES for her continued support in the role of weekly admin volunteer for over 15 years, and as a member and secretary of the Management Committee.

We officially made Margaret speechless, no mean feat.

Our Older People’s Peer Education Scheme (OPPES)-Elder Abuse, in partnership with the Northern Suburbs Community Legal Centre, is going gangbusters. North and south project officers were recruited who in turn recruited almost 60 volunteers in 3 of the 5 local government areas. These volunteers all received training on human rights, risks and signs of elder abuse, referral protocols as well as using an iPad to provide information and record statistics. Peer Educators are now having conversations about elder abuse. The final two groups have since completed their training in the community. Flowing on from this, the NSCLC Older People’s Rights Service now visits each month to see clients at SCALES. There has been extensive interest in the OPPES project from government and other services.

We were successful in extending our tenancy contract after a tender round, all be it with an 18% cut.

Our team
I would like to congratulate the entire SCALES team for their extraordinary work done on behalf of our clients. I constantly receive positive feedback on our service, with many people telling me we have made a difference to them, a friend, a family member or a client. Affirmation that the community supports and appreciates our work is always satisfying.

The Management Committee must be acknowledged and thanked for their support and leadership over this past difficult year. While a lot of work was done on scenarios, happily the committee did not have to make any difficult decisions to cut services and staff hours.

We now have an alumni committee – SCALES Connect who will work with SCALES to harness the energy and resources of former Law Clinic students. My thanks to the committee members for their work this year.

Very sadly, this year saw the passing of three people from our SCALES family. We offer our condolences to the friends and family of Amy Flint and Margaret and Peter Flower.

Looking to the future
New funding for family and domestic violence will increase our staff numbers hastening a review of our accommodation needs. Negotiation continues with Murdoch
University on the possibility of moving into the Rockingham campus building.

While this past year has been stressful as mentioned above, it has also given us the opportunity to give ourselves permission to think ‘outside the square’. Our work on the update of the strategic plan for 2017 – 2020 brought a number of new ideas. A major change was the inclusion of the objective to foster innovation to ensure services stay at the forefront of doing things differently, bringing the best possible outcomes for our clients and the broader community.

We proudly celebrate our 20th year with a range of events involving staff, volunteers, alumni and stakeholders. SCALES Connect has very generously taken responsibility for the 20th reunion of the Law Clinic on 11 November 2017. We also plan to hold a community event.

And finally – thank you to the staff, Management Committee members, students and stakeholders for your continuing commitment to the service and to our clients. We simply couldn’t do it without you all. I look forward to working with you into the next year.

**Gai Walker**
Managing Director

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**Susan’s story**

Susan (not her real name) is a young woman living with her young daughter. She escaped from a previous relationship where she was subject to extreme physical and emotional violence. Susan had sought and was granted a Violence Restraining order (VRO).

The VRO was coming to an end and Susan was fearful of reprisals from her ex-partner. He had breached the VRO on several occasions by contacting her on social media and via SMS, threatening her.

Susan approached SCALES for assistance with extending the VRO so she could remain safe and continue to care for her daughter. We provided advice on making the application to extend the VRO and represented her at the hearing. Susan was successful in having the VRO extended by another 12 months, allowing her some peace of mind and more time to rebuild her life.
Our work

Student Law Clinic

Under supervision by SCALES solicitors, Murdoch University students participate in the provision of legal advice and representation to members of our community via our Student Law Clinic.

As well as enriching students' understanding of law processes, the Clinic plays an important role in exposing them to the reality of how legal issues affect clients' lives. This provides an invaluable practical education that serves them well throughout their legal career.

This year the Student Law Clinic had an increased emphasis on post-graduate students and pro bono collaborations. The new framework of the introductory unit followed by the opportunity to do a live client clinic is now well established and working well. Student feedback is that the introductory course prepares them well for the demands of the clinics. Supporting that, supervisors noted an improvement in the skills and attitude of those commencing clinics.

The increase in numbers of post-graduate students has also boosted the clinic and increased capacity in the legal practice.

The clinical program has also been actively engaged in assisting legacy asylum seekers through the volunteer commitment of past and present students. This has had a very positive effect on the reputation of the clinical program and along with media work has increased the profile of the clinic and the work that it does.

Our SCALES alumni continue to report their experience in the Student Law Clinic influences their participation in pro bono services throughout their career. Which is a positive outcome for the whole community.

Community legal education

A variety of community legal education and training sessions was provided to community members, community support workers and local private practitioners throughout the year.

We consistently receive very positive feedback on all sessions.

The following type of sessions and activities were run for the community:

- Weekly Violence Restraining Order (VRO) Respondent's Information sessions,
- Walk In Her Shoes court tours,
- Tenancy Law sessions,
- Risk and signs of elder abuse through OPPES, and
- Family and domestic violence law changes

Thanks to a partnership between the Northern Suburbs Community Legal Centre and SCALES we commenced the Older People's Peer Education Scheme to address elder abuse. Flowing on from this, the NSCLC Older People's Rights Service now visits each month to see clients at SCALES.

Over this last year we also ran sessions for local solicitors on the changes to restraining order legislation.

“It has been a very traumatic time and without your support we would have found it difficult to cope.”
Lawyers Practice Manual WA

Coordinated through SCALES the Lawyers Practice Manual Western Australia is a practical legal resource written by practitioners for practitioners. This year saw a number of new and updated chapters through successful partnerships with Thomson Reuters, as well as our continuing and new authors.

- The Manual is responding to the overhaul of the States domestic violence laws with an enhanced section and we thank Legal Aid WA DVLU Director Michael Hovane for his support.
- This year barrister Elspeth Hensler has written a new chapter regarding the Social Housing provisions in the Residential Tenancies Act in addition to updating the current Residential Tenancies chapter.
- Important and significant changes to the Mental Health Act WA 2014 are now updated thanks to the work of David Kernohan and the team the Mental Health Law Centre in collaboration with Minter Ellison.
- The Incorporating community groups chapter was also rewritten this year by Department of Commerce solicitors Robyn Peterson and Sarah Hazell in response to significant legislative changes enacted.
Our first 20 years

This year we are proudly celebrating 20 years of providing information, support, advice and advocacy within our community.

SCALES opened its doors on 7 April 1997, realising the vision and ambitions of many people in the Rockingham and Kwinana regions. Prior to that date, several years of planning, meetings, advocacy and negotiations occurred to secure the funding needed to get SCALES off the ground.

A huge leap forward was in 1994 when Murdoch University made a commitment to match any Commonwealth funding dollar for dollar. Another was securing that funding which took negotiations with firstly a Labor Government and then a Liberal one. Along with funding from the WA Law Society Public Purpose Trust Fund and the Lotteries Commission (now Lotterywest) these commitments made SCALES a reality for the people of Rockingham and Kwinana.

When the doors opened in 1997, SCALES hit the ground running. Within a year we had assisted 1,000 clients and within two years 100 students had enrolled in the law clinic unit. In 20 years we have helped over 11,000 members of our community.

Along the way we have been recognised by being nominated and winning awards including a national human rights award. For us however, we most value the comments and feedback from our clients – some of which you can read throughout this publication.

Milestone map

1997
7 April - SCALES doors opened in Rockingham
21 April – official opening by Hon Kim Beazley, MP and Federal Attorney General Hon Daryl Williams AM QC
Students are approved to appear in Rockingham Children's Court

1998
1,000th client
Students from SCALES ace Articles round
Tenant Advocate approved
Family Abuse and Advocacy Support Team launched

1999
100th law clinic student
Immigration advice services to refugees and asylum seekers funded

2000
2,000th client

2001
3,000th client
200th law clinic student
Three volunteers win Community Service Awards

2002
High Commendation in Premier’s Awards
Family Law Information Sessions introduced for parents
National Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Law Award

2003
4,000th client
300th law clinic student
SCALES instrumental in new police procedures for handling of domestic violence investigations

2005
5,000th client

2006
12,000th client
Early Champions

Every staff member, every student and every supporter has made a contribution to the success of SCALES.

However there are some people whose contribution is extremely significant. Those who championed the need for a community legal centre in the Rockingham region, who recognised the importance of including clinical legal education, and who navigated the political and education landscapes to ensure funding and high level support.

Without these early champions, we wouldn't have been able to open our doors.

Tom Joyce and Jerroldine Gilbert – from the Kwinana–Rockingham legal service, the forerunner for SCALES.

Ralph Simmonds – The inaugural Dean of Law whose advocacy brought about a commitment from the University to match any Commonwealth funding.

Chris Shanahan – then Coordinator, Clinical Legal Education. He researched, networked and lobbied to get SCALES off the ground.

Norm Malborough – then local MLA.

Gary Holland – then CEO of the City of Rockingham.

Michael Blakeney – The second Dean of Law who picked up the baton from Ralph Simmonds.

Roger Lethbridge – Who as Pro Vice Chancellor Development was an enthusiastic supporter and advocate.

Mark McGowan – then Deputy Mayor of the City of Rockingham.

Kim Beazley – then Federal Member for Brand and inaugural joint Patron.

Daryl Williams QC – then Federal Attorney General and inaugural joint Patron.
SCALES was founded on partnership and collaboration and so in every respect we continue to be a part of our community. We thank the many partners who have enabled our work this year and look forward to our future collaborations.

**Funders**
- Attorney General's Department, Commonwealth
- Department of Justice, Western Australia
- City of Rockingham
- Consumer Protection – WA Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety
- Criminal Property Confiscation Grants Scheme
- Law Society of Western Australia Public Purposes Trust Fund
- Lotterywest
- Murdoch University
- Thomson Reuters

**Partnerships and collaborations**
- Domestic Violence Legal Workers Network
- Perth Family Relationships Centre
- Family Relationships Centres Legal Assistance Partnership Programme WA
- Lucy Saw Centre for the Prevention and Intervention of Domestic and Family Violence
- Older People's Peer Education Scheme
- Northern Suburbs Community Legal Centre
- VRO Respondent's Information Session and Tenancy Advice and Court Support (Rockingham Magistrate's Court)
- WA Tenancy Network
- Allens
- Jackson McDonald
- Ashurst

**Memberships**
- Community Legal Centres Association WA
- Family Law Practitioners Association
- Law Society of Western Australia
- Migration Agent Regulation Authority
- Migration Institute of Australia
- National Association of Community Legal Centres
- National Partnership Agreement Collaborative Services Planning Group
- Refugee Council of Australia
- Shelter WA
- Tenancy WA
- Women’s Council for Family and Domestic Violence Services (WA)
Committees and Networks

Staff members participate in the following committees and networks:

- Catalpa Homeless Foundation
- CLCAWA Legal Practice and Professional Indemnity Committee
- Clinical Legal Education Network Australia
- Community Legal Centres Refugee Network
- Community Legal Education Workers Network WA
- Domestic Violence Legal Workers and Coordinators Networks
- Family Law Network, CLCAWA
- Human Rights Teachers Network
- Lawyers Practice Manual WA Editorial Committee
- National Human Rights Network
- Rockingham/Kwinana Family and Domestic Violence Action Group
- Rockingham/Kwinana Homeless Interagency Group
- Murdoch University School of Law Research Committee
- South West Metropolitan Regional Working Group on Homelessness
- St Nicholas Community Centre Management Committee
- Tenancy WA Board of Management
- WA Community Legal Centres Family Relationships Centre Consortium
- WA Tenancy Networks – Managers and Tenant Advocates

“\You helped me work everything out and you gave me encouragement and support.\”

Ryan’s story

Ryan (not his real name) lived with his mother and sister when his previously violent father moved back into the house promising a fresh start.

His father began drinking again, became erratic and his violent behaviour escalated quickly. Ryan’s mother asked his father to leave the home several times after incidences of violence. Each time he returned after only a few days and Ryan and his family became extremely concerned for their safety.

Ryan approached SCALES for assistance with their situation. We supported Ryan through the process of applying for a Violence Restraining Order to keep his father out of their home. That involved communicating with his father, providing legal advice and representing him at the final hearing in Court. The Court granted a two–year order, allowing Ryan and his family to live safely in their own home.

Zoe’s story

Zoe (not her real name) is the mother of a young child. Originally from New Zealand she now lives in WA with no family support. She had some fines that she could not pay and was reducing them through community work.

When she returned home after attending a family funeral in New Zealand, she had a letter from the Fines Enforcement Registry advising that she had 14 days to arrange payment of outstanding fines or a warrant for her arrest will be issued. Zoe was already outside the 14 day time limit when she got the letter. She contacted them and was told that unless she immediately made an up–front payment of $1,500, she would go to prison.

Zoe came to SCALES distraught about her situation. She did not have the money to pay the upfront amount and was particularly distressed about who would care for her young child if she went to prison.

SCALES assisted Zoe by negotiating a significantly reduced upfront payment and an affordable arrangement so she could pay the remainder owing. The warrants for her arrest were cancelled, meaning Zoe and her child could stay together at home. Zoe is now steadily paying off her fines.
We would like to give special thanks to our Patron, Chris Shanahan for his continuing support and advocacy. His contribution to SCALES is immense.

Staff

Amanda McGow Principal Solicitor / Supervisor
Anna Copeland Clinical Director / Supervisor
Anna Notley Coordinator, Lawyer’s Practice Manual WA
Carla Michan-Ranieri Clinical Support Officer (Murdoch)
Clea Brierley Solicitor / Supervisor
Danielle Healey Tenant Advocate
Gai Walker Managing Director
Gina Lee Para Legal
Jenna Brown Para Legal
Kirsty Fentiman Solicitor / Supervisor
Novela Aleksic Finance Officer
Rhonda Horn Admin Officer
Sara Parker Tenant Advocate / restricted practitioner
Tracey Collier Family Violence Solicitor

Volunteers

Chris Shanahan Patron
Dominic McKenna Migration Agent
Emilia Chiworeka Social Work Student
Margaret Flower Admin
Mary Anne Kenny Migration Agent

Connect committee

Nicola Gannon
Rhea Thomas
Nia Cardian
Sian Blakemore
Tanya Le
Michael Dias
Najette Alaraibi

“We couldn’t have done this with you explaining the process fully.”
### Law Clinic Students

#### Semester 2, 2016
- Adriana Costanzo
- Alex Ashton Ward
- Alisha Sin
- Ashley Ang
- Clare Duncanson
- Danielle Kickett
- Fanny Ling
- Gina Lee Janjira
- Jane Lovett
- Jenna Brown
- Jillian Ai
- Julia Lee
- Karen Bamforth
- Kate Withers
- Kathryn Fernance
- Leng Yeo
- Lilfen Palacios Nunez
- Meagan Hillier
- Meg Hindle
- Naomi Laughame
- Oliver Trupp
- Pamela Oram
- Patricia Blake
- Rachel Pocock
- Rebecca Mercer-Gaunt
- Saloni Parekh
- Shabhir Ali
- Shane Falconer
- Tanya Le
- Tanya Ritchie

#### Semester 1, 2017
- Adriel Knowling
- Angela Italiano
- Caitlin Donaldson
- Ching Heng (Herman) Toh
- Courtney Burrows
- Daniel Gazzard
- Ferhan Siddiqi
- Hayley Ferreria
- Jema Wagenaar
- John Chan
- Kerry Eral
- Khai Ling Yeoh
- Lauren Adamson
- Lauren Hodson
- Lisa Van Toor
- Lucy Bourne
- Melinka Fiori
- Michael Cherry
- Michaela Stanton-Cook
- Nicole Courtney
- Patricia Blake
- Shauna O'Neill
- Simone Avard
- Simon Paiker
- Vesna Blunt
- Xing Quan (Burt) Soo
- Zoe Rosman
- Zoe Thornton
Governance

**Kylie Hanson, Chairperson**

*Joined 2015*

Kylie has management experience across the not-for-profit, government and corporate sectors; specialising in leadership, organisational development, strategic policy, and strategic project planning and deployment, within Australia and internationally. She has a wide tertiary background, with degrees and postgraduate qualifications in the disciplines of business, political science, community development, project management and social impact. Kylie is passionate about social innovation, cross-sectoral collaboration and understanding, articulating and measuring impact.

**Justin Jones, Vice Chairperson**

*Joined 2012*

Justin strongly believes in the importance of access to justice. As a member of the Management Committee, he has had the privilege of seeing the significant contribution that the dedicated and hard working employees of SCALES make to championing human rights for people in the community, while at the same time providing law students a unique opportunity to experience the challenges of clinical practice. Justin graduated from Murdoch University in 2001, and is a Counsel at Ashurst, practising in competition and consumer law.

**Helen Makeham, Secretary**

*Joined 2009*

Helen has many years of experience working in the area of disability support. Currently a Guardian for the Office of the Public Advocate, Helen has daily contact with the aged care and disability support sectors. The work of a guardian primarily focuses on assisting people who have a cognitive impairment, due to having a condition such as dementia, brain injury, psychiatric or intellectual disability, with lifestyle decisions.

**Tania Byrnes, Treasurer**

*Joined 2016*

Tania has worked at management level for several not-for-profit organisations such as Mission Australia and Campbell Page and has also managed her own business. She has a Bachelor of Commerce (Marketing and Management) as well as qualifications in training and assessment and frontline management. Tania has a strong belief in human rights and empowering individuals to improve their world through improved knowledge and understanding.
Daniel Chan, Committee Member
Joined 2014
Daniel is a Barrister and Solicitor at CKG Legal. He practices in Family, Restraining Orders, Criminal, and Traffic Law. Daniel is also on the Legal Aid WA Practitioners Panel for matters relating to Restraining Orders; Criminal matters in the Magistrates Court and Other indictable matters; Family Law; and Family Law Dispute Resolution. Daniel began his relationship with SCALES in 2009 when undertaking his law degree at Murdoch University and continues to passionately support our vision.

Rhea Thomas, Committee Member
Joined 2017
Rhea is a solicitor at Welfare Right & Advocacy Service. Rhea’s first involvement with SCALES was in 2014 as a student. Following her graduation she continued on at SCALES to complete her Practical Legal Training. Rhea has a passionate and committed approach towards upholding social justice within the community and dedicates her time towards various initiatives within the community legal sector. Rhea also sits on the SCALES Alumni committee (SCALES Connect) where she plays an active role in organising networking and fundraising events.

Roz Davey, Committee Member
Joined 2012
A Rockingham area local, Roz has a passionate commitment to her community. She has served on several Boards and committees for a variety of community service organisations and sporting associations, over many years. Roz strongly believes in the right of all community members to have access to justice. She also believes that SCALES provides a unique learning experience for Law Students and promotes partnerships between academia and community.

“I want to thank you so much for your caring and incredible assistance with my tenancy problem.”
Finances

Treasurer’s Report

Statement of Operations


Overall, funding sources increased by 4.9% against last year, while expenses increased by 4.3%.

The small surplus was mostly due to staff leaving and the combination of those positions being temporarily vacant and subsequent staff appointments at lower rates of pay. Registration costs for a conference were also reimbursed from CLCAWA.

The surplus has also enabled SCALES to maintain a healthy balance sheet.

Statement of Financial Position

The balance sheet remains strong with total net assets of $266,259 (2016 Net Assets were $264,193).

As set out in Note 4(a), cash and cash equivalents includes $215,405 of short-term deposits. These funds have been set aside from the cash at hand to settle any long-term liabilities as and when they arise.

Employee entitlements have increased over the year from $120k from $114k. They have been measured in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, which requires estimates by management of the likelihood of settlement of present entitlements as well as adjustments in recognition of the time value of money.

Treasurer’s statement

I have thoroughly enjoyed being the Treasurer this year and learning more about its sizable contributions to the community with limited funds. I continue to be grateful for the assistance I have received so far from all staff and Management Committee members, in particular, Managing Director Gai Walker and Finance Officer Novela Aleksic.

Tania Byrnes
Treasurer

“Thanks to you I felt more empowered and better able to cope with the process.”
INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
SOUTHERN COMMUNITIES ADVOCACY
LEGAL AND EDUCATION SERVICE INC


We have audited the accompanying financial report as set out on pages 1 to 10, being a special purpose financial report, of Southern Communities Advocacy Legal and Education Service Inc. (the association) for the year ended 30 June 2017.

Committee’s Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of the association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and has determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial report, are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Association Incorporation Act Western Australia and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee’s responsibilities also include designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor’s responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor’s judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity’s preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity’s internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the committee, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.
The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the committee's financial reporting obligations under the Associations Incorporation Act Western Australia. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

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

Independence

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

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of Southern Communities Advocacy Legal and Education Service Inc. presents fairly, in all material respects the financial position of Southern Communities Advocacy Legal and Education Service Inc. as at 30 June 2017 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and the Associations Incorporation Act Western Australia.

THOMPSON HUGHES & CO

ALAN THOMPSON
19 July 2017
Auditor’s Certification

Southern Communities Advocacy Legal & Education Service Inc
Year ended 30 June 2017

I hereby certify that:

a) I am not a principal, member, shareholder, officer, employee or accountant of the Organisation or of a related body corporate as defined in section 9 of the Corporations Act 2001:

b) In my opinion, the attached financial statements which comprise a Balance Sheet (Statement of Financial Position), a Statement of Operations (Statement of Comprehensive Income), a Statement of Changes in Equity, a Statement of Cash Flows, and Notes to the Financial Statements of the above mentioned Organisation ("the Organisation") for the stated Financial Year are:

   i) Based on proper accounts and present fairly in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia, and

   ii) In accordance with the terms and conditions of the Agreement --- -----, a copy of which has been made available to me, in relation to the provision of community legal services.

c) The Statement of Comprehensive Income is provided in respect of Funds for all Funding Categories.

d) The audit opinion to which this certification refers is unqualified.

e) In my opinion there is no conflict of interest between myself and the Organisation or its Management Committee.

Signed: _______________________

Alan Thompson
Registered Company Auditor No 13797

Thompson Hughes & Co
19 July 2017

* Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.
Rockingham Accountancy Service Pty Ltd as trustee for Thompson Hughes Unit Trust - ABN 59 319 636 852
Director: Alan Thompson
## Statement of Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 30th June 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Note</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating revenues</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1,172,151</td>
<td>1,117,577</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating expenses</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>(1,178,585)</td>
<td>(1,132,044)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating surplus/(deficit) before net finance benefits/(costs)</td>
<td></td>
<td>(6,434)</td>
<td>(14,067)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finance income</td>
<td></td>
<td>8,500</td>
<td>9,127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating surplus/(deficit)</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,066</td>
<td>(4,939)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening balance of accumulated surplus</td>
<td></td>
<td>254,193</td>
<td>269,132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other comprehensive income</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing balance of accumulated surplus</td>
<td></td>
<td>256,259</td>
<td>264,193</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The attached notes form part of and should be read in conjunction with this statement.
## Balance Sheet

**As at 30th June 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>414,956</td>
<td>347,775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade and other receivables</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>529</td>
<td>16,419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other assets</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>13,380</td>
<td>15,318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>428,865</td>
<td>379,512</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property, plant &amp; equipment</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14,753</td>
<td>24,976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total non-current assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>14,753</td>
<td>24,976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>443,618</td>
<td>404,488</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trade and other payables</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>57,261</td>
<td>25,721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employee entitlements</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>120,098</td>
<td>114,574</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total current liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>177,359</td>
<td>140,265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Non-current liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total non-current liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>177,359</td>
<td>140,265</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>266,259</td>
<td>264,193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Equity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accumulated surplus</td>
<td></td>
<td>264,193</td>
<td>269,132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current year surplus/(deficit)</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,066</td>
<td>(4,939)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Equity</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>266,259</td>
<td>264,193</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The attached notes form part of and should be read in conjunction with this statement.
Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 30th June 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Accumulated Surplus</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance at 30 June 2015</td>
<td>269,132</td>
<td>269,132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating surplus/(deficit)</td>
<td>(4,936)</td>
<td>(4,936)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other comprehensive income</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance at 30 June 2016</td>
<td>264,193</td>
<td>264,193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating surplus</td>
<td>2,066</td>
<td>2,066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other comprehensive income</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance at 30 June 2017</td>
<td>266,259</td>
<td>266,259</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The attached notes form part of and should be read in conjunction with this statement.
Statement of Cashflows

As at 30th June 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</th>
<th>2017 $</th>
<th>2016 $</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Receipts from funders, donations and government grants (GST inc)</td>
<td>856,772</td>
<td>823,742</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Payments to suppliers and employee (GST inc)</td>
<td>(836,161)</td>
<td>(859,158)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest received</td>
<td>8,500</td>
<td>9,127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net Cash used in Operating Activities</strong></td>
<td><strong>69,111</strong></td>
<td><strong>(26,289)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cash Flows from Investing Activities

| Payments for Property, Plant and Equipment | (1,930) | (6,900) |
| **Net cash used in Investing Activities** | **(1,930)** | **(6,900)** |

Net Increase in Cash

| Net Increase in Cash | 67,181 | (33,189) |

Cash at beginning of financial year

| Cash at beginning of financial year | 347,775 | (380,963) |

Cash at end of the financial year

| Cash at end of the financial year | **414,956** | **347,774** |

The attached notes form part of and should be read in conjunction with this statement.
SCALES Community Legal Centre
Suite 3, 14 Council Avenue
Rockingham WA 6168
(08) 9550 0400
scales@murdoch.edu.au

SCALES Murdoch University Office
Room 2.102, Law School,
Building 465, South Street
Murdoch WA 6150
(08) 9360 6572

Opening hours
9am to 5pm       Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
9am to 12noon    Monday, Friday

www.murdoch.edu.au/scales

SCALES Community Legal Centre acknowledges that we work on Aboriginal land, traditionally the home of people of the Noongar Nation. We pay deep respect to elders past, present and future.

SCALES would also like to show support to recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the First Australians in our Constitution.