

# Caxton Legal Centre

Annual  
Report | **2019  
2020**

a just and inclusive  
Queensland



# Acknowledgement of Country

Caxton Legal Centre Incorporated acknowledges the Jagera (Yuggera) and Turrbul peoples who are the Traditional Custodians of this land on which we work. We recognise the ongoing connection to the land, waters and community of the Traditional Custodians and pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging. We also recognise, respect and celebrate the cultural distinctions of the First Nations peoples and value their rich and positive contribution to Queensland and to broader Australian society. With respect we strive to achieve justice and inclusion for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

## Connect with us ...

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[www.twitter.com/CaxtonLegal](https://www.twitter.com/CaxtonLegal)

[www.caxton.org.au](http://www.caxton.org.au)

Office hours: 9 am – 5 pm Monday to Friday

Caxton Legal Centre holds free legal advice sessions for people on a low income or who face other disadvantage.

**Call us to book an appointment.**



# ABOUT US

## our vision

A just and inclusive Queensland.

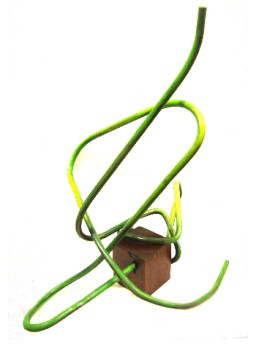
## our purpose

We are highly skilled and adaptive advocates who unlock the law and work against injustice for Queenslanders by:

- delivering tailored and timely legal and social support services for people experiencing disadvantage
- empowering people to know their rights
- working collaboratively with community partners to achieve better outcomes
- being expert contributors to law reform
- using resources in a clever and responsible manner.

## Disclaimer

Where this report expresses commentary or opinion on an issue, these are to be understood as being the views of Caxton Legal Centre and do not reflect the views of any other organisation or government department.



## we are ...

an independent, non-profit, non-government community organisation and have been playing a central part in Queensland's legal landscape for more than 40 years.

We provide free legal assistance and social work support.

We are a team of over 55 lawyers, social workers and administrative support workers, who are all passionately committed to achieving the best outcome for people who are on a low income or experience other disadvantage.

## we believe ...

in justice and inclusiveness, and put the human rights of our clients, staff and community at the forefront of all that we do. We strive to protect the human rights of all Queenslanders by ensuring our services, practices and policies are human-rights compliant.

We make sure our staff and volunteer lawyers advocate for human rights outcomes for our clients, and we work to advance and protect human rights in Queensland.

## we achieve ...

equality and justice through the delivery of frontline services to vulnerable Queenslanders.

We acknowledge the impact on individuals of disadvantage, discrimination, trauma and loss, and we provide access to high-quality and timely social and legal support.

We recognise and empower individuals as rights holders.

We apply our multidisciplinary social worker-lawyer model across all of our programs and work collaboratively with community partners.

We also remain fiercely independent in order to address systemic injustices.

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## ABOUT THE ARTIST — GIUSEPPE FILARDO

Caxton Legal Centre Inc. would like to thank the artist Giuseppe Filardo for generously allowing us to reproduce some of his beautiful sculptures to decorate this report.

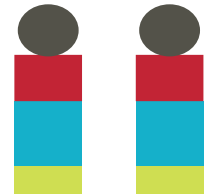
Giuseppe Filardo has a Master of Arts (Research) QUT, Graduate Diploma of Education (Monash University) and a Bachelor of Arts (Fine Art) from Monash University. Filardo started exhibiting solo shows in 2000 in Melbourne and has since had numerous successful solo and group exhibitions in Victoria, Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia.

Filardo explores through sculpture, painting and paper. He is frequently inspired by his immediate environment and draws upon it on a regular basis in his work. Filardo creates from recycled materials that may tell their own stories.

Artist's contact details: [filsart8@hotmail.com](mailto:filsart8@hotmail.com)  
[www.giuseppetilardo.com](http://www.giuseppetilardo.com)

# 4951 UNIQUE CLIENTS

received assistance across all programs



## Our Priority Clients



## Our Community

Discrete service

Representation (casework)

29%

of clients experienced domestic violence

30%



20 958

domestic violence protection orders made statewide

78%

of clients experienced financial disadvantage

92%



15.3%

of Queenslanders live in poverty

5%

of clients identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

6%

4%

of Queenslanders identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

24%

of clients reported a disability

42%



18.3%

of Queenslanders have a disability

36%

of clients were over 50 years



15.7%

of Queenslanders are aged 65 and over

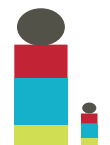
17%

were over 65

45%

25%

of clients were a single parent



11.2%

of Queenslanders are single parents

10%

of clients spoke a language other than English and 106 required an interpreter

11%

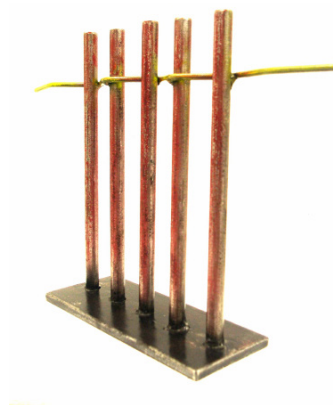
7.1%

of people speak languages other than English at home in Queensland

We constantly review our services and practices to improve accessibility and the holistic assistance we provide to our clients. We are improving our triage and intake process to ensure that service pathways are accessible, targeted,

transparent and tailored to people who experience multiple forms of disadvantage. The general demographics of our clients make it clear that we are achieving our desire to connect with the vulnerable people in our community.

# SNAPSHOT OF OUR ACHIEVEMENTS



35 452

phone calls or  
144  
calls per day  
answered

Despite the high volume, our front office team answered the phone in person and created a personal interface that made the caller feel safe and heard.

357 900

visitors to the  
Queensland Law  
Handbook Online  
website

7455

services provided

We focused on obtaining human rights outcomes for clients dealing with multiple legal and social support needs.

4496

referrals were made

Our staff are trained to confidently direct clients to additional supports or alternative service pathways.

26 355

pieces of legal  
information given

We provide legal information to empower people who contact our centre to resolve their own legal issues.

815

clients received a non-  
legal support service

Integrated social work supports improve holistic outcomes for clients.

\$533 748

of compensation,  
waivers and refunds  
were obtained for  
our clients

Like everyone, we felt the impact of COVID-19 and we worked remotely to continue delivering our services to people in need of assistance.



# REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

## Human Rights for all Queenslanders

Caxton has a long and proud history in responding to urgent community need. In 2019–2020, Caxton continued to witness and timely respond to this need and, in particular, to the many threats to basic human rights.

As our state burned and protesters engaged in climate strikes, we defended our democratic freedoms. When children were unlawfully held in watchhouses, we advocated for their rights to see family, be educated and have safe and healthy accommodation. We stood firmly with older persons to give them a voice and prevent their autonomy and independence being stripped away. We safeguarded the rights of those affected by domestic violence to live free from abuse, homelessness and poverty. Then the global pandemic hit and we ramped it up even further to protect workers' rights, promote the safe release of vulnerable prisoners and secure fair outcomes for children of separated parents affected by COVID-19.



Cybele Koning  
Chief Executive Officer  
Caxton Legal Centre



Dan Rogers  
President  
Caxton Legal Centre

## Caxton's Identity

We want a just and inclusive Queensland, and to achieve this we recognise the need to dig deep into Caxton's origins, strengthen our foundations and innovate. We exist to assist people who are the most vulnerable in our community. Our clients are at the centre of all that we do.

In 2019–2020, we received hundreds of calls per day and even the last call was answered with empathy and professionalism. All of our 55 lawyers, social workers, and client services and administration staff are passionate about human rights and social justice outcomes, and, with our almost 200 volunteers, we continued the tradition of free, high-quality legal assistance and social work supports across 11 incredibly diverse but interconnected programs. We represented our clients' interests in 14 law reform submissions, the Justice in Focus Series broadcast on Radio National, various campaigns we were involved in, articles we wrote, and in the hundreds of social media posts we published highlighting legal issues and advocating for systemic change.

For our valued staff, we rolled out a new training program GROW with a focus on four streams of staff development: self-care, wellbeing, diversity and compliance.

After significant growth of our organisation, our governance framework needed some work and we have now done a lot of the hard yards. This included an external committee review, and committee members upskilling with governance training. When required, we quickly adapted to deliver our services remotely, and innovated to incorporate long-term paperless solutions. We believe that our integrated social worker-lawyer model provides the best outcomes for our clients, and we successfully introduced this service design into our two newer programs, the Bail Support Program and the health justice partnership. The importance of our social work team was recognised by the creation of the Social Work Practice and the appointment of a Social Work Practice Director—Caxton's and, indeed, a national first within community legal centres. This new practice will be of great benefit to our clients and the wider sector.

## What is Ahead

Our recently released Strategic Plan 2020–2023, the soon-to-be-released First Nations Action Plan 2021–2023 and the Volunteer Engagement Plan 2021–2023 will lead the way.

We welcomed the addition of two new members to our management committee. Amanda Alford is a human rights lawyer who is currently Director Legal and Strategy at the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability. Prior to joining the Royal Commission, Amanda was Director Policy and Advocacy at Community Legal Centres Australia. Matt Jackson is a barrister who practises mainly in criminal law but has particular interests in human rights, discrimination and Aboriginal-specific sentencing laws. Matt has been a volunteer barrister with Caxton for two years. We also welcomed back to the committee Alf Davis. Alf is a social worker who has Aboriginal and South Sea Islander heritage. He has worked in juvenile justice, clinical mental health and child safety for government and non-government services. Alf is currently working at Kummara.

We are doing a lot of soul searching around how to most efficiently and effectively utilise our limited resources, be transparent about our criteria for assistance and make our services even more accessible and useful to those experiencing intersecting disadvantage.

To increase our reach to assist Queenslanders, we are expanding our coronial, health justice partnership and domestic violence services, and we are providing greater follow-up assistance and representation for clients who really need it, especially in our family law and human rights services. It will be a privilege to launch our co-designed First Nations Engagement and Cultural Capability Plan.

The pandemic made it difficult to deliver community legal education in the foreseeable future, so we are re-imagining our old and new relationships with our community partners to ensure people's human rights are promoted and protected.

We will finalise Project Impact, a 12-month project that focuses on the strategic implementation of ways to collect, measure and then communicate Caxton's impact to all stakeholders. This specific information will then help us to continuously improve our services.

Importantly, we intend to re-engage with our incredible volunteers, some of whom have attended our evening advice sessions for over a decade. Others are students who stay at Caxton after their legal clinics to answer our phones and provide paralegal supports. Since the start of the pandemic, we have only been able to operate with a limited number of volunteers, and we are missing the bustling advice sessions and the engaging and entertaining personalities of them all.

It has been a true honour to work alongside such hardworking, driven and compassionate colleagues during what has been a most difficult year for many of our clients. We are confident with our plans for the next year that will see Caxton continue to ensure that Queenslanders have a greater opportunity to enjoy fairer outcomes and fairer laws.

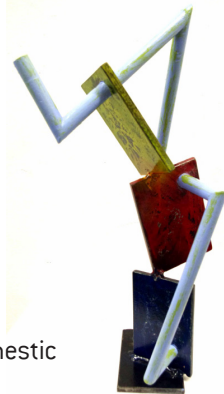


# OUR ORGANISATION



Caxton Legal Centre's Chief Executive Officer as well as the three legal practice directors hold principal practising certificates issued by the Queensland Law Society.

# HOW WE HELPED OUR CLIENTS— the impact of our integrated programs



Caxton employs lawyers who are specialist human rights, discrimination, employment, consumer, family, domestic violence, coronial, criminal and elder law practitioners.

## Human Rights

In January 2020, the *Human Rights Act 2019* (Qld) became fully operational. Its implementation period throughout late 2019 coincided with rolling climate change protests, which grew as a horrific bushfire season and the direct effects of climate change, including on human rights, were felt throughout the community. The increase in protest activity was met by a crackdown by government generating heightened concern for democratic freedoms in Queensland.

Human rights breaches are noticed across all of the programs we deliver. Achieving human rights outcomes requires a skilled approach towards relying on the laws that will best serve those outcomes including the processes available under the Human Rights Act.

During this short amount of time, we delivered 200 discrete services in relation to the Human Rights Act and represented five clients in a court or tribunal. We also assisted clients with human rights matters other than under the Human Rights Act, including housing, privacy, workplace rights, discrimination, vilification and other matters.

### Promoting climate justice and protecting democratic freedoms

In 2019, Caxton Legal Centre and the Honourable Dean Wells successfully represented climate activist Nada Loiterton in the Brisbane Magistrates Court. Nada was charged with contravening a police move-on direction that was given to her while she was attending an Extinction Rebellion protest.

Nada was found not guilty on the basis that she was participating in a lawful peaceful assembly under the *Peaceful Assembly Act 1992* (Qld).

Nada is an aged pensioner from the bushfire-affected region of northern New South Wales, and has become increasingly worried about the impact of climate

change on our environment. In a note to the court, she provided the following explanation of her reasons for protesting:

*The urgency to act upon the findings of an overwhelming majority of climate scientists has never been greater, especially as the impacts of emissions—Australia's and worldwide—are already felt indiscriminately by most peoples, nations and life forms.*

*I consider it my ethical duty of care to point out to the Australian authorities the imminent need to implement changes in environmental politics now in order to save our natural world, its biodiversity and humanity from ecological collapse.*

## Discrimination

Caxton provides priority access to our advice program for people who are making human rights and discrimination complaints through the Queensland Human Rights Commission. Clients are also referred to us by other services or approach us directly to assist with discrimination matters. This year we assisted clients who experienced discrimination due to disability, race, pregnancy, age, sex, religion and gender and sexual orientation.

We were able to provide full representation in a number of discrimination cases. Generally, the outcome was a negotiated settlement, with compensation for the hurt and humiliation suffered because of discriminatory treatment. For some clients, we were also able to negotiate changes to practices, the development of anti-discrimination policies and commitments to attend training.

We were also able to assist clients with disabilities experiencing discrimination relating to an assistance animal or access to premises, to secure practical changes that benefited them in their everyday life. We also acted in

# HOW WE HELPED OUR CLIENTS CONT.



targeted race-discrimination matters including in relation to cultural rights, and secured both litigated and negotiated outcomes intended to generate systemic changes as well as to remedy injustices for individuals.

In May 2020, a surge of anger about the treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by police and in prison saw fresh waves of protest and increased community awareness and concern about race discrimination and racial bias, which we responded to with additional advice services.

## Cancellation of school enrolment due to cultural hairstyle?

Caxton acted for Cyrus Taniela when his school, the Australian Christian College Moreton proposed to unenroll him because of his cultural hairstyle.

Cyrus, who was five when the case began, will not cut his hair until he participates in a traditional Cook Islands hair cutting ceremony on his seventh birthday. His school requires boys to have short hair. The race discrimination case was brought under the *Anti-Discrimination Act 1991* (Qld) and commenced in the Queensland Human Rights Commission before progressing to hearing in the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal (QCAT).

We worked with barrister Dr Chris McGrath, and Cyrus was supported by the Cook Islands Council of Queensland and his parents Jason and Wendy. Cyrus was successful in QCAT but the matter has been appealed.

## Employment

Our statewide employment law service assists clients who have been unfairly dismissed, who have unfair employment conditions, or who have been bullied, sexually harassed or discriminated against at work. We focused our representation services towards clients who had been sexually harassed and/or assaulted to bring proceedings including against a number of employers. We also acted in a range of workplace discrimination matters, most notably disability related.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we deployed additional lawyers from across the Human Rights and Civil Law

Practice to employment law and increased our capacity in that area at the peak of the pandemic job losses. We prioritised workers with disability, women workers and workers experiencing discrimination including dismissals because of race.

We were able to assist 656 clients (13% of the total number of clients across all programs) with employment law problems. Of these clients:

- ➔ 83% experienced financial disadvantage
- 25% reported no income at all
- 20% reported a disability
- 56% were female
- 11% were from a culturally and linguistically diverse background.

## Consumer Credit and Debt

There is enormous unmet consumer, credit and debt legal need throughout Queensland. We predict that the loss of jobs due to the pandemic, will increase this need. Our specialist consumer, credit and debt service focused on home, car and essential goods repossession, payday loans, and unfair guarantees and loans.

Our consumer credit program assisted a number of women who have been left in debt as a result of domestic and family violence. We were sometimes able to secure debt waivers for these women, or to negotiate other arrangements that support safety and financial independence after an abusive relationship.

## Domestic violence and financial abuse often go hand in hand

Our client, a woman from a culturally and linguistically diverse background, was forced by her former husband to sign a joint loan application. We wrote to the lender and explained the circumstances and also pointed out lenders' obligations to women in our client's situation, and that we considered this lender has not met their responsibilities. The lender agreed to remove our client's name from the debt and to only pursue her ex-husband. This meant our client was debt free debt, but also gave her some relief from the controlling behaviour of her ex-husband.

# HOW WE HELPED OUR CLIENTS CONT.



## Housing: Villages and Parks

The Queensland Retirement Village and Park Advice Service (QRVPAS) is a key specialist program that provides information, advice and assistance to residents and prospective residents of retirement villages and manufactured home parks in Queensland.

In the 2019–2020 financial year, we delivered:

- ➔ 2942 hours of service to 627 households
- ➔ 62% of that time was spent providing information and legal advice
- ➔ 38% providing individual and group assistance and representation
- ➔ 50 community legal education sessions to 1500 people.

In 2020, QRVPAS completed a research project on behalf of the Department of Housing and Public Works, to analyse the disputes that arise in retirement villages and manufactured home parks. Our research found that:

- 30% of cases primarily concerned excessive rent and/or fees, which was the most common type of dispute that we encountered. Financial stress and housing affordability are key issues for QRVPAS clients; approximately 70% are on the aged pension
- most disputes are resolved through preliminary negotiation or mediation, without progressing to a QCAT hearing. One of the key factors is whether the village/park operator is willing to participate in that process in good faith. For disputes that do progress to QCAT, the process can become difficult and protracted
- many of our clients display a high level of capability to resolve their own disputes, and are able to effectively advocate for themselves after receiving legal advice and self-help kits from QRVPAS.

The research confirms the important role that QRVPAS plays in empowering residents, and will inform policy making in relation to pre-contractual legal advice and the dispute resolution process in these areas.

### Eviction narrowly avoided

Penny has been living in her manufactured home at a residential park in Bundaberg since 2005. The agreement with the park owner was mostly verbal.

For over 10 years, the position of her home, yard area and carpark remained unchanged, and she even planted privacy hedges to mark the boundaries of her site.

Then, in 2017, the park owner decided to engage surveyors to review all the sites in the park.

The new survey significantly reduced the size of Penny's site and removed her car parking space. Penny tried to negotiate with the park owner, but they insisted that Penny would need to remove part of her garden and pay extra fees for car parking. Shortly after, she received a breach notice alleging that her home and carpark area were encroaching on other sites, and another breach notice for installing an air-conditioner unit in her home without the park's approval. This was despite the fact that the air-conditioner unit was barely visible to others, and the neighbour confirmed that it did not cause any nuisance.

Despite multiple rounds of negotiations and mediation, the dispute was unable to be resolved, and the park owner applied to QCAT seeking to terminate Penny's site agreement and have her evicted from the park. Penny felt intimidated and harassed by this process.

Penny contacted QRVPAS the week before her QCAT hearing, seeking advice to help prepare for the tribunal.

The matter was quite complex, as Penny would need to show QCAT that there was an unwritten agreement about the site boundaries dating back to 2005. Penny was also anxious about representing herself because the park had engaged a private solicitor.

Our lawyers represented Penny in the QCAT hearing and were ultimately successful in having the application dismissed.

Penny no longer faces the threat of eviction and has been able to retain her original site. She is happy to be able to continue living in her home with her Jack Russell dog, Cheree.

# HOW WE HELPED OUR CLIENTS CONT.



## Family—Parenting and Property

Since August 2019, our capacity to provide family law assistance increased and we particularly focussed on delivering discrete services to clients experiencing domestic and family violence, and on promoting early resolution of complex parenting and low-pool property settlement issues.

➔ 22% of all services provided by the centre related to family law.

Of the family law matters:

➔ 56% concerned parenting issues  
27% property issues  
11% divorce  
6% child support and other matters.

## Family Law Duty Lawyer and Family Advocacy and Support services

The Family Law Duty Lawyer Service provides legal advice and assistance with negotiations to self-represented litigants in parenting and property settlement matters who are in the Federal Circuit Court and the Family Court of Australia that day. Referrals of clients usually come from Legal Aid Queensland, but we also had a few direct referrals from judges.

➔ 447 services family law duty lawyer services were provided.

Operating alongside the Family Law Duty Lawyer Service is our Family Advocacy and Support Service (FASS), which provides both legal and social work support to vulnerable clients experiencing domestic and family violence, including an increased scope for court appearances and drafting urgent recovery applications. High demand and very positive outcomes for vulnerable clients have secured funding for another three years and allowed us to employ a full-time lawyer and social worker for FAASS.

➔ 210 family advocacy and support services were provided.

## Domestic and Family Violence

Caxton prioritises providing integrated legal and social work assistance to clients affected by domestic and family violence so that their legal needs are addressed seamlessly across all programs.

➔ 27% of all services provided by the centre related to domestic and family violence.

## Domestic and Family Violence Duty Lawyer Service

The domestic and family violence duty lawyers provide legal advice, assistance with negotiations and representation at court mentions at the Brisbane Magistrates Domestic Violence Court. This service works on demand. Long court hearing lists and complex matters, including matters that required interpreters, clients with complex mental health issues, intellectual impairment, capacity issues, alcohol and drug abuse issues and convoluted cross applications were keeping our duty lawyers very busy.

It was not uncommon for our domestic violence duty lawyers to assist a client who has been named by police as the respondent when they were in fact the person most in need of protection.

➔ 786 domestic and family violence duty lawyer services were provided.

### Starting afresh after a lengthy and abusive marriage

Valentina experienced extensive physical, sexual and emotional abuse at the hands of her husband of 30 years. One night, when he would not stop shouting at her, she threw an object across the room at him. Police attended the home and applied for a protection order on the husband's behalf. Following this, Valentina attended court where she was connected to Caxton's Domestic Violence Duty Lawyer Service.

# HOW WE HELPED OUR CLIENTS CONT.



Caxton's lawyer heard Valentina's story and recognised that she was the victim of domestic violence including social isolation and economic abuse. They connected Valentina with our Seniors Legal and Support Service (SLASS) to address the abuse she is experiencing.

The SLASS team connected Valentina with housing services, Centrelink and financial management skills training, and assisted with a safety plan and provided short-term counselling to support her decision to end her relationship.

Valentina still struggles to cope with the trauma associated with long-term abuse and her marriage breakdown. She is connected to ongoing counselling and other social supports that have enabled her to start afresh.

## Seniors Legal and Support Service

The Seniors Legal and Support Service (SLASS) is a statewide service delivered by five community legal centres. Our ongoing community-facing awareness campaigns about elder abuse have increased the demand for elder abuse supports.

The type of assistance we provided to older persons included obtaining domestic violence orders, recovering unpaid loans, securing a release from unfair guarantees, resolving granny-flat disputes, grief and loss counselling, safety planning, appearing in the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal to obtain a declaration of capacity for decision making.

SLASS uses a fully integrated social worker-lawyer model.

We use the Vera Raymer hardship fund to meet the essential needs of our older clients.

During the height of the pandemic, we telephoned every SLASS client to do a welfare check, ensured they had access to essentials and put in place options to reduce social isolation.

## Elder Abuse

The abuse of older persons is a human rights issue at the heart of which is ageism. The erosion of autonomous decision making, poor aged-care standards and financial pressures within families all contribute to this human rights travesty. For 15 years, Caxton has targeted our services to older Queenslanders and has three specialist elder abuse services.

➔ 885 legal and social work services were provided to clients who experienced elder abuse.

Of our clients:

➔ 89% experienced financial disadvantage  
48% experienced domestic violence  
47% reported a disability  
66% were female, which supports that elder abuse is a gendered form of abuse.

## Geoffrey's story

Geoffrey and his son Michael lived together in a house owned by Geoffrey's daughter for years. Every day, Geoffrey had to endure abuse from Michael who belittled and swore at Geoffrey and threatened physical harm.

Geoffrey finally sought help from our Seniors Legal and Support Service, and a social worker and lawyer developed a safety plan and prepared an application for a domestic violence protection order for Geoffrey.

However, just as the application was about to be admitted, Geoffrey pulled out as he did not want to cause a rift within the family. This, of course, meant that the abuse continued to the point where he was admitted to hospital.

The SLASS team organised an urgent meeting between the responsible health professionals, Geoffrey and his daughter, and his daughter requested that Michael



# HOW WE HELPED OUR CLIENTS CONT.



leave the property in two weeks. Our team was able to negotiate emergency respite accommodation at a significantly reduced fee for Geoffrey, which we were able to pay for from the Vera Raymer Fund. We also connected Geoffrey with the Aged Care Assessment Team to receive subsidised care services once back at home.

In Geoffrey's words:

*Thank you both for all your help and assistance with this and especially to SLASS for delving into its Vera Raymer Fund, your help and guidance has been quite incredible and so much appreciated—I certainly wouldn't be where I am today, without your help and guidance. So, a very big thank you.*

## Financial Protections Service

The Financial Protections Service (FPS) is a unique primary prevention service, co-designed with the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors and delivered in partnership with National Seniors Australia. It is aimed at preventing financial elder abuse.

It is a service for individuals who are thinking about later life, and want information about financial decisions and how to protect their finances.

Our community worker delivered a steady stream of free community education sessions and provided outreach information and referrals at various locations in Brisbane. The community worker was also available for one-on-one discussions in person and followed up with individuals seeking more assistance to ensure they have the right contacts and supports in place, particularly if they disclose concerns about elder abuse.

We delivered:

➔ 87 information and referral sessions to 3039 people.

## Violet escapes the emotional turmoil created by her daughter

Violet, 70 years of age, contacted FPS in regard to her daughter Rose. Rose and her five-year-old daughter have lived with Violet for a year.

Rose has diagnosed mental health issues since she was a teen. She fluctuates between high-level functionality and debilitating depression and anxiety, and is therefore unable to hold down a job and other responsibilities.

Violet was physically and emotionally overwhelmed by having Rose living with her. Violet was doing most of the parenting of her granddaughter and financially supported them. Rose also rarely contributed to housework and was emotionally highly volatile. There was also a convoluted trail of money borrowed, repaid or still owing.

Violet wanted Rose to move out, however, was not prepared for the emotional outburst that would follow the demand for Rose move.

We referred Violet to a trauma counsellor, and our community worker informed her about self-care and coached her to strengthen her emotional position so Violet could escape the emotional turmoil Rose created and support her to move out.

For additional support, Violet was also referred to a local social worker. The community worker, the trauma counsellor and Violet planned and put other supports into place to encourage Rose to move. This process occurred over four months and now Rose and Violet live independently.

Violet is still being supported to disentangle the financial and emotional ties she has with Rose. It has been a slow but effective process that resulted in Violet recovering her autonomy and physical and emotional health, and Rose accepting the help of services to build a more stable environment for her and her daughter.

# HOW WE HELPED OUR CLIENTS CONT.



## Health Justice Partnership

The Older Persons Advocacy and Legal Service (OPALS), a health justice partnership between Caxton Legal Centre and Metro South Health (MSH), provides integrated legal advice and social work supports for patients of the MSH care system who experience, or are at risk of experiencing, elder abuse including the failure to respect their rights to autonomous decision making. This partnership, the first of its kind in Queensland, commenced in August 2019 at the Princess Alexandra Hospital. After its first year of operation, the service expanded to include the Logan Hospital, and discussions are now underway about how OPALS can also service the rest of the Brisbane Metro South Region.

The OPALS model integrates hospital social workers, health professionals and the two OPALS lawyers and community social worker to provide a holistic response that is person centred and respects the human rights and autonomy of older people.

Essentially, OPALS provides:

- extensive ongoing training to health professionals on how to identify elder abuse and to better understand and use referral pathways to OPALS or similar services
- legal advice, support and court representation to patients. This service can continue after discharge
- social supports to patients after they have been discharged from the hospital following a warm handover from a hospital social worker
- secondary consultations, which are a significant part of most health justice partnership model. Secondary consultations are hypothetical and/or deidentified discussions between the health professional and the lawyer, to provide legal information to the health professional who can then better support their patients who might be experiencing an unmet legal issue.

In 2019-2020, OPALS provided:

- ➔ 1000 health staff trained about older persons' rights and elder abuse
- 161 social work and legal services
- 88 secondary consultations

- ➔ 75% of our clients experienced financial hardship
- 51% experienced financial abuse
- 60% were female
- 49% were from a culturally or linguistically diverse background.

We would like to acknowledge our partner, Metro South Health, and in particular the Partnership Coordinator, Dr Anne-Louise McCawley, who continues to play a significant role in building and fostering the OPALS partnership. We would also like to acknowledge Sue Cumming (Director of Social Work at Princess Alexandra Hospital) and all the Metro South Health social workers and staff who have engaged with OPALS and who have shared our vision for a just and inclusive Queensland for older people.



Community social worker Sally and senior lawyer Tilé at the Orange the PA—16 days of activism against violence event.

### Mavis is devastated by the loss of her husband

Mavis, 86 years of age, was admitted to hospital after presenting with severe emotional stress following the sudden passing of her husband. Her eldest son David then visited and requested a significant amount of money from Mavis. David also lives in a house in Sydney owned by Mavis and has not paid rent for 10 years. Mavis would like David

# HOW WE HELPED OUR CLIENTS CONT.



to either pay rent or leave to allow her to sell the property. David is verbally abusive towards Mavis when he calls her.

The hospital was concerned about financial abuse and Mavis's capacity to stop the abuse and subsequently applied for an urgent interim order seeking guardianship and administration. Mavis contacted OPALS to seek help navigating the QCAT process as she wanted to be able to make her own decisions about the support in regards to elder abuse. Mavis stayed in the hospital against her wishes as she was deemed unable to live independently.

The OPALS community social worker and lawyer visited Mavis in the hospital. Mavis was an accountant and valued making her own decisions and expressed her dismay in having them made for her. The OPALS lawyer provided legal advice regarding the QCAT hearing and liaising with the Public Trustee. Advice was also provided about her options to ask David to leave Mavis's home or pay rent as well as domestic violence advice. OPALS liaised with family members to assist to resolve the conflict. Safety planning and boundary setting was undertaken.

Mavis accepted the OPALS social worker to provide support and advocacy at QCAT. Mavis also had support from her daughter Nicole, who she trusted to assist her in decision making. The interim decision appointing a guardian and administrator ceased and the application for guardianship and administration was dismissed. Mavis is now making her own decisions. Mavis was very grateful for OPALS assistance as autonomy in making decisions was very important to her. Mavis is pursuing options one step at a time, after recovering from the loss of her husband.

## Multidisciplinary Social Worker-Lawyer Model

The twin aim of this profession is to enhance the individual client's wellbeing as well as progress social change, which would uphold human rights and social justice.

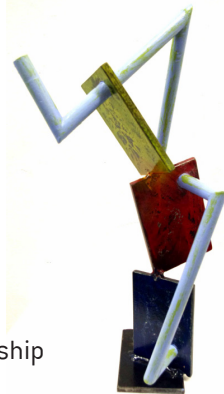
Our social workers were involved across all our programs when clients were in hardship and/or overwhelmed with the stress of their legal matter and other challenges.

Over many years Caxton has developed flexible social worker-lawyer practice approaches with different levels of integration between the two disciplines based on client need. In our SLASS and Bail Support Program, the social workers and lawyers work with the client side by side, because of the high level of social support needs that co-exist with the legal issues. For clients who need social support assistance for a discrete issue, for example housing, the services are delivered separately but still with ongoing communication between the two professions assisting the one client. Rarely do clients have stand-alone legal problems so when people struggle with multiple difficulties, we need to acknowledge and respond to those.

In general terms our integrated model includes these features:

- an initial risk assessment and safety planning as needed
- a joint meeting with the client
- psycho-social assessment and decision-making capacity screening by social workers and legal need assessment by lawyers
- urgent referrals if required
- an integrated case planned and transparent approach articulating how we can assist
- shared client files (for some of our programs)
- collaboration with the client on how to proceed
- flexibility whenever possible to accommodate the pace and priorities of the client as they deal with the complexity of illness, trauma impacts and poverty
- flexibility about when and where we talk to clients to build trust, optimise communication and their capacity to make decisions and plan action
- case plan adjustments as the matter progresses and the client has other options to consider

# HOW WE HELPED OUR CLIENTS CONT.



- good communication between the disciplines as we arrange support services, prepare affidavit evidence including evidence from the social worker, and navigate duty of care, client confidentiality, legal privilege, resource limitations and systemic issues that impinge
- joint or individual attendance at court or tribunal hearings
- case plan review to assess how well the client's goals were met whether they are more protected from harms
- determining what ongoing social supports remain in place after the legal issues are resolved
- positioning the client, who is the human rights holder, in the driver seat so that their autonomy, independence and right to self-determination are not diminished
- adaptation of the delivery of this model to suit our different programs.

Throughout the financial year:

- ➔ 815 clients received social work supports
- ➔ 74% presented with domestic violence and elder abuse issues  
26% presented with general civil law issues and bail applications
- ➔ 85% had the majority of their needs met  
83% experienced improved quality of life  
85% were safer from harm.

Our clients faced:

- domestic and family violence
- health problems
- difficult housing and living arrangements
- income and financial problems
- a lack of coordination across services assisting with complex issues
- complex emotional and psychological needs
- decision-making and future-planning problems.

We assisted our clients to achieve outcomes such as:

- access to necessities such as ID documents, welfare payments, electricity connection, medications, food, clothing, accommodation, telephone contact

- access to Caxton's Vera Raymond hardship fund for urgent accommodation
- the draft of a safety plan to address domestic and family abuse
- reduction of risk of self-harm
- access to a range of supports for sustained coping with abuse, dealing with crises, returning to a more functional state of being after trauma, overcoming social isolation, reaching a viable financial position
- coordinated responses from a range of services assisting people with complex issues
- coping with grief and bereavement through a coronial process.

## Amy could have so easily fallen through the cracks

Amy was referred to Caxton Legal Centre regarding an assault matter. She is a strong woman with a culturally and linguistically diverse background who has experienced several traumatising life events that have left her with a disability. She has NDIS services in place.

After the assault by a neighbour, Amy and her child were being moved regularly to different crisis accommodation locations, which were not appropriate for her disability or her child's developmental needs.

After several conversations with the Department of Housing, a community housing service and Amy's NDIS coordinator, we were able to convene a group teleconference with all the services involved and our client. We provided ongoing emotional support to Amy, and helped her to apply for a Centrelink crisis payment and file a Victims Assist application. The Department of Housing offered Amy a new home after outlining the client's safety concerns about returning to her home, the very poor living conditions in crisis accommodation, and how these were exacerbating the symptoms of her disability and also failing to meet her child's needs.

Throughout the process we provided information and referrals to link Amy with her local community



# HOW WE HELPED OUR CLIENTS CONT.



including for age appropriate activities for her child, relevant health services and informal community support groups. We provided practical support for various problems that arose and most recently made a referral to a more relevant community legal centre for a separate legal issue that arose. I will provide further emotional and practical support as needed while Amy begins to engage with the other community legal centre.

Amy and her child are securely rehoused, they feel safe, essential support services are in place and they are establishing connections to live sustained, dignified lives as participants and contributors to their community.

## Criminal Law

Caxton advised clients with criminal law matters including a large number of traffic, ticketing and minor summary matters. We also provide some assistance in criminal matters, beyond just advice, if there is a significant human rights aspect. For example, we have had long term concerns about the use of public nuisance offences. We also assist in some cases that appear to us to indicate deficient policing practice, including racially motivated or discriminatory policing.

Ten percent of all services involved a criminal law issue. In 2019–2020, we were able to help a number of protesters who had been charged after environmental protests.

We do this work mostly with the help of our volunteer solicitors and barristers.



Caxton staff and guests celebrated International Women's Day.



Nada Loiterton with Honourable Dean Wells and Caxton lawyer Brittany Smeed (see case study on page 10).

# HOW WE HELPED OUR CLIENTS CONT.



## Bail

The Bail Support Program is funded by Queensland Corrective Services to assist men on remand at the Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre, the Brisbane Correctional Centre and the Woodford Correctional Centre to apply for bail and access necessary social support services.

The aim of the program is to reduce the number of men held on remand and to support men to reduce obstacles to obtaining bail and to remain safely in the community while on bail.

In the 2019–2020 financial year, we reviewed the files of 3203 number of prisoners on remand at the three correctional centres to preliminarily determine who would be eligible for assistance from the program.

Our team made 677 visits to clients to discuss the potential option of submitting a bail application and:

- ➔ 48 prisoners received legal and social work assistance to make the bail application.
- ➔ 49% of clients we acted for experienced domestic violence
- 19% identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- 71% of our applications were successful
- 11% of people released on bail were returned to prison
- 29% of clients had their criminal matter resolved while on bail
- 60% of clients on bail were still waiting for their matters to be finalised.

The COVID-19 restrictions have, at various points, had a significant impact on the delivery of the bail service, mainly due to the inability to visit prisoners or establish alternative forms of communication with them.

## Social work connections and bail brokerage

The social work component of our program is essential in ensuring that bail is granted and that our clients are able to comply with their bail conditions.

Our social workers assisted to address risks of recidivism and ensured our clients can access appropriate medical and mental health care, training and employment opportunities and sustainable housing. Our program funding contains an amount of brokerage funding, which is used by our social workers to ensure that our clients' needs are met on release to bail and while subject to bail conditions. Our brokerage funds have been used for a wide range of supports including:

- accommodation
- food, clothing and other essentials
- transport
- identification
- medication
- training courses to obtain qualifications necessary for employment
- private counselling services in rural locations where no publicly funded places available
- alcohol and drug rehabilitation services
- art supplies
- work-related personal protective equipment (e.g. work boots).

The two social workers on the team, tirelessly forged connections with many community service providers to develop pathways for inter-agency collaboration and connect people in prison with the help they require once released.

The social workers also played a significant role in supporting our clients throughout the bail application process and continue their assistance post release.

## Coronial

The Queensland Coronial Legal Service (QCLS) is delivered in partnership with Townsville Community Law Inc. and provides advice and representation to bereaved families who are going through the coronial process. We receive requests for assistance at all stages of the coronial investigation, as well as in relation to inquests.

In the 2019–2020 financial year we:

- ➔ represented 8 families in inquests
- assisted 2 people to have non-inquest findings published
- ➔ all families experienced financial disadvantage.



# HOW WE HELPED OUR CLIENTS CONT.



The majority of referrals came directly from the Coroners Court including from registry staff, investigation officers attached to the coroner and counsel assisting.

Being legally represented during an inquest allows a family the opportunity to be active participants in the process. It provides families with the opportunity to ask witnesses questions and to make submissions to the coroner about issues of concern to them. It gives them a voice in the process.

In six of the inquests we acted in, the coroner made recommendations aimed at preventing future deaths from occurring in similar circumstances.

The service was externally evaluated with positive results. It found that QCLS is an important support to families in the coronial jurisdiction. The evaluators commented that ‘... how the legal advice is offered to clients is as important as the legal advice itself, with emotional support and compassion rated as key to its [the service] effectiveness.’ The evaluators commented that the service should be better resourced and that they had identified issues with referrals to the service particularly inconsistency in referrals from the Coroners Court.

The program received an increase and extension of funding for five years in July 2020, which will see coronial law services expanded throughout Queensland. We are currently working with the Coroners Court and other stakeholders to improve referral pathways.

We have assisted clients in relation to various aspects of the coronial process including:

- negotiating where there is a dispute between family members about the burial or cremation plans for a deceased
- applying for a burial assistance grant where there are inadequate for the cremation or burial of a deceased
- making right-to-information requests to obtain information for clients not obtained through the coronial process
- assisting a coronial client to make a submission to the Disability Royal Commission
- corresponding with the Work Health and Safety prosecutor about a number of coronial matters
- making a Victims Assist applications
- communicating family concerns about the circumstances of a death to the coroner, advising and assisting family members to request an inquest where appropriate
- representing at and advising about inquests
- reviewing decisions made by a coroner.

## Our family just wanted answers

Samantha Wood’s father-in-law, Stephen Viner, died in 2017 after he received an electrical shock when performing maintenance work at a commercial property. An initial coronial and Workplace Health and Safety investigation was unable to determine Mr Viner’s cause of death. An inquest was held to determine the cause and circumstances of Mr Viner’s death, and for the coroner to consider whether there were any recommendations that could be made to prevent a death from occurring in similar circumstances in the future.

Ms Wood’s family was referred to our service to help the family, including Mr Viner’s wife, Maria, navigate the coronial process.

Ms Wood said that the most valuable aspect of the help her family received from us was giving them a voice.

*We felt as if our world had crumbled at our feet after the death, and the QCLS was always there to answer any question or concern. The service’s assistance made our experience with the coronial inquest that bit more bearable ...*

Our lawyers and a pro bono barrister also appeared in person to represent the family at the four-day inquest. We explained the process, answered questions and made sure that support from a social worker was on offer.

Representation at the inquest allowed the family to have their questions put to witnesses and to explain to the coroner their concerns and views about the evidence. As a result, the inquest examined issues raised by the family, and questions were answered.

Ms Wood said her family’s experience with the Coroner presiding over the inquest was positive.

*Listening to witnesses, investigators and the forensic pathologist recount the [details of the] death and scene was quite an emotional and exhausting time for our family.*

*Our family just wanted answers ... when the coroner handed down his findings, we finally received the answers we knew all along, and the closure we desperately needed.*

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND LEGAL EDUCATION

Caxton undertakes community engagement and legal education activities and produces unique resources to increase community knowledge and self-confidence around legal issues, and improve collaboration and referrals between service providers.

## Justice in Focus Series

The Caring Court: Using therapeutic jurisprudence and restorative justice principles in the Coroner's Court to help heal families, witnesses and communities

November 2019

At this forum experts discussed current practices of coronial courts in Queensland and other jurisdictions, and what we know about how families and witnesses experience these processes.

Our panellists Deputy State Coroner John Lock, Klaire Coles, Dr John Drayton, Professor Belinda Carpenter and Elle Brown considered how restorative justice and therapeutic jurisprudence approaches could be used in the coronial setting to enhance outcomes for community members while maintaining legal objectivity.

The forum was moderated by ABC Radio National journalist Paul Barclay and broadcast on ABC Radio National's *Big Ideas* program.

It was proudly presented in partnership with the Griffith University.



## Human rights, protection, freedoms and COVID-19

June 2020

The government response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been unlike anything most Australians have ever experienced. Panellists Mick Gooda, Professor Joseph Ibrahim and Bridget Burton explored how to navigate the balance between protection and freedom as restrictions continue. The forum, delivered by webinar, was moderated by ABC Radio National journalist Paul Barclay and broadcast on ABC Radio National's *Big Ideas* program.

It was proudly presented in partnership with the Queensland University of Technology.

## Community Legal Education

### General civil and criminal law

Community legal education (CLE) activities included:

- presentation at the Employment Law Masterclass at the Community Legal Centres Australia (CLCA) conference on sexual harassment, discrimination and bullying law
- a panel discussion regarding accessing bail for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- collaboration with YFS to deliver a CLE project talking to high school students about police powers
- production of CLE materials including short videos covering basic legal rights such as accessing hardship variations in response to COVID-19 pandemic
- production of factsheets regarding holiday cancellation and policing of COVID-19 restrictions
- production of a webinar with Community Legal Centres Queensland to provide guidance to other community legal centre lawyers on how to advise people who have been dismissed or stood down in response to the pandemic
- production of a series of short educational videos in AUSLAN.

# COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION CONT.

## Human Rights Act

We delivered human rights training and talks to:

- 150 hospital social workers across Queensland
- all Caxton staff
- 40 frontline and organisational staff at YFS
- Women's Legal Service about the application of the Human Rights Act to women victims of sexual and domestic violence
- the Queensland Human Rights Commission (QHRC) and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, focusing on the application of the Human Rights Act to the public service and administrative decision making.

Our practice director joined the Queensland Law Society Human Rights and Public Law Committee and the QHRC advocates group, and participated in meetings with various stakeholders in relation to human rights in Queensland.

## Queensland Retirement Village and Park Advice Service

The Queensland Retirement Village and Park Advice Service (QRVPAS) continued their statewide delivery of quality CLE sessions on retirement living options, often collaborating with our Financial Protections Service, which focuses on the financial side of retirement planning. The QRVPAS team also collaborated with our Seniors Legal and Support Service putting the spotlight on elder abuse in retirement living.

### Other CLE activities included:

- update of all QRVPAS factsheets following commencement of the final amendments to the Housing Legislation (Building Better Futures) Amendment Act 2017 (Qld)
- production of CLE materials addressing restricted use of or lack of access to common facilities
- production of factsheets in regard to
- production of CLE materials responding to an emerging practice in manufactured home parks to circumvent the rights of residents to seek review of excessive rent increases
- attendance at the annual general meeting of Associated Residential Parks Qld as guest speaker.

## Family and domestic violence

All our team members regularly participated in CLE events including:

- a presentation to the Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board
- a Community Legal Centre Queensland webinar presentation on the Domestic and Family Violence Bench Book
- an internal presentation on domestic violence, child protection and family law intersection.



Wendy Revell, from the Financial Protections Service with Doug and Heather Wiley and Margaret from National Seniors Caboolture branch at a Christmas event put on by the state member for Morayfield, the Honourable Mark Ryan's office.



QRVPAS's Brittany Smeed and Nali Wardill presenting 'Living in a Manufactured Home Park' at Pacific Palms Village in Burpengary.



# COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION CONT.

## Seniors Legal and Support Service and Financial Protections Service

CLE activities included:

- a presentation to the Beenleigh District Senior Citizens Centre on elder abuse referrals
- an interview with ABC Wide Bay on grandparents' rights
- a presentation to the Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre on Boundary Setting—Hearing Our Voices
- extensive community engagement at Seniors Week, the MOSAIC festival, the Forde Seniors Expo and the Logan Financial Literacy Information exchange day
- training to Uniting Communities in Adelaide about our multidisciplinary program
- a presentation to the Alzheimer's Association on elder abuse awareness
- connection with Islamic Women's Association of Australia, Meals on Wheels and a Yoga over 50s group to create awareness about the importance of financial planning
- monthly visits to the Burnie Brae Centre, which provides community services for seniors (e.g. transport services, education and recreational activities)
- weekly visits to the Nundah Activity Centre
- monthly visits to the 50+ Centre at the Brisbane City Hall
- presentation to Relationships Australia regarding Enduring Powers of Attorney, Advance Health Directives and future planning for older adults.

## Older Persons Advocacy and Legal Service

Our Older Persons Advocacy and Legal Service team delivered training about decision making, rights of older persons and elder abuse to:

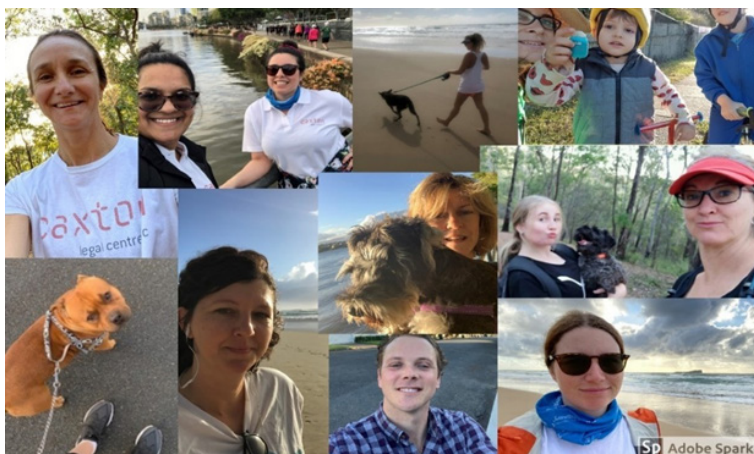
- Princess Alexandra Hospital (PAH) staff including nurses, junior doctors and social workers
- Community Health Interface Program nurses
- Internal Medicine Unit nurses
- the Trauma Team
- PAH consumer advisory committee.

Other CLE activities included:

- production of factsheets about referral pathways, how to advocate for your health, secondary consultations and conversation prompts
- statewide social work presentation around domestic violence and elder abuse.



OPALS lawyer Anna Hutchinson with staff from the Logan Hospital.



Staff from Caxton and their excited pets participated in the annual Queensland Legal Walk (by themselves to observe physical distancing). Funds raised will help LawRight continue to provide free legal assistance to vulnerable Queenslanders.

# WE ARE FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE



## Law Reform

Our lawyers have decades of experience working in specialist areas of law. We are regularly consulted on and contribute to the legal reform agenda from the perspective of our clients with a vision for fairer and just laws. Some of our submissions included:

- Religious Discrimination Bill—submission
- Anti-Protester Laws—submission and evidence provided at parliamentary hearing
- Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill—two submissions (coronial and detainee)
- Tenancy Laws—submission
- Associations Incorporation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill—submission
- Disability Royal Commission—consultation about education for children with disabilities
- Guardianship and Administration Reforms—consultation about the new forms, explanatory guidelines and capacity guidelines
- Criminal Code (Choking in Domestic Settings) and Another Act Amendment Bill—submission
- Family Law Reforms (parliamentary Joint Select Committee inquiry)—submission
- Recommendations made in the findings of the inquest into the death/disappearance of Daniel Morcombe—submission
- Buy Now Pay Later Code—joint submission
- COVID-19 Senate Inquiry—contribution to Community Legal Centres Australia (CLCA) submission
- UN Independent Expert on Protecting Human Rights of Older Persons During and After COVID-19—contribution to CLCA submission.

## Systemic Advocacy

There are systemic injustices that Caxton wants to see change on. We joined with others to advocate for system changes.

### Kids in watch-houses

Working closely with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service and the Public Guardian, we identified that

children were being unlawfully detained in watch-houses for periods of longer than 24 hours in Brisbane and 48 hours in regional watch-houses. We advocated with the state government for each child to be moved to more appropriate locations, thus upholding the human rights of vulnerable children.

### Older persons living with abuse

The abuse of older persons usually occurs in their own home by a family member. Older persons usually do not want to obtain a protection order to evict their adult child. The law is clear that if the older person tells them to leave their home and there is no tenancy arrangement (which is rare) the adult child is trespassing. Police have typically under-responded to this common scenario.

We have been working with the Queensland Police Service on an Elder Abuse Aide Memoir, procedures for the operating manual and elder abuse training to ensure older Queenslanders can remain living safely in their own homes.

## Campaigns

### Human Rights Act implementation

Caxton was integrally involved in the Human Rights Act campaign and since its introduction in January 2020, we have been rolling out our human rights implementation project which includes:

- building the evidence base of human rights legal need in Queensland
- increasing the capacity of all our staff and volunteers to become human rights practitioners who can identify human-rights breaches across all legal problem types
- continuing to lead and participate in sector development, networking and implementation activities with government, the Queensland Human Rights Commission, the Queensland Law Society and community organisations
- reviewing Caxton's service delivery, processes and procedures with a view to opting in as a public entity
- producing a comprehensive suite of self-help resources including a new chapter on human rights in the Queensland Law Handbook (still in progress) and other resources that fill a gap in legal information.

# WE ARE FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE CONT.



The Director of our Human Rights and Civil Law Practice is on the steering committee for the NGO submission to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The UPR is a unique process, which involves a periodic review of the human rights records of all 193 United Nations member states. It provides an opportunity for all states to declare what actions they have taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to overcome challenges to the enjoyment of human rights. The committee produced a joint submission making recommendations about particular human rights issues in Australia including raising the age of criminal responsibility, climate change, restrictive practices and democratic freedoms.

## Elder abuse

Caxton has board representation on Elder Abuse Action Australia (EAAA), a peak body funded by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department. We contribute to the advisory group to guide the work of EAAA. We are members of the EAAA Content Committee for the national elder abuse knowledge hub Compass.

We attended the national consultation on a National Register for Enduring Documents in Canberra, and advocated for a register and harmonisation of guardianship laws that provide safeguards for older persons at risk of experiencing abuse. We participated in the Commonwealth Government's stakeholder workshop to develop a national elder abuse communication strategy.

ABC News ran a story on intergenerational elder abuse, which we produced in collaboration with Townsville Community Law, this being the first time the issue was profiled on prime-time national television. The Courier Mail also published a supporting article.

For World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on 15 June 2020, we:

- ran a community-awareness-raising social media campaign for two months in collaboration with the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors and the Commonwealth Government's elder abuse knowledge hub Compass

- were interviewed by Radio 4EB's Filipino program to talk about elder abuse
- authored an article for Community Care Review on elder abuse
- co-delivered with Townsville Community Law a webinar for CLCA titled Healing our Communities by Ending Elder Abuse
- released five discussion papers arising out of the topics discussed at the National Elder Abuse Conference (including an edited transcript of several panel discussions)
- issued a joint media release with Metro South Health regarding the work of the elder abuse health justice partnership and its expansion set for 1 July 2020.

## Community Engagement and Networks

We connect the legal issues our clients experience with sector networks to collaboratively bring about improved services and systemic changes. We regularly attend the:

- Community Legal Education Legal Assistance Forum
- Child and Family Legal Assistance Forum steering committee
- Federal Circuit Court of Australia stakeholders group
- Family Law Pathways Network steering committee
- Brisbane Magistrates Court [domestic violence] stakeholders group
- Queensland Law Society (QLS) domestic and family violence committee
- Elder Abuse Prevention Unit reference group
- Older Persons Legal Services Network (Community Legal Centres Australia)
- Community Legal Centres Queensland management committee
- Health Justice Community of Practice
- QLS cross-committee working group on domestic and family violence law reform issues.



# WE ARE FIGHTING FOR JUSTICE CONT.



## Building the Capacity of Other Community Organisations

On 15 November 2019, a contingency of approximately 20 people from Indonesia visited Caxton for the purpose of learning how the Australian justice system actors deliver access to justice. This was coordinated through the University of Queensland School of Law.

On 5 March 2020, we hosted the Darwin Community Legal Centre to assist them with their framework for establishing an elder abuse service in the Northern Territory.

We held a teleconference with the legal and social worker team from Uniting Communities in Adelaide, who sought advice about how to run their brand new multidisciplinary elder abuse program.



Indonesian visitors at Caxton Legal Centre in 2019.

# WE ARE ADVOCATING FOR INCLUSIVENESS

## Reconciliation with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community

Caxton Legal Centre's participation and engagement with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community is mainly expressed through the active promotion of access to our services by staff and the First Nations Working Group.

Highlights of our work under the *Reconciliation Action Plan 2018–2020* (RAP) included:

- a celebration to launch the RAP at Caxton's office, featuring guest speaker Mr Mick Gooda. The event was beautifully catered by Straddie Indigenous Delights
- a presentation at the *Myall Creek and Beyond* symposium hosted by the University of New England
- public forums on *System Failure: The Over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women in Prison* and *Overcoming Barriers to Bail*, funded by the Celebrating Reconciliation Small Grants Program
- annual cultural awareness training for staff. There was a lot of interest and we recorded a high participation rate
- elder abuse community legal education talks for First Nations peoples at Morayfield, Zillmere and the Cherbourg Ration Shed
- annual sponsorship of \$1000 for the QUT Indigenous Law Student Award.

## The First Nations Working Group

In 2019–20, Caxton Legal Centre formed the First Nations Working Group to guide the organisation's work contributing to justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Several new staff joined the group demonstrating the passion for this work right across our organisation.

We also shifted from the Reconciliation Action Plan format, prescribed by Reconciliation Australia, to the design of a bespoke plan of action more closely aligned with the centre's new Strategic Plan of three years from 2020 to 2023.

Changes within the organisation's leadership created challenges in fulfilling our goals of deepening engagement with schools and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

organisations. These important objectives are now prioritised in our current goals.

## Inspiration from new leadership

Our new chair of the working group, Terry Stedman, is also vice chairperson of the Logan Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation for Elders and holds committee positions with the Queensland Law Society and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community organisations. He was one of the original architects of the Community Legal Centres Queensland's RAP. These experiences have provided a great platform for Terry to actively and enthusiastically contribute to genuine reconciliation across the whole of the legal sector.

Terry will be supported by Co-Chair and Executive Assistant to the CEO Tania Di Nicola. This will ensure our plan activities are integrated with strategic and operational activities of the centre.

## Noteworthy reconciliation actions

- Terry proficiently advised the Queensland Law Society about cultural competency training for the legal profession.
- He has also been meeting regularly with Elders in Logan to support their work in exploring a more responsive relationship between the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and Logan City Council.
- Caxton continued to offer cultural competency sessions to staff through our internal training program.
- Staff engaged in virtual tours of works in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander collection at the Queensland Art Gallery.
- Staff participated in the Kurilpa and Cultural Precinct Tour. This tour incorporated Aboriginal public artworks and discussed places of significance in the area where we work.
- Staff also joined the virtual NAIDOC Week walk/run in July 2020 organised by Indigenous business Clothing the Gap.

## Uncle Sam Watson Died

In December 2019, we acknowledged with sadness the passing of local Elder Uncle Sam Watson. A supporter of the centre and previous reconciliation action plans, the loss of Sam Watson was a difficult moment for the local community, his departure was celebrated in an epic event at Musgrave Park.

# WE ARE GUIDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEGAL PROFESSIONALS



## Student Clinics

Griffith University sent final-year law students on day-time placements for general law and advanced family law clinics throughout both semesters, and Queensland University of Technology sent law students on placements to our night sessions and our duty lawyer services.

All clinics provided crucial work-integrated learning opportunities for the students. Typically, students reported that their engagement with clients, which involves learning directly about the context of the clients' complex lives, profoundly changed their understanding of access to justice. Students realised that there are numerous interrelated barriers to justice within our legal system. They also learned about the importance of preventative legal education.

'I was shocked by the empathy and compassion that all staff offered the clients ... This is a key lesson I will take with me into my career.'

Students gave extremely positive feedback about their experience during the clinics observing lawyers' (and social workers') interviewing strategies.

The pandemic, of course, forced us to deliver the clinics online. Our volunteer barristers, Mark Thomas and Emily Lewsey, generously gave of their time to do 'cameo appearances' during the zooms. They both shared some fascinating accounts of their own journeys into the legal profession and career highlights, and observations about the importance of pro bono work and the valuable and sometimes challenging work encountered at Caxton.

Clinic students also reviewed key law reform reports and learned about our education projects. We also encourage them to attend Caxton's Justice in Focus Series.

'My experience at Caxton has sparked my interest in the human rights and law reform work they do.'  
'The clinic was a highlight of my university studies. I learned so much.'

## From Student at Caxton Legal Centre to Much-valued Staff Member

Caxton has a long history of training law and social work students whether it will be through the law clinics, run in collaboration with Brisbane's three universities, or during a practical legal training or social work placement in one of our practices.

Our multidisciplinary social worker-lawyer model, which we apply across all practices, is a real eye opener for law and social work students alike, and they quickly realise that a client's legal problem is more often than not intertwined with serious social struggles.

Students have the opportunity to experience first hand the role Caxton plays in filling the gap in the legal assistance and social support sector by providing services to marginalised clients who may otherwise not have access to justice. Students become aware how crucial it is to adopt an empathetic approach especially for clients who have comprehension difficulties due to low literacy, language barriers or disabilities.

These experiences frequently shape the career paths of our students, and many realise their preference for and ability to work with diverse individuals from marginalised backgrounds. Amongst our staff today, these people started as ambitious students at Caxton, in no particular order:

### Lawyers

Terry Stedman  
Amrit Prihar  
Nali Wardill  
Melody Valentine  
Carol McPhail  
Jade Paidel  
Anna Brasnett  
Loretta Stellino  
Yatarla Clarke  
Klaire Coles  
Miriam Barber  
Alexandria Pathirana  
Damien Janbroers  
Dan Rogers (management committee President)

### Social workers

Saad Ashgar  
Wendy Revell

# WE ARE GUIDING ... CONT.



## My Practical Legal Training Experience at Caxton

by Carol McPhail – medical practitioner and lawyer

I came to Caxton as a (very) mature-age practical legal training (PLT) student, having completed my law degree at QUT. I was attracted to Caxton as it fitted well with my social-justice values.

I found it to be an extraordinary workplace in terms of its collaborative and supportive ethos.

Caxton presents an excellent training ground for a PLT student and provides an opportunity to hone a wide range of skills under expert and conscientious supervision in many different areas of law.

As a medical practitioner, I found the coronial service to be particularly interesting and an opportunity to use my medical skills. I was greatly impressed by the respect accorded to me by the solicitors, who provide a very high standard of service and expect the same from their students.

I was so impressed with my experience that I stayed on as a volunteer law clerk for a number of months before I was fortunate enough to secure a position at Caxton.

## My Career Path

by Rossie Williams – a lawyer of 30 years and an artist

I originally wanted to be an actor, so enrolling in Arts/Law at UQ gave me a chance to do a major in drama and literature whilst doing something 'sensible' as part of my backup plan. Somehow the backup plan became my main focus for many years.

Most of my 30 years as a professional lawyer has been spent at Caxton where I have undertaken many interesting roles, working in family, general and elder law. In my early days, I was in court every week and later completed the Bar Practice Course. All this advocacy experience proved to be extremely useful.

Community legal education is a big focus at Caxton, and I developed a keen interest in non-profit governance. I am also proud of my contributions to Caxton's *Queensland Law Handbook* and the *Police Powers—Your Rights* booklet, which is still one of our most-used publications.

Law reform became another key area of interest, and I am particularly proud of the submissions I have written in relation to the legal needs of older people and addressing elder abuse. I also have been a clinical legal supervisor in our partnerships

with the universities, and have always been involved with our volunteer program. Supervising advice output, risk management and volunteer training have all been part of the parcel.

It took about 18 years before I moved to part-time work and developed my dual life as artist and lawyer. Running my two careers in tandem has, at times, been very challenging, and my plan of doing a PhD won't put a stop to that in the near future.

It certainly was a highlight to jointly win the Queensland Woman Lawyers Association's award as Woman Lawyer for the Year back in 2012.

Queensland's Human Rights Act is going to profoundly change the legal landscape and I am rolling up my sleeves to become a more skilled lawyer in this arena. My reasons for being here will remain the same. I am committed to client service, and I value working in an environment where camaraderie matters. The fact that all the staff share a similar vision for access to justice makes all the difference to Caxton as a workplace.

## Caxton Legal Centre Prize

*awarded to the student who successfully completed their first year of study in the Bachelor of Laws or Bachelor of Laws (Honours), identifies as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander peoples and engaged with their community.*

by Amelia Otton

In 2019, I was fortunate to be awarded the Caxton Legal Centre Prize. I am truly grateful to the centre for recognising my commitments to my education and my community, and for choosing to support me through my degree.

The prize has allowed me to become more involved with the Law Faculty and other Indigenous engagement activities.

In semester two of 2019, I was lucky enough to travel to Darwin for the National Indigenous Legal Conference and to Nepal for the Asia Pro Bono Conference.

Caxton's commitments to students at QUT and our community have not gone unnoticed, and I will be forever appreciative for the doors that their financial support opened for me.

My positive experience with Caxton has come full-circle, and I now work there as an Administration and Paralegal Officer. I look forward to the opportunity to give back.



# WE COULD NOT HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU

No one has made it throughout life without the help of someone else ...

When addressing the often intricate legal problems of our clients and the complexities of their needs, our volunteer lawyers and law students have gone far beyond just helping—they have provided access to justice for so many people and supported our clients to maintain their dignity.

We at Caxton feel extremely privileged to be able to rely on your generous contribution and incredible commitment to social justice. Without you, we would not have been able to

make a difference to the life of the many people who walked through our doors in desperate search for help. Thank you so much for your invaluable time and expertise.

A special mention must go to the members of the Bar for their outstanding assistance with a number of matters in court. The many favourable outcomes for our clients were undeniably due to your priceless expert advice.

We would also like to thank all of you for your patience and understanding while we were trying our hardest to balance pandemic restrictions with client and volunteer needs.

## Volunteer Lawyers

Aaron Santelises	Claudine Kasselis	Fiona Banwell	Josephine Nicholson
Adam Moschella	Colin Townes	Fraser Bax	Joshua Mountford
Aleksandra Symenovich	Damien Payard	Gareth Walters	Kate Adnams
Alexandra Moles	Dan Pratt	Gary Tan	Kate Fuller
Alice Husband	Danae Younger	Graeme Haas	Kate Palmer
Ambyr Cousen	Daniel Clare	Harold Rafter	Kate Witt
Amelia Hasson	Daniel Johnston	Harry McDonald	Kathleen Anderson
Amy Hehir	Darren Gunasekara	Helen Donovan	Kathryn McMillan
Amy Honan	Darren Townsend	Hongi Han	Kay Rosolen
Angela Taraborrelli	David Hall	Isaac Munsie	Ken Mackenzie
Andrew Owens	Damon Hatchett	Jack Longley	Kristin Ramsey
Andrew Lander	Dea Fairbairn	Jacinta Norris	Kurt McDonald
Amanda Wu	Dean McNulty	Jacob Redden	Kurt Wildermuth
Andrew Wydmanski	The Hon. Dean Wells	Jade Marr	Kylie Evans
Anita Marie Hall	Dermot Peverill	Jaimee-Lee Jessop	Leeann Murphy
Anna Lloyd	Douglas Van de Hoef	Jake Sunney	Leila Aria
Ann-Maree Russo	Duncan Marckwald	James Benjamin	Lillian Khan
Austin Hoo	Ebony-Jade Dignan	James Hall	Lisa Walker
Ben Taylor	Edmund Robinson	James Wieden	Louise Mary Hogg
Bianca Laird	Elena Marchetti	Jane Binstead	Luke Pearcy
Bianca Mendelson	Elizabeth Harvey	Jane Guerin	Luke Steel
Brett Thompson	Elle McDermott	Jane Kam	Lyn Han
Breony Dowling	Ellen Mayr	Jennifer Hewson	Lynette Vanderstoep
Bridget Davis	Ellie Basingthwaighte	Jenna Johnsen	Margaret Voight
Bridget O'Brien	Elliot Boddice	Jennifer Goodman	Martin Mallon
Brittany White	Emily Lewsey	Jessica Carroll	Matt Cameron
Caitlin Maher	Emma Kirkby	Jessica Mansell	Matt Forbes
Carolyn Buchan	Emily McRae	Jessica Grumelart	Matt Jackson
Chad Hill	Emmeli Stenlund	John Farren	Matthew Price
Chai Hoe	Erinn Griffiths	Jonathan Law	Matthew Proctor
Chloe Bennett	Eustacia Yates	Joseph Ibrahim	Max Walker
Chris McGrath	Faith Valencia-Forrester	Joseph Ludwig	Melanie Hindman QC



# THANK YOU! CONT.

## Volunteer Lawyers cont.

Megan Armstrong	Sara Ser
Melody Martin	Sasha Purcell
Mick Gooda	Saul Holt QC
Michael Bonasia	Scott McDougall
Mitch Rawlings	Sean Gilmour
Morgan Clarke	Selena Lang
Nastassja Milevskiy	Shane Monks
Natalie Morris	Shannon Chen
Natalie Smith	Shanti Fatchen
Nathan Edridge	Shaun Chng
Neil Paris	Simon Cleary
Niamh Fields	Simon Hamlyn-Harris
Nicholas Andreatidis QC	Simone Mizikovsky
Nicole Jones	Sooraj Sidhu
Nicole Smith	Sophie Harburg
Nigel Saines	Stacey Percival
Nikki A-Khavari	Stephanie Brown
Niki Schomberg	Stephanie Ewart
Patricia Kirkman-Scroope	Stephen Carius
Nikola Core	Stephen Colditz
Patrick Brown	Stuart Unwin
Patrick White	Sue Weber
Pat Wilson	Susan Donkin
Pawel Zielinski	Tabitha Vockler
Phil Hall	Tamara Walsh
Polly Richardson	Tayla Mojidi
Rachel Lusic	Tess Lehn
Rachel McCarthy	Thomas Allen
Rachel Smith	Thomas Rittson
Ray Murphy	Thomas Zwoerner
Rebecca Dannell	Toby Walthall
Rebecca Mann	Vaishi Rajanayagam
Rebecca Ananian-Welsh	Venetia Brown
Rebecca Wallis	Viva Paxton
Reimen Hii	William Schoenmaker
Remy Kurz	
Ria Ku	
Rina Cappiello	
Robert Ivessa	
Robert Stevenson	
Robert Tooth	
Ross Thurlow	
Rosie Kirby	
Sally Robb	
Samantha Ramsay	

## Volunteer Students and/or Law Graduates

Adam Connolly	Jessie Goldsworthy
Alice Tanzer-Wilde	Joanne De Jesus
Alicia Hahn	Kathleen Klug
Amanda Wisenthal	Kelvin Lee
Amelia Hasson	Kristy Do
Amelia Kousary	Laura Dawson
Ashley Knopp	Laura Devine
Brandon Luyt	Leah Carey
Brooke Hannan	Liam Jackson
Chris Cullen	Lisa Mildwaters
Christel (Chiew Pheng) Goh	Lucinda Duke
Claire Fung	Madeleine Wunsch
Deborah Allen	Madeliene Jensen
Elloise Campbell	Mercedes Frew
Gemma Leiper	Mitchell Kellett
Giulia Marrama	Mona Golbarani
Hala Hamed	Nicole Steemson
Hayley Feakes	Paul Scroope
Isabella Raby	Piyush Bhimwal
Ivy Lawrence	Rachael Gough
Jacinta Wild	Rachael Summers
Jack Baldwin	Sarah Gilmour
Jack Morris	Simon Tabet
Jane Beilby	Simran Desai
Jesse Evans	Sophie Taylor
Jesse To	Steven Cawood
Jessica Walton	Tyneal Koorbanally



Some of our lovely volunteer lawyers with Caxton Legal Centre lawyer Rossie Williams.

# TREASURER'S REPORT



Caxton Legal Centre Inc. completed the 2019–2020 financial year with a surplus of \$133 641 on an annual turnover of \$5 402 479.

Income for the year increased by \$1 026 551, which is a 23.5% increase on the previous year. The increase in income occurred predominately in two areas:

- the first full year of the Bail Support Program for men, which runs through to 30 June 2021
- the first full year of the Older Persons Advocacy and Legal Service, our Health Justice Partnership with Metro South Health. This program has been funded through to 30 June 2022.

Expenses increased by \$1 053 825 for the year, which was 3% more than the additional funding received. Employee expenses accounted for 93% of this increase as Caxton invested in human resources to not only deliver the new programs but to continue to enhance service delivery performance across the organisation. Other, non-wage, expenses were well controlled during the year and continued to make up less than 20% of the total expenses.

The centre's major funding streams were ongoing as part of existing agreements for the year, so overall there was a level of certainty boosted by the allocation of new funding streams for pilot programs. Caxton was pleased to receive notification that our Coronial Assistance Service will be refunded for an additional five years until June 2025.

The Seniors Legal Support Service funding was due to be renewed this year, however, as a result of the impact of COVID-19, the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors decided to extend the existing funding for one year and will review the five-year contract in the next 12 months.

Overall, the 2019–2020 year saw Caxton imbed two new pilot programs and continue to deliver all services to clients during a pandemic that caused the world to change the way it operates. Caxton continued to operate efficiently with adequate resources to meet its ongoing financial commitments and is well placed to take up new opportunities and meet future challenges.

## OUR MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**President:** Dan Rogers  
**Secretary:** Kristin Ramsey  
**Treasurer:** Louise Cox

### General members:

Amanda Alford  
Kevin Lambkin  
Margaret Arthur  
Mark Thomas  
Matt Jackson  
Wendy Mulcahy



# FUNDING SOURCES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Caxton Legal Centre gratefully acknowledges our state and national funding bodies for the various programs across our four practices that deliver frontline services for vulnerable Queenslanders. In particular we acknowledge the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department, and state departments of Justice and Attorney-General; Communities, Disability Services and Seniors; Housing and Public Works,

and Queensland Corrective Services. We would also like to thank our partner Metro South Health for a very successful first year in piloting the Older Persons Advocacy and Legal Service. Thank you also to our partners who helped to organise and staff the university law student clinics, and for co-presenting the Justice in Focus Series events held at the Banco Court in Brisbane.

## Funding

Funded by



Australian Government

## Partners

**Metro South  
Health**



**National Seniors**  
AUSTRALIA



**Griffith**  
UNIVERSITY



# FINANCIAL REPORT

## 1.

### **CAXTON LEGAL CENTRE INC. STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

	<b><u>Note</u></b>	<b><u>2020</u></b>	<b><u>2019</u></b>
Revenue	2	5,306,008.80	4,264,174.97
Other Income	2	96,470.44	111,752.47
Employee benefits expense		(4,340,904.69)	(3,388,826.13)
Depreciation and amortisation expense		(103,347.71)	(92,049.96)
Insurance		(13,704.46)	(9,016.33)
Motor vehicle and travel expenses		(41,367.02)	(25,651.84)
Property Expenses		(134,390.30)	(71,685.26)
Staff training and development expenses		(84,350.29)	(96,884.71)
Audit, legal and consultancy fees		(73,850.17)	(106,894.00)
Client support services expense		(106,147.33)	(50,270.11)
Other operating costs		(370,775.33)	(373,734.02)
<b>Current year surplus before income tax</b>		<b>133,641.94</b>	<b>160,915.08</b>
Income tax expense		-	-
<b>Net current year surplus</b>		<b>133,641.94</b>	<b>160,915.08</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>\$133,641.94</b>	<b>\$160,915.08</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income attributable to members of the entity</b>		<b>\$133,641.94</b>	<b>\$160,915.08</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements

## 2.

**CAXTON LEGAL CENTRE INC.**  
**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**AS AT 30 JUNE 2020**

	<u>Note</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash at Bank - On Hand	3	1,144,599.96	874,585.85
Debtors & Prepayments		92,413.48	110,095.30
Deposits		5,085.00	4,395.00
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>1,242,098.44</b>	<b>989,076.15</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Fixed Assets	4	2,582,493.00	2,673,957.71
Right of Use assets	5	18,632.00	-
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>2,601,125.00</b>	<b>2,673,957.71</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>\$3,843,223.44</b>	<b>\$3,663,033.86</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Creditors & Accruals		316,855.64	362,922.53
Employee Provisions		469,367.99	401,360.76
Income Received & Unexpended		-	105,179.27
Contract Liability	7	99,649.36	-
Lease Liability		12,812.00	-
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>898,684.99</b>	<b>869,462.56</b>
<b>Non-Current Liabilities</b>			
Employee Provisions		176,949.22	165,707.01
Lease Liability		6,083.00	-
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<b>183,032.22</b>	<b>165,707.01</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>1,081,717.21</b>	<b>1,035,169.57</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>\$2,761,506.23</b>	<b>\$2,627,864.29</b>
<b>MEMBERS FUNDS</b>			
Retained Surplus		2,761,506.23	2,627,864.29
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS</b>		<b>\$2,761,506.23</b>	<b>\$2,627,864.29</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



## 3.

**CAXTON LEGAL CENTRE INC.**  
**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

	<b><u>Retained Surplus</u></b>	<b><u>Revaluation Surplus</u></b>	<b><u>Financial Assets Reserve</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
<b>Balance at 1 July 2018</b>	\$2,466,949.21	\$NIL	\$NIL	\$2,466,949.21
<b>Comprehensive Income</b>				
Surplus for the year attributable to members of the entity	\$160,915.08	-	-	\$160,915.08
<b>Total comprehensive income attributable to members of the entity</b>	\$160,915.08	-	-	\$160,915.08
<b>Balance at 30 June 2019</b>	\$2,627,864.29	\$NIL	\$NIL	\$2,627,864.29
<b>Balance at 1 July 2019</b>	\$2,627,864.29	\$NIL	\$NIL	\$2,627,864.29
<b>Comprehensive Income</b>				
Surplus for the year attributable to members of the entity	\$133,641.94	-	-	\$133,641.94
<b>Total comprehensive income attributable to members of the entity</b>	\$133,641.94	-	-	\$133,641.94
<b>Balance at 30 June 2020</b>	\$2,761,506.23	\$NIL	\$NIL	\$2,761,506.23

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**CAXTON LEGAL CENTRE INC.  
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
<b>Receipts</b>		
Interest	1,120.96	3,749.08
Other	362,262.71	242,724.99
Cash flows from Government Grants	5,051,247.48	3,932,852.64
<b>Payments</b>		
Suppliers and Employees	(5,132,308.04)	(3,924,176.40)
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities</b>	<u>\$282,323.11</u>	<u>\$255,150.31</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Payment for purchase of plant & equipment	-	(29,788.70)
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>\$(29,788.70)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES</b>		
Repayments of Lease Liabilities	(12,309.00)	-
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities</b>	<u>\$(12,309.00)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash held	270,014.11	225,361.61
Cash at beginning of the reporting period	874,585.85	649,224.24
<b>Cash at end of the reporting period</b>	<u>\$1,144,599.96</u>	<u>\$874,585.85</u>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT TO NET CASH PROVIDED BY (USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Operating Result	133,641.94	160,915.08
- Depreciation	103,347.71	92,049.96
- Interest	689.00	-
- (Increase)/Decrease in Receivables	17,681.82	(67,077.91)
- (Increase)/Decrease in Deposits	(690.00)	(4,395.00)
- Increase/(Decrease) in Payables	(46,066.89)	104,983.25
- Increase/(Decrease) in Provisions	79,249.44	84,690.66
- Increase/(Decrease) Unexpended Grants/Contract Liability	(5,529.91)	(116,015.73)
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities</b>	<u>\$282,323.11</u>	<u>\$255,150.31</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**CAXTON LEGAL CENTRE INC.**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

## **1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirement of the Associations Incorporated Act (Qld) and Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The report is also prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless otherwise stated, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

### **(a) Revenue and Other Income**

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. For this purpose, deferred consideration is not discounted to present values when recognising revenue.

The association has applied AASB 15: Revenue from Contracts with Customers (AASB 15) and AASB 1058: Income of Not-for-Profit Entities (AASB 1058) using the cumulative effective method of initially applying AASB 15 and AASB 1058 as an adjustment to the opening balance of equity at 1 July 2019. Therefore, the comparative information has not been restated.

#### *Operating Grants, Donations and Bequests*

When the association receives operating grant revenue, donations or bequests, it assesses whether the contract is enforceable and has sufficiently specific performance obligations in accordance with AASB 15.

#### *Capital Grant*

When the association receives a capital grant, it recognises a liability for the excess of the initial carrying amount of the financial asset received over any related amounts (being contributions by owners, lease liability, financial instruments, provisions, revenue or contract liability arising from a contract with a customer) recognised under other Australian Accounting Standards.

The association recognises income in profit or loss when or as the association satisfies its obligations under the terms of the grant.

#### *Interest Income*

Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method.

All revenue is state net of the amount of goods and services tax.

**CAXTON LEGAL CENTRE INC.**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

**1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (cont'd)**

**a) Revenue and Other Income (cont'd)**

*In the comparative period*

Non-reciprocal grant revenue was recognised in profit or loss when the association obtained control of the grant and it was probable that the economic benefits gained from the grant would flow to the Entity and the amount of the grant could be measured reliably.

If conditions were attached to the grant which must be satisfied before the association was eligible to receive the contribution, the recognition of the grant as revenue was deferred until those conditions were satisfied.

When grant revenue was received whereby the association incurred an obligation to deliver economic value directly back to the contributor, this was considered a reciprocal transaction and the grant revenue was recognised in the statement of financial position as a liability until the service had been delivered to the contributor; otherwise the grant was recognised as income on receipt.

**(b) Leases**

**The Association as lessee**

At inception of a contract, the Association assesses if the contract contains or is a lease. If there is a lease present, a right-of-use asset and a corresponding lease liability is recognised by the Association where the Association is a lessee. However, all contracts that are classified as short-term leases (lease with remaining lease term of 12 months or less) and leases of low value assets are recognised as an operating expense on a straight-line basis over the term of the lease.

Initially the lease liability is measured at the present value of the lease payments still to be paid at commencement date. The lease payments are discounted at the interest rate implicit in the lease. If this rate cannot be readily determined, the Association uses the incremental borrowing rate.

Lease payments included in the measurement of the lease liability are as follows:

- fixed lease payments less any lease incentives;
- variable lease payments that depend on an index or rate, initially measured using the index or rate at the commencement date;
- the amount expected to be payable by the lessee under residual value guarantees;
- the exercise price of purchase options, if the lessee is reasonably certain to exercise the options;
- lease payments under extension options if lessee is reasonably certain to exercise the options; and
- payments of penalties for terminating the lease, if the lease term reflects the exercise of an option to terminate the lease.

The right-of-use assets comprise the initial measurement of the corresponding lease liability as mentioned above, any lease payments made at or before the commencement date as well as any initial direct costs. The subsequent measurement of the right-of-use assets is at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.



**CAXTON LEGAL CENTRE INC.**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

**1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (cont'd)**

**(b) Leases (cont'd)**

**The Association as lessee (cont'd)**

Right-of-use assets are depreciated over the lease term or useful life of the underlying asset whichever is the shortest. Where a lease transfers ownership of the underlying asset or the cost of the right-of-use asset, reflects that the Association anticipates to exercise a purchase option, the specific asset is depreciated over the useful life of the underlying asset.

**Concessionary Leases**

For leases that have significantly below-market terms and conditions principally to enable the Association to further its objectives (commonly known as peppercorn/concessionary leases), the Association has adopted the temporary relief under AASB 2018-8.

**(c) Property, Plant and Equipment**

Plant and Equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation is calculated on the prime cost basis and is brought to account over the estimated economic lives of all fixed assets commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The depreciation rates used are as follows:

<u>Class of Fixed Assets</u>	<u>Depreciation Rate</u>
Plant and Equipment	25%

**(d) Impairment of Assets**

At the end of each reporting period, the committee reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value in use, to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over to recoverable amount is recognized in the income and expenditure statement.

**(e) Employee Provisions**

Provision is made for the Organisation's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee Provisions have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

**(f) Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.



**CAXTON LEGAL CENTRE INC.**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

**1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (cont'd)**

**(g) Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when the Association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

**(h) Income Tax**

No provision for income tax has been raised as the organisation is exempt from income tax under Section 50.5 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 (Cth).

**(i) Goods and Services Tax (GST)**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognized net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the assets and liabilities statement.

**(j) Comparative Figures**

Comparative figures, where necessary, have been reclassified in order to comply with the presentation adopted in the figures reported for the current financial year.

**(k) Economic Dependence**

The Caxton Legal Centre Inc. is dependant on government funding to operate. As at the date of the report the committee has no reason to believe the government will not continue to support the organisation.

**(l) Significant Management Judgement in Applying Accounting Policies**

The directors evaluate estimates and judgements incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the organisation.

**(m) New and Amended Accounting Policies Adopted by the Association**

**Initial application of AASB 16**

The Association has adopted *AASB 16 Leases* retrospectively with the cumulative effect of initially applying AASB 16 recognised at 1 July 2019. In accordance with AASB 16 the comparatives for the 2019 reporting period have not been restated.

The Association has recognised a lease liability and right-of-use asset for all leases (with the exception of short term and low value leases) recognised as operating leases under AASB 117 Leases where the Association is the lessee. The lease liabilities are measured at the present value of the remaining lease payments. The Association's incremental borrowing rate as at 1 July 2019 was used to discount the lease payments.

**CAXTON LEGAL CENTRE INC.**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

**1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (cont'd)**

**(m) New and Amended Accounting Policies Adopted by the Association (cont'd)**

**Initial application of AASB 16 (cont'd)**

The right of use assets for equipment was measured at its' carrying amount as if AASB 16: Leases had been applied since the commencement date, but discounted using the Association's weighted average incremental borrowing rate on 1 July 2019.

The following practical expedients have been used by the Association in applying AASB 16 for the first time:

- for a portfolio of leases that have reasonably similar characteristics, a single discount rate has been applied
- leases that have remaining lease term of less than 12 months as at 1 July 2019 have been accounted for in the same way as short-term leases
- the use of hindsight to determine lease terms on contracts that have options to extend or terminate.

**Initial application of AASB 15 and AASB 1058**

The Association has applied AASB 15: Revenue from Contracts with Customers and AASB 1058: Income of Not-for-Profit Entities using the cumulative effective method of initially applying AASB 15 and AASB 1058 as an adjustment to the opening balance of equity at 1 July 2019. Therefore, the comparative information has not been restated and continues to be presented under AASB 118: Revenue and AASB 1004: Contributions.

The table below provides details of the significant changes and quantitative impact of these changes on initial date of application 1 July 2019.

	As previously presented on 30 June 2019	Application impact of AASB 15 and AASB 1058	As presented at 1 July 2019
	\$	\$	\$
Statement of financial position			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Income Received & Unexpended	105,179.27	(105,179.27)	-
Contract liability	-	105,179.27	105,179.27
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained surplus	-	-	-

**CAXTON LEGAL CENTRE INC.**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
<b>2. REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME</b>		
<b>Revenue</b>		
<b>Revenue from Government Grants</b>		
Legal Aid Office (Queensland)	1,105,664.00	1,038,665.00
Legal Aid Office (Queensland) - Other Projects	382,685.73	374,695.00
Office of Legal Aid & Family Services - Commonwealth	834,942.00	821,793.00
Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors	1,331,171.00	1,231,366.00
Department of Housing and Public Works	357,090.91	342,818.18
Queensland Corrective Services	799,223.75	155,939.19
Attorney General's Department	270,000.00	72,592.00
	<hr/> 5,080,777.39	<hr/> 4,037,868.37
<b>Other Revenue</b>		
Non-Recurrent Funding	150,442.95	151,592.83
Interest	1,120.96	3,749.08
Clinic Fees	55,300.00	56,000.00
Royalties	18,367.50	14,964.69
	<hr/> 5,306,008.80	<hr/> 4,264,174.97
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		
<b>Other Income</b>		
Donations	8,768.37	69,626.50
Membership	835.45	470.00
Sundry Income	86,866.62	41,655.97
	<hr/> 96,470.44	<hr/> 111,752.47
<b>TOTAL OTHER INCOME</b>		
<b>TOTAL REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME</b>	<hr/> \$5,402,479.24	<hr/> \$4,375,927.44
<b>3. CASH AT BANK, ON DEPOSIT &amp; ON HAND</b>		
Petty Cash	200.00	200.00
Westpac - Cheque account	113,211.61	108,267.86
Westpac - Cash Reserve Account	887,149.90	621,184.42
Westpac - Cash Reserve Account	141,964.31	144,601.65
Pay Pal Account	331.92	331.92
Australia Post Mastercard	1,742.22	-
	<hr/> \$1,144,599.96	<hr/> \$874,585.85

## 11.

**CAXTON LEGAL CENTRE INC.**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
<b>4. FIXED ASSETS</b>		
Land & Buildings - At Cost		
- 1 Manning Street, South Brisbane	2,717,675.25	2,717,675.25
- Depreciation Building	(199,995.00)	(174,999.00)
	<u>2,517,680.25</u>	<u>2,542,676.25</u>

Land and buildings are included in the Financial Statements at cost. However, this does not necessarily represent the market value or recoverable amount, as the association is a non-profit organisation, and the service potential of land and buildings is not related to the land and building's ability to generate net cash inflows.

Office Equipment, Furniture and Motor Vehicles		
Written Down Value 1 July 2019	131,281.46	168,543.72
- Additions	-	29,788.70
- Depreciation	(66,468.71)	(67,050.96)
	<u>64,812.75</u>	<u>131,281.46</u>
	<u>\$2,582,493.00</u>	<u>\$2,673,957.71</u>

**5. RIGHT-OF-USE ASSET**

The organisation leases two motor vehicles for 2 to 3 year terms.

i) AASB 16 related amounts recognised in the Balance Sheet:

	<u>2020</u>
<b>RIGHT-OF-USE ASSETS</b>	
Leased Motor Vehicles	30,515.00
Accumulated Depreciation	11,883.00
<b>TOTAL RIGHT-OF-USE ASSETS</b>	<u>\$18,632.00</u>

i) AASB 16 related amounts recognised in the Statement of Profit or Loss:

Depreciation Charge related to Right-Of-Use Assets	11,883.00
Interest Expense on Lease Liabilities	688.00

**6. CHARGE ON PROPERTY**

The following mortgages have been given over freehold premises at 1 Manning Street, South Brisbane:-

First Mortgage - Westpac Bank  
 - Balance of Mortgage

The organisation has a business overdraft facility with Westpac Bank for \$600,000.00.



**CAXTON LEGAL CENTRE INC.**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

**2020**

**7. CONTRACT LIABILITY**

Department of Housing and Public Works	8,085.00
Clinic Fees - Queensland University of Technology	24,000.00
Queensland Corrective Services	67,564.36
	<u>\$99,649.36</u>

**8. EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD**

The impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is ongoing, and while it has not had a financial impact for the entity up to 30 June 2020, it is not practicable to estimate the potential impact, positive or negative, after the reporting date. The situation is rapidly developing and is dependent on measures imposed by the Australian Government and other countries, such as maintaining social distancing requirements, quarantine, travel restrictions and any economic stimulus that may be provided.



13.

CAXTON LEGAL CENTRE INC.

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial Statements.

1. In the opinion of the committee the financial report as set out on pages 1 to 12 are in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012 and:
  - (i) Comply with the Australian Accounting Standards applicable to the entity; and
  - (ii) Give a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 30 June 2020 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Caxton Legal Centre Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This Declaration is signed in accordance with Subs 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Regulation 2013.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

7/10/2020

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## 14.

### **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF**

#### **CAXTON LEGAL CENTRE INC.**

#### **Report on the Audit of the Financial Report**

##### ***Opinion***

We have audited the financial report of Caxton Legal Centre Inc., which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2020, the statement of profit & loss and other comprehensive income, statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the certification by members of the committee on the annual statements giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the association.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Caxton Legal Centre Inc. has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012 and the Associations Incorporation Act (QLD).

- 1) Giving a true and fair view of the associations financial position as at 30 June 2020 and of its performance for the year then ended; and
- 2) Complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Regulation 2013.

##### ***Basis for Opinion***

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. 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 association in accordance with the Auditor Independence Requirements of the ACNC Act and ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES110: 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.

##### ***Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting***

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the association to meet the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012 and the Associations Incorporation Act (QLD). As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

##### ***Responsibilities of the Committee for the Financial Report***

The committee is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012 and the Associations Incorporation Act (QLD), and for such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the committee is responsible for assessing the association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the committee either intends to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

### ***Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report***

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with 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 association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the committee.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the committee's 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 association'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 association 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.

We communicate with the committee 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.



PETER GESCH  
HAYWARDS CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS  
Level 1 / 488 Lutwyche Road  
LUTWYCHE QLD 4030

Dated this 18<sup>th</sup> day of September 2020



## 16.

**CAXTON LEGAL CENTRE INC.**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

**COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE**

	<b><u>2020</u></b>	<b><u>2019</u></b>
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>		
Grant Received	834,942.00	821,793.00
Legal Aid Office (Queensland)	1,105,664.00	1,038,665.00
Qld-Statewide Coronial Assistance Services	100,000.00	100,000.00
Digital Upgrade Grant	10,000.00	-
	<hr/> 2,050,606.00	<hr/> 1,960,458.00
Other Income	87,656.70	108,596.81
<b><u>TOTAL INCOME</u></b>	<hr/> \$2,138,262.70	<hr/> \$2,069,054.81
<b><u>LESS EXPENSES</u></b>		
Salaries and Wages	1,777,723.47	1,720,075.16
Staff Training	22,097.57	22,000.00
Staff Recruitment	10,000.00	11,500.00
Premises Costs	86,850.06	86,896.00
Communication Expenses	20,981.00	20,000.00
Office Overheads	56,310.33	56,723.00
Insurance	4,520.01	4,721.80
Finance & Accounting Fees	4,400.00	4,550.00
Travel	9,000.00	8,370.00
Library,Resources & Subscriptions	26,880.26	22,898.85
Programming & Planning	76,000.00	77,150.00
Digital Upgrade	10,000.00	-
Minor Equipment	7,500.00	7,850.00
Depreciation	10,000.00	10,000.00
Client Disbursements	16,000.00	16,320.00
<b><u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u></b>	<hr/> \$2,138,262.70	<hr/> \$2,069,054.81
<b><u>NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR</u></b>	<hr/> \$NIL	<hr/> \$NIL

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

# NOTES

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Office hours: 9 am – 5 pm Monday to Friday

Caxton Legal Centre holds free legal advice sessions for people on a low income or who face other disadvantage.

Call us to book an appointment.

