



Feminist Legal Clinic Incorporated

Annual Report 2019 - 2020

**FEMINIST
LEGAL
CLINIC**

advance the
cause
champion the
human rights
empower-
ment
liberated from
discrimination
share
equitably
participate
equally
women's
agency
pro-actively
campaign
collaborative
network
community
justice
advancing the
feminist cause

Mission Statement

Our mission

Feminist Legal Clinic’s mission is to advance the cause of feminism and champion the human rights of women and girls by providing legal support to feminist organisations, groups and services and the women who access them.

Our vision

Our vision is a world where women and their children are liberated from discrimination, exploitation, abuse and violence and the empowerment of women and girls is prioritised and achieved in every sphere of their lives. Core to this vision is ensuring that all women and girls are free to enjoy the status, independence and power necessary to participate equally in private and public decision-making, and control and share equitably in all economic, social, cultural and political resources and capital.

Our objectives

Our work is directed toward recognising women’s agency and giving voice to the lived experiences of all women and girls in order to drive systemic and cultural change that promotes and improves women’s individual and collective access to quality legal support and services, and the universal fulfilment of women’s human rights, their legal entitlements and delivery to women of just outcomes. We seek to progress feminist projects and activities on behalf of clients and our partners, and to proactively campaign and drive a feminist agenda for connecting policy and practice, and educating the community and profession. We are committed to developing and building strong collaborative networks and partnerships, including with universities and students, practitioners, the legal profession and other community justice services, to pursue our mission and vision in advancing the feminist cause. We intend to work towards this through undertaking a mix of targeted casework, law and policy reform, strategic research and advocacy projects, and promoting community and professional engagement, training and education.

‘... victims must no longer be subject to harrowing cross examination in efforts by defence lawyers to establish that they have given consent.’

*Cups of Tea, Joyriding and Shaking Hands –
The Vexed Issue of Consent*

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Management Committee

Anna Kerr Principal Solicitor & Public Officer (14/3/17 -)

Anna has been a practising solicitor for over 25 years and has worked in a wide range of community legal services. She is a member of Legal Aid's Domestic Violence Practitioner Scheme, an elected member of the Steering Group of the Equality Rights Alliance (ERA) and has been appointed country contact for the Declaration of Women's Sex-Based Rights.

Dr Helen Pringle Convenor (19/3/19 -)

Helen is a Senior Lecturer at the School of Social Sciences, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, UNSW. Her research interests are in human rights and justice (with a focus on questions of sex and gender), including a project concerning the place of pornography within considerations of free speech.

Bronwyn Williams Committee Member (21/6/19 -)

A retired lawyer and social worker and member of Women Speak Tasmania which is a network of activists focused on preserving women's spaces, services, groups and facilities, opposing the increasing sexualisation and objectification of women and girls, exposing the harms of the global sex trade and surrogacy as violations of women's human rights and ending male violence against girls and women.

Dr Catherine Lynch Committee Member (28/3/19 -)

A lawyer and vice president of *Adoptee Rights Australia, Inc.* Catherine researches Australia's history of maternal-neonatal separation and its current expressions in child protection, adoption and surrogacy. She is a founding member of *Abolish Surrogacy Australia* (ABSA), a member of *Tangled Webs* and the *Coalition for Accurate Birth Records* and fights for the voices of people traumatised by being separated from their mothers at or near to birth to be heard.



'It is high time our society acknowledged the gendered nature of all violence and gave priority to the protection of women and children.'

Why must women go unprotected from violent male neighbours?

Vee Malnar Committee Member (21/6/19 - 3/4/20)

Accomplished songwriter, playwright, musician and painter. In 2006 Vee established the Sydney Mamapalooza Arts Festival which celebrates, promotes and inspires mothers' contributions to the performing and visual arts. Vee is the 2014 recipient of the Edna Ryan Arts Award for her efforts to make a feminist difference.

Ann Reynolds Treasurer (24/8/2019 -)

Ann is a Wikipedia editor extraordinaire and operates FLC's Women Write Wiki project and is also a member of the WikiProject Women in Red. She is also FLC's membership officer.

Fiona Gayler Committee Member (11/12/19 -)

Fiona is a legal researcher with 20 years' experience as a criminal lawyer working in the government sector. She's the primary carer for children, while volunteering over the years at community legal centres and school fundraisers.

Janet Fraser Committee Member (3/4/20 -)

Janet has been the National Convenor of Joyous Birth, the Australian homebirth network since 2004. She cofounded the NSW Women's Guild in 2019. Her book, "Born Still: a memoir of grief" was published by Spinifex Press in 2020. She writes for Patreon at [Despatches From The Matriarchy](https://www.patreon.com/despatches) <https://www.patreon.com/despatches>.

Convenors' Report

Feminist Legal Clinic Inc.'s third full year of operation has been full of challenges, but also many exciting events and projects including:

- Commencing operation of the Women's Court Support Service (WCSS) with a roster of volunteers after funding was removed from the original WFLCSS by the NSW Government.
- Helping to organise and participating in the 3 day AMIRCI Motherhood Conference in July 2019 at the University of Sydney.
- Collaborating with the Older Women's Network and The Women's Library on the Sanctuary event in July 2019, the third in a series of panel events addressing women's safety and response to male violence.



Anna launching Declaration at IWD Brisbane Meanjin Conference

'Selling the car used by a female partner (but registered in the male partner's name) is a common means of perpetrating financial abuse.'

How NSW Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) facilitates financial abuse

- Collaborating with Professor Rita Shackel of the University of Sydney Law School and other volunteers on the ongoing Women Defendant's Project.
- Supporting and attending the inaugural Radical Womyn Film Festival at Newtown's Dendy Cinema in February 2020.
- Extending the reach of our website and Facebook page with 635 posts to our media digest blog which receives over 1,000 visitors a month. We have over 1,000 subscribers to our website and a similar number of followers on our Facebook page.
- Launching the Declaration on Women's Sex-Based Rights in Australia as country contact for the Women's Human Rights Campaign (WHRC) at events in Sydney and Brisbane.

Bronwyn Williams & Helen Pringle
Co-Convenors

Case Study – Catalina

Catalina* was a non-English speaking woman recently arrived in Australia on a student visa. Her English was inadequate to explain events to police following a violent altercation with her boyfriend in which he sustained a cut hand. Police acted on his version of events and charged her as the perpetrator of violence. Catalina was arrested and kept all night at the police station with no access to medical attention or legal advice. At hearing we were able to establish that Catalina had acted in self-defence, with the result that the assault charge and AVO against her was dropped and instead orders were instituted against him for our client's protection.

*names have been changed

Principal Solicitor's Report on Activities

Casework

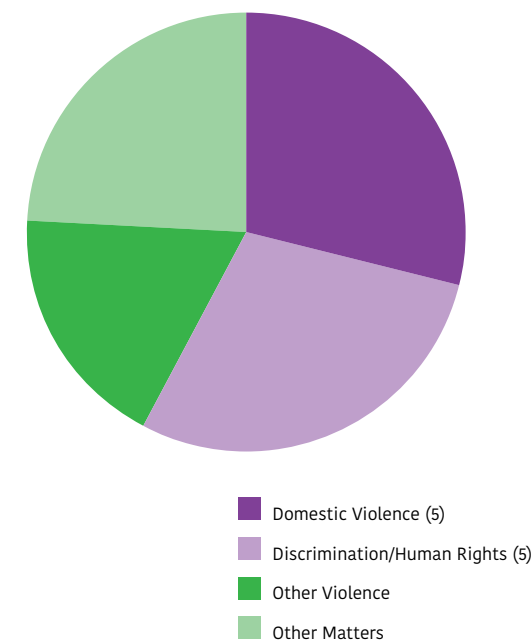
Our database records that during 2019-2020 our office has had over 200 contacts with clients providing basic advice/information/referral. This assistance was most commonly provided by email, but also face to face (prior to the COVID lockdown) and by telephone. In addition to this we have opened 17 files for matters where ongoing assistance was appropriate, with 5 of these matters involving advocacy services in a court or a tribunal. A dozen of these files were finalised during the year and five matters were ongoing at the end of June 2020.

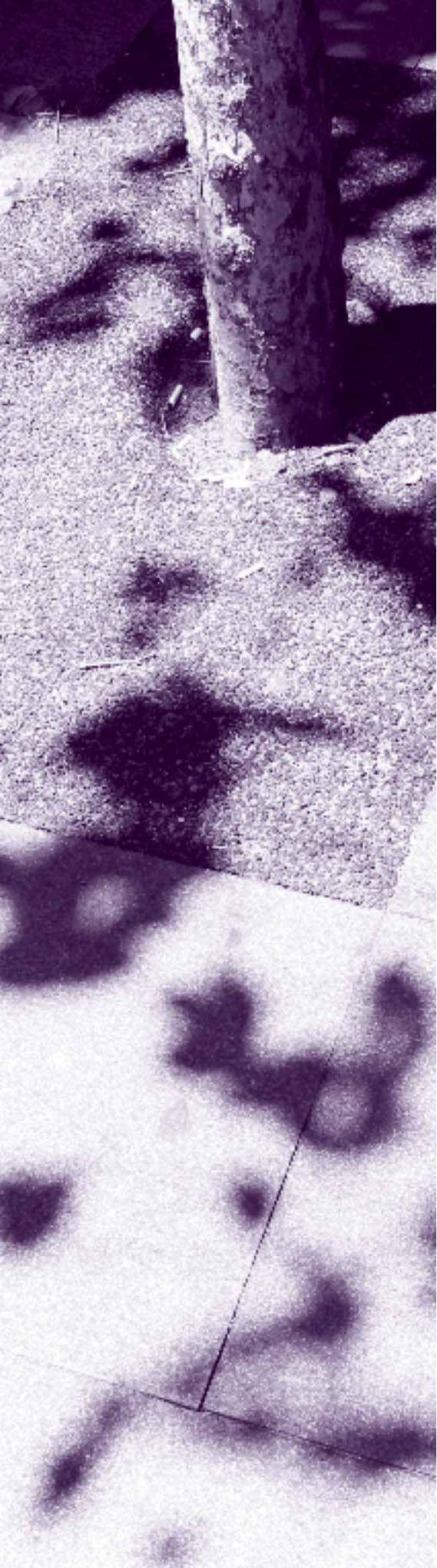
This casework is in addition to the regular WDVCS court roster work undertaken by the Principal Solicitor as part of Legal Aid's Domestic Violence Practitioner Scheme and is also separate from the non-legal service provided by our Women's Court Support Service (WCSS) in the Sydney Family Court.

Most of our cases relate to domestic violence or human rights infringements, however other matters have included a Supreme Court bail application and advising two women's organisations on changes to their constitution. We also receive many inquiries in relation to family law but currently do not have capacity to take on these matters.

Ancillary to our casework is our law reform and community legal education work which is undertaken to try and achieve improvements in the social conditions and legal system to alleviate women's suffering and distress. Following is a listing of our submissions, articles, presentations and media mentions during the 2019/2020 financial year. If you would like further information on any of these, links to all this material can be accessed through our website.

Matter Types





Submissions

Submission to the UN Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights on behalf of the Women's Human Rights Campaign for Australia's 3rd Universal Periodic Review (UPR), 6 June 2020

Submission to the Australian Government, Attorney General's Department on Religious Freedom Bill – Second Exposure Drafts, 31 January 2020

Submission to the Queensland Law Reform Commission for Consent and Mistake of Fact Review, 31 January 2020.

Submission to the Queensland Parliament in relation to the Health Legislation Amendment Bill with focus on its Conversion Therapy amendments, January 2020.

Submission to the Joint Select Committee on Australia's Family Law System, Parliament of Australia, 18 December 2019

Submission to the Joint Committee of Public Account & Audit on The Efficiency and Effectiveness: Inquiry into AuditorGeneral's Reports 25, 29, 38, 42, 44, 45 and 51 (2018-19) with specific reference to Report 45 in relation to Coordination and Targeting of Domestic Violence Funding and Action, 24 October 2019.

Submission to the Tasmanian Law Reform Institute in response to Issues Paper on Legal Recognition of Sex and Gender, 20 August 2019.

‘Male violence continues to go unchecked in a society that fails to prioritise the safety of vulnerable women and instead often obstructs those who attempt to hold men accountable for their bad behaviour.’

Why must women go unprotected from violent male neighbours?

Articles

How NSW Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) facilitates financial abuse, Opinion, Australian Lawyers Alliance, 4 June 2020.

Why must women go unprotected from violent male neighbours?, Opinion, Australian Lawyers Alliance, 30 January 2020.

Cups of Tea, Joyriding and Shaking Hands – the Vexed Issue of Consent and Reply to Andrew Dyer's Response in the Griffith Journal of Law & Human Dignity, Vol 7 No 1, September 2019



Panel Discussion hosted by University of Sydney Law Society Women's Committee on Sexual Assault Laws, featuring (seated from left) Gayatri Nair (DV NSW), Andrew Dyer (USyd lecturer), Liz Snell (WLS NSW), Karen Willis, (RDVSA), and Anna Kerr (FLC).

Case Study – Janie

Janie*, a woman in her 70s, was sold a motor vehicle which was unsuitable for the short inner city driving for which she needed it and required constant maintenance and repair. We assisted Janie by sending a letter of demand asserting her consumer rights. We also helped her make a complaint to Fair Trading and prepare to bring proceedings in NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal. This resulted in her claim being settled, with Janie obtaining a replacement vehicle from the dealership.

*names have been changed

Presentations

Trans Activism – the State of Play, IWD Brisbane Meanjin Conference, 7 March 2020.



From left, Ally Marie Diamond, Betty Taylor, Janet Fraser and her daughter holding the Women's Guild NSW banner at IWD Brisbane Meanjin Rally.



IWD Brisbane Meanjin Conference

Launch of the Declaration on Women's Sex-Based Rights at *Seeking Feminist Future: an evening of feminist ideas*, hosted by the Women's Human Rights Campaign at the University of Sydney, 21 February 2020 & Women's Liberation Conference IWD Brisbane Meanjin, 7 March 2020.



Seeking Feminist Future event. Speakers (from left) Dani Tauniand and Renee Gerlich with Chair Prof Bronwyn Winters. Additional speaker, Fraser (not in frame) spoke about her experience of detransitioning and chose not to be photographed

The Universal Income as a Means of Alleviating the Gender Pay Gap, UNSW Feminist Provocations, 24 August 2019.

"Sanctuary" with Panelists: Louise Steer (performance poet), Sharon Sillett (SOS Choir), Amani Haydar and Vee Malnar (art therapy) at The Women's Library, 13 July 2019.



SOS Choir led by Sharon McKinnon performing at Sanctuary Event at TWL



Panel members at the Sanctuary Event: Sharon McKinnon, Anna Kerr (chair), Vee Malnar, Amani Haydar and Lou Steer



Sanctuary event during art therapy session led by Vee Malnar

The need to recognise maternal rights in International Human Rights Law, Panelists: Charmaine Weldon, Darelle Duncan and Catherine Lynch, chaired by Anna Kerr, AMIRCI Conference *"Beyond Mothering Myths? Motherhood in an Age of Neoliberalism and Individualisation"*, University of Sydney, 10 July 2019.

Motherhood for Sale?, paper presented by Anna Kerr at AMIRCI Conference *"Beyond Mothering Myths? Motherhood in an Age of Neoliberalism and Individualisation"*, which featured key notes from Dr Renate Klein, Dr Petra Bueskens, Dr Andrea O'Reilly and Prof Eva Cox at the University of Sydney, 10 July 2019.



FLC committee member, Dr Catherine Lynch presenting at AMIRCI Motherhood Conference

Other FLC Committee Members also presented. Dr Catherine Lynch spoke on *"The Infant Gaze: How surrogacy develops the former goal of closed records adoption to destroy mothers through the destruction of the maternal-neonatal relationship"* and Vee Malnar performed a selection of her songs while others danced in front of the giant knitted placenta on display throughout the conference.

FLC committee member Vee Malnar performing at AMIRCI Motherhood Conference



Vee reclining in giant knitted placenta

Media Mentions

During the 2019-2020 year we put out several media releases and received the following mentions in the media:

MP Amanda Stoker taking fight to transgender activists, The Australian, 29 January 2020.

How you will soon be able to sue prostitutes for poor performance and why brothels could be built in 'every suburb' under dramatic changes to sex laws, Daily Mail, 27 November 2019.

Unhappy NT sex worker clients can sue, The Australian, 27 November 2019.

I am woman – hear me roar, Gudrun Wilcocks, Justinian, 19 October 2019.

Beyond Reasonable Doubt – A three part podcast investigating the laws and issues surrounding sexual assault in the criminal justice system in NSW, Olivia Smith Lathouris, 17 October 2019.

‘As a community, we cannot progress towards ideal standards of behaviour if we forever shy away from articulating these standards for fear of opening the floodgates.’

Cups of Tea, Joyriding and Shaking Hands – The Vexed Issue of Consent

Case Study – Pamela

Pamela* is a mother of two young children and has migrated on a spousal visa from overseas. She has very limited English and literacy and knows no one in Australia who speaks her language. Her marriage is characterised by significant controlling and coercive behaviour by her husband. We have supported Pamela by helping her access specialist advice about immigration, social security, housing and family law entitlements. We have also helped her with essential practical tasks like setting up a bank account and renewing her passport. Two years on she has completed a course in English and a TAFE certificate and has secured employment. Sadly, our legal and welfare systems fail women in Pamela's predicament, but she is slowly saving and planning her escape.

*names have been changed

Project Reports

Women's Court Support Service - (WCSS – previously WFLCSS)

The Women's Family Law Court Support Service (WFLCSS) was originally established as a joint venture of the NSW Women's Refuge Movement and the Sydney Family Court over 10 years ago and provides non-legal support for women who are involved in family law proceedings in which there is a context of domestic violence. Despite our efforts, a petition signed by thousands, many client testimonials, support from the legal sector, representations made by various women's services and the Family Court itself, the NSW Government de-funded the service at the end of June 2019.

Rather than lose the valuable space for women, in consultation with the Family Court FLC stepped in to maintain the service with a roster of volunteers from July 2019. Our database records 124 client contacts during the 2019-2020 financial year, with figures significantly impacted in 2020 by the COVID lockdown.

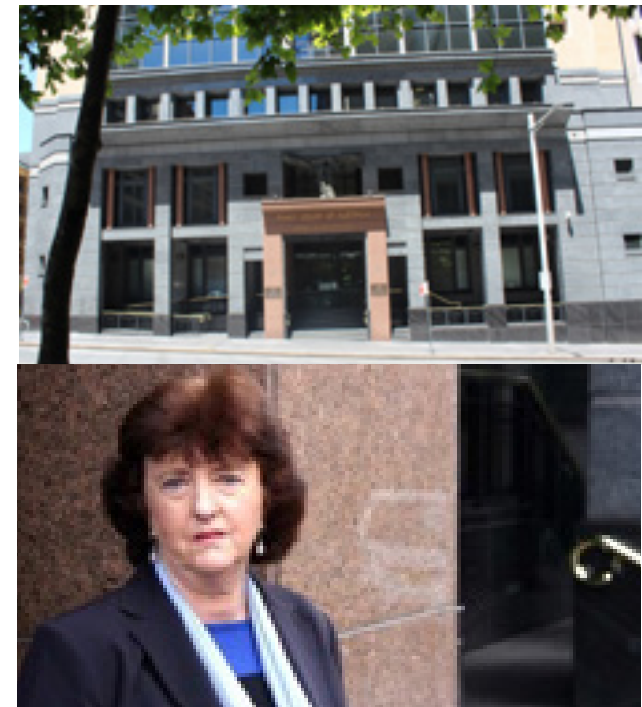
Thanks go to the many volunteers who have filled shifts on the roster, often spending their days accompanying distressed women who are struggling to represent themselves in court without a lawyer.

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| • Christine Cheung | • Leonie Crowe |
| • Arjeta Ferati | • Fiona Gayler |
| • Gabriella Greenslade | • Elizabeth Harding |
| • Cherilyn Herbert | • Kat Lane |
| • Fiona Le | • Adele Marwood |
| • Katrina Michaels | • Andreea Pascu |
| • Rachel Rassaby | • Rita Shackel |
| • Philipa Townley | • Scarlett Tu |
| • Wend MacTaggart | • Maureen Lacey |

We would like to particularly acknowledge Maureen Lacey who is a member of the original volunteer staff and has been with the service since its inception.

Thanks also to Professor Rita Shackel of the University of Sydney Law School for organising for a team of law students to participate, with Fiona Le continuing on as a regular weekly volunteer:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| • Fiona Le | • Jemma Sturgis |
| • Jemima Cooper | • Hashmine Kaur Sidhv |
| • Elizabeth Grant | • Sophie Coleman |
| • Sophie Mack | • Ji Jeng |
| • Mindy Pang | |



Maureen Lacey, WCSS Volunteer

Thanks go also to Westconnect Domestic Violence Service for stepping in with the donation of a desktop computer for the service and for offering staff for our roster on Indigenous list days. We are also grateful to the group Goddesses of the Court led by Naomi for their strong support and generous donation of a laptop.

We acknowledge the essential support of Sydney Family Court itself for providing the office space for us to continue to operate the Women's Court Support Service with special thanks to Maryrose Portelli, Director of Court Services & Wendy Bartlett, Manager of Court Services. We are also grateful for the training provided by staff of the Sydney Family Court, notably Registrar Marianne Bastiani, Senior Family Consultant Karen Barker and John in security.

Unfortunately, the COVID lockdown has severely limited our operations since March with the suspension of the face to face service, although calls are still being forwarded to FLC. In the meantime, volunteers have been completing the DV Alert training and we have recently applied for funding to provide a website and online resources and enable us to expand on this much-needed service.

Women’s Human Rights Campaign (WHRC) – Australia

Following the launch of the Declaration on Women’s Sex-Based Rights in Australia, FLC has issued several media releases on behalf of WHRC and has also submitted a joint NGO shadow report to Australia’s Universal Periodic Review (UPR) to the United Nations on behalf of Australian Declaration signatories. A working group has now been formed to work on promoting and upholding the Declaration in each Australian jurisdiction with representatives from each State. To supplement the global WHRC webinars hosted in the UK, we are now hosting monthly WHRC Webinars for this time zone on the last Saturday of the month.



‘Family law proceedings can take years to finalise and often the lives of women and children have been destroyed long before final orders are made.’

How NSW Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) facilitates financial abuse

We would like to thank the members of the Women’s Human Rights Campaign (WHRC) Working Group:

- Kath Deves (NSW)
- Janet Fraser (NSW/FLC Committee)
- Eileen Haley (NSW)
- Anna Kerr (NSW/FLC Committee)
- Steph Hughes (Qld)
- Anna McCormack (Qld)
- Nerissa Assiren (Qld)
- Jo Pinkiewicz (Tas)
- Bronwyn Williams (Tas/FLC Committee)
- Holly Lawford Smith (Vic)
- Nina Vallins (Vic)
- Michelle Uriarau (Vic)
- Ida McTier (WA)
- Michelle Reynolds (SA)



IWD Brisbane/Meanjin Rally

Women Write Wiki

Our WWW group met in person on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month until COVID-19 led to closure of The Women’s Library. Since then we have continued to meet online. This has allowed two women editors from New Zealand to join us. In February two of us attended a one-day WikiCiteANZ conference in Melbourne. A larger group participated in the Know My Name edit-a-thon held in March for International Women’s Day at the State Library of NSW. There we wrote bios of Australian women artists in an Australia-wide joint initiative of the National Gallery of Australia and Wikimedia Australia. According to the Women In Red Project, women’s bios on Wikipedia have grown from 17.89% of total bios in July 2019 to 18.5% in July 2020, so there’s still plenty to be done.

Ann Reynolds
Women Write Wiki Coordinator



WikiCiteANZ participants, (from left) Margaret, Ann, Keren, Nicole and Siobhan



Members of the Women Write Wiki Group from left: Hillary, Margaret, Chloe, Anna, Jay (visiting), Ann and Carlotta.

Case Study – Willow

Willow* is a young woman of Polynesian background who has a tragic history as a victim of domestic violence, neglect and sexual abuse. Although she and her large family have lived in Australia since she was three, due to their residency status they cannot access Centrelink benefits. She and her siblings were removed from their home and placed in separate foster homes when she was just 12 and she has been in trouble with the law since and has developed a problem with substance abuse. Her latest offences of stealing while on parole have landed her back in goal and facing the prospect of a lengthy term of imprisonment followed by deportation. We assisted Willow by organising a place in a residential drug & alcohol rehabilitation program to provide an alternative at sentencing.

*names have been changed



Acknowledgements

Aside from our wonderful management committee members, we would like to acknowledge the work and support of our other volunteers during 2019/2020 year:

- Yulia Afinogenova
- Anne Jenna Dardanne
- Hoai An Dang
- Bronwyn Evans
- Fiona Gayler
- Sue Goodman
- Jemima Khoo
- Kat Lane
- Rachel Palmer
- Andreea Pascu
- Rachel Rassaby
- Ann Reynolds
- Catherine Rothery
- Alessandra Solomon
- Alicia Sparkes
- Krystyna Topor
- Andrea Verteouris



FLC Volunteers, Bronwyn (with screwdriver) and Ann with new shelving they helped construct during a working bee at The Women's Library

Whether completing a student placement, seeking work experience or simply wanting to help the cause of advancing women's human rights, we are very grateful for the time and effort you have contributed.

We would like to give special thanks to Fiona Gayler for her painstaking forensic work on the preparations for the case of Clinch v Rep and to Ann Reynolds for operating the Women Write Wiki group and providing indispensable administrative support as both treasurer and membership officer. Both Fiona and Ann are now members of our management committee.



Benledi House, Glebe

We would also like to thank the following collaborators and supporters of FLC (alphabetical order):

- Christine Bird, Crossroads Community Care Centre Inc.
- Josephine Brew, Women's Human Rights Campaign
- Dr Petra Bueskens, AMIRCI (now Maternal Scholars Australia)
- Claire Couson, Radical Womyn Film Festival & Flixa
- Eva Cox
- Barbary Clarke, Australian Lesbian Health Coalition
- Dr Gillian Dempsey, Barrister at Law
- Kath Deves, WHRC Working Group
- Kate Eastman SC, Barrister at Law
- Susan Frankham, Frankham Family Lawyers
- Gay Egg, Sydney's Pride History Group
- Jo Everett, Graphic Designer
- Wendy Francis
- Cat Gander, Westconnect Domestic Violence Services
- Dr Joan Garvan, AMIRCI (now Maternal Scholars Australia)
- Dr Andrew Greinke, Barrister at Law
- Eileen Haley, WHRC Working Group
- Susan Hawthorne, Spinifex Press
- Amani Haydar, Lawyer & Artist
- Marion Hosking, Restore our Refuges
- Steph Hughes, Fair Go for Queensland Women
- Denise Kaiti, Barrister at Law
- Renate Klein, Spinifex Press
- Freddie Landgraf, The Women's Library
- Holly Lawford Smith, Gender Critical Academics
- Sam Lee, Redfern Legal Centre
- Yumi Lee, Older Women's Network
- Annaliese Legge, The Women's Library
- Kate Lavender, Australian Feminist Lesbians for Equity
- Virginia Mansel Lees, Coalition of Activist Lesbians
- Anna McCormack, IWD Brisbane Meanjin
- Isla McGregor, Women Speak Tasmania
- Leonie McGuire, Restore our Refuges
- Sharon McKinnon and the SOS Choir
- Maria McCrossin
- Naomi and the Goddesses of the Court
- Niki Norris, National Child Protection Alliance

- Margot Oliver, Coalition of Activist Lesbians
- Dr Anne-Maree Payne, University of Technology Sydney
- Jo Pinkiewicz, Women Speak Tasmania
- Kate Poynter
- Spider Redgold, Erinyes Autonomous Activist Lesbians
- Julie Stewart, Coalition for Women's Refuges
- Professor Rita Shackel, University of Sydney
- Janet Sheldon
- Sruti Sinha, Marrickville Women's Refuge
- Jeannie Sotheran, Lesbian Open House
- Caitlin Still, AMIRCI (now Maternal Scholars Australia)
- Louise Steer, Poet Politician
- Denise Thompson, Author
- Michelle Uriarau, Women's Action Group
- Sabrinna Valisce, AKR and PEACE
- Nina Vallins, Victorian Women's Guild
- The Wagga Feminist
- Catherine Walsh, Fairness in Religion in Schools (FIRIS)
- Liz Waterhouse, AKR & Listening to Lesbians
- Simone Watson, Nordic Model Australia Coalition
- Charmaine Weldon, Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre
- Gudrun Wilcox, Journalist
- Professor Bronwyn Winter, University of Sydney
- Denise Wyatt, The Women's Library
- Ann Marie Yee, The Women's Library

We have also acquired many new supporters recently, including some who have kindly written and advocated on our behalf and we intend to acknowledge them in next year's Annual Report.

Finally, for providing our office space in Glebe we are very grateful to the City of Sydney Council and give specific thanks to our relationship manager Sage Saegenschnitter.

Membership Report

In the 2019-2020 financial year our total membership nearly doubled, growing from 40 to 73. Four organisations joined, making a total of five organisation members.

As membership was only available from January 2019, we allowed the 40 initial members to remain current until 30 June 2020. There were, therefore, only a few renewals during the current financial year and those amounts have been credited to their 2020-21 membership fees.

Case Study – Shirley

Shirley* is an aged pensioner living in public housing with impeded mobility and hearing. She could find no one to help her deal with a violent male neighbour who had previously been convicted for assaulting her and had recently threatened and spat on her. Unfortunately, the police, Legal Aid and her local community legal centre said they could only assist with domestic violence matters and she would need to bring a private AVO application herself. Finally, in desperation she saw her local MP who referred her to our office. We represented Shirley at court and subpoenaed the necessary evidence held by the police and were able to quickly obtain final orders for her protection and peace of mind.

*names have been changed

‘It would seem society is clearer about its boundaries in relation to the use of someone’s car than the use of a woman’s body.’

*Cups of Tea, Joyriding and Shaking Hands –
The Vexed Issue of Consent*

Treasurer’s Report

Annual General Meeting of Feminist Legal Clinic Inc. for the Year ending 30 June 2020

For the financial year ending 30 June 2020 Feminist Legal Clinic Incorporated received \$1,403 in income. The income comprised a combination of membership payments, donations and interest. It is a significant drop from the previous year as we were not successful in winning any grants. Expenses came to \$6,907, which included spending the \$5,000 grant received in May 2019 from the Department Social Services on a computer, office equipment and training for our volunteers.

During the twelve months we have received \$579 in membership fees and \$465 in donations, including several monthly payments. The \$350 Other income is a write-off of part of an account payable for insurance paid by the Principal Solicitor for which she is not seeking reimbursement.

We continue to be grateful recipients of an accommodation grant from the City of Sydney Council, providing a 100% rental subsidy on the office space we share with Pride History Group at Benledi House in Glebe. In addition, City of Sydney Council kindly allowed us to retain the \$138 unspent from their matching grant, which had funded the catering and advertising and design expenses associated with the launch of Feminist Legal Clinic and the panel discussion held in the previous financial year.

A number of operating expenses were again personally covered by the Principal Solicitor. These expenses have included the Principal Solicitor’s practising certificate and mandatory legal training, the Brisbane flights and accommodation to present at International Women’s Day, telephone and internet costs and some incidental expenses.

At 30 June 2020 our account with Bendigo Bank had a balance of \$2,092 and the PayPal account balance was \$0, all receipts having been transferred to the Bendigo Bank. There are no mortgages, charges or securities of any description affecting any part of the property of the Association as at 30 June 2020.

I hereby submit the Profit and Loss Statement and Balance Sheet for the year ended 30 June 2020 in accordance with this report.

5 February 2021

Dated:

Ann Reynolds.

Ann Reynolds

Treasurer

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF

Feminist Legal Clinic Incorporated ABN 51 879 580 577

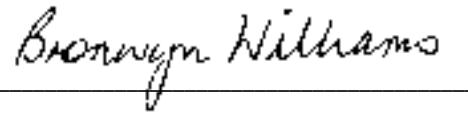
The Committee have determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The Committee have determined that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the accounts.

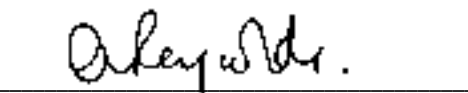
In the opinion of the Committee the financial statements:

1. Present fairly the financial position of Feminist Legal Clinic Incorporated as at 30 June 2020 and the results of the association for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Feminist Legal Clinic Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with the resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:



Bronwyn Williams
Co-Convenor



Ann Reynolds
Treasurer

Dated: 5 February 2021

Feminist Legal Clinic Incorporated

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICY

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act N.S.W. 2009. The Committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accrual basis and is based on historic 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) Income Tax

The Association is exempt from income tax.

b) Comparatives

Where necessary, comparative information has been reclassified to achieve consistency in disclosure with current year amounts and other disclosures. This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act N.S.W. 2009. The Committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

**FEMINIST LEGAL CLINIC INC.
PROFIT LOSS STATEMENT
FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

		2020 \$	2019 \$
Income			
4-1080	Grants from Government	\$ (138)	\$ 10,250
4-2010	Donations	\$ 465	\$ 720
4-2030	Donations (public collections)	\$ -	\$ 770
4-5050	Other income	\$ 350	
4-3030	Contributions (Govenrment)	\$ 138	
4-4080	Membership Fees	\$ 579	\$ 470
4-5020	Interest	\$ 9	\$ 22
Total Income		\$ 1,403	\$ 12,232
Expenses			
6-0020	Advertising & Promotion	\$ 100	\$ 2,640
6-0070	Bank Charges	\$ 41	\$ 48
6-0210	Catering costs	\$ -	\$ 1,572
6-0220	Computer Expenses	\$ 2,618	
6-0325	Dgiital items	\$ 588	\$ 541
6-0330	Fees & Permits	\$ 72	
6-0400	Insurance	\$ 1,636	\$ 1,113
6-0490	Membership Fees Paid	\$ 50	
6-0500	Office equipment and supplies	\$ 1,202	
6-0510	Postage, Freight and Courier	\$ -	\$ 130
6-0520	Printing & Stationery	\$ -	\$ 376
6-0670	Sundry Expenses	\$ -	\$ 4
6-0700	Training & Development (Staff)	\$ 600	\$ 118
6-0710	Travel & Accommodation		\$ 149
Total Expenses		\$ 6,907	\$ 6,691
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)		\$ (5,504)	\$ 5,541

**FEMINIST LEGAL CLINIC INC.
PROFIT LOSS STATEMENT
FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020**

	2020 \$	2019 \$
Assets		
Current Assets		
Bendigo Bank	\$ 2,092	\$ 8,150
PayPal	\$ -	\$ 41
Total Current Assets	\$ 2,092	\$ 8,191
Total Assets	\$ 2,092	\$ 8,191
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$ 2,053	\$ 2,649
Total Liabilities	\$ 2,053	\$ 2,649
Equity		
Retained Earnings	\$ 5,542	\$ -
Current Year Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (5,504)	\$ 5,542
Total Equity	\$ 38	\$ 5,542



**FEMINIST
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CLINIC**

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