Annual Report 2020 - 2021





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.



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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 and is country contact for the Declaration on Women's Sex-Based Rights.

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

Helen is Associate Professor 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.

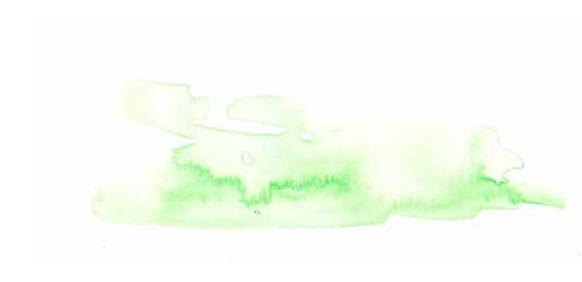
Bronwyn Williams Co-Convenor (21/6/19 -)

Bronwyn is 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 -)

Catherine is a lawyer and vice president of Adoptee Rights Australia, Inc. who 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.





Ann Reynolds Treasurer (24/8/19 -)

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 – 2/11/20)

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.

Elizabeth Johnson Committee Member (24/11/20 -)

Elizabeth has a Bachelor of Laws with Honours and a Master of Laws from Melbourne University and has practised law primarily in the areas of crime and family law for over three decades. More recently she was engaged as a commonwealth principal federal prosecutor for five years and has been a barrister for over 10 years. She is a feminist and particularly interested in the safeguarding of children and protection of women's sex based rights.

Principal Solicitor's Report

From lockdown to locked out!

In this year of COVID, Feminist Legal Clinic Inc. has experienced turbulent times. The financial year ended with the City of Sydney Council withdrawing our accommodation grant and advising that our tenancy at Benledi House would be terminated on 19 August 2021. Our landlord took this action after asking us to desist from advocating for women's sex-based rights and requesting that we censor our website and cease posting news about the harmful impacts of extreme trans ideology. We felt that to comply with these unreasonable demands would demonstrate a lack of integrity and betray the trust of our members.

Rather than discourage us, this extraordinarily oppressive action by what was hitherto considered to be a progressive local council, has strengthened our resolve to continue our work in this area. It is apparent that services are being actively constrained from advocating for women's sex-based rights. We are receiving increasing calls for assistance from all over the country from women who are being systematically silenced for simply maintaining that sex is a biological reality.

Women are being threatened, sacked, censored, defunded and disciplined by employers, educational institutions, sporting tribunals and professional bodies. Disturbingly, the media is barely reporting on this extraordinary devastation of the human





Anna Kerr and Margot Oliver removing the picture of Virginia Woolf from FLC's office at Benledi House

rights of women and children. FLC has provided support for distraught parents of children who have fallen victim to this latest fad in medical experimentation. We also give assistance to those who are "detransitioning", having emerged from cult-like conditioning to experience devastating regret for ill-advised interventions with hormones and surgeries.

Despite what would seem to be a media blackout on this subject, extreme trans ideology is resulting in infringements of the human rights in many contexts across Australia and the globe. At the time of writing, we are about to witness our first Olympics where male athletes will be competing in the women's category. The pharmaceutical industry has successfully seeded a mass delusion to support its medical experimentation on children, while simultaneously dismantling sex-based protections for women. Only time will tell how this will play out. Those who tell us we are on the wrong side of history will have to reflect on the support they provided for that which is wrong, viewed from any point in time.

Anna Kerr Principal Solicitor

Report on activities

Casework

Our database records that during 2020-2021 our office has had over 120 contacts with clients by email or telephone when we have provided basic advice/information/referral and that we have opened 35 new files for matters where ongoing assistance was appropriate. Of these files, two dozen are cases for individuals with half of these relating to domestic violence and the half relating to other human rights matters. The remaining files involve work on behalf of women's groups and organisations, including some law reform and community legal education work which arises out of our casework and is undertaken to address systemic causes of women's disadvantage and distress.

The non-legal service provided by FLC's Women's Court Support Service (WCSS) in the Sydney Family Court is separate and additional to this casework and is reported on later in this report.

Following is a listing of our submissions, articles, presentations and media mentions during the 2020/2021 financial year. Links to all this material can be accessed through our website.



Stella Perret's cartoon which was part of a news report posted on FLC's news digest and was cited by the Council as a reason for terminating FLC's tenancy.

Submissions

Submission to Select Committee of the South Australian Legislative Council on Statutes Amendment (Repeal of Sex Work Offences) Bill 2020, 7 May 2021.

Submission to Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights on ParentNext: examination of Social Security (Parenting payment participation requirements – class of persons) Instrument 2021, 4 May 2021.

Submission to thematic report on Gender, Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity to UN Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, 23 February 2021.

Submission to NSW Law Reform Commission Review of Open justice: Court and tribunal information: access, disclosure and publication, 19 February 2021.

Submission to NSW Joint Select Committee on Coercive Control, 28 January 2021.

Letter to the Victorian Attorney-General in relation to the Change or Suppression (Conversion) Practices Prohibition Bill 2020, January 2021.

Submission regarding Conversion Practices: Law Reform Options for Tasmania, Tasmanian Law Reform Institute, 22 December 2020.

NGO Shadow Follow Up Report to CEDAW, 4 November 2020.

Submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs for the Inquiry into family, domestic and sexual violence, OHRC, July 2020.

Submission to Office for the High Commissioner of Human Rights regarding strengthening the UN Treaty Body System, 2 July 2020.

Articles

Book Review of "Beauty, Women's Bodies and the Law: Performances in Plastic" by Jocelynne Scutt in LSJ, Law Society of NSW, Issue 78, June 2021.

Escaping Family Violence – How the Justice System is failing Aboriginal Women, Charmaigne Weldon interviewed by Anna Kerr, Precedent, Issue 159, July/August 2020.

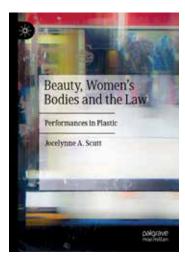


This painting by Charmaigne Weldon depicts an Aboriginal spirit woman, her family and tribal community. The choker represents Aboriginal women's oppression.

Presentations

Speeches by Janet Fraser, Anna Kerr and Helen Pringle to meeting of the City of Sydney Council, Meeting of the 21 June 2021.

Speaker at
Jocelynne Scutt's
book launch:
"Beauty, Women's
Bodies and the
Law: Performances
in Plastic" hosted
by University of
Buckingham Law
School, 4 March
2021.



"Challenging Tomorrow – The Political is Always Personal", Brilliant & Bold – Conversations with Ordinary & Extraordinary Women, a series on women's rights, challenges, perspectives, hopes and empowerment hosted by Jocelynne Scutt, 11 October 2020.

Presentation on proposal to introduce legislation criminalising coercive control, National Council of Women of NSW, 27 August 2020.

Media Releases

FLC Statement to the City of Sydney Council, 21 June 2021

Failure of Australian media to report on women's sex-based rights, 16 June 2021

Feminism has been co-opted to support an agenda to lower the age of consent, 29 March 2021

Protests about McIver's Ladies Baths are attacking human rights of vulnerable women, 22 Feb 2021

UK High Court case of Bell v Tavistock welcomed by concerned parents and feminists

Women sidelined by peak sporting organisations

Free Speech and Human Rights of Women undermined by ACAT decision

Women's Human Rights Campaign makes submission to Australia's Third Universal Periodic



Media Mentions

WHRC Open Letter and new website, The War on Women, 27 June 2021.

God bless Terf Island! The situation is still bad in Australia, though, The Glinner Update, 27 June 2021.

EXCLUSIVE: Sydney women's charity stripped of council grant over transgender views, Sky News Australia, 25 June 2021.

Sydney Lord Mayor downgrades Feminist Legal Clinic, Sky News Australia, 24 June 2021.

Sydney Council to Terminate Feminist Legal Clinic's Lease, The War on Women, 23 June 2021.



Interview with Beth Matthews on Radical Philosophy on 3CR Community Radio, 15 May 2021.

Four years of Women Write Wiki, Wikimedia, 15 March 2021.

The Trajectory of an anti-LGBT Conspiracy Theory, Trans Safety Network, 11 April 2021.

Lesbian vs Pedophiles: A Recent History, 4W, 9 April 2021.

Allow children as young as 10 to consent to sex – LGBT NGO, RIPT, 6 April 2021.

Unionise to get to your kids, Kellie-Jay Keen, You Tube, 2 April 2021.

Feminism co-opted to remove child protection, The War on Women, 1 April 2021.

A piece of the PIE, The Glinner Update, 31 March 2021.

UK court bans use of puberty blockers for children under 16, Top Most Popular, 6 December 2020 (Anna Kerr is significantly and outrageously misquoted in this article).

"Pause button": rules reset on children's gender transition, The Sun Herald, 6 December 2020.

Roving Spotlight, Radio Skid Row, 10 November 2020.

Barbary on ABC RN Life Matters Talkback, 2 November 2020.

Maya Forstater on Twitter, 11 September 2020



Pay Up, Buttercup, Kellie-Jay Keen (Posie Parker), 9 September 2020.

Free Speech in Play over Women's Sport, The Australian, 11 September 2020.

Woman Fined for 'Liking' Offensive' Facebook Comments About Transgender-Identifying Activist, Women are Human, 10 September 2020.

Newsreader is ordered to pay Australia's first transgender soldier \$10,000 for liking 'offensive' Facebook comments that wrongly branded her 'a male bully', Daily Mail, 9 September 2020.

Canberra Radio News Reader Beth Rep told to pay transgender activist Bridget Clinch \$10,000 compensation for discrimination, ABC News, 8 September 2020.

City Council Threatens to Shut Down Women's Legal Clinic for Not Prioritizing Males Who ID as Transgender, Women are Human, 29 July 2020.

Why is surrogacy illegal in most of the world? Dissident Voice, 11 July 2020.

Project Reports

Women's Court Support Service

The Women's Court Support Service (WCSS) provides a face to face service for women at the Sydney Family Court but has been suspended for most of the year due to the restrictions imposed by the Court in response to the COVID pandemic. As a result of this our database records only 33 client contacts during the 2020-2021 financial year.

We recruited and trained a new roster of volunteers in May 2021, only for the face to face service to be suspended again just over a month later because of a further lockdown. However, the telephone service continues to be forwarded to the Principal Solicitor. Our repeated attempts throughout the year to secure grant funding for this service were unsuccessful and as a result we have not been able to raise the profile of the service or expand on the service it provides.

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 and Wendy Bartlett, Manager of Court Services.



Women Write Wiki

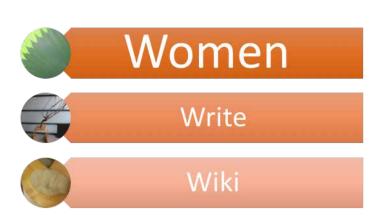
In 2020-2021 WWW members have created 145 bios of women, plus articles on Brazen Hussies (doco), Simone de Beauvoir's Babies (mini-series) and The Dictionary of Lost Words (book).

All year, apart from a short break over Christmas and New Year, WWW has continued to meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. With three exceptions, all meetings have been online, and this has enabled women located interstate and in NZ to join us.

Fortunately, we were able to celebrate the fourth anniversary of the formation of WWW in person at The Women's Library on 24 March 2021, including a surprise visit by Caddie Brain, Vice President of Wikimedia Australia. For International Women's Day Ann and Margaret participated in person at the USYD Write Women editathon and one new editor has subsequently joined WWW.

We managed two further in-person meetings in April and May before COVID restrictions sent us back online full time. We have also participated in #1Lib1Ref in May/June, where librarians are shown how to add references to Wikipedia. Some of us attended the Picture This editathon in May where we uploaded images from the City of Sydney Archives.





Happy 4th birthday to Sydney's Women Write Wiki group! Kickstarted with a grant from the @writingNSW/@Create_NSW they have been meeting at The Women's Library in Newtown twice each month for four years creating hundreds of new @Wikipedia pages. Biggest congratulations!

Our links to the Women in Red Project on Wikipedia remain strong.

We continue to welcome and support new women editors, write new bios of women and update existing ones, including keeping a watchful eye out for unreferenced changes and reverting where necessary.

New members are welcome and personalised individual training is available.



Ann Reynolds Women Write Wiki Coordinator



Anna, Ann, Caddie, Margaret, Irma and Hillary (left to right)

Women's Human Rights Campaign



This year we kicked off running local WHRC webinars for gender critical women in this time zone and contributed to international efforts on other occasions. Special thanks go to all the speakers and Vaishnavi for her excellent work editing all these videos.

Women's Human Rights Campaign (Aus/NZ) Webinar – Speakers Renate Klein, Catherine Lynch and Simone Watson discussing Article 3 of the Declaration and physical and reproductive integrity, hosted by Simone Watson of Feminist Legal Clinic, 26 June 2021.

Women's Human Rights Campaign (Aus/NZ) Webinar – Speakers: Jack Draper, Eileen Haley, Jay Park and Judi Pattison discussing Article 1 of the Declaration and why the definition of woman is important, 24 April 2021.



Jack Draper showing her artwork during a presentation on Article 1 of the Declaration

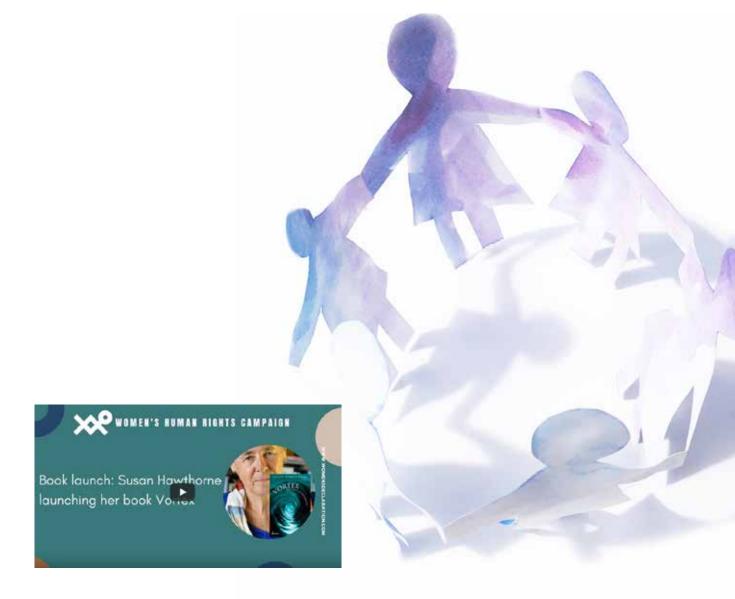
"Article 2 of the Declaration on Women's Sex-Based Rights -Motherhood as an exclusively female status" CSW NGO Forum on behalf of the Women's Human Rights Campaign, 21 March 2021.



Women's Human Rights Campaign (Aus/NZ) Webinar – Speakers: Catherine Karena, Ann Leduc and Margot Oliver, 27 February 2021.

Women Human Rights Campaign (Aus/NZ) Webinar – Speakers: Anna McCormack, Jenny Whyte, Louise and Stella Perrett, 30 January 2021.

Women Human Rights Campaign (Aus/NZ) Webinar – Launch of Susan Hawthorne's book Vortex: The Crisis of Patriarchy– Susan Hawthorne, Helen Pringle and Anna Kerr in conversation, 29 November 2020.



Women Human Rights Campaign (Aus/NZ) Webinar – Dr Holly Lawford-Smith in conversation with Dr Kathleen Stock, 31 October 2020.

Women Human Rights Campaign (Aus/NZ) Webinar – Dr. Holly Lawford-Smith, Senior Lecturer in Political Philosophy in conversation with Mia Campione, Janet Fraser, Beth Johnson and Bronwyn Williams, 30 September 2020.

Panel member on Feminist Question Time hosted by the Women's Human Rights Campaign, 30 August 2020.



Communities Sub-Committee – 21 June 2021 Accetmodation Grant Program – Annual Performance Review and Lease is 2021 CITY OF SYDNEY 🐠

Janet Fraser addressing City of Sydney Councillors at the meeting when they decided to proceed with terminating Feminist Legal Clinic's tenancy. Helen Pringle and Anna Kerr are watching on.

Acknowledgements

Aside from our wonderful management committee members, we would like to acknowledge the work and support of our other volunteers during 2020/2021 year:

WCSS

- Suzana Budisic
- Leonie Crowe
- Fiona Emsley
- Nicola Gordon
- Cherilyn Herbert
- Danielle Jenkins
- Maureen Lacev
- · Flora Zaydenberg

FLC

- Lisa Cannata
- Kath Deves
- Deborah Gray
- Eileen Haley
- · Shelly Kapelnikov
- Catherine Karena
- Jemima Khoo
- · Margaret Lam
- Ann Le Duc
- Joanna O.
- Margot Oliver
- · Catherine R.
- Mary Tagliaferri
- Kate Williamson

In past Annual Reports we have named and thanked the many collaborators and supporters of FLC. However, as the list grows it is no longer tenable to thank everyone who has helped us during the year. We are also conscious that in view of the current level of controversy and the persecution being experienced by gender critical feminists, many of you may prefer not to be identified in this manner. However, we do want to acknowledge the many people who took the time to write letters in support of Feminist Legal Clinic Inc. to the City of Sydney Council over the past year, as well as those who have shown their support by way of financial donation.



Margot Oliver and Anna Kerr pack up the office at Benledi House while filmed by Sky News

We would also like to give very special thanks to the international Women's Human Rights Campaign (WHRC) and acknowledge the amazing support provided by Jo Brew, Kath Aiken and the rest of the UK team as well as the various members of our local WHRC Working Group who may not have received a mention elsewhere including Anna McCormack, Jess W, Nerissa and Janet from New Zealand.



Jo Brew from WHRC in the UK

Finally, despite our deep disappointment with the recent decision by the City of Sydney Council to terminate our tenancy in Benledi House Glebe, we would like to thank them for providing us with a free office space for the past four years. It was much appreciated by our volunteers and clients alike while it lasted.



Benledi House, Glebe

Treasurer's Report

Annual General Meeting of Feminist Legal Clinic Inc. for the Year ending 30 June 2021

For the financial year ending 30 June 2021 Feminist Legal Clinic Incorporated received \$7,361 in income. The income comprised a combination of membership payments, donations and interest. It shows a substantial increase in both memberships and donations due, in most part, to publicity surrounding our eviction from Benledi House. Expenses came to \$2,479 and we were finally able to reimburse the Principal Solicitor for insurance premiums she had paid in earlier years.

During the twelve months we have received \$2,140 in membership fees and \$5,220 in donations, including a number of monthly payments.

We were given notice that our accommodation grant from the City of Sydney Council, which had provided a 100% rental subsidy on the office space we share with Pride History Group at Benledi House in Glebe, would not be renewed.

The Department of Social Security kindly allowed us to retain the \$36 unspent from their volunteer grant which had expired on 30 June 2020.

Some operating expenses were again personally covered by the Principal Solicitor, including the Principal Solicitor's practising certificate, telephone and internet costs.

At 30 June 2021 our account with Bendigo Bank had a balance of \$3,501 and the PayPal account balance was \$1,419. There are no mortgages, charges or securities of any description affecting any part of the property of the Association as at 30 June 2021.

I hereby submit the Profit and Loss Statement and Balance Sheet for the year ended 30 June 2021 in accordance with this report.

Dated:

18 Movember 2021 Degudde.

Ann Revnolds

Treasurer

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF

Feminist Legal Clinic Incorporated

ABN 17 360 484 300

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 2021 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

Orley wide.

Ann Reynolds
Treasurer

Dated:

18 November 2021

Feminist Legal Clinic Incorporated

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

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 a cash 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.

FEMINIST LEGAL CINIC INC. PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

		2021 \$		2020 \$	
Income					
4-1080	Grants from Government	\$ (36)	\$	(138)	
4-2010	Donations	\$ 5,220	\$	465	
4-5050	Other income		\$	350	
4-3030	Contributions (Government)	\$ 36	\$	138	
4-4080	Membership Fees	\$ 2,140	\$	579	
4-5020	Interest	\$ 1	\$	9	
Total Income		\$ 7,361	\$	1,403	
Expenses					
6-0020	Advertising & Promotion		\$	100	
6-0070	Bank Charges	\$ 260	\$	41	
6-0220	Computer Expenses		\$	2,618	
6-0325	Digital Items	\$ 28	\$	588	
6-0330	Fees & Permits	\$ 87	\$	72	
6-0400	Insurance	\$ 1,452	\$	1,636	
6-0490	Membership Fees Paid	\$ 435	\$	50	
6-0510	Office equipment and supplies		\$	1,202	
6-0500	Postage, Freight and Courier	\$ 136			
6-0680	Telephone, website and internet	\$ 81	\$	-	
6-0700	Training & Development (Staff)		\$	600	
Total Expenses		\$ 2,479	\$	6,907	
-					
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)		\$ 4,882	\$	(5,504)	

FEMINIST LEGAL CLINIC INC. BALANCE SHEET FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

2021 \$			2020 \$	
	•		-	
\$	3,501	\$	2,092	
\$	1,419	\$	-	
\$	4,920	\$	2,092	
\$	4,920	\$	2,092	
\$	-	\$	2,053	
\$	-	\$	2,053	
			5,542	
\$	4,882	\$	(5,504)	
\$	4,920	\$	38	
	\$ \$ \$ \$	\$ 3,501 \$ 1,419 \$ 4,920 \$ 4,920 \$ - \$ - \$ -	\$ 3,501 \$ 1,419 \$ 4,920 \$ \$ 4,920 \$ \$ \$ \$ - \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ 4,882 \$	







Feminist Legal Clinic Inc. PO Box 273 Summer Hill NSW 2130 0402 467 476 www.feministlegal.org/contact-us office@feministlegal.org