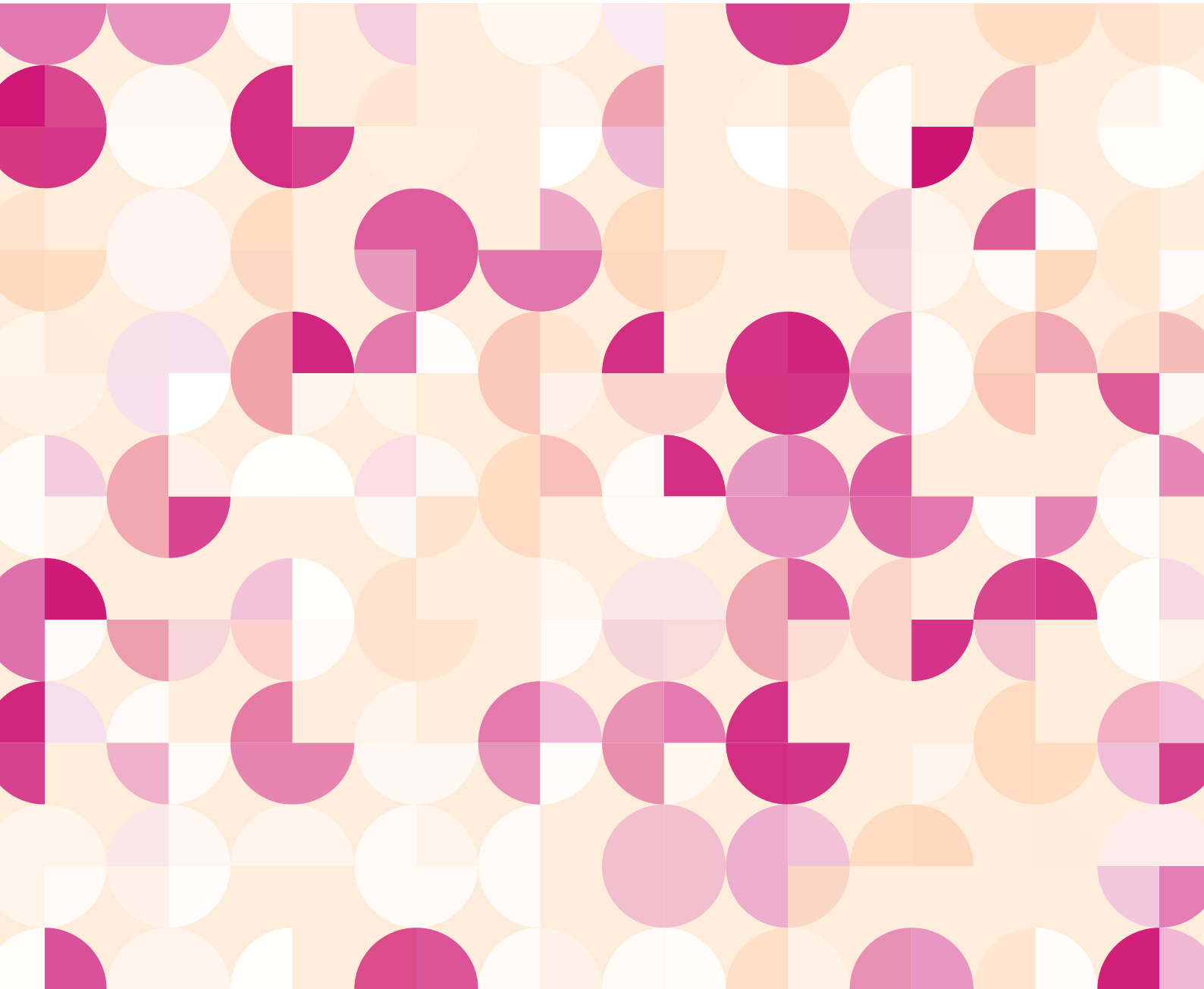


ANNUAL REPORT  
2014-2015







**TACKLE DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE**

**END DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE**

DDD

TACKLE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE



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# A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is fair to say that 2014-15 has been a big year of change, growth and expansion for North Queensland Women's Legal Service (NQWLS).

In August 2014, we opened up a new office in Cairns and relocated the office in Townsville to a bigger space in the same building. It sounds quite easy to say that in one sentence, but as most readers will know, the time, energy and organisation needed to relocate one office and open another *at the same time* is significant. The staff team pulled together and as a result have created a great work environment in both Cairns and Townsville, with lots more space for staff, volunteers and to see clients.

In September 2014, Samantha Byles joined Principal Solicitor, Hayley Grainger, and administrative support worker, Leah Muller in the Cairns office. This was another 'first' for NQWLS – having 2 full time lawyers in Cairns. It did not take long for the Cairns community to start making increased referrals to the new Cairns office. The legal practice there went from 'zero to a hundred' at record speed! In preparation for Leah's maternity leave, we were then joined by Moira McGovern in March 2015 and shortly after, Katherine Weston, as a volunteer worker. Moira and Katherine now job-share the administrative work in the Cairns office. We are happy to report that baby Jamie arrived safely, to the delight of sister Amelie and his Mum and Dad.

Meanwhile in Townsville this year, Lyndal Spear and Samantha Kelley joined the legal team, adding their skills and experience to those of Sharell O'Brien and Linda Anderson who have both been with NQWLS for a number of years. Our administrative worker, Debbie Taylor, left on a 12 month unpaid leave adventure to South America. Cheryl Bonnefin stepped up into the reception role from her volunteer role and now job-shares the responsibilities of the front desk with stalwart, Glenda Demopoulos.

With increased staffing levels, NQWLS was able to increase services for women needing free legal help.

Duty lawyer services at the Domestic Violence Court in Townsville were increased to cover all 3 call over days. We responded to the request of Judge Willis to attend as duty lawyer at the Federal Circuit Court in Cairns, during the sitting week each month. We maintained our 8 outreach

advice clinics and expanded the outreach services by commencing interviews by Skype for women in rural and remote areas. In response to a request from the Townsville Women's Prison, we now provide an outreach legal advice service by phone on Monday mornings to the prison.

Record numbers of women were provided with information, advice and assistance during this year and I thank the staff team for their commitment to excellence in their work.

Major projects in the Townsville office this year included the '**Ask Nola Roadshow**' and the '**Tackle Domestic Violence**' campaign that we undertook in partnership with the North Queensland Cowboys and the JCU Townsville Fire. Meanwhile, from the Cairns office, the '**Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Family Law Pathways Network (ATSI FLPN)**' project has been an important initiative.

There have been many other great collaborative ventures with our community partners as well and this has made 2014-15 a very rewarding year for NQWLS.

The backbone of NQWLS is the Management Committee and we thank them sincerely for their time, skills and guidance in the past year. We acknowledge Natasha Busby (President), Kate Pateman (Vice President), Jodie Woolcock (Treasurer), Renae Stocks (Secretary), Shonnay Nicholson and Di Ruhl (general members). Thank you to each and every general member of the NQWLS as well and to those members of the public who have supported the work of NQWLS by making donations.

We also thank our State association, fondly known as QAILS, and the National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLC) for their leadership and support in the broad and specific issues affecting community legal centres. Finally, we thank the Commonwealth and State governments for the funding provided to NQWLS which allows it to provide free community legal services for the women of North and Far North Queensland.

**Anne Lewis**

*Director*

“FOR THE FIRST TIME, I GOT POSITIVITY AND CLARITY.”





# PEOPLE POWER

## NQWLS STAFF TEAM – CAIRNS

### **Hayley Grainger, Principal Solicitor**

Hayley has been with NQWLS since 2008. She accepted the role of Principal Solicitor in 2014 and has worked alongside other staff to establish the new Cairns office over the past year. Hayley has continued to provide advice at the outreach clinics in Innisfail, Atherton, Mareeba, Port Douglas and Mossman, on top of her duties as Principal. Hayley is currently a member of the Queensland Law Society Working Group that is developing best practice guidelines for lawyers assisting clients affected by domestic violence. This project has come out of the recommendations of the 'Not Now, Not Ever' Report. Hayley has a Bachelor of Social Work as well as a Bachelor of Laws and finds that her social work skills complement her work as a community lawyer when working with vulnerable clients. Her other passion is Environmental Law & Policy, which she has practised and lectured in as well.

### **Samantha Byles, Solicitor**

Samantha is an experienced solicitor specialising in family law and family violence with particular expertise in litigation. Samantha started work with NQWLS in September 2014 and has taken on the work of the Duty Lawyer both at the Cairns Domestic Violence Court and the Federal Circuit Court, as well as providing advice and casework services to clients of the Cairns office.

### **Moira McGovern, Administrative Worker**

Moira has a background in small business, technology, tourism, travel, executive support, workplace health & safety and fitness. She has qualifications in Frontline Management, Workplace Health & Safety and in Fitness. Experience has taught Moira that employment in a discipline or industry that she loves is so much more satisfying and rewarding. She says that helping women to help themselves, is something close to her heart and part of her every day life both at NQWLS and as a fitness professional.

### **Katherine Weston, Administrative Worker**

Katherine is a first year law student, who originally volunteered at NQWLS because of her passion for community service. She joined the administrative staff team in the Cairns office and is building skills and knowledge about community legal practice and social justice issues

that will be of benefit to her in the years ahead for her career in law.

## NQWLS STAFF TEAM – TOWNSVILLE

### **Linda Anderson, Solicitor**

Linda left private practice to join NQWLS in 2012. She is an experienced solicitor, specialising in the areas of domestic violence and family law. Linda has had the role of Outreach Solicitor from the Townsville office and travels regularly to provide face to face advice for women in Ayr, Charters Towers and Ingham. Linda has also been involved in the community legal education work NQWLS has provided in high schools, in particular adding her skills and legal knowledge as a co-presenter for the 'Girls with a Purpose' program created by Centacare for 'at risk' high school students in Townsville.

### **Glenda Demopoulos, Administrative Worker**

Glenda has been with NQWLS since 2009. Her knowledge of NQWLS services and local community referrals is an asset. She is a first point of contact for women seeking assistance from the Townsville office. Glenda is professional, supportive and respectful in her frontline work with clients of NQWLS.

### **Cheryl Bonnefin, Administrative Worker**

Cheryl commenced her work with NQWLS as a volunteer, then took on the job-share position vacated by Debbie Taylor (on extended leave). Cheryl is a final year law student and is gaining skills and knowledge about working in a legal practice that will stand her in good stead as she moves forward, completes her law degree and establishes her legal career.

### **Sharell O'Brien, Solicitor**

Sharell left private practice and joined NQWLS in April 2013. She developed the 'Ask Nola' community legal education resources and presented the 'Ask Nola Roadshow' in communities across North and Far North Queensland during the past year. Sharell provides quality legal advice and casework assistance for women in the areas of family law and domestic violence.

### Samantha Kelley, Solicitor

After spending 5 years in private practice, Samantha joined NQWLS in March 2015. She is experienced in advising and assisting clients in relation to family law, domestic violence, and child protection matters. Samantha has taken on the role of Domestic Violence Duty Lawyer at the Townsville court. She provides legal advice and representation for women appearing in the domestic violence court.

### Lyndal Spear, Solicitor

Lyndal joined NQWLS in September 2014. She brings experience from working in national community organisations and local, state, territory and Commonwealth governments. Lyndal began her legal career as a tenancy consultant in New South Wales where she advocated for tenants in the Consumer, Trader and Tenancy Tribunal. Lyndal has been given intensive training in family law and domestic violence since joining NQWLS and has gained valuable experience in these areas of practice. She particularly enjoys providing advice to women in rural and remote areas on the 1800 phone advice line.

### Anne Lewis, Director

Anne joined the NQWLS team in November 2013. She worked as a paralegal in private practice for many years before joining the community legal sector in 1992. Anne also enjoyed working as a Manager with Victoria Legal Aid whilst returning to Victoria for a year to support family in 2008. Her experience as a paralegal and in legal practice management, is an asset to NQWLS.

## NQWLS VOLUNTEERS 2014-15

NQWLS welcomed a number of new volunteers during the 2014-15 year. We give our thanks and appreciation to all of the volunteers below. We are grateful for their time and work for NQWLS.

In Cairns, we say thanks to law students **Nikita Sellin, Katherine Weston, Michelle Whitfield** and **Zofia Zadowski**.

In Townsville, we say thanks to law students **Carly Baker, Rachel Stuart, Cheryl Bonnefin, Danika Searston** and **Sharon Sangha**.

Law students have assisted with a wide range of tasks including:

- providing administrative support for NQWLS for its role in the newly formed Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Family Law Pathways Network in Cairns.
- working with the NQWLS duty lawyers at the domestic violence courts – in Townsville and Cairns - to assist with client intake and liaison with stakeholders at court.
- assisting with client enquiries, reception and administrative duties.
- assisting with the development of a domestic violence action plan, review and update of self-help publications.
- undertaking legal research.



## WORKING HARD

NQWLS has a small staff team and the help of some volunteer law students who work hard to ensure that vulnerable women and children living in North and Far North Queensland can access free legal help. NQWLS provides legal assistance to women who live anywhere from Sarina in the south, west to the Northern Territory border and north to the Torres Strait. This is an area that is roughly half the size of Queensland. It includes several major regional centres, as well as smaller rural and remote communities. To reach as many women as possible over this vast area, NQWLS delivers its services in a variety of ways, including by way of:

- The 1800 telephone advice line
- Skype video-conference appointments
- Face to face appointments in the Townsville and Cairns offices
- Outreach advice clinics at Ayr, Charters Towers, Ingham, Atherton, Mareeba, Innisfail, Port Douglas and Mossman
- Outreach Phone advice line for the Townsville Women's Prison
- Duty Lawyer Services at Townsville Domestic Violence Court
- Duty Lawyer Services at Cairns Domestic Violence Court
- Duty Lawyer Services at the Cairns Federal Circuit Court
- Community legal education workshops, self-help publications & the Ask Nola website
- Community Development work

During 2014-15, NQWLS provided a total of **5257 legal services** to **1554 individual clients**.

**1871**  
Information  
and Referral

**3114**  
Legal  
Advice

**272**  
Casework



**49%** of services were provided to women affected by family or domestic violence



**193** women were assisted at court



**19** community legal education projects were provided



**Cairns office is staffed by 2 lawyers, administrative support and law student volunteers.**

**Townsville office is staffed by 4 lawyers, administrative support, the NQWLS Director and law student volunteers.**



**Due to NQWLS' limited resources, 4772 calls for legal assistance were unable to be answered during the 2014-15 year.**

That is an average of **397** calls per month, or **100** per week, or **20** calls every day of the working week.



# NQWLS SERVICES

## 1800 TELEPHONE ADVICE LINE

For women in rural and remote areas, legal advice is accessible via a free call 1800 line. Women can call and speak directly to a solicitor about any legal problem they may have. If the legal issue is regarding a matter that NQWLS does not give advice on, women are given referrals to other services that may assist them. There is no pre-screening of calls, which is consistent with our 'no wrong door' approach to providing options for women.

The 1800 advice line is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:00am to 1:00pm.

Calls made to the 1800 line can often result in further follow-up phone calls, face to face appointments, letters of advice being written and sometimes ongoing assistance with preparation for court matters. Each situation is assessed on a case-by-case basis in terms of what further assistance is appropriate.

Areas of advice that we commonly provide through the 1800 line are family and domestic violence, child contacts, child support, child protection, victims' assistance, discrimination and divorce.


The 1800 line is available to any women who live in our catchment area, which runs from Sarina in the south, to the Northern Territory border in the west and to the Torres Strait in the north. It is particularly useful for women who may have trouble getting to or keeping appointments (which can be for a number of reasons) and the service runs in such a way that women can email or fax in documents they want advice on, and then call the 1800 line to get that advice.

NQWLS has been able at times to provide urgent assistance to women who have very serious and urgent matters and who have contacted the advice line in states of desperation because they could not get help anywhere else. We take pride in the fact that we have been able to help women in situations such as this. However sadly, there are still too many women calling the 1800 line who just don't get through due to lack of resources. In 2014-15, a total of 4772 women could not get through on the line due to resource constraints. Demand for free legal help greatly outstrips NQWLS resources.


## TOWNSVILLE - OUTREACH ADVICE CLINICS & SKYPE APPOINTMENTS FOR WOMEN IN RURAL & REMOTE LOCATIONS

Outreach Advice Clinics are provided from the Townsville office to Ayr, Charters Towers and Ingham. Linda Anderson has been the dedicated NQWLS Outreach Solicitor during the past year. Women attending the outreach advice clinics have consistency of service from 1 lawyer attending the clinic on a regular basis. NQWLS finds that this not only benefits clients, but also helps build stronger links with each of the outreach communities as well. The Advice Clinics, particularly in Ayr and Charters Towers, are fully booked or almost fully booked for each monthly visit by Linda.

The 'Ask Nola' Roadshow visited all of the outreach locations in the past year and this has increased referrals to the Advice Clinics, as well as increasing awareness within the communities about NQWLS services generally.



"I GOT GREAT  
ADVICE AND  
CAME OUT  
WITH A LOT OF  
INFORMATION.  
THE SOLICITOR  
KNEW EXACTLY  
WHAT I NEEDED  
AND WHAT  
STEPS I NEEDED  
TO TAKE."



“THE SOLICITOR WAS BOTH PROFESSIONAL AND EASY TO TALK TO. SHE HAS BEEN SO HELPFUL ALSO GOOD AT HANDLING MY EMOTIONS. IT WAS DEFINITELY MADE EASIER BY THE ADVICE I WAS GIVEN.”



In addition to these initiatives, NQWLS also conducted a 'brochure drop' at a variety of locations in Ingham to increase awareness of NQWLS services. Brochures were left at the police station, doctor's offices, community services, the Ingham hospital and some retail outlets. We also had a community information article published in the local newspapers to increase referrals in Ingham and other outreach venues.

During the 'Ask Nola' Roadshow visit to Bowen, there was a high level of interest in obtaining outreach advice services for women in the Bowen/Proserpine/Whitsunday region. We have since commenced discussions with the Whitsunday Crisis & Counselling Service (WCCS) about providing a regular outreach clinic, conducted via Skype, as the distance from our Townsville office would not allow us to attend in person. Whilst we finalise details about the new regular outreach Skype clinic, we have commenced providing individual Skype appointments to women who are staying at the Women's Shelter operated by WCCS, and this has been a great success. Pending the outreach clinic trial with this region, NQWLS is also considering offering a Skype outreach clinic in the Mt Isa region, to better service the far western parts of our service delivery area.

## CAIRNS – OUTREACH ADVICE CLINICS

Outreach Advice Clinics are provided to Innisfail, Atherton, Mareeba, Port Douglas and Mossman from the Cairns office. Hayley Grainger is the regular lawyer attending those clinics. Demand for NQWLS services has remained high throughout the year with almost all available appointments being filled at each location. Women who attend the clinics not only reside in the outreach locations but many travel from small outlying towns and communities where legal services do not exist. NQWLS outreach clinics go some way to addressing the difficulties women have in accessing justice in rural, regional and remote areas. Introducing Skype appointments will further increase our ability to assist these women, however access to the technology required is providing some challenges.

Generally, both the Townsville and Cairns based Outreach Advice Clinics have been very successful this year, with feedback being received from both clients and our

partnering organisations alike that NQWLS services are appreciated and valued by women in rural, regional and remote areas.

## OUTREACH – PHONE ADVICE TO TOWNSVILLE WOMEN'S CORRECTIONAL CENTRE

During the 2014-15 year, and for the first time, NQWLS partnered with the Townsville Women's Correctional Centre (TWCC) to provide an outreach telephone advice line exclusively for women who are incarcerated at the TWCC. This was borne from the concern that whilst, in general, criminal law advice is available to incarcerated women, it can be more difficult for them to obtain advice about family law and domestic violence matters.

There were some initial hurdles with getting the new service operational, including that the prison's telephone system does not allow women to call any 1800 numbers. After a quick reshuffle, we were able to provide the women with our regular office telephone number, and ensure that there is always a solicitor available to take those calls on the allocated day.

Another difficulty that we are currently working through, is that the calls are time limited to 10 minutes only, which means that the initial call from a woman is managed primarily as a triage call. If legal advice is appropriate, a specific telephone appointment time has to be arranged to allow a longer time for taking instructions and providing advice.

NQWLS is expecting to be part of a video-conferencing trial with TWCC that is scheduled to commence during 2015-16. Legal advice by video-conference with NQWLS lawyers would be of great benefit to the women within TWCC.

The good news is that women are accessing the new phone advice service, and we have had a number of calls from women who were able to obtain advice about their family law matters. All calls so far have related to children's issues.

## FACE TO FACE APPOINTMENTS IN TOWNSVILLE & CAIRNS OFFICES

Face to face appointments in both the Townsville and Cairns offices have been heavily booked throughout 2014-15. All NQWLS lawyers provide quality advice and casework assistance for women who can attend appointments at the NQWLS offices. Often the clients that NQWLS provides advice to have experienced domestic or family violence and the ability for them to speak with a lawyer face to face often provides them with greater assistance during a time when they are feeling vulnerable. Women are provided with advice regarding family and domestic violence, child contacts, child support, child protection, victims' assistance, discrimination and divorce.

## DUTY LAWYER SERVICES – DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURTS – CAIRNS & TOWNSVILLE

The Domestic Violence Duty Lawyer Service (DV DLS) at the **Cairns Magistrates Court** operates on Thursday morning each week and Samantha Byles has provided this service during the past year. The DV DLS in Cairns runs smoothly and is well supported by other key stakeholders such as the Cairns Regional Domestic

Violence Service, Queensland Police and the Magistrates Court staff. The NQWLS duty lawyer assists women, whether they are the aggrieved or respondent party. On average, between 6 and 8 women are assisted each week with legal advice and advocacy. There have been a few occasions this year where NQWLS has assisted over 10 women on the one day.

The DV DLS provided by NQWLS at the **Townsville Magistrates Court** was expanded during the past year and it now operates on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. Samantha Kelley has taken on the DL role in Townsville. Samantha is present on each day that the Court conducts a call-over of the domestic violence matters.

The NQWLS duty lawyer can provide legal information, referrals, advice, assistance with negotiations at court and court representation. Any unrepresented woman can seek the assistance of the DL. The DLs can appear in court, at their discretion. We appreciate that appearing in court can be a difficult and daunting task for unrepresented women, particularly because they have experienced domestic violence and by necessity are required to face the perpetrator of the violence in court. The DL regularly assists women in court appearances, by seeking and arguing for temporary protection orders, arguing against temporary protection orders (in the case of female respondents) and seeking adjournments and directions.

NQWLS also provides advice and assistance to women regarding domestic violence by appointment from its offices. Appointments are often arranged following our assistance at court as the DL. We have assisted women by reviewing or drafting their affidavits before they are filed with the court and /or negotiating with the other party. In the case of women who are respondents to DV applications, NQWLS has assisted by preparing written submissions to the police and preparing undertakings.

## DUTY LAWYER SERVICE – FEDERAL CIRCUIT COURT IN CAIRNS

The Family Law Duty Lawyer Service (FL DLS) started in late 2014. Samantha Byles is the regular duty lawyer for NQWLS. Samantha has worked closely with the Legal Aid Queensland (LAQ) duty lawyer to ensure that there is no duplication of services. Essentially, NQWLS is assisting women that cannot be assisted by LAQ, often due to a conflict of interest. On average, between 2 to 3 women are assisted by NQWLS during the mornings it attends during the duty list week. NQWLS has worked collaboratively with LAQ in providing the FL DLS and it has appreciated the support of the Federal Circuit Court that has set aside a room for NQWLS' specific use during duty week.







“THE SOLICITOR WAS VERY HONEST IN HER APPROACH. I APPRECIATED THE HONEST ADVICE. I FELT SUPPORTED IN COURT.”

## COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION

NQWLS believes that it is not only important to provide legal response services for women who are experiencing domestic or family violence, but also to be involved in the **prevention** of domestic and family violence. NQWLS does this by providing free community legal education about family and domestic violence, the intersection with family law issues and healthy relationships.

This year, NQWLS provided community legal education to a number of organisations across North and Western Queensland. Some of the organisations included Townsville High Schools, Domestic Violence Resources Centres in Townsville and Mount Isa and other community legal centres. The topics that NQWLS presented on included healthy relationships and dating violence, preparing domestic and family violence affidavits and family law education.

During 2014-15, NQWLS joined other Townsville community organisations to work collaboratively under the banner of 'PAVE' – which is an acronym for '**Partnerships in Anti Violence Education**'. The partnership members include the North Queensland Domestic Violence Service, Townsville Women's Centre, the Women's Shelter, Flora House, the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Service and QIFVLS. Requests are received from the community for anti-violence education workshops and then

staff from one or more of the PAVE member organisations will provide a customised CLE session.

NQWLS would also like to thank Centacare, Townsville for inviting it to partner with them to co-present sessions of the '**Girls with a Purpose**' education program about healthy relationships and dating violence, at several Townsville high schools during the past year.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT – ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER FAMILY LAW PATHWAYS NETWORK (ATSI FLPN)

At the invitation of Her Honour, Judge Josephine Willis, of the Federal Circuit Court in Cairns, NQWLS was asked to assist with the establishment of an ATSI FLPN, modelled on a similar group that already operates in Sydney.

To this end, Hayley Grainger and Samantha Byles attended an Aboriginal Law Conference in Sydney in November 2014 at Her Honour's request and at this conference, they met many people who were instrumental in setting up the Sydney group: including His Honour, Judge Matthew Myers (who is the first indigenous judge to sit on the Federal Circuit Court of Australia bench) and Rick Welsh who works at The Shed and focuses on suicide prevention.



“EVERYTHING WAS EXPLAINED IN A WAY I COULD UNDERSTAND. NO JARGON, FULLY UNDERSTOOD. CAN'T IMPROVE ON THAT. THAT WAS 100%.”

From there, work was undertaken to invite select people to a gathering in Cairns for the purpose of establishing an ATSI FLPN there. The initial gathering was held on 29 June 2015 and was well attended. Rick Welsh travelled to Cairns from Sydney and Her Honour Judge Willis attended on the day as well.

It was agreed at the initial gathering that NQWLS would act as Secretary for the ATSI FLPN for the coming 12 months.

## Community Development – Tackle Domestic Violence Campaign

This year, NQWLS was delighted to establish a partnership with the North Queensland Cowboys and the JCU Townsville Fire. Together, we launched the 'Tackle Domestic Violence' campaign. The launch coincided with the Cowboys v Broncos game on 15 May 2015 in Townsville, before a crowd of over 20,000 people in the 1300 Smiles stadium.

As the crowds poured into the stadium, NQWLS staff and partners, management committee members and partners, volunteers and supporters from the Townsville Women's Shelter, the North Queensland Domestic Violence Resource Service, Legal Aid Queensland, Townsville Community Legal Service, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Service, QPILCH and private legal firms donned bright pink campaign t-shirts and handed out balloons and information about accessing free legal help for anyone affected by domestic violence.

Ahead of the game, players Gavin Cooper, Glenn Hall and Mia Newley, made 3 TV commercials sending out key messages about domestic violence, as well as information about how people can access free legal help from NQWLS. The TV commercials were shown on the big screen at the game. The hard working pink t-shirt brigade took the campaign banner onto the field ahead of the kick off and Sharell was interviewed in front of the crowd - which was beamed up onto the big screen as well.

The 'Tackle Domestic Violence' campaign will continue on with similar events to be held at JCU Townsville Fire games and at the Cowboys stadium during the 2016 season, with other aspects of the campaign still being worked on behind the scenes.

NQWLS is very grateful for the support for this campaign given by the North Queensland Cowboys and the JCU Townsville Fire players, management and Clubs. We especially thank Fiona Pelling, Bruce Muller and Richard Goodbody for their work in making the Tackle Domestic Violence campaign a success.

We are also grateful to all of the pink t-shirt volunteers who made the campaign launch 'happen' on the night. Good work, everyone! Hope you can join us again in 2016.

## Community Development – Ask Nola Roadshow

'Ask Nola' (an acronym for North Queensland Online Legal Access) was completed as a 2 year project on 30 June 2015. Nola's job to achieve this milestone included travelling around north, far north and western Queensland to meet and educate community support workers in rural, regional and remote areas about the website and the resources available there.

The 'Ask Nola' website provides free community legal education to community support workers who work with women experiencing legal problems. This education is provided through webinars, factsheets, case studies and publications covering areas of law such as family law, domestic and family violence, child protection, Victims Assist, and discrimination. Ask Nola members can also access referral information for organisations across Queensland that may assist women in their local community who may be experiencing a relationship breakdown or domestic violence. Some of the referral information covers issues concerning children, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, people with a disability, education and employment, youth and seniors, violence against women, financial stress, community support services and more.

Although the project phase is completed, 'Ask Nola' is now an ongoing part of NQWLS services. It will continue to provide community support workers in rural, regional and remote locations with access to high quality, free legal education and webinars, so that they can better support people in their own local areas without the usual high costs in time and travel to attend training or education events. Ask Nola currently has over 120 members and growing.



# PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATIONS

Partnerships and collaborations are a major feature of NQWLS' work in the community. Limited resources, high and increasing demand for free legal help and large areas of unmet legal need in the community, mean that partnership and collaboration with organisations with similar goals to NQWLS is the best way of providing assistance to the greatest number of people seeking access to services.

The list of partnerships and collaborations for NQWLS is extensive and stretches across half of Queensland – which is our service area. We would like to acknowledge and thank all of those partner organisations for their support during 2014-15. We look forward to continuing our work together into the years ahead. In this Report, we acknowledge and thank the following organisations, networks and individuals:

- Member organisations of North Queensland Legal Assistance Forum (NQLAF)
- Member organisations of the Cairns Regional Legal Assistance Forum (RLAF)
- Cairns Regional Domestic Violence Service, the Women's Centres and the Women's Shelters in Far North Queensland and all member organisations of the Cairns Collective Impact on Domestic & Family Violence
- North Queensland Domestic Violence Resource Service, the Women's Centre and the Women's Shelters in North Queensland and all member organisations of Dovetail
- North Queensland Cowboys and JCU Townsville Fire
- Members of the Queensland Association of Independent Legal Services (QAILS)
- National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLC)
- JCU Law School and law student volunteers and placements – Townsville and Cairns
- Members of the Family Law Pathways Network - Townsville and Cairns
- Members of the newly established Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Family Law Pathways Network (ATSI FLPN) in Cairns
- Anti Discrimination Commission Queensland – Townsville and Cairns
- Family Relationship Centre - Townsville and Cairns
- Centacare – Townsville and Cairns
- Relationships Australia – Townsville and Cairns
- Member organisations of the 'Partnerships in Anti Violence Education' (PAVE)
- Magistrates Court – Townsville and Cairns
- Federal Circuit Court – Cairns
- Burdekin Community Association
- Charters Towers Neighbourhood Centre
- Hinchinbrook Community Support Centre
- Community Support Centre Innisfail
- Tablelands Women's Support Service
- Mareeba Information & Support Centre
- Port Douglas Neighbourhood Centre
- Mossman Community Centre
- Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Service
- Women's Legal Service Queensland
- Cairns Community Legal Centre
- Townsville Community Legal Service
- State and Federal MPs – Townsville and Cairns
- Victims Assist – Townsville and Cairns
- All organisations supporting Red Rose Rallies – Townsville and Cairns

## A Note from the NQWLS President, Natasha Busby

What an exciting time to be a part of North Queensland Women's Legal Service. This has been a huge year for the service, with many exciting new developments including the expansion of the Domestic Violence Duty Lawyer Service in Townsville and the commencement of the Family Law Duty Lawyer Service in Cairns. NQWLS has welcomed new staff and volunteers and for the first time, it is preparing to accept Legal Placement students from James Cook University in both the Townsville and Cairns offices, from Semester 2, 2015.

I would like to thank all of the members of the NQWLS management committee for their efforts over the past 12 months. To those committee members who are stepping down, we wish you all the best. For the new committee members joining us at the Annual General Meeting, thank you and welcome. I especially want to congratulate and

thank the very dedicated Treasurer, Jodie Woolcock, who is expecting her first child very soon and has still committed to stay on as Treasurer in the year to come.

And of course, thank you to the staff of the Service. You all bring a passion and dedication to your work that is admirable. The women of North Queensland are lucky to have you.



“I WANTED HELP AND INFORMATION ON MY LEGAL STANDING WITH MY PENDING SEPARATION AND DIVORCE AS I HAD NO ACCESS TO OUR JOINT FINANCIAL INFORMATION. I WANT TO DO THINGS IN THE FAIR AND LEGAL WAY.”





## CASE STUDY 1

### **Domestic Violence hearing in a rural, regional, remote (RRR) location**

Irene sought assistance from NQWLS with a domestic violence matter. Her son-in-law had been harassing her over a significant period of time. Due to a lack of services in her area, Irene had to complete and file her own Application for a Protection Order, without any assistance from police or a domestic violence support service. Nobody was available to explain to Irene what was required of her, or what the process was in Court after filing her application.

By the time Irene spoke to NQWLS, she had been granted a temporary protection order, and her matter had been adjourned twice. Irene did not know why the matter kept getting adjourned, she had no Court support person, and the police prosecutor was not speaking on her behalf at Court. Irene said she found the Magistrate and the whole Court process very intimidating.

NQWLS was able to explain the process to Irene, and let her know that further support was available if her son-in-law decided to contest her application.

Over the following weeks, not only did Irene's son-in-law contest the application, but Irene's daughter then brought a protection order application against Irene. This meant that Irene was the Applicant in one matter, and the Respondent in the other. Despite the fact that none of the same facts were involved in the matters, the Court decided to list them together. This made the situation even more confusing for Irene. Additionally, Irene's daughter and son-in-law had legal representation, whereas Irene did not have representation at the Court mentions.

NQWLS was able to provide ongoing assistance and support for Irene, by drafting affidavit material on her behalf, for both her application and her response. Multiple appointments were made so that Irene was able to discuss her matter and to complete these documents. Irene was also provided with ongoing advice about probable outcomes of both matters.

As NQWLS was not able to be at this outreach court location on the day of the hearing, it was fortunate for Irene that a private legal practitioner in her area agreed to appear at Court on her behalf for a significantly reduced cost.

The solicitor made comment to Irene on the high quality of the documents that had been prepared by NQWLS. That solicitor was only able to assist Irene at a reduced fee because all of the preparation work had been undertaken and completed by NQWLS.

Irene was ultimately able to obtain a protection order against her son-in-law and the application against her was dismissed.



## CASE STUDY 2

### **The 1800 line, the Family Law Court Duty Lawyer Service & follow up work for women in rural, regional and remote areas**

Sarah called the NQWLS 1800 free legal advice line. She was at the time staying in a Women's Shelter in a small rural town. She called to ask about getting her 2 year old son returned to her care. This little boy had siblings, aged 4 and 6. The children were cared for by the mother. Sarah explained the events of the preceding week. She said that after an escalation of violence, she had left the father of the children and sought help from local women's services. There was a long history of significant domestic violence, including physical and sexual violence against Sarah. The father had kept the youngest son, failing to return him after spending time with him. Sarah wanted legal advice and help to have her son returned to her care.

There were no current parenting orders and, as well as the violent behaviour of the father, Sarah said that he was using ice and had mental health problems. Child Safety services had been involved with the family in the past due to these issues.

Sarah told NQWLS that she had sought legal help in her local area. She said she was told she could not get a recovery order without parenting orders being in place. This is incorrect. Sarah had called Legal Aid and was told to ask local firms to help her make an application for aid. She said her requests for this help were refused. She was exhausted and distressed when she called the NQWLS 1800 phone advice line.

Sarah was provided with advice about the process of obtaining a recovery order and provided with template documents and information about accessing the forms she needed online. Due to limited resources, NQWLS explained that we could not prepare the documents for her, but explained to her that she could email her draft documents to us and we would arrange a further telephone appointment to help her finalise her application and supporting documents.

After a couple of phone appointments, the material was filed in Court around lunch time on Friday. By Monday mid

morning, the court had set a date and time for the matter to be heard – on that same afternoon.

The Court was aware of NQWLS involvement in providing legal advice and assistance with the preparation of documents and contacted us to ask if we could assist the client as Duty Lawyer and we agreed to do this.

The matter was listed for an interim hearing late on Monday. After submissions by the NQWLS duty lawyer, the Court proceeded to hear the matter on an ex parte basis and the recovery order was issued that evening. The Court also ordered that the children live with the mother and that she have sole parental responsibility. The Court ordered supervised time with the children for the father.

Sarah kept NQWLS informed about progress of the recovery order. The Australian Federal Police spoke to her on Tuesday and advised that they would be organising to execute the recovery order.

In a few days, the child was returned to the mother and the father was taken to the Mental Health Unit at the local hospital.

The matter returned to court and the original orders made with regards the children were maintained and the Court appointed an Independent Children's Lawyer and ordered that a Family Report be prepared.

## COMMENTS FROM OUR CLIENTS

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“I just have to thank you for your help and assistance with my domestic violence order. I truly appreciate it. Although we are all numbers in the court, the short 5 or 10 minutes in the court room is life changing. It is an emotional roller coaster of fear, hesitation, anxiety and then relief and a feeling of safety. I truly do not know where I would be without this help. You believed me and gave me hope – which turned to determination, strength and power. I was a mess when we first met and I see how far I have come now. My life would have gotten a million times worse and the violence would have continued without this help because I was hiding from the reality. Thank you.”

---

“I would like to send my heartfelt thanks and gratitude to the NQWLS team for the assistance and exceptional service over the last couple of weeks. Until I was given your contact details, I didn't know there was such an organisation available for women. From my first phone call with the receptionist, I was treated with respect and care. It continued with talented and knowledgeable legal help. Your solicitors gave me a sense of purpose and helped me through a very emotional and difficult situation. I would never have been able to achieve the results without your help. I am indebted to you all and should I ever be blessed with money in abundance, NQWLS will be the first place I donate to. Thank you again and keep up the outstanding work that you do.”

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“The solicitor was very helpful as I didn't know what was going to happen to me. She provided me with advice and help and I am so grateful she was there for me.”

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“I am impressed by your Service. Straight to the point. Calls returned quickly. The solicitor was fantastic and very understanding. It was easy to open up to her. Everything was explained step by step. I will recommend you to everyone.”

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“Extremely professional. I was so pleased to have the duty lawyer represent me. My wishes were respected and my questions were answered in detail which is what I needed. She walked me through the steps, explaining everything I needed to do to complete my case. I am so pleased to have the solicitor beside me through this sad journey.”

---

“Fantastic help. I was guided through the process and it made the daunting task a whole lot easier. So glad I didn't have to represent myself. I felt like the duty lawyer represented me well. Thank you.”

---

“Thank you very much for all your understanding, support and help. I thank all of the staff for your dedication to assist and help those disadvantaged people like me. I am happy you would continually help me giving me advice and then helping me to prepare my affidavit and then helping me prepare for a hearing. More power to NQWLS and God bless!”

---

“This was my first time to appear in a court room. I was very worried. I was very lonely. Talking to the solicitor made me feel reassured. I was so happy she could come into the court room with me.”

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“Extremely helpful in a very upsetting situation.”

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“THANK YOU FOR THE SUPPORT PROVIDED. IT IS GREAT THAT THIS HELP AND SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE.”



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“The solicitor was wonderful after trying to get help. Because my case had been adjourned 3 times for not having enough information. I was able to make an appointment at the office afterwards and thank God it is all over now.”

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“I can’t thank the girls enough for their help and support to get me through such a difficult time and to help with the recovery of my child.”

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“Thank you to all who have been involved with my case. The staff have been marvellous. Keep up the good work you are all doing.”

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“To the lovely ladies at NQWLS. Thank you for your professionalism and patience. I have now been able to retain some legal representation, which is a glimmer of hope in a desperate situation, none of my choosing. One day I will thank you properly. In the meantime, all my thanks and kindest regards.”

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“Thank you so very much for the wonderful service I was provided. Brilliant care, empathy and compassion. Passion and dedication of your staff is extremely exceptional. Thank you for your help and best wishes for the future to all staff.”

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“Contacting NQWLS was the best thing I managed to achieve after making 25 phone calls to other services and being put on hold. However, I did have to try 10 times to get through on the NQWLS 1800 line yesterday before I finally got through.”

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“I felt I was listened to and didn’t feel like I was being shunted off.”

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“Completely helpful. I just needed to know where I stood. Excellent service.”

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“I was floundering around. I needed to get some clear direction as to what to do about my situation. The solicitor calmed me right down – I am going to the doctor because I am so stressed. She gave me hope.”

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“The solicitor gave me plenty of information about what I can do and where I can seek further help. Explained in layman’s terms so I could understand.”



# TREASURER'S REPORT

NQWLS continues to operate within budget and during 2014-15 it reduced unexpended funds by increasing staff levels, which has directly translated into increased legal services for women. The unexpended funds are a consequence of earlier staff turn over and the challenges faced by many organisations in the recruitment and retention of professional staff in rural, regional and remote areas.

The Community Legal Services Program (CLSP) income, together with funds brought forward from the previous year, was \$1,356,834.

Expenditure for the year was \$920,897 which means that carry forward funds of \$435,937 will be available in the 2015-16 budget to maintain the increased staff levels and increased legal services to the community.

Longer term financial sustainability planning is a current focus for NQWLS, so that staffing and service levels can be sustained at current levels on an ongoing basis.

The 'Ask Nola' project was separately funded by the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department under the NBN Regional Legal Assistance Program and the project was completed on 30 June 2015. However, a cyclone alert during late 2014 caused cancellation of part of the 'Ask Nola Roadshow' resulting in unexpended project funds of \$3271. NQWLS has been given an extension of time to until 31 December 2016 to complete the Roadshow and expend the remaining funds.

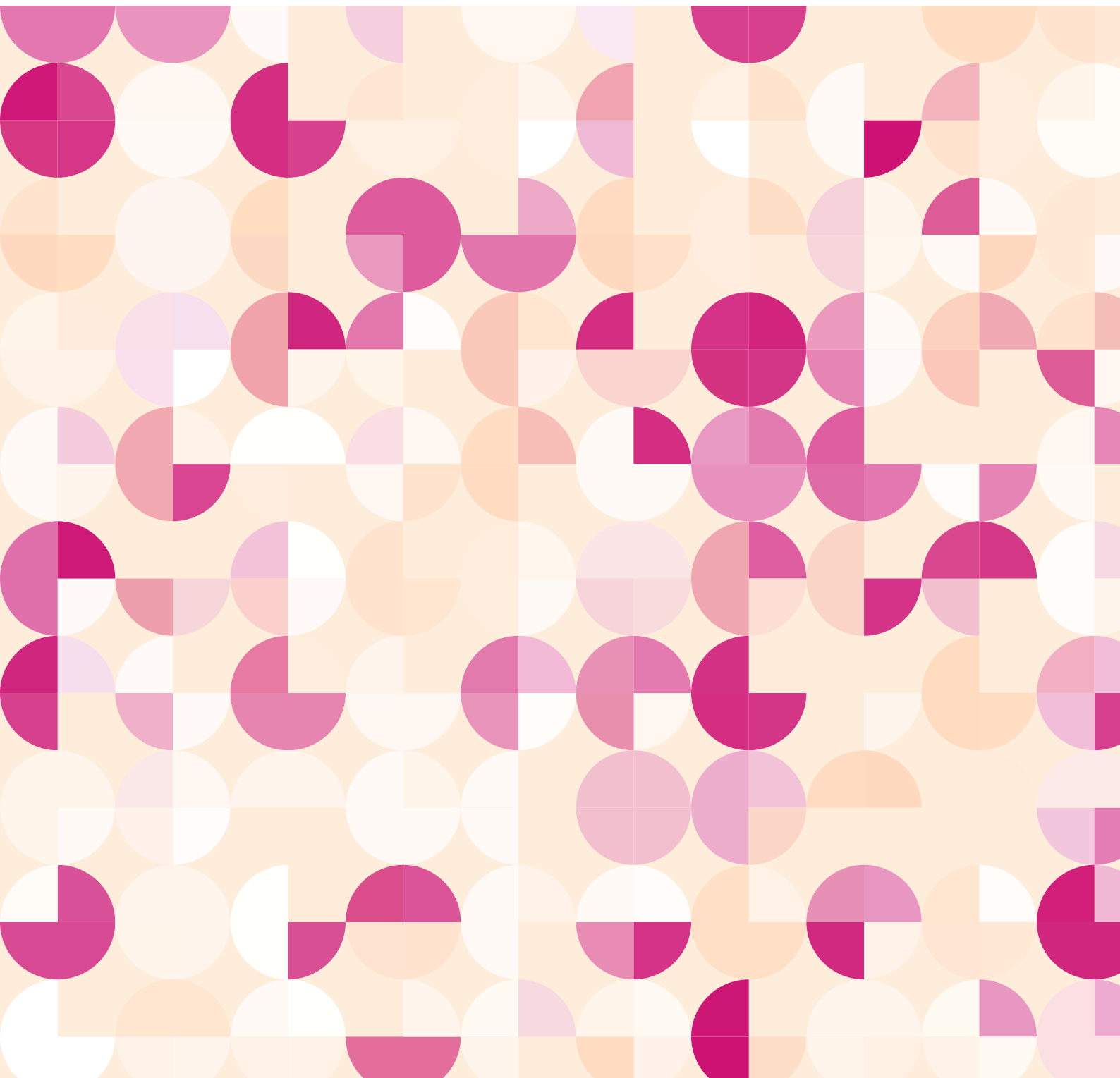


“THE SOLICITOR WAS AWESOME! THE AMOUNT OF STRESS TAKEN OFF ME WAS ENORMOUS. I APPRECIATE IT GREATLY. EVERYTHING WAS EXPLAINED THOROUGHLY AND FLOWED FLUIDLY. EVERYONE I CAME INTO CONTACT WITH WAS LOVELY. THANK YOU ALL SO MUCH FOR YOUR HELP. NO WORDS CAN SAY WHAT THIS MEANT FOR ME.”





# AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2014-15



## RESPONSIBLE ENTITIES' REPORT

Your responsible entities' submit the financial report of North Queensland Women's Legal Services Inc for the financial year ended 30 June 2015.

### Responsible Entities'

The names of the responsible entities' in office at anytime during or since the end of the year are:

Natasha Busby  
Kate Pateman  
Siobhan Tangney  
Jodie Woolcock  
Shonnay Nicholson

### Principal Activities

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were:

To assist North Queensland Women, particularly the disadvantaged and marginalised women, to obtain access to legal services.

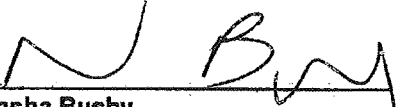
### Significant Changes

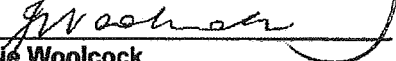
No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the financial year.

### Operating Result

The profit after providing for income tax amounted to \$NIL.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the responsible entities':

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Natasha Busby

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jodie Woolcock

Dated this 15 day of October 2015.



## STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
Revenue	2	1,039,554	765,441
Other income	2	1,201	-
Employee benefits expense		(690,418)	(531,788)
Depreciation		(16,088)	(18,514)
Other expenses		<u>(334,249)</u>	<u>(229,248)</u>
<b>Surplus before income tax</b>	<b>3</b>	-	14,109
Income tax expense		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Surplus for the year</b>		<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>14,109</u></u>
Surplus attributable to members of the entity		<u><u>-</u></u>	<u><u>14,109</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

## ASSETS AND LIABILITY STATEMENT AS AT 30 JUNE 2015

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash on hand	4	1,307,971	1,489,679
Accounts receivable and other debtors		467	-
Other current assets		4,677	-
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>1,313,115</u>	<u>1,489,679</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	5	93,640	51,514
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>93,640</u>	<u>51,514</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u><u>1,406,755</u></u>	<u><u>1,541,193</u></u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Accounts payable and other payables	6	1,015,055	1,211,302
Bendigo Bank Credit Card	6	-	2,064
Provisions	7	117,904	48,960
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>1,132,959</u>	<u>1,262,326</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Provisions	7	33,966	39,038
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>33,966</u>	<u>39,038</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<u><u>1,166,926</u></u>	<u><u>1,301,364</u></u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u><u>239,829</u></u>	<u><u>239,829</u></u>
<b>MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>			
Retained surplus		239,829	239,829
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>		<u><u>239,829</u></u>	<u><u>239,829</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

	Retained Surplus \$	Total \$
<b>Balance at 1 July 2013</b>	225,720	225,720
<b>Comprehensive income</b>		
Surplus for the year	14,109	14,109
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to members of the association</b>	<u>14,109</u>	<u>14,109</u>
<b>Balance at 30 June 2014</b>	<u>239,829</u>	<u>239,829</u>
<b>Balance at 1 July 2014</b>	239,829	239,829
<b>Comprehensive income</b>		
Surplus for the year	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to members of the association</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Balance at 30 June 2015</b>	<u>239,829</u>	<u>239,829</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

### 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements cover North Queensland Women's Legal Services Inc as an individual entity. North Queensland Women's Legal Services Inc is an association incorporated in Queensland and operating pursuant to the Associations Incorporation Act 1981.

The financial statement were authorised for issue on the date of signing the Responsible Entities' Report.

These special purpose financial statements have been prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporations Act (Qld) 1981, Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act) and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013 (ACNC Regulation). The association is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards. The responsible entities' have determined that the association is not a reporting entity. The responsible entities' have determined that the accounting policies adopted are appropriate to meet the needs of the members.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement requirements specified by the Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ('AASB') and the disclosure requirements of AASB 101 'Presentation of Financial Statements', AASB 108 'Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors', AASB 1031 'Materiality', AASB 1048 'Interpretation of Standards' and AASB 1054 'Australian Additional Disclosures', as appropriate for not-for-profit oriented entities.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where stated specifically, current valuations of non-current assets.

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

#### (a) Income Tax

No provision for income tax has been raised as the entity is exempt from income tax under Div 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

#### (b) Plant and Equipment

All plant and equipment are initially measured at cost and are depreciated over their useful lives to the association.

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually by the responsible entities' to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of expected net cash flows that will be received from the asset's employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have been discounted to present values in determining recoverable amounts.

#### Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the asset's useful life to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at the end of each reporting period. An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

**(c) Employee Benefits**

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 reasonably measured. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

Liabilities for wages and salaries, including non-monetary benefits, annual, personal and long service leave are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled. Annual, personal and long service leave expected to be settled within 12 months are recorded as current liabilities. Annual, personal and long service leave not expected to be settled within 12 months are recorded as non-current liabilities.

**(d) Cash on Hand**

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

**(e) Revenue and Other Income**

Grant revenue is recognised in the income and expenditure statement when the entity obtains control over the funds. When there are conditions attached to grant revenue relating to the use of those grants for specific purposes it is recognised in the balance sheet as a liability until such conditions are met or services provided.

Interest revenue is recognised when received.

Donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt.

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

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

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



	2015 \$	2014 \$
<b>2. REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME</b>		
Unexpended grants brought forward	661,451	522,062
Unexpended projects brought forward	513,957	607,199
Memberships received	311	143
Funding - Com Wage Sup 13-14	-	73,221
Funding - Family Violence	40,116	52,540
Funding - State	-	32,960
Funding - Commonwealth	352,452	299,460
Funding - Commonwealth FRC	44,435	58,200
Funding - State LPITAF	310,156	267,345
Interest received	47,638	41,795
Donations	2,463	23
Sundry income	800	-
Profit on sales	2,259	50
Funding - 2010/11 adjustment	-	(14,109)
Funding - SACS remuneration	58,253	-
Unexpended grants carried forward	(435,937)	(661,451)
Unexpended projects carried forward	(558,799)	(513,997)
Total revenue	<u>1,039,544</u>	<u>765,441</u>
Other Income		
Gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment	<u>1,201</u>	<u>-</u>
Total other income	<u>1,201</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>3. SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b>		
<b>Expenses:</b>		
Remuneration of Auditor:		
Auditors' remuneration	<u>10,635</u>	<u>10,500</u>
Net loss on disposal of non-current assets:		
Property, plant and equipment	<u>6,671</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>4. CASH ON HAND</b>		
Cash on hand	300	300
Petty cash imprest	200	200
Bendigo Bank Term Deposit 3431	674,252	648,319
Bendigo Bank Cash Management	95,376	334,008
Bendigo Bank Term Deposit 2171	524,339	506,852
Bendigo Bank Term Deposit 2505	10,450	-
Bendigo Bank Credit Card	3,054	-
	<u>1,307,971</u>	<u>1,489,679</u>

	2015 \$	2014 \$
<b>5. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT</b>		
Office equipment - Townsville	37,324	67,579
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(1,393)</u>	<u>(62,527)</u>
	<u>35,931</u>	<u>5,052</u>
Office equipment - Cairns	7,700	35,505
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(1,462)</u>	<u>(28,705)</u>
	<u>6,238</u>	<u>6,800</u>
Motor vehicles	51,497	57,176
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(308)</u>	<u>(17,907)</u>
	<u>51,189</u>	<u>39,269</u>
Plant and equipment	5,123	5,123
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(4,841)</u>	<u>(4,730)</u>
	<u>282</u>	<u>393</u>
<b>Total property, plant and equipment</b>	<u><u>93,640</u></u>	<u><u>51,514</u></u>

**(a) Movements in carrying amounts**

For disclosure on movement in carrying amounts please refer to note 9(a) at the end of this financial report.

**6. ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND OTHER PAYABLES****CURRENT**

Good and services tax	7,774	16,079
Superannuation Payable	-	3,012
Projects	555,566	513,997
Trade creditors	2,542	10,535
Unexpended grants	439,170	661,451
Withholding taxes payable	10,002	6,228
Bendigo Bank Credit Card	-	2,064
	<u>1,015,054</u>	<u>1,213,366</u>

	2015 \$	2014 \$
<b>7. PROVISIONS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Provision for employee entitlements	<u>117,904</u>	<u>48,960</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT</b>		
Provision for employee entitlements	<u>33,966</u>	<u>39,038</u>
		2015 \$
<b>Current Provision for employee entitlements:</b>		
Opening balance at 1 July 2014		48,960
Net movement		<u>68,944</u>
Balance at 30 June 2015		<u>117,904</u>
		2015 \$
<b>Non-Current Provision for employee entitlements:</b>		
Opening balance at 1 July 2014		39,038
Net movement		<u>(5,072)</u>
Balance at 30 June 2015		<u>33,966</u>
		2015 \$
<b>Total Provisions</b>		
Opening balance at 1 July 2014		87,998
Net movement		<u>63,873</u>
Balance at 30 June 2015		<u>151,871</u>

## 8. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE

The North Queensland Women's Legal Service Inc is dependent on various funding agencies for the majority of its revenue used to operate the business. At the date of this report the Management Committee has no reason to believe those agencies will not continue their support for the 2015/16 financial year.



## 9. (a) MOVEMENT IN CARRYING AMOUNTS

Movements in carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment.

Balance at 1 July 2013

Additions

Depreciation expense

**Carrying amount at 30 June 2014**

Additions

Disposals

Depreciation expense

**Carrying amount at 30 June 2015**

Office Equipment \$	Motor vehicles \$	Plant & Equipment \$	Total \$
15,926	52,358	559	68,843
1,170	-	-	1,170
(5,254)	(13,089)	(166)	(18,509)
<b>11,842</b>	<b>39,269</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>51,504</b>
43,843	51,497	-	95,340
(7,674)	(29,452)	-	(37,126)
(5,852)	(10,125)	(111)	(16,088)
<b>42,159</b>	<b>51,189</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>93,630</b>

## RESPONSIBLE ENTITIES' DECLARATION

In the Responsible Entities' opinion:

The incorporated association is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements. Accordingly, as described in note 1 to the financial statements, the attached special purpose financial statements have been prepared for the purposes of complying with the Associations Incorporations Act (Qld) 1981, Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act) and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Regulation 2013 (ACNC Regulation).

1. the attached financial statements and notes comply with the Accounting Standards as described in note 1 to the financial statements;
2. the attached financial statements and notes give a true and fair view of the incorporated association's financial position as at 30 June 2015 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date;
3. at the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that North Queensland Women's Legal Services Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is signed for and on behalf of the responsible entities' by:

President

  
Natasha Busby

Treasurer

  
Jodie Woolcock

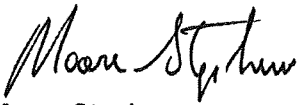
Dated this 15 day of October 2015.

## AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

### TO THE RESPONSIBLE ENTITIES' OF NORTH QUEENSLAND WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES INC

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2015 there has been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the *Australian Charities and Not For-Profits Commission Act 2012* in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



**Moore Stephens**  
Chartered Accountants



**John Zabala (FCA)**  
Director

Dated this 15th day of October 2015.





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