



40 YEARS
1978-2018



INNER MELBOURNE
COMMUNITY LEGAL

HELPING YOU BE HEARD



2017-18 ANNUAL REPORT

www.imcl.org.au

Picture an Australia where the law is fair and everyone has access to legal help if they need it. A place where there is a shared sense of fairness and wellbeing.

We believe this is achievable and that it starts at the local level.

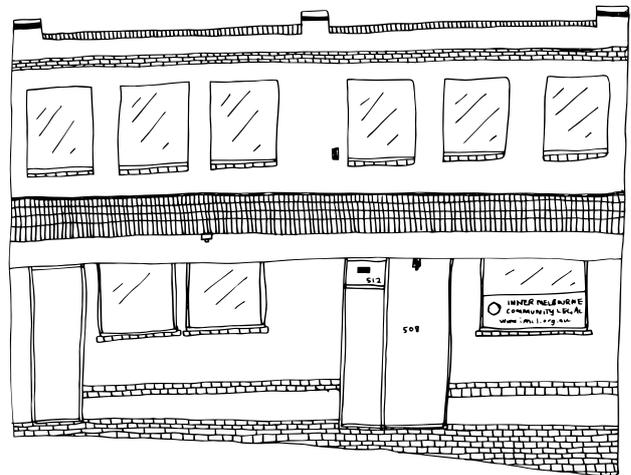
Fair and thriving local communities are the foundation of a just society.

And we're part of creating this by building fairness and wellbeing in our local community through the law.

WHO WE ARE

Serving the local inner Melbourne area since 1978, we are an independent organisation working for social purpose.

We are part of a network of CLCs that work in local communities across Australia.



WHY WE EXIST

We work with the most disadvantaged and vulnerable people in our area to achieve:

Fairer laws

We help to ensure the legal system is fair for them.

Fairer outcomes

We help them be heard, and have their legal rights recognised and upheld.

Improved wellbeing

We improve their capability to focus on their health and quality of life.

WHAT WE DO

Legal help

We provide free accessible legal help in the form of information, advice, casework and representation.

Legal education

We provide community legal education to targeted community members and professionals that aims to prevent legal problems from occurring or escalating.

Law reform and advocacy

We challenge and work to change unfair laws that disproportionately affect disadvantaged and vulnerable people in our community.

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Acknowledgment of Traditional Owners

Inner Melbourne Community Legal acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation, the traditional custodians of the land where IMCL is based and works. We pay our respects to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

SNAPSHOT OF OUR CLIENTS

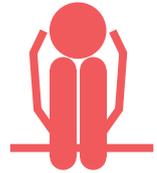
We saw more women than men:

50% female
46% male
4% other/
not stated



37%

of our clients were experiencing or at risk of family violence. 16% were respondents



34%

of our clients indicated that they had a disability (including mental illness)



30%

of our clients spoke a language other than English at home



28%

of our clients were experiencing or at risk of homelessness



55%

of our clients were born outside Australia*



* Of data recorded

TOP LEGAL PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED BY OUR CLIENTS:

Family law
Criminal law

Fines
Tenancy

Family Violence
Debt

40 YEARS AND STRONGER THAN EVER – CHAIRPERSON & CEO REPORT

In 2017-18 IMCL reached its 40th year, having built on 39 years of advocating for fairness and wellbeing for the most vulnerable people in our community by improving legal outcomes for clients, challenging unfair laws and systems for everyone, and educating others about the law.

As set out in our 2018-21 strategic plan, over 40 years we have developed a clear and successful way of doing this that will continue to see IMCL making a difference for our clients. We listen to our clients and help them be heard, and work in partnership with others to achieve this and strengthen the impact of our work.

HOW WE WILL DO IT IN 2018-19

In the coming year we will build fairness and wellbeing in our community. IMCL will continue our tried and true approach of providing targeted legal help in places and ways that meet the needs of people experiencing vulnerability.

1. WE WILL ADVOCATE TO IMPROVE LEGAL OUTCOMES FOR CLIENTS

A key group we often assist are people experiencing homelessness and mental health issues. In 2018-19 we will expand our partnership with Royal Melbourne Hospital, and develop a partnership with Victoria Police that will enable us to assist people in these circumstances earlier and respond in partnership with other key agencies. We will also establish new outreach advice clinics around the Carlton public housing estate, and explore new outreach models in partnership with homelessness organisations in North Melbourne.

2. WE WILL CHALLENGE UNFAIR LAWS AND SYSTEMS FOR EVERYONE

Given the high proportion of public housing in IMCL's area, our systemic and individual advocacy will ensure these vulnerable residents maintain stable and appropriate housing, whilst the Victorian Government redevelops public housing estates like the one in Abbotsford St,

North Melbourne. We will also advocate on the implementation of the family law reforms and how people who are homeless with guardianship orders are assisted by State Trustees.

3. WE WILL EDUCATE OTHERS ABOUT THE LAW

In particular, we will target international students with an innovative new online legal education platform that assists them to understand key legal issues and know where to go when they have legal problems. We will also work closely with some schools in North Melbourne that target young people who are newly arrived migrants, to provide legal education and other legal help.

OUTGOING AND NEW BOARD MEMBERS

During the year we welcomed new board member Romina Calabro, whose skills and experience have already added significant value to our financial diversification strategy. IMCL welcomes two new board members in Daniel Scoullar and Mischa Barr. IMCL also farewells and thanks Stephen Lee for 10 years of dedication as an IMCL board member.

Peter Fridell, Chair
Daniel Stubbs, CEO

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS & OUTREACH

As specialist community lawyers we work in ways that are different to traditional lawyers. One way we are different is how we deliver our services.

We know we can't work in isolation to achieve lasting results for our clients. So, we foster community partnerships with other organisations committed to addressing social injustice and community wellbeing. These relationships help us strategically deliver our services through outreach to places where they are most needed,

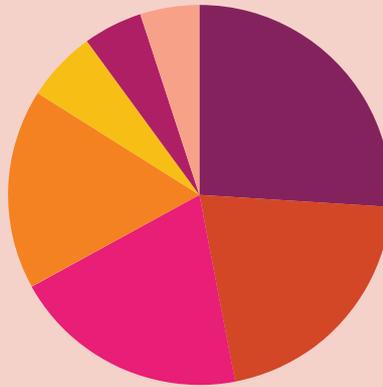
coordinated advocacy responses, and holistic responses to clients' needs.

In this way we form part of the fabric of our local inner-city community and together, we strengthen the impact of our collective work by addressing complex social problems collaboratively.

This year we continued to run a number of outreach clinics and worked closely with a range of other service providers.

LEGAL ADVICES PER OUTREACH

1 Jan 2018 to 30 June 2018



- Ozanam Community Centre 26%
- Royal Women's Hospital 21%
- Royal Melbourne Hospital 20%
- Early Intervention Legal 17%
- Royal Women's Hospital (WADS) 6%
- Abbotsford Street Pop-Up 5%
- Carlton Outreach 5%

OUTREACH LOCATIONS

- 1 Ozanam Community Centre
- 2 Centre Against Sexual Assault (CASA House)
- 3 Royal Women's Hospital
- 4 Royal Melbourne Hospital
- 5 Family Services Carlton Baths
- 6 Church of All Nations
- 7 Melbourne Magistrates' Court
Family Violence Duty Lawyer Service

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

- 8 cohealth (North Melbourne Public Housing Estate)
- 9 cohealth (Central City)
- 10 St Joseph's Flexible Learning Centre
- 11 Launch Housing - Elizabeth Street Common Ground
- 12 Salvation Army - Open Door & Flagstaff Accom



SPOTLIGHT

OZANAM COMMUNITY CENTRE

Offers a wide range of support services to men and women who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness and other forms of social exclusion, including financial counselling, drug and alcohol clinicians, housing support, healthcare and meals programs.

ELIZABETH STREET COMMON GROUND

Provides high quality housing and coordinated support specifically designed for people who have experiences of long-term homelessness.

LIONEL'S STORY

IMCL Senior Lawyer Philippa Dixon was visiting Ozanam as part of a long-running weekly legal advice clinic for people experiencing homelessness when she crossed paths with Lionel. With his booming jukebox, he was hard to miss. Lionel was living at Elizabeth Street Common Ground and Philippa had just started to work closely with the social workers there. One of the workers Nese emailed Philippa to say that Lionel needed some advice about whether or not he could get off an administration order.

"Lionel was placed on the order 20 years prior, and at that time there was medical evidence saying that he was experiencing a mental health crisis," explains Philippa.

Philippa set about putting the wheels in motion, making inquiries with Lionel's social workers at Elizabeth Street Common Ground and his doctor.

"Remarkably, Lionel's GP told me that he was no longer suffering from a mental health condition and didn't in fact have a disability, and that he should be able to manage his own finances," explains Philippa.

Working closely with ESCG, Philippa helped Lionel to challenge his order and get the financial freedom he wanted.



To read more about Lionel's story scan the code or [click here](#)

"Now when some of our residents are faced with legal matters, we have some peace of mind knowing that access to legal advice from IMCL is just a phone call away."

[NESE DURA, ESCG SUPPORT WORKER](#)

"It's important to have a strong working relationship with other services that can identify when their client needs some legal advice about an issue."

[PHILIPPA DIXON, IMCL SENIOR LAWYER](#)

"I had people speaking for me, and I was shaking at the exhilaration of all these legal heads!"

[LIONEL, CLIENT](#)

HEALTH JUSTICE PARTNERSHIPS

ROYAL WOMEN'S HOSPITAL

Social Work Department & Women's Alcohol and Drugs Service (WADS)

ROYAL MELBOURNE HOSPITAL

City and Royal Park campuses

Knowing that health issues are often connected to legal issues, we contribute to the wellbeing of our local community through our health justice partnerships – a holistic model of service delivery which sees free legal services integrated into public health care settings.

This year we finalised our cross-site evaluation of our health justice partnership (HJPs) between Royal Women's Hospital, Royal Children's Hospital and Royal Melbourne Hospital.

Many of the patients reported that their health and wellbeing was being negatively impacted because they were overwhelmed by the legal processes and uncertainty about their legal options.

Our findings showed that HJPs and the legal intervention they provide have a positive impact on people's health and wellbeing by enabling them to focus on other areas of their lives. By gaining a better understanding and receiving support to deal with their legal issue, patients gained a sense of relief and control.

The HJPs also assisted social workers to have greater awareness of legal matters and capacity to identify patients, better resources and a clear pathway to provide assistance through the on-site legal clinic.

HERE'S WHAT WE FOUND:

IMCL WAS THE **FIRST EVER POINT OF CONTACT** FOR LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR MANY

PATIENTS FOUND THE MOST **USEFUL ASPECT** WAS THE KNOWLEDGE AND SUPPORT THEY HAD RECEIVED TO MAKE INFORMED DECISIONS ABOUT THEIR LEGAL ISSUES

92% OF CLIENTS FOUND THE LEGAL ADVICE HELPFUL OR VERY HELPFUL

82.5% OF CLIENTS HAD NEVER SEEN A LAWYER ABOUT THEIR LEGAL ISSUES

74% OF CLIENTS SAID THE LEGAL ISSUE HAD AN EFFECT ON THEIR HEALTH AND WELLBEING BEFORE THEY RECEIVED ADVICE

69% OF CLIENTS SAID THEY WERE COPING AFTER THE CONSULTATION

51% OF CLIENTS HAD MORE THAN ONE LEGAL ISSUE

59% OF CLIENTS SAID THE LEGAL ADVICE WOULD HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT ON THEIR WELLBEING

43% OF CLIENTS SAID THEY WERE COPING WITH THE LEGAL ISSUE BEFORE THE CONSULTATION

40% OF CLIENTS WOULD NOT HAVE SEEN A LAWYER IF NOT FOR THE ON-SITE CLINIC

39% OF CLIENTS HAD A FAMILY OR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ISSUE

TOP LEGAL PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED BY OUR CLIENTS:

Family law

Criminal law

Fines

Tenancy

* HJP cross-site evaluation report

Family Violence

Debt

SPOTLIGHT

ROYAL WOMEN'S HOSPITAL

Women's Drug and Alcohol Services (WADS)



To read more about Maia's story scan the code or [click here](#)

MAIA'S STORY

IMCL Senior Lawyer Jess de Vries first met Maia through the Royal Women's Hospital's Women's Drug and Alcohol Service (WADS), where Jess delivers a legal advice outreach clinic every fortnight. For many women with a history of family violence like Maia, the clinic is the only safe place to see a lawyer.

During Maia's pregnancy, she was diagnosed with a serious illness and her condition rapidly deteriorated after she gave birth. With uncertainties around who would care for the child if she was unable to, the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) intervened seeking a protection order.

Jess worked intensively alongside Maia and her social worker Meg for nearly a year. This involved multiple visits to the hospital and appearing in court on Maia's behalf when she was too sick to attend in person. In addition to the child protection case, she helped Maia to formalise decision making about her treatment through a medical power of attorney and connected her with pro bono lawyers to prepare a Will.

After many months of negotiating and advocating on Maia's behalf with DHHS, the department eventually withdrew their protection application, giving Maia valuable time to spend with her children and putting an end to all her legal matters.

“With the support of our team, including Jess from IMCL, Maia worked hard to address her issues during the pregnancy and made good progress in various areas of her life. Despite her situation, she was bright, resilient, optimistic and witty. It was rare to see her without a smile on her face.”

MEG HARDIMAN, SOCIAL WORKER

“We know that a person's legal problems don't stop when they are in hospital and it is a huge burden when they are already experiencing considerable stress and anxiety about their prognosis.”

JESS DE VRIES, IMCL SENIOR LAWYER



SPECIALIST IN-HOUSE ADVICE CLINICS

This year we continued to deliver a number of specialist advice clinics in areas of law that are in high demand by our priority clients:

- Infringements
- Family law and family violence
- Divorce
- Criminal law
- Employment law
- Tenancy
- Early Intervention Legal Service

We also have a co-located financial counsellor with whom our staff work closely to assist clients with debts.

Typically our clients access these clinics through warm referrals from our core community partners, ensuring that those who need us most can access our services.

We also run an advice clinic in the Family Violence list at the Melbourne Magistrates' Court twice a week for unrepresented applicants and respondents. Our Early Intervention Legal Service provides supplementary advice to clients seen as part of the duty lawyer service for secondary legal problems connected with family violence.

Through these clinics we are able to provide one off advice to help people understand their rights and options and set them on the path to self-resolution and also identify those who need more help through ongoing casework.

For areas of law outside of our practice expertise, we also have a number of strong pro bono referral partnerships with specialist firms.

In an important practice management shift to reduce our environmental footprint and improve our data storage, this year we transitioned all advices from paper to electronic form.

WE PROVIDED
792 ADVICE SESSIONS



WE PROVIDED
397 DUTY LAWYER SERVICES

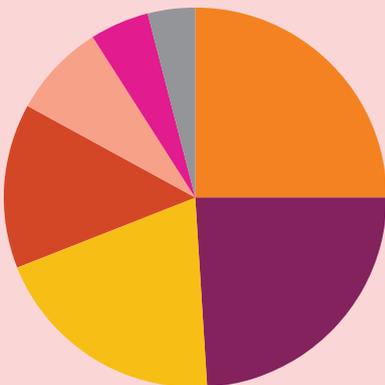


WE PROVIDED
113 EARLY INTERVENTION
LEGAL SERVICES



LEGAL ADVICES PER CLINIC

1 Jan 2018 to 30 June 2018



- Criminal Clinic 25%
- Family Clinic 24%
- Infringement Clinic 20%
- Tenancy Clinic 14%
- Employment Clinic 8%
- Debt Clinic 5%
- Divorce Clinic 4%

SPOTLIGHT

EMPLOYMENT LAW CLINIC

In partnership with Clayton Utz



To read more about Ashika's story scan the code or [click here](#)

ASHIKA'S STORY

In 2017-18 we started our first ever employment law clinic in partnership with Clayton Utz.

Through this clinic IMCL has been able to assist clients like Ashika. She started working as an employee but a year into her employment, her employer changed her status to an independent contractor. It was a sham arrangement because her situation was otherwise the same. It was a means for her employer to avoid her entitlements to annual leave and superannuation.

When Ashika challenged her employer's actions, he started to make false accusations about her performance and ultimately terminated her employment, without the required notice.

IMCL stepped in and helped Ashika take action against the breaches of her protections under the Fair Work Act and unfair dismissal.

"From the get go I felt that I could trust IMCL to do the right thing by me..." said Ashika.

Working closely with Ashika, IMCL lawyer Hannah negotiated a settlement to recover her wages and super, and also compensation for the hurt, humiliation and distress she had suffered. It was much more than she had ever expected. By working with Ashika and securing an outcome for her, IMCL sent a clear message to her employer that his behaviour was unlawful and in doing so, protected the legal rights of many other employees.

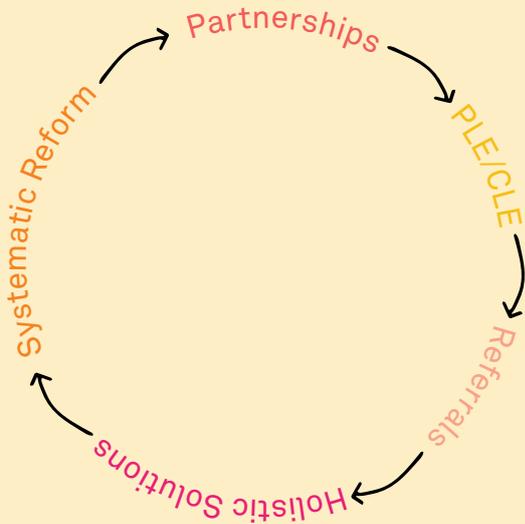
Ashika's story was featured in [Australian Pro Bono News](#) and also in [Community Directors Intelligence](#) where CEO Dan Stubbs discussed how to make pro bono partnerships work.



"There were others affected by this behaviour in my workplace, so I was able to make a stand for everyone. Without the lawyers' belief in me, without them listening to me, I wouldn't have been able to stand up for myself or anyone else. I've learnt a lot about the law from speaking to the lawyers and I feel proud about having stood up to bullies who were doing the wrong thing."

[ASHIKA, CLIENT](#)

CASEWORK



Other times we take on the entirety of the client's matters ourselves and formally act on their behalf as lawyers on the record. Our priority clients are those who present with multiple and complex vulnerabilities and a high proportion come to us via referrals from our key partners. Their life circumstances and support needs mean that our casework is comprehensive and extensive.

We tailor the way we work to meet the clients' needs by going out to meet them in places they already access and working holistically with other workers, and also by making sure we set aside sufficient time to explain the law and legal process in a way they understand.

We provide support through all stages of the legal process from oral and written negotiations to court or tribunal appearances. This year we appeared regularly in the Magistrates' Court for criminal pleas including in the Assessment and Referral Court and Special Circumstances List and also in the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal for tenancy and administration order hearings. In many instances these clients would not have been able to receive the wrap-around legal support they needed through other services.

Working intensively in this way helps to reduce the impact of their interaction with the justice system and often leads to a reduction in severity of their legal outcome.

WE WORKED ON
258 LEGAL CASES



THIS YEAR WE CONDUCTED
429 DISCREET LEGAL TASKS

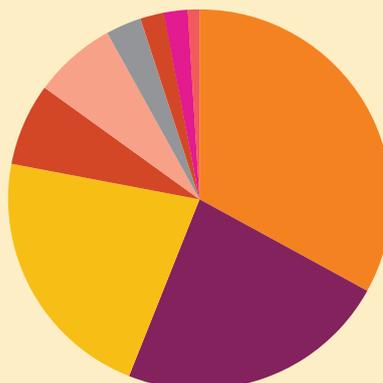


Each week we open ongoing files to further assist clients seen during advice services who need more legal help. The level of our help is based on the complexity of the legal matter and the client's capacity to self-help.

Sometimes we offer discreet additional assistance through legal tasks like drafting letters or filing documents to support people on the path to resolving their legal problem alone and minimise its escalation.

CASE FILES BY LAW TYPE

1 Jan 2018 to 30 June 2018



Criminal 33%
Fines 23%
Family 22%
Family Violence 7%
Tenancy 7%
Other 3%
Debt 2%
VOCAT 2%
Employment 1%

SPOTLIGHT: CRIMINAL LAW

WE OPENED OVER **50** ONGOING CRIMINAL LAW CASES

31% WERE WOMEN, OF WHOM **70.5%** HAD EXPERIENCED FAMILY VIOLENCE

- Over 80% of clients with criminal law matters were referred to us by our community partners. Often this was at a point of stability in the clients' lives achieved through addressing underlying life stressors with support services, giving them the ability to resolve outstanding matters.
- The majority of clients had multiple and complex vulnerabilities ranging from homelessness, mental illness, drug or alcohol use disorder, disability and social exclusion.

- The vast bulk of charges related to poverty or public order offences, directly connected to their experience of chronic disadvantage and social isolation. This included being drunk in a public place, food theft and minor drug possession.
- A notable proportion of women seen had been charged with offences arising from family violence incidents where they were misidentified as primary perpetrators, reflecting a systemic issue identified across the legal assistance sector. We advocated to have the inappropriate charges either withdrawn or dealt with by way of diversion. Despite the favourable legal outcomes, many of these women were left scarred from the experience and reluctant to seek future police help.

SPOTLIGHT: FAMILY LAW

51 CASES IN TOTAL

(PARENTING 37, BIRTH REGISTRATION 6, DIVORCE 8)

63.5% REFERRED THROUGH COMMUNITY OR HOSPITAL PARTNERSHIPS

75% OF CLIENTS WERE WOMEN, **25%** MEN

86.5% HAD EXPERIENCED OR WERE AT RISK OF FAMILY VIOLENCE

31 WERE ASSISTED WITHOUT LEGAL AID GRANTS

- Our family law cases are intensive and comprehensive by reason of the complexity of issues, legal process and individual client vulnerabilities, including traumatic experiences of family violence and/or sexual assault.
- All parenting matters involved allegations that children had experienced or were at risk of experiencing child abuse.

- While each parenting matter was unique and with varying degrees of complexity, a common theme was the significant time it took for parenting disputes to resolve (average time being 2 years).
- All matters involving litigation in the Family Law Courts were so complex that they could not be resolved at mediation and required adjudication, for reasons including safety for parents and children or urgency.
- Without our service, clients wanting a divorce would have been unable to self-represent due to the complexity of their applications, language barriers or disability and without us would have had nowhere else to turn for help.

LAW REFORM

We are informed by our work with both clients and community partners. Through our casework and partnerships we identify systemic issues in the justice system and work with others to identify solutions and coordinate a response. This informs and influences decision makers to make fairer laws, policies and processes.

This year we played an active and often leading role in around 20 working groups and networks to tackle topics ranging from tenancy, health justice partnerships, infringements, homelessness, family violence and CLC sector legal practice development and sustainability. We contributed written submissions to the following law reform activities:

- the Public Housing Renewal Program, citing our concerns about the lack of transparency and missed opportunity to build more public housing;
- the Family Violence and Victims of Crime Assistance Act 1996 Review to reduce the emotional burden on victims applying through this scheme;
- the Victorian Ombudsman's own motion investigation into The State Trustees, outlining concerns about their management of the financial affairs of people like our client Lionel. [You can read his story on page 7.](#)

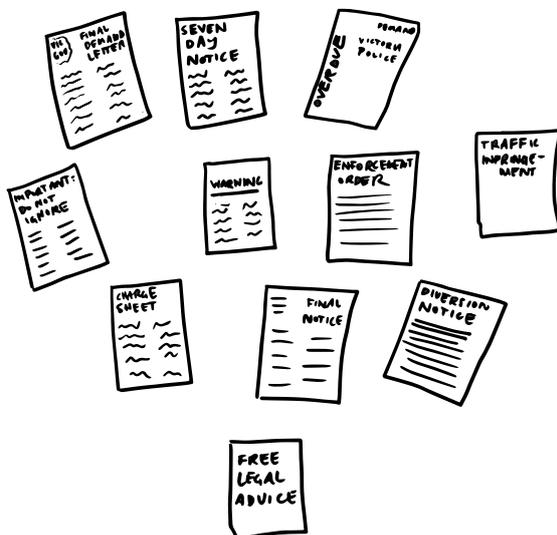
During the year we also saw the impact of our contribution to previous law reform activities. After significant advocacy by the CLC and other community services sectors:

- the state government implemented changes to the Residential Tenancies Act to make renting fairer/improve tenants' rights;
- the Melbourne City Council reversed their decision on the CBD homeless ban;
- VLA changed its means test to make applications for assistance easier.

To further inform public debate by building awareness of our work and the issues affecting our clients we worked closely with the media to publish a number of stories:

- an article about our client Les and The Public Housing Renewal Program (The Age, Monday 2 April 2018);
- a number of articles in the local paper and various industry publications to celebrate our 40th anniversary milestone and promote our service in the local community.

You can see all of our media engagement in the [news feed on our website](#).



COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION

CLE is one of the three main pillars of our work. This year we delivered 37 highly targeted and flexible sessions for nearly 700 community members and workers that responded to community issues and learning needs.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Through this work we aim to equip targeted community members to better understand their legal rights, responsibilities and options.

We continued *Youth Advocates Against Family Violence* into its sixth and final year with the *Love Bites* program. With the rollout of respectful relationship education across Victorian state schools, we reoriented the program towards learning environments with newly arrived community members using Victoria Legal Aid's *Pick A Path* program designed for CALD young people.

We furthered our connections with international students by partnering with strategic design consultancy Paper Giant to develop an online legal information resource translated into

multiple languages, due to be released at the end of 2018. We invested in a human-centered design process to not only put the students at the heart of the process so that we got the product right, but to also upskill our staff in this expanding field of project design.

WORKERS

We also provided targeted sessions to homeless support, hospital, housing, social and school workers. These sessions support our community partners to identify and better understand legal issues that the people they work with may experience, strengthening their referrals. This enables them to refer people in need of legal help to us and allows us to collaboratively provide holistic responses to shared clients' legal and non-legal issues.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

This year we refined our approach to monitoring and evaluation. With input from IMCL clients, staff and committee of management, we developed a *Theory of Change (ToC)*. It defines our overarching purpose and shows how we reach our intended objectives through our work in direct legal services, community legal education and law reform and strategic advocacy. It helps us to be clear about who we are and what we do to maximise our impact. [You can view our ToC here.](#)

Throughout the year we also developed our Monitoring and Evaluation Framework. It underpins all our projects and creates a consistent way to assess whether we are achieving the intended impact set out in our ToC. It will be used to develop plans to monitor and evaluate key practice areas and projects.

Next year we will use the monitoring and evaluation framework to conduct our first ever whole of practice client survey to obtain comprehensive client feedback. We want to make sure we are delivering the best possible service by looking at how we interact with clients, and assessing whether we are reaching the people we need to reach, and in the right way.

Significantly this year, our cross-site evaluation of health justice partnerships between the Royal Women's Hospital, Royal Melbourne Hospital and Royal Children's Hospital concluded, with a report to be launched in the coming year. Key findings from that report are set out on [page 8](#).

IN 2018 IMCL TURNED 40!



To read our 40 Stories and watch birthday videos scan the code or [click here](#)

1987. A church hall in North Melbourne. Three determined articled clerks. A passion to fill a gap in free legal services in the community. These were the fortuitous factors that combined to form the organisation that is now known as Inner Melbourne Community Legal.

To commend this significant 40-year milestone, in 2018 IMCL embarked on a quest to uncover its history.

We collected 40 stories from our founders, former and present staff, board members, pro bono partners and volunteers to share their experiences and anecdotes as written stories and videos, with the aim of reconnecting the IMCL community.

“We were very optimistic and hopeful given the small resources we had and the part-time nature of it all. Looking back on it now, I feel quite proud that we actually started something like that, where we didn’t have anything but a starting base, and we had to just work it out as we went.”

[IMCL FOUNDER, PETER COLLINSON QC](#)

“I cannot imagine what North Melbourne would be like without Inner Melbourne Community Legal.”

[FORMER CHAIRMAN AND BOARD MEMBER, MARK PERICA](#)

“The reality is that both of us have a lot of strengths that we can use together to try and help clients who would otherwise fall through the cracks.”

[DAVID HILLARD, PRO BONO PARTNER, CLAYTON UTZ](#)

“Lives were being positively changed in circumstances where, but for [IMCL], they might not have been...these outcomes weren’t necessarily anything special from [IMCL] – it had been achieving them for years.”

[FORMER EVENING SERVICE VOLUNTEER AND IMCL PRINCIPAL LAWYER, RICHARD STEWART](#)

“As a law student, IMCL was the place where I learned how the law actually worked in practice. The experience of working at IMCL also allowed me to realise my passion for social justice and it inculcated a sense of professional responsibility in me that I will carry throughout my career.”

[CURRENT VOLUNTEER, CORINNA LAGERBERG](#)

ANNIVERSARY PARTY

The re-engagement of the IMCL community through our 40 Years, 40 Stories campaign was certainly cause to celebrate – and celebrate we did, with a vibrant party held in the heart of the CBD at the Melbourne Town Hall on Thursday 16 August 2018.

The room was bursting with the organisation's past and present partners, volunteers and staff who joined together for a night of storytelling, reconnecting and commemorating shared achievements.

IMCL founder and Supreme Court Justice Peter Almond

gave a special address to the crowded room on the night.

"I think what we [the Founders] can say fairly is that...our achievement was that we made a solid start. But we did not imagine that start would metamorphosise into this extraordinary legal service...or that there would be thousands of clients who have been assisted by committed volunteers, and those who are paid, over a span of four decades," said Justice Almond.

Former IMCL lawyer and now professional storyteller Kate Lawrence compered the proceedings and also invited

the audience to take part in a lively group exercise which involved guests sharing stories of their unique and varied connections with IMCL.

IMCL thanks our generous event sponsors Hall & Wilcox, Clayton Utz, Herbert Smith Freehills, Ryan Carlisle Thomas and Lander & Rogers and also those who donated on the night and since then.

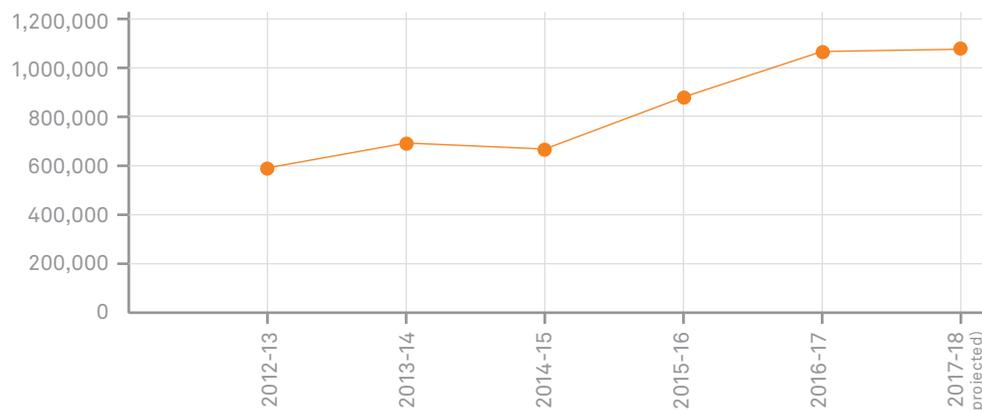
If you too would like to support IMCL into the next 40 years you can [donate here](#).



FINANCIAL REPORT

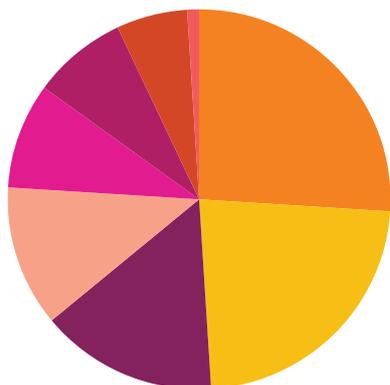
Our total income for the year was \$1,165,000. This shows a 5% growth of income since last year and an average annual growth of 11% over the last five years.

IMCL'S INCOME JOURNEY



In 2017–18 we received financial support for our work from the State and Federal Governments, City of Melbourne and the Department of Justice. We very much appreciate the support that we receive from all these bodies. In the coming year we expect to diversify our income to more non-government sources, such as donations and philanthropic foundations, to support our innovative and inspiring work.

THIS FINANCIAL YEAR



- Core Funding (Victoria) 25.79%
- Core Funding (Commonwealth) 22.57%
- DJR 15.47%
- Small One-off Grants 12.50%
- Other Commonwealth Grants 8.97%
- City of Melbourne 8.07%
- Other 5.92%
- Cost Recovered 0.71%

The majority of IMCL's expenditure is dedicated to staff salaries – over 75%. The remainder is spent on key basics, such as rent (3.7%), project costs (3%), specialist consultants (2.7%) and information technology and communications (2%).

PRO BONO SUPPORT

During the year the pro bono contributions of our partner law firms and volunteers were equivalent to IMCL expenditure of \$574,560. Included in this are two valuable long-term pro bono partnerships which significantly expand IMCL's capacity to assist some of Melbourne's most vulnerable people. Moray & Agnew generously employ a full-time lawyer who leads our well-known health-justice partnerships work. We also have a long-standing and mutually beneficial relationship with the Victorian Government Solicitor's Office which supports our work by placing one of their talented lawyers on a year-long secondment in the IMCL office.

Herbert Smith Freehills assists us with a range of pro bono work for IMCL and our clients. HSF also supported our fundraising work which increased our non-government income during the year. Clayton Utz provides expert lawyers to deliver our specialised employment law clinic which commenced in 2017-18.

Through the receipt of a large number of pro bono referrals, Ryan Carlisle Thomas, Lander and Rogers and Hall & Wilcox have provided extensive and significant legal assistance for our clients. We also received support from several other law firms who provide volunteers for our clinics, accept referrals, give us legal advice, assist us to develop law reform and policy submissions and provide IMCL with non-legal assistance (including training, meeting rooms and other services). It is important to note that much of our work would not be possible without all of this support.

As part of celebrating our 40th year in 2018 we also received significant sponsorships from our partner law firms: Ryan Carlisle Thomas, Lander and Rogers, Clayton Utz, Hall and Wilcox, and Herbert Smith Freehills. These funds will support much of the crucial work we do to assist people experiencing homelessness in our community.

FUTURE OF OUR FUNDING

During the year we funded our work in new and innovative ways. We developed a supporter program to re-engage with former volunteers, staff, board and other supporters from our 40 years assisting vulnerable community members. We re-connected with all of these past and current friends of IMCL by telling the stories of the range of people we have helped over the years as well as the stories of the supporters themselves. Everyone, from the clients to the founders, who were a few young lawyers with a sign saying 'North Melbourne Legal Service' and a passion for social justice, to our current volunteer students all had inspiring stories to tell. In future years we will draw on this community of hundreds of current and former IMCL supporters in a range of ways including: drawing on their networks to influence others to support IMCL's objectives; promoting the good work and good name of

IMCL; introducing others to join the network of IMCL supporters; and donating money instead of volunteering their time.

From 2018 we will also meet the challenge of fully funding our landmark health justice partnerships with the major metropolitan hospitals in our area. We will also build on these partnerships to fund work specifically assisting people experiencing mental illness and potentially a new hospital partnership. We are therefore confident that next year's report will show a further diversification of financial supporters for this great work. IMCL's complete audited financial report can be [downloaded from our website](#).

John Mangan, Treasurer
Daniel Stubbs, CEO



INNER
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