



**MONASH**  
University

**MONASH LAW CLINICS**  
ANNUAL REPORT  
2020 – 2021

**MONASH**  
LAW  
CLINICS



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# Acknowledgements

We acknowledge the people of the Kulin Nations on whose land Monash Law Clinics are situated. We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present.

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# Monash Law Clinics

## Our Vision

To be a leader in redressing the imbalance in access to justice through clinical legal education in the Faculty of Law at Monash University.

## Our Values

**Social Justice:** We give priority to matters that merit attention for social justice reasons, both locally and globally.

**Safety:** We provide a safe space for clients, staff and students.

**Diversity:** We respect and embrace diversity of opinion, ideas, skills, knowledge, background or culture.

**Integrity:** We act with integrity, sincerity, ethics, honesty, fairness and compassion.

**Empowerment:** We strive to empower our clients, students and staff.

## Our Mission

To empower disadvantaged members of our local and global communities through access to legal services and advocacy support and to inspire life-long learning in our students.

## Our Objectives

To reduce the unmet needs of different communities through the provision of legal and related services.

To provide high-quality, collaborative, impactful experiential education for law students.

To create meaningful impact on an international level through the provision of legal research and advocacy support to organisations and individuals in need of social justice advocacy.

To provide legal information and education to the community.

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# President's Report

I am delighted to provide this contribution as the President of Monash Law Clinics (MLC). In the midst of the uncertainty generated by the COVID-19 Pandemic, MLC has adapted, moving to remote service delivery and taking on new areas of work with new staff, new In-House Clinics and new members of the Management Committee.

I offer special thanks to those Management Committee members who stepped down at the 2020 AGM – former MLC President, the Honourable Nahum Mushin, AM; former Vice-President, Guillaume Bailin; former Secretary, Alan Shanks along with Melissa Fletcher, Kathy Illot and Jane Prior. I also gratefully welcome our new Management Committee members – Donald Betts, Fiona Bygraves, Lucy O'Sullivan (Secretary), Natalie Shanahan (Treasurer) and Annie Zhang.

MLC also farewelled our Operations Manager Tom Angelidis in late-2020, along with Associate Professor Adiva Sifris. We thank them both for their many and varied contributions.

I acknowledge with real sadness the passing of Malcolm Bennett. Malcolm's work at Monash Oakleigh Legal Service from 2001 to 2017 showed the depth of his commitment to assisting clients and sharing his extensive knowledge with his students. Malcolm is honoured elsewhere in this annual report.

MLC has benefited from the energy and commitment of new Monash Law academics who now work in the Clinical Program – Sally Andersen, Cate Banks and Jennifer Paneth.

We have also benefited from the work of Kristin Ayres as an In-House Advocate, with COVID-19 response funding from the Victorian Government.

MLC is playing a pivotal role in providing students with great opportunities for 'learning by doing and reflecting' in the service of members of local, regional and international communities. MLC is now the lynchpin for legal and policy work across a broadening range of legal areas.

Beyond the flagship *Professional Practice* units offered at MLC – Clayton and Melbourne (and at Springvale Monash Legal Service), we have also strengthened partnerships with a range of organisations and developed new ones. MLC now hosts the following series of *In-House Clinical Placements*:

- Anti-Death Penalty Clinic (with the Capital Punishment Justice Project);
- Law Reform Clinic (with the Australian Law Reform Commission);
- Climate Justice Clinic (with support from Russell Kennedy, Lawyers);
- Democracy and Freedoms Clinic (with support from the Grata Fund);
- Health Justice Partnership (with cohealth);
- Human Rights Clinic (with the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law);
- LawTech Clinic (with Lander & Rogers and BoTL);
- Lawyer Assisted Family Dispute Resolution Clinic (with the Sunshine Family Relationship Centre);
- National Justice Project Clinic (with the National Justice Project);
- Modern Slavery Clinic (with K&L Gates)
- International Economic Law Clinic (with TradeLab);
- Start-Up & Innovation Clinic (with the Monash Generator and the Eastern Innovation Business Centre);
- Social Security Advocacy Clinic (with Social Security Rights Victoria); and
- Technology and Access to Justice Clinic.

I offer special thanks to each of our partners organisations and most particularly to the many people who make these collaborations so successful. The expertise and enthusiasm that our staff and our partners share with our students is the 'secret ingredient' that enables us to assist the many beneficiaries of our work.



*Professor Jeff Giddings*  
*President, Management Committee*  
*Monash Law Clinics*

Collaborative arrangements that see those involved make distinctive contributions are crucial to the continuing development of MLC and the Monash Clinical Program. All those involved deserve special thanks for their contributions. The program could not serve its various communities without the dedicated MLC staff, led by Associate Professor Rachel Spencer, Melissa Fletcher and our Practice Managers, Fay Gertner and Jennifer Lindstrom, along with the outstanding students who participate in the work of MLC.

MLC is grateful for the continuing support of the Commonwealth and Victorian governments and to Victoria Legal Aid for its efforts in administering Community Legal Service funds. MLC also benefits from the generous support of philanthropic groups, most particularly the Pratt Foundation, Cybec Foundation and Mr Cary Styne. Their support enables MLC to provide clients with a broader and deeper range of services and is greatly appreciated by the Law Faculty. I also offer thanks to Russell Kennedy Lawyers for their support of MLC's Climate Justice Clinic through the secondment of Malvina Hagedorn and Emma Dunlevie to be part of the clinic's supervision team.

The Monash Law Faculty makes the greatest financial contribution to the operation of MLC, employing many of the people working in the program. The sustained commitment of the Faculty and the University over 4 decades has built a program that all involved can be proud of. MLC brings together support from government, philanthropists, the legal profession and the University to serve the twin objectives of community service and student learning.

A broad range of Monash Law colleagues contribute to MLC and the Monash Clinical Program. In particular, I offer thanks to the Monash Law Dean, Professor Bryan Horrigan, and Faculty Manager, Fiona Bygraves for their continuing support for our work.

There are also well-deserved congratulations to be offered. The MLC Administration Team, Kay Jamieson, Donna Binios and Sophie Winzar received the Law Faculty's 2020 Professional Staff Excellence Award – a great achievement. The Monash Law In-House Clinics received a Law Faculty Teaching Citation in early-2021 and I offer congratulations to the joint recipients of the citation – Associate Professor Ross Hyams, Hubert Algie, Sally Andersen, Gina Bekker, Gemma Cafarella, Steven Castan, Emma Dunlevie, Melissa Fletcher, Karin Frode, Malvina Hagedorn, Caroline Henckels, Sara Kowal, Fotini Kypraios, Jennifer Lindstrom, Andrea Olivares-Jones, Bryn Overend, Jennifer Paneth and Jacqueline Weinberg

I hope you enjoy reading about the range of achievements of MLC staff and students over the past year.

**Professor Jeff Giddings**

President, Management Committee  
Monash Law Clinics

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# Director's Report

Melbourne is once again in lockdown as I write this report. My report last year described how Monash Law Clinics transitioned to remote operation when the pandemic necessitated the closure of our premises, but I don't think any of us thought that we would be in lockdown again a year later. The word 'unprecedented', although repeated relentlessly in descriptions of the circumstances in which the world finds itself at the moment, aptly describes the new challenges and tests that seem to arise every day.

After the success of our remote mode of operation across most of 2020, we were very pleased to welcome students back to site for a few months in the first half of 2021. However, by the middle of the year we were in lockdown again, reverting to remote operations relatively smoothly. Although working remotely does not provide the same experience as being physically together, the collegiality that we have been able to maintain through our screens and telephones is testament to the determination and persistence of both staff and students.

The entire community legal sector has felt the brunt of this pandemic. Many clients, already vulnerable, have been further disadvantaged by Covid-19 through job losses, a rise in family violence and a high level of anxiety. Mental health has been high on our radar, as many clients struggle to cope with the complexities of living and working (or not working) in lockdown.

The Courts have had to change their operations by operating remotely – a further difficulty for clients who do not have access to technology. But clients across all of our operations have adapted readily to telephone appointments and remote accessibility to advice and assistance. Despite being physically “closed” for much of the last financial year, Monash Law Clinics helped almost a thousand clients who would otherwise have been unable to access legal advice or assistance.

Although the past year has curtailed some of our traditional activities, such as seeing clients in person at our city and Clayton premises, it has witnessed an extraordinary expansion of our operations. The breadth of areas of law across which Monash Law Clinics Inc. now operates ranges across fourteen In House clinics. To reflect this expansion of our operations, particularly our global outreach, Monash Law Clinics now has a revised Mission, Vision, Values and Objectives Statement which is published for the first time at the beginning of this Annual Report. This revised wording reflects our history and our core values while simultaneously incorporating the fresh incentives and innovations that now drive us forward. Solidly rooted in the past and actively engaged with the challenges and opportunities of the present, Monash Law Clinics Incorporated is in an excellent position to move forward with pride and hope into the future.

**Dr Rachel Spencer**  
Director

August 2021



*Dr Rachel Spencer*  
*Director*  
*Monash Law Clinics*

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# Family Law Assistance Program (FLAP)



Sylvia Maramis

Practice Academic/  
Principal Lawyer  
(FLAP)

## The Family Law Assistance Program ('FLAP') at Monash Law Clinics (Clayton) continues to offer a positive learning experience for our law students whilst providing assistance to family law clients.

We continue to build upon the work of Dr Adiva Sifris who retired last year. She has been instrumental in bringing in changes which have seen our program develop in its current form. A big thank you to Adiva who has supported our program for many years. Thank you also to Associate Professor Dr Rachel Spencer our Clinic Director who continues to support and enhance our program.

The Family Law Assistance Program has been part of the Clinical Legal Education Program for over 20 years. Students continue to be drawn to the Program as it gives them the opportunity to provide vulnerable family law clients access to justice while learning valuable legal skills. Dr Ann Wollner and Irene Apap have continued to work at our clinic. Dr Wollner's skills as both a solicitor and a clinical psychologist are highly regarded. Irene's skills as a lawyer gained from working in various settings including as a barrister and a solicitor have been invaluable. Our students are fortunate to be taught by such highly skilled supervisors. A big thank you to both for their dedication and commitment to FLAP.

### The Family Law Assistance Program

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Our family law program was introduced to our service in April 2000. The purpose of the program was to assist self-represented litigants with their family law matters primarily in the Dandenong Registry of the Family Court and the Federal Circuit Court. Malcolm Bennett who sadly passed away late July 2021 was instrumental along with the many volunteers and students in developing the Family Law Assistance Program. Our program through its supervisors and students continues to assist family law clients who do not have the means to pay for their family law matters. These vulnerable people are greatly assisted by the Program to navigate the family law system.

Monash Law Clinics Clayton is conveniently located next to Monash University and is easily accessible by the huge bus service available on campus. In the past year much of our service has operated remotely which has enabled more people to access our legal services. The majority of our clients come from diverse cultural backgrounds and face both language difficulties and additional barriers to accessing justice.

We continued to offer assistance in dealing with family law issues including parenting disputes, property matters, and divorce. In addition, we have increased our work in family violence intervention order matters in the Magistrates' Court. Indeed, family violence continued to be an issue for many of the FLAP clients. We have been fortunate to have Kristen Ayres, our special counsel, assist our students with the family violence matters including representing our clients in the Magistrates' Court.

We had referrals from Victoria Legal Aid, family violence organisations in the South Eastern suburbs and the Family Advocacy Support Service (FASS) as well as private practitioners. Appointments are offered three half days per week, being on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Despite the pandemic we have managed to offer regular appointments remotely. Initial advice appointments are offered to all irrespective of income. Case work is generated from these initial appointments provided clients meet our "guidelines" and subject to our capacity to take on more work.

### Our FLAP Students

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The Clinical Guarantee means our students can access one of the clinical programs if they wish. They are given the opportunity to work with "real" clients dealing with "real" legal issues. Our students are dedicated and committed to obtaining the best outcomes for our clients, all under the supervision of our lawyers. At the same time our program provides our students with an opportunity to learn practical legal skills and apply the theory they have learnt at law school in the family law area.

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## Family Law Assistance Program (FLAP)

Students learn interviewing skills, communication skills and how to manage client expectations. They run client files and learn to interview clients and take detailed instructions, write letters, draw up legal documents and assist clients to negotiate their family law disputes. As supervisors we provide feedback and guidance to our students. Reflection is an important part of the learning process. Students are encouraged to reflect on their work through regular discussions with the supervisors and other students as well as through written assessment. They also learn to work collaboratively with other students, members of staff as well as external stake holders.

The practical learning is supported by a weekly Seminar Program including seminars on Family law concepts, Family Violence, Alternative Dispute Resolution, Cultural Competency, Ethics, as well as Technology and the Law. Our students are encouraged to research the law and procedure to enhance their learning.

### Project work

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In the past year students commenced project work in our program. Project work undertaken by the FLAP students included looking at the impact of COVID-19 on family law courts, on family lawyers and on litigants and children.

### Duty Lawyer Service at the Dandenong Federal Circuit (now Federal Circuit Family Court of Australia)

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We have continued to offer a Duty Lawyer/Advice Service each Monday remotely during lockdown at the Federal Circuit Court at Dandenong. We continue to work collaboratively with the Family Advocacy Support Service (FASS) partners including Victoria Legal Aid, Peninsula Community Legal Centre, WAYSS and NTV "No to violence". We are grateful for the continued support of FASS, the Registry Manager Federal Circuit Court Dandenong, the Federal Circuit Court judges as well as their Associates.

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### Impact of COVID-19

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The pandemic has continued to impact the way we deliver legal services as well as our teaching. Fortunately, we continued to operate efficiently on a remote basis thanks to the work done last year by a number of people at our service including our Director Associate Professor Dr Rachel Spencer and Academic Director of the Springvale Monash Legal Service Dr Jacqueline Weinberg.

### Our Supporters

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FLAP continues to be supported by our Director Associate Professor Dr Rachel Spencer, Fay Gertner our Practice Manager, Kay Jamieson, Administrative officer, Donna Binios, Sophie Winzar, and Jeneesha Fernando our admin staff. We are grateful for their continued support.

We are also very thankful for the continued support of the Law faculty and particularly our Dean Bryan Horrigan, our Associate Dean of Experiential Education Dr Jeff Giddings, Fiona Bygraves the Faculty General Manager and Melissa Fletcher the Manager of Experiential Education and Associate Professor Ross Hyams Law Faculty Director Work Integrated Learning and Placements.

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# Tribute to Malcolm Bennett

**Vale MALCOLM BENNETT**  
– By The Honourable Nahum Mushin  
& Adrian Evans

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Malcolm Bennett's professional life demonstrated a deep commitment to the rule of law and access to justice which are fundamental elements of a thriving democracy. He particularly applied that commitment in his work, first at the Legal Aid Commission of Victoria (LACV) – later Victoria Legal Aid – and then at Monash Oakleigh Legal Service (MOLS) – now Monash Law Clinics.

Malcolm worked at LACV for 8 years from 1988. His passion was in what many argue is the most difficult area of the law, family law. He started in the Assignments Division and later became Deputy Director of the Family Law Division. Relationship breakdown in family law usually involves elements of dysfunction which is one of the elements which make working in the area very challenging. Malcolm accepted that challenge and made this field of practice his life's work. Family law clients who require legal aid bring the added dimension of having insufficient means to conduct their matter without financial assistance. Acting in those circumstances often requires a special type of person and Malcolm was one of them.

Many family law matters which are granted legal aid were assigned to the private profession but Malcolm acted personally for some of the particularly difficult ones. He was a very determined lawyer with a wide and full grasp of the intricacies of family law. His briefs to counsel were always well researched, the facts were clearly set out and his views about possible outcomes well considered and accurate. That applied whether the matter was in the Magistrates Court, or the High Court and all Courts between those extremes.

Even more importantly, Malcolm established relationships with his clients which gave them confidence that they were being very well represented by a thorough, reliable and empathetic solicitor.

Malcolm left LACV in 1996 and went into private practice. However, the LACV had awakened a special interest in the community sector in Malcolm. As a result, in the early 2000s, Malcolm was appointed to head up family law at MOLS. At the instigation of the Monash Law School, MOLS was among the first community-based sites in Australia to integrate legal service delivery with law student education – and Malcolm made it his



own. While the primary role of Community Legal Centres is to represent clients in need, MOLS had, and continues to have, the vital extra dimension: namely the clinical education of its students. Clinical legal education has been a proud aspect of Monash University's law course from the earliest days of the faculty, which took its first students in 1964. Malcolm's appointment to head the family law program, one of the distinctive features of MOLS' work, was a fitting recognition of his skills.

Students who work in the MOLS program give legal advice to clients under the supervision of qualified lawyers. Malcolm took that one critical step further with the establishment of the Family Law Assistance Program (FLAP). Students who acted for family law clients would often represent them in non-complex matters like consent orders or undefended dissolution of marriage before Judges, Judicial Registrars and Registrars of the Dandenong Registry of the Family Court of Australia and the Federal Circuit Court (and its successors in title).

Malcolm ensured that the students had been very well educated in what to expect before they came into court. They knew their brief, were well versed in the facts and the applicable law and demonstrated confidence in their manner. Malcolm would sit in the back of the court willing them on and exercising a supervisory role. The feedback of students regarding their experiences at FLAP has consistently illustrated the success of the whole program, as is clear from the shocked reactions of so many of them to his sudden and early death.

Malcolm retired from MOLS in 2017. He leaves as his legacy massive contributions to people in need, the community sector, legal education and his many students, all of which he can be justly proud.

# Community Engagement

The Wellbeing CE group focuses on the interconnection between wellbeing and legal education, particularly in the context of clinical legal education (CLE).

This objective reflects the dual focus of clinical legal education: social justice – by exploring the issues surrounding mental health in the legal sector, which may impact on the quality of services delivered to clients; and education: educating students as to the dimensions of wellbeing and how physical and mental wellbeing can impact the lives of students and legal practitioners.



Due to COVID-19 restrictions, Professional Practice units have operated remotely, with students and supervisors interacting on Zoom or MS Teams. In order to facilitate a feeling of being part of a student cohort as well as a community legal service, students run events and activities to identify and develop strategies to heighten positive connectiveness experiences and to counter the negative effects of a digital workplace setting. These include, Coffee Catch-ups, Meet Your Pet and online games, all intended to substitute the frequent interactions facilitated by a physical work environment that promotes connectiveness, a sense of community and ultimately belonging.

In addition, students have chosen a variety of topics for their research, looking at ways that wellbeing of students and lawyers may be impacted and what support can be provided to practitioners and students. Students have looked at topics such as “togetherness” while being remote, and “resilience in law” and “mindfulness”. In so doing, students acquire in-depth knowledge about wellness in CLE and its role in legal practice.

Students develop research skills and learn more about the research process. Students report that they benefit from organising the events for their peers, discussing the topics with experts and researching for projects that will benefit them into their future as legal practitioners.

*In matter of truth and justice, there is no difference between large and small problems, for issues concerning the treatment of people is all the same.*

**Albert Einstein**

The past year has been challenging in many ways for all of us. We have talked, thought and mulled over it. Elsewhere in this annual report there is discussion of how we transitioned to remote and then hybrid teaching/clinic model.

I want in this brief overview to focus and highlight on one significant aspect of our clinic – the community engagement projects. Our students are required to participate in a community engagement project. These are varied and unique. They differ in topic; aim and objectives; and methodology.

Each group is composed of students working as a team, with guidance from a particular supervisor. The projects are generally long-term and will often span numerous clinical periods – often for several years.

The projects are diverse and engage students in different ways; from storytelling in clinical legal education to wellbeing to family law litigants and mental to prisoners and have all had their roots in some aspect of clinic.

Whilst it is not possible to do justice to the depth of each project, with this overview, I hope to highlight some of the key features.

Storytelling in clinical legal education is inextricably linked to the law student/client experience. The fundamentals explore how is a client “heard” when talking to students and relating their story or narrative; how is this understood and better utilised. Broad research into other disciplines feeds ideas into our understanding. Building on the work over four clinical periods (one year), the most recent group of students participated in mock trials with interpreting students from Monash School of Interpreting, exploring even greater challenges of storytelling when English is not your first or main language and the art of storytelling in a challenging and unfamiliar environment such as a court room. Associate Professor Rachel Spencer and Jenn Lindstrom were the supervisors of this project at different times.

In these times of COVID-19, lockdowns, restrictions and uncertainty, the wellbeing group has had even more relevance to the clinic, students and lawyers.



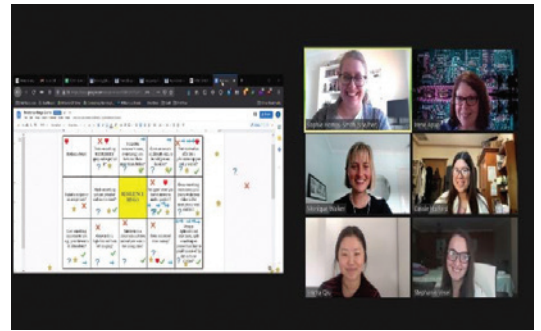
**Fay Gertner**

**Principal Lawyer and  
Practice Manager  
MLCC**

## Community Engagement

The emphasis and focus have been on the wellbeing of those delivering legal services whilst being mindful and aware of possible impact on the quality of services delivered to clients. It is an educative project, charging students with considering and researching wellbeing; and tasked with implementing wellbeing activities for all. Whilst most of the year was spent working remotely, there was the additional challenge of this situation, and the students developed strategies to heighten positive connectiveness experiences whilst combatting the remote and digital workplace, these included “meet your pet” and coffee catch-ups. More than just buzzwords, resilience and mindfulness and togetherness were researched and discussed and then shared for the benefit of all – students, supervisors and clients. Dr Jacqueline Weinberg initiated the wellbeing project and has been the supervisor and driving force behind it since 2018.

Along similar lines’ the Family Law Litigants and Mental Health Project has explored stress and the adverse impact of litigation on the mental health of litigants and their families. This group was looking at the type of resources and supports available for family law litigants and to identify what improvements can be made to ensure greater awareness of and accessibility to mental health support and resources. Where gaps are identified, the development of suitable resources is another part of this groups aim. Irene Apap who supervises across Family Law and the Generalist areas of Clinic developed and led this group of students.



Prisoners and Law students has been running as a community engagement project for over a year. Its aims are to explore whether there is an active role law students can take in providing aid or assistance to prisoners in Victoria. This has not been a linear project and we have explored and learned many different and unexpected things along the way. We have had the opportunity, actioned by students in having Peter Norden, former Chaplain at Pentridge Prison speaking about systemic changes; Mr Greg Barns, SC; Mr Stephen Farrow of the Adult Parole Board; and the Honourable Paul Grant of the Youth Parole Board. We were privileged that they all took the time out of their busy days to talk to us. We will now work towards implementing support and change as needed.

This is but a sample of what we have done and continue to do in the community engagement space. There is scope to do more and we will continue to do so.



*Some of our MLC staff, from front left: Donna Binios, Sophie Winzar, Tom Angelidis, Kay Jamieson, Amanda Graham, Irene Apap, Ann Wollner, Jackie Weinberg, Fay Gertner, Jenn Lindstrom*

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# Volunteer Program

**During 2020, despite Monash Law Clinics closing its onsite service due to COVID-19 restrictions, the Monash Volunteer Program continued to provide legal services to clients remotely.**

Through participation in the remote Monash Volunteer Program, LLB and JD student volunteers continue to meet the legal needs of clients at a time when there is a heightened requirement for legal service. The Monash Volunteer Program continues the ongoing commitment to education and community service, engaging service delivery to educate students about social justice, legal practice and the parameters of professionalism.

The Monash Volunteer Program is invaluable for clients, as COVID-19 has escalated the need for availability of legal assistance. Due to restrictions and lockdowns, clients require assistance with a variety of matters, including tenancy, credit & debt, family law and family violence. In order to meet the huge demand for legal service, the Monash Volunteer Program provides telephone advice to clients weekly on Wednesday evenings from 6pm–9pm, alternating between general and family law advice. Students interview clients and provide advice under my supervision and other volunteer supervising solicitors. If ongoing assistance is required, clients are referred to MLCC.

The Monash Volunteer Program could not operate so successfully without the commitment of student volunteers as well as lawyers who assist us with supervising students pro bono. We would like to thank Tim Gough, Alexa Segerius, Georgia Miller and Charlotte Connolly for their ongoing support.



*Dr Jacqueline Weinberg*

*MLCC Volunteer  
Co-ordinator*

# In-House Clinics



*Jennifer Lindstrom*  
*Principal Lawyer and  
Practice Manager  
MLCM*

## **Lawyer-Assisted Family Dispute Resolution Clinic (LAFDR)**

The Lawyer-Assisted Family Dispute Resolution (LAFDR) clinic was created and led by Jennifer Lindstrom, supervising lawyer and Legal Practice Manager in Melbourne in September 2020 in collaboration with lawyers from Brimbank-Melton Community Legal Centre and the senior mediator at Family Relationship Centre in Sunshine.

This clinic is the first of its kind in Australia. We provide a vital service to separated families in our community and our students are given the opportunity to expand their knowledge of family law and dispute resolution processes.

At the clinic, students provide legal advice appointments to parents who are participating in the family dispute resolution process. If a parent is participating in a LAFDR session, pre-mediation interviews are conducted by the supervising lawyer and student via Zoom. These meetings enable clients to meet us, provide instruction on their matter and set up and test the technology

on their devices. Students then spend time researching relevant legal issues and preparing advice. The advice is checked by the me and provided before or during the LAFDR session.

LAFDRs can redress the imbalances of power between the parties and provides access to timely, safe and a cost-effective alternative to litigation. Before 2020, LAFDRs were conducted in-person. In response to the Pandemic and social distancing requirements, service providers needed to find other ways to conduct LAFDRs in an effective and safe way.

We designed a clinic which could offer LAFDR and associated services remotely, predominantly via videoconferencing technology. This method provided a viable alternative to onsite and in-person delivery. We have observed that having legal support gave clients increased confidence to discuss their needs and concerns in relation to their children. We have provided services to over 80 clients in LAFDRs and legal interviews and are continuing to expand our capacity and expertise in this area of practice.



*Sara Kowal*

## **Eleos Justice/Anti-Death Penalty Clinic**

The Eleos Anti-Death Penalty Clinic (ADPC) has been built under careful guidance of Professor Jeff Giddings, Associate Dean (Experiential Education). Monash Law students work alongside NGOs and lawyers across the Asia-Pacific region who require assistance with casework, research and international advocacy. Students gain real-life, hands on experience working under the careful direction of criminal defence lawyer Sara Kowal. The ADPC is supported by Clinical supervisors Sally Andersen and Jennifer Paneth.

Since July 2018, 114 students have completed the Clinic. The Clinic is open to JD and LLB students, who work in small teams on a variety of projects. An example of the type of work undertaken is a local lawyer in a country that retains the death penalty will send the ADPC a brief of evidence to analyse. Students will review the evidence in detail, identify potential appellate points and review both the local and comparative law in relation to the client's case. Given the significant death penalty caseloads many of our partners lawyers are managing, this legal research provides meaningful support to our partners.

The feedback from the students has consistently been very positive. Joy Tabalugan, ADPC 2021, wrote that "Ultimately, participating in the ADPC

has taught me the importance of humanising human rights. It has empowered me to 'dream big' in relation to the impact that I can have as an individual, and I look forward to using the lessons learnt from the ADPC in my future endeavours". A number of students who have completed the ADPC have remained on as volunteers, continuing to use the skills they have gained to create real-life impact.

The Eleos ADPC is part of Eleos Justice, a collaboration between Monash Law and the Capital Punishment Justice Project (NGO). Led by Associate Professor Mai Sato, Eleos Justice aims become the region's leading hub for evidence-based research, teaching and advocacy devoted to restricting and abolishing the death penalty.



*Sally Andersen*



*Jennifer Paneth*



### Castan Centre – Human Rights Clinic

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The Castan Centre Human Rights Clinic provides a unique opportunity for Monash law students to gain practical experience in the field of human rights law. Students work with diverse client organisations to gain human rights experience at both the domestic and international levels. Our clients are non-government organisations specialising in policy and advocacy in relation to key human rights such as the rights of members of the LGTBQIA+ community, persons with disabilities, mental health consumers, refugees and others.

The Clinic aims to equip students with strong skills in professional-level legal research, interaction with clients, and teamwork. During CP2 2021 our students are assessing Australia's compliance with international human rights law under the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* with respect to inclusivity in jury service; analysing how religious exemptions

within Australian anti-discrimination law can impact on the rights to equality and non-discrimination for LGTBQIA+ persons; and making recommendations for the reform of Victorian mental health law on advance statements to respect the rights of mental health consumers under international law.

Our students have also had the opportunity to directly engage with professionals already working in human rights through the Clinic's guest seminars and career talks. Our guests have included leading Australian human rights lawyer and barrister Kate Eastman AM QC

Adviser to the Australian Mission to the United Nations in New York, Milli Allan, and prominent LGTBQIA+ advocate Nick Toonen OAM. Our guests have provided unparalleled insight into the operation of human rights in practice, and shared invaluable career advice for future human rights lawyers.



Karin Frode



Andrea Jones

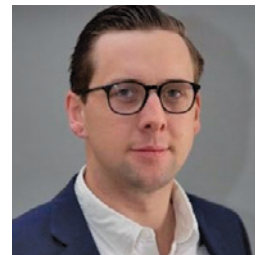
### Climate Justice Clinic

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The Monash Climate Justice Clinic was established in August 2019 to develop student expertise in strategic climate litigation and contribute to the defence of planet earth and all life forms against climate collapse. That task seemed formidable enough in 2019, but it is even more so today. Despite major improvements in climate awareness, our national progress in reducing emissions is negligible. In February 2021, the former UK chief science advisor Sir David King, said 'The next two to three years will determine the future of humanity.'

During 2020–21, we have continued to place nine students in each clinical teaching period, under the insightful and focussed supervision of Hubert Algje, Associate of *Kellehers Australia* and Malvina Hagedorn, Senior Associate and Emma Dunlevie, Partner, both at *Russell Kennedy Lawyers*. *Russell Kennedy Lawyers* has continued to support the clinic by seconding committed staff on a pro bono basis, a gift for which the law school and our students are incredibly grateful. And in each teaching period, we have received many more student applications to join the clinic than we can accommodate.

Our objectives have remained the same: to research on behalf of appropriate Australian clients, viable causes of action to protect or compensate those clients against the effects of a deteriorating global climate. In due course and subject to funding, we also hope to commence suitable litigation on behalf of such clients. Like all Monash clinics, we were forced to operate remotely during much of the year, but supervisors' dedication has maintained the momentum of students' learning. It is our intention to sustain this energy, in the interests of nurturing and developing well-prepared climate litigators, and contributing to the social obligation of the legal profession to play its role in limiting climate change.



Hubert Algje



Malvina Hagedorn



Emma Dunlevie



Steven Castan

### National Justice Project Clinic

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The National Justice Project Clinic provides students with a unique opportunity to undertake a work placement at a new university-run legal clinic focusing on the dynamic and ground-breaking work of the National Justice Project. Students work under the close supervision of a lawyer-teacher on real world active social justice cases and complaints in small groups.

Students have had the opportunity to work on projects from active cases and complaints that the National Justice Project team are working on from work selected from their key project areas by their in-house solicitors:

- Offshore Detention Cases
- Death in Custody Coronial Inquests
- Aboriginal Health Justice Project; and
- Police, Prisons & Youth Services Project

Students in the last year have assisted lawyers of the National Justice Project including preparation of litigation of offshore refugee cases by compiling medical chronologies and conducting legal research, drafting complaints based on

recommendations from Coronial Inquests into Deaths in Custody and drafting submissions to the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants and the NSW Parliament Select Committee on the High Level of First Nations People in Custody and Oversight and Review of Deaths in Custody. They have drafted Briefs to counsel, complaints pathways tables and advices in negligence claims in relations to the poor health treatment of First Nations prisoners.

The National Justice Project Clinic aims to deliver the highest possible standard of legal and advocacy services while maintaining its focus on educational opportunities. It will provide an exceptional opportunity for students to experience more practical-focused units and develop the skills needed to work in the social advocacy sector, framed in terms of real-life case studies.

Students have been assisting Victorian Barrister Steven Castan, chair of the National Justice Project with the caseload from the National Justice Project and its team of dedicated lawyers led by its CEO George Newhouse.



Jeff Giddings

### Australian Law Reform Clinic (ALRC)

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Students have the opportunity to work with staff of Australia's premier law reform agency, the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC) on current law reform references and projects. The high-quality work that the students produce in the clinic is valued by the ALRC and this has resulted in the growth of the ALRC clinic, with the intern intake increased from three to four students this year. Genevieve Murray, Legal Officer overseeing the internship, has responded to students' work with positive feedback ("*thank you for the quick turnaround on the tasks*"; "*We are very grateful that you have been able to contribute significantly towards [our report]*").

Clinic students have worked on the Judicial Impartiality Consultation Paper 2021 and their contributions were acknowledged in the Paper (<https://www.alrc.gov.au/publication/judicial-impairity-cp1/>). Students also submitted two recommendations in response to the Consultation Paper and received excellent feedback ("*I have just finished analysing your submission in detail for the next stage of our Inquiry and I wanted to thank you for your thoughtful and thorough work on these important topics. It is an excellent submission and has given us much to consider*")

– Genevieve Murray). An exciting finale to the last clinic period saw students presenting their recommendations to the President of the ALRC, Justice Derrington, and ALRC counsel on zoom. This clinic period, students continue to work on research for the final Judicial Impartiality Report, as well as the on-going Financial Services Legislation Inquiry.

The Judicial Impartiality webinar co-hosted by the Australian Law Reform Commission and Wolters Kluwer was scheduled to be held at Monash's city campus on 19 July 2021 but unfortunately this was moved on-line due to lockdown restrictions. The seminar was a highlight for Monash clinic students who heard an impressive panel explore different viewpoints on judicial impartiality. Students had the benefit of discussing their impressions of the seminar with members of the ALRC in their clinic program following the seminar.



Jennifer Paneth

### Tech and Access to Justice Clinic (TJC)

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The TJC clinic provides students with insight into the intersection between law and technology in advancing legal service, and how technology can be used to increase access to justice. Legal practice is continuously seeking ways for legal practitioners to utilise technology to provide clients with enhanced access to legal processes. These include not only via zoom, webex, and MS Teams but also through technological design of apps, BOTs and websites. Students undertaking the TJC are exposed to how technology impacts on legal service and are equipped with the skills needed to match the demands of the modern lawyer. Additionally, students have the opportunity to experience the way in which technology is used to provide legal services to those clients who cannot attend CLCs in person.

### Social Security Rights Victoria (SSRV)

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#### Student Reflections – Case Study 1

*Using one or more examples, please describe a particular highlight of your time at the Clinic.*

A particular highlight was the level of responsibility that the SSRV trusted me with. We were able to conduct GAL calls ourselves and conduct our own research for the policy tasks. I got to write an ARO request for a client which involved me having meetings with the client, learning about her story and then applying that information to the law. I was unsupervised but well prepared to take on the challenge. It has been great to learn through practice and not just theory and this has given me confidence in my ability to take on such responsibility.

*Please describe any ways in which your work during the Clinic has affected your future study and or career aims/prospects/goals.*

This has given me an experience of helping people in a meaningful way and furthered my want to help my community. I will be undertaking more human rights units as electives in my final year and consider applying for government clerkships.

On a broad level, the clinic has taught me the importance of learning from people, being able to communicate and how to navigate a workplace. I will be taking these skills to my future roles in hopes of developing them further to benefit others.

Such clients include those who are living in regional or remote areas, or who are disadvantaged either through financial hardship or other circumstances, including disability, language barriers, family violence or other circumstances. Students initially observe their supervisor conducting interviews, then students conduct interviews on their own (via zoom or telephone) under supervision. Students do follow up work and research required. Students are encouraged to reflect on whether technology enhanced clients' experience or, if not, identify areas where improvements are needed. The TJC combines clinical legal education and technology to enhance access to justice while educating students in the use of technology in providing legal service.



*Dr Jacqueline Weinberg*

*Please describe any particular skills or knowledge that you have developed during your time at the Clinic*

As this was my first role where I was given real responsibility, I have learnt how to take instructions for clients and have developed skills in this area. For example, previously my empathy would interfere, and I would spend too much time listening to the client's concerns. This would result in me not being more direct in taking instruction. Bryn's reminder to 'know your role' has been a valuable piece of knowledge as I am able to use techniques like 'piggybacking' to get thorough instruction.

Secondly, I had no prior knowledge of the issues with Centrelink payments and now have developed a deeper understanding through my time at the clinic.

*Please describe any other highlights or experiences that you would like to share about the Clinic.*

The team was fantastic – they were approachable, flexible, very happy to teach me and provide feedback. It was a pleasure working in a clinic where people cared about the cause as well as self-development.



*Bryn Overend*

### SSRV – Case Study 2

*Using one or more examples, please describe a particular highlight of your time at the Clinic.*

I loved my presentation on domestic violence. The final task allowed me to demonstrate my work in an area of passion and interest.

*Please describe any ways in which your work during the Clinic has affected your future study and or career aims/prospects/goals.*

Working at SSRV has clarified my field of work for me. I would like to work in family violence and domestic violence. From someone who was thinking to go into commercial law, now I want to work to help support victims/survivors.

Overall, I felt like I was making a difference and that was a fulfilling feeling in life.

*Please describe any particular skills or knowledge that you have developed during your time at the Clinic*

- Communication, written and oral.
- Ability to work in a team and under supervision.
- I got to experience professional life
- I also got to learn about social security law and Centrelink.
- I also learnt how to make advice templates which are so critical to keep up with the fast-paced work environment for GAL calls.
- Furthermore, I got to network. I made new friends and professional connections.

*Please describe any other highlights or experiences that you would like to share about the Clinic.*

I loved interacting with Emily Singh at SSRV. She and I share a passion for working in human rights and eliminating domestic violence.

### SSRV – Case Study 3

*Using one or more examples, please describe a particular highlight of your time at the Clinic.*

A highlight has been being able to work with my supervisors and the other lawyers who are a wealth of knowledge. I feel like I have learnt so much about this area of law through other people's expertise and how willing they were to help out.

*Please describe any ways in which your work during the Clinic has affected your future study and or career aims/prospects/goals.*

This clinic has shown me that there are options to work in law that aren't commercial or corporate in nature. I strongly did not want to work in law because I thought it was all commercial but this has given me a different side.

*Please describe any particular skills or knowledge that you have developed during your time at the Clinic*

I think I have developed both my productivity and time management – especially when you have a certain amount of calls to get through in one day.

*Please describe any other highlights or experiences that you would like to share about the Clinic.*

A highlight has been speaking to clients and being able to give them information they could not have accessed otherwise and knowing you are making a positive impact on other people's lives.

### SSRV – Case Study 4

*Using one or more examples, please describe a particular highlight of your time at the Clinic.*

I really enjoyed all the legal and policy tasks I worked on. In particular, I enjoyed working on the FOI reviews which were big tasks but were rewarding upon completion, and the final task I did which was a comparison of all the COVID payments. I enjoyed being able to work on matters for individuals, as well as broader work that will impact society as a whole.

*Please describe any ways in which your work during the Clinic has affected your future study and or career aims/prospects/goals.*

I recently commenced a new job which has a pro bono practice. The CEO of EJA, Leanne Ho, works within this team and she is excited to have me on board given my experience at SSRV. As such, this experience will allow me to continue working in this space, using the knowledge and skills I have gained to provide necessary support to disadvantaged members of the community. The experience has also given me an opportunity to complete legal work, which is incredibly important in my imminent transition from student to professional.

*Please describe any particular skills or knowledge that you have developed during your time at the Clinic*

Professional Skills – working to deadlines, with legal professionals and performing legal work such as research and analysis.

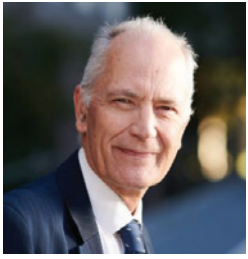
Interpersonal Skills – whilst I already had experience conducting client intake, this has been further developed through talking to clients, working with my supervisors and alongside other members of the placement.

*Please describe any other highlights or experiences that you would like to share about the Clinic.*

I enjoyed getting to know the SSRV team and Monash students, it was a fantastic group and I really enjoyed my time here. I also found working with the clients to be incredibly profound and important, and I appreciate the opportunity to have gained insight into this space.



*Some of our In-House clinic supervisors: From left: Caroline Henckels, Sara Kowal (back), Melissa Fletcher, Ross Hyams, Jeff Giddings, Steven Castan, Fotini Kypraios, Karin Frode, Jennifer Lindstrom, Gina Bekker (front)*



*Professor Jeff Giddings*  
*Associate Dean*  
*(Experiential Education)*  
*Monash Faculty of Law*

## MLC Street Law

### Reflecting on Street Law in 2020

Monash Law Clinics delivers community legal education through our Street Law Program, in partnership with the Monash Law Students' Society (LSS). Over the past 2 years, we have developed a student-driven volunteer program, harnessing the insights and energy of our students to deliver interactive presentations on important human rights and legal issues. The Program offers middle-year law students great opportunities to develop client-focused skills and prepare them for taking part in the Monash Clinical Program. Despite COVID-19, the second half of 2020 saw Street Law student teams deliver 16 presentations to 15 schools and community organisations.

In 2020–2021, the LSS appointed a Street Law Officer, Nate Cheng, who did a sterling job with his 4 Deputies, Dhruvi Desai, Gregor Campbell, Carol Chai and Ashlee Hooper. Together, we have developed a program to be proud of.

We have already delivered 2 virtual workshops on interactive teaching preparing 30 students for their involvement in the Program. I was delighted by the way we made the shift to virtual delivery of the workshops – via Zoom. We kept the interactivity and highlighted the importance of focusing on presenting in ways that work for your audience.

Monash Street Law was the centrepiece of a European Network of Clinical Legal Education Roundtable on Street Law in September 2020. Five of us shared insights on remote Street Law delivery that were enthusiastically by participants from across Europe and North America.

Monash Street Law has also been featured in Richard Grimes' recent book, *Public Legal Education: The Role of Law Schools in Building a More Legally Literate Society*. I contributed a piece for the book on our program, titled 'Virtual and Personal: Street Law in the Midst of COVID-19'.

Thanks again to Nate, Ashlee, Carol, Dhruvi and Gregor and all the student presenters for their work in the Program. They have done a great job, as is demonstrated by their respective contributions to this report.

## Staying Connected in 2020 – Nate Cheng (Street Law Officer)



Meaningful connections are integral to community legal education. Our Street Law facilitators embraced 2020 as an opportunity to be creative about how to stay connected while delivering workshops online. We discovered that there were vast ways to maintain Street Law's hallmark interaction by using apps such as Padlet, Kahoot! and skribbl.io. Unsurprisingly, improving the connection between our facilitators and our communities became our main objective for 2021. To achieve this, we have:

- Increased the Street Law leadership team to five officers to provide more focused mentorship and guidance to facilitators;
- Expanded the program by taking in more facilitators than in 2020;
- Hosted separate practice sessions for each facilitator group to increase opportunities for interaction and feedback between facilitators; and
- Included in our formal training program segments on accessibility and presenting workshops online to ensure that Street Law maintains a wide offering.

As Street Law continues to grow and develop at Monash Law, our mission is to help law students to make lasting connections with their communities that will benefit their future in legal practice.

### **Street Law's Impact on Community – Gregor Campbell (Street Law Deputy Officer)**



Whilst Street law is highly beneficial for law students at Monash, its ultimate focus is on the communities at which we present. At its heart, the program is designed to improve legal literacy by reaching out directly to our communities. In a world where legal misinformation spreads like wildfire, being able to present tailored legal information is incredibly important. Street Law teaches legal lessons that are applicable to our everyday lives. Being exposed to topics such as employment rights and police powers allows our communities to become empowered and to confidently identify rights and when they are infringed. Street Law also provides our communities with access to resources that they need to seek further legal advice if necessary.

As Law students, it is our privilege to gain a greater understanding of the laws that underpin our society. However, this privilege comes with a responsibility to ensure that the law remains open and accessible to all. This is the mission of the Monash Street Law program and it is a mission we have seen wholeheartedly taken up by the Monash Law community and it is a mission we will continue to pursue into the future.

### **Street Law's Impact on Monash Law Students – Dhruvi Desai (Street Law Deputy Officer)**



One of the most rewarding aspects of participating in Street Law as a facilitator is the opportunity to contribute to developing much needed legal literacy in schools and local organisations. Facilitators also benefit in the research, preparation, and presentations of their workshop by developing skills that are vital for legal professionals. Facilitators in the 2020 and 2021 Street Law cohort found that they developed communication skills in presenting complex legal concepts and information to a non-legal audience. Many Street Law facilitators are young law students who benefit by participating in the program as they develop skills in legal analysis and statutory interpretation as they conduct research on issues in the society which they otherwise would not confront in traditional law studies.

The benefits of participating in the Street Law program also manifests in the confidence that many facilitators have when applying for work experience, internships, clerkships and graduate jobs. One facilitator in Street Law's 2019 cohort reported that her participation in the Street Law program was valuable as it provided her with a clinical experience that stood out against other applicants. The facilitator reported that they could use their experiences in presenting a lesson in their job applications and interviews to communicate that they could effectively tailor their communication style for a range of clients.

**The Partnership between the Monash LSS and MLC – Carol Chai (Street Law Deputy Officer)**



Street Law is run in partnership with the Monash Law Students' Society (LSS) and the Monash Law Clinics (MLC). Through providing students with the opportunity to directly interact with communities that have an unmet demand for legal education, Street Law trains our facilitators on essential client-focused skills and prepares them for their upcoming clinical placements.

Furthermore, the structure of the Street Law Program strives to simulate the work environment of Monash's Clinical Programs. Working under the supervision of a Street Law Officer, each facilitator group maintains control over their presentations. In doing so, each facilitator is able to develop the habits of regularly reporting their progress, providing each other with constructive feedback and of working with ownership and responsibility. Participants at Street Law are then able to utilise these skills with confidence at a clinical placement, where they manage their own files and make decisions that impact real-world clients.

**Case Study – Enhancing Accessibility in an Online Context – Ashlee Hooper (Street Law Deputy Officer)**



Over the past 12 months, Street Law's biggest challenge has been to deliver engaging and accessible workshops through online platforms. For many facilitators in 2020, this meant creatively utilising Zoom functions like breakout rooms, screen sharing, emoji reactions and chat. That many schools and organisations have returned in 2021 is a testament to our facilitators' ability to adapt to an online context without sacrificing quality.

Nevertheless, live streaming online continued to present challenges for engaging with students with additional accessibility needs. To accommodate the needs of hard-of-hearing students at St Mary's College, one pair of facilitators prepared an interactive Zoom presentation which they recorded and uploaded as an unlisted video to YouTube. To this video, they added subtitles. This method of delivery helped to overcome livestream barriers such as unclear visual and audio and provided the school access to flexible community legal education.

In 2021, Street Law continues to face uncertainty over whether facilitators are able to present in-person or online, however the experience gained from former facilitators and insights from new facilitators has contributed to a significant resource pool that has enabled the program to adapt and succeed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

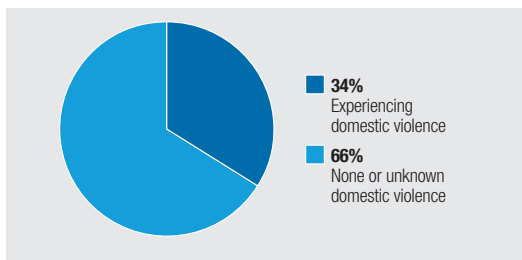
# Statistics

1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021

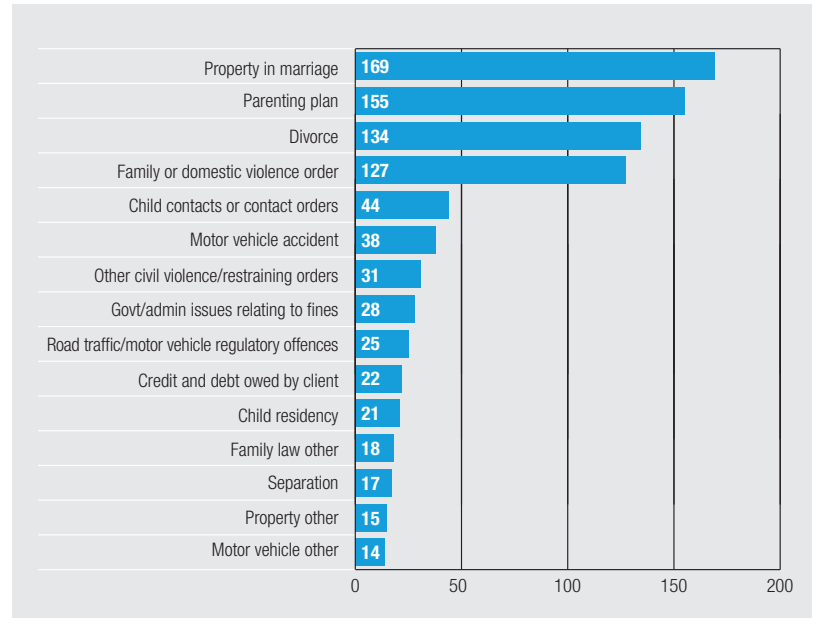
Clients	
Total Number of Clients	911
Legal Services Provided	
Advices or Legal Tasks	771
Referrals	29
Cases opened	470

*All data effected due to COVID 19 restrictions.*

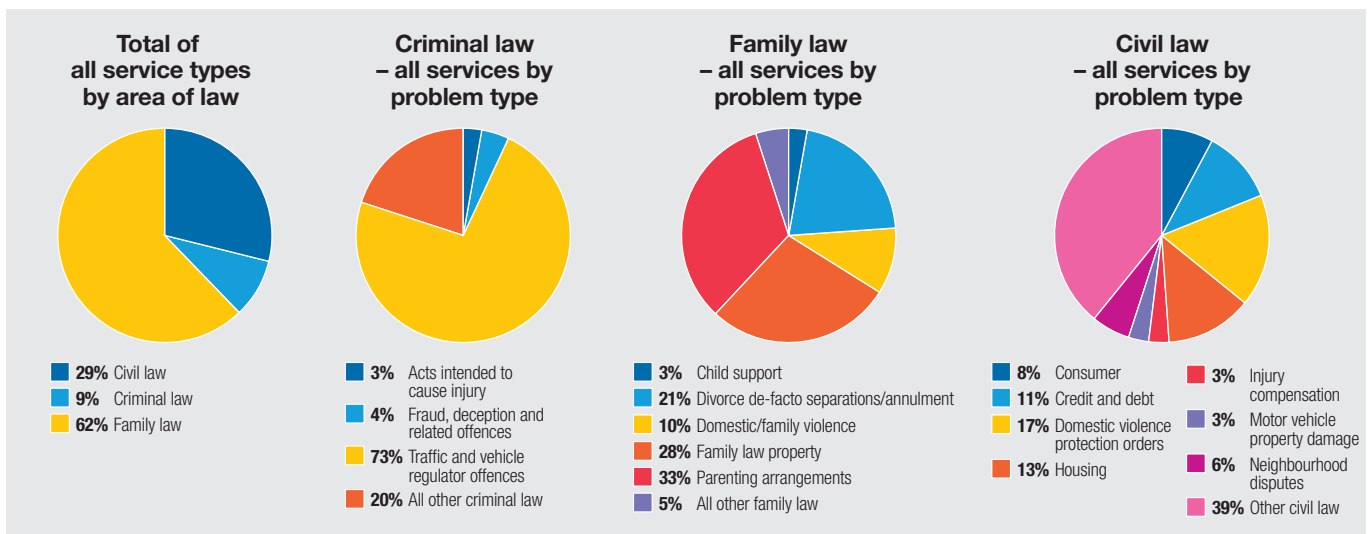
## Clients experiencing domestic violence



## Top 15 problem types – number of services



## Services by areas of Law



# Funding

1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021

Monash Law Clinics Inc. gratefully acknowledges Monash University Law Faculty and the following organisations for their funding support:

### VICTORIA LEGAL AID

#### Commonwealth Government

Generalist

#### State Government

Generalist

#### The Pratt Foundation

## ASSOCIATIONS INCORPORATION REFORM REGULATIONS 2012

### SCHEDULE 1

### REGULATION 15

### FORM 1

Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012

Sections 94(2)(b), 97(2)(b) and 100(2)(b)

### ANNUAL STATEMENTS GIVE TRUE AND FAIR VIEW OF FINANCIAL POSITION OF INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION

We, Rachel Spencer and Jacqueline Weinberg, being members of the Management Committee of Monash Law Clinics Incorporated, certify that—

The statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair view of the financial position of Monash Law Clinics Incorporated during and at the end of the financial year of the association ending on 30 June 2021.



Signed:

Dated: 5 November 2021



Signed:

Dated: 5 November 2021



## ALKEMADE & ASSOCIATES

INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

### Report on the Financial Report

We have reviewed the accompanying special purpose financial report of Monash Law Clinics Inc. (the association), which comprises the Income Statement, the Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Changes In Equity, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes for the financial year ended 30 June 2021.

### Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Committee of the association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including Australian Accounting Interpretations), and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express a conclusion on the financial report based on my review.

I have conducted my review in accordance with Auditing Standard on Review Engagements ASRE 2410/ASRE2415 in order to state whether, on the basis of the procedures described, anything has come to my attention that causes me to believe that the financial report is not presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*. As the auditor of the association, ASRE2410/ASRE2415 requires that I comply with the ethical requirements relevant to the audit of the annual financial report.

A review of a financial report consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures.

A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards and consequently does not enable me to obtain assurance that I would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit.

### Independence

In conducting our review, we have complied with the independence requirements of Australian professional ethical pronouncements.

### Conclusion

Based on my review, I have not become aware of any matter that makes me believe that the financial report of the association is not in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012* including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of the entity's financial position as at 30 June 2021 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards as referred to in Note 1 to the financial statements.

### Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the association to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*. As a result the report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Mr Stephen Allen B.Bus Acc MIPA FTAA  
Alkemade & Associates  
Suite 2, 107 Union Rd  
Surrey Hills Vic 3127  
Signed on :...12th day of October 2021

## MONASH LAW CLINICS INC. 2020-2021 Financial Report

### Balance sheet for the year ended 30 June 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Asset</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash at Bank		105,230	41,349
Accounts Receivable		-	133,700
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>105,230</b>	<b>175,049</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Trade & Other Payables	2	3,965	10,392
Advance Grants	3	95,378	158,770
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>99,343</b>	<b>169,162</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>5,887</b>	<b>5,887</b>
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>5,887</b>	<b>5,887</b>

### Income statement for the year ended 30 June 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>Income</b>			
Grants: Commonwealth Funds – Generalist		258,968	255,140
State Funds – Generalist		25,824	25,320
COVID-19		50,000	121,500
Reallocation from VLA Grants In Advance		121,500	-
Reallocation to VLA Grants In Advance		(25,568)	(109,076)
Monash Uni – external support for CEP		14,812	-
Donations		-	200
Costs recovered & retained		-	23
FCLC Interpreter Funding		2,096	3,875
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>447,632</b>	<b>296,982</b>
<b>Expense</b>			
Client Disbursements		16,612	-
Communications – ICT Funding		18,535	-
Finance, Audit & Accounting Fees		8,742	7,074
Insurance		776	1,964
Interpreter Costs		2,096	4,367
Library, Resources & Subscriptions		2,699	1,328
Office Overheads		632	2,098
Repairs & Maintenance		-	56
Staff Training		-	95
Travel		40	-
Transfers to Monash Uni Law Faculty - salaries		397,500	280,000
<b>Total Expense</b>		<b>447,632</b>	<b>296,982</b>
<b>Profit For Year</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial reports

## MONASH LAW CLINICS INC. 2020-2021 Financial Report

### Statement of changes in equity for the year ended 30 June 2021

	Retained surplus	Total
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2019	5,887	5,887
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	-	-
<b>Balance at 30 June 2020</b>	<b>5,887</b>	<b>5,887</b>
Balance at 1 July 2020	5,887	5,887
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	-	-
<b>Balance at 30 June 2021</b>	<b>5,887</b>	<b>5,887</b>

### Statement of cash flows for the year ended 30 June 2021

		2021	2020
	Note	\$	\$
<b>Cash from operating activities</b>			
Receipts from customers		581,331	163,590
Payments to Monash Uni Law Faculty & suppliers		(517,450)	(177,653)
<b>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</b>	4(b)	<b>63,881</b>	<b>(14,063)</b>
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash held</b>		<b>63,881</b>	<b>(14,063)</b>
Cash at beginning of financial year		41,349	55,412
<b>Cash at end of financial year</b>	4(a)	<b>105,230</b>	<b>41,349</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial reports

# MONASH LAW CLINICS INC.

## 2020-2021 Financial Report

### Notes to the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2021

#### 1. Statement of significant accounting policies

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Victoria)*. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with following Australian Accounting Standards:

AASB 101	Presentation of Financial Statements
AASB 107	Statement of Cash Flows
AASB 108	Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors
AASB 1031	Materiality
AASB 1048	Interpretation of Standards
AASB 1054	Australian Additional Disclosures

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and are based on historical cost and do not take into account changing money values except where specifically stated.

The accounting policies set out below have been applied consistently to all periods presented in these financial statements.

##### a) Income tax

The association is a not-for-profit organisation and is exempt from income tax under section 50-45 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

##### b) Cash and cash equivalents

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

##### c) Income

Income is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable. Donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt.

##### d) Goods and services tax (GST)

Income, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of an asset or as part of an item of expense. Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of GST.

##### e) Trade & other payables

Trade and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association during the reporting period, which remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days on recognition of the liability.

## MONASH LAW CLINICS INC.

### 2020-2021 Financial Report

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
<b>2. Trade &amp; other payables</b>		
Trade payables	3,734	-
GST payable	231	10,392
	3,965	10,392
<b>3. Advance Grants</b>		
Federation of Community Legal Centres – Interpreter Funding	2,352	-
Victoria Legal Aid – Commonwealth & State Funds	56,234	152,166
Monash Uni – external support for Clinical Education Program (CEP)	30,428	240
PLEA – fundraising	6,364	6,364
	95,378	158,770
<b>4. Cash flow information</b>		
(a) Reconciliation of cash		
<b>Cash on hand</b>	<b>105,230</b>	<b>41,349</b>
(b) Reconciliation of cash flow from operations with net profit		
Profit/loss from ordinary activities	-	-
Changes in assets & liabilities		
Increase/decrease in trade debtors & other assets	133,700	(133,392)
Increase/Decrease in trade creditor & accrued liabilities	(69,819)	119,329
<b>Cash flows from operations</b>	<b>63,881</b>	<b>(14,063)</b>

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# Staff

## **Monash Law Faculty**

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Bryan Horrigan, Dean of Law

Fiona Bygraves, Faculty Manager

Jeff Giddings, Associate Dean Experiential Education

Melissa Fletcher, Manager Experiential Education

Ross Hyams Director, WIL/Clinical Placement

Jackie Weinberg, Director Clinical Units (2021), Director Springvale Monash Legal Service (acting)

Adiva Sifris, Director Clinical Units (2020)

## **Monash Law Clinics**

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Rachel Spencer, Director Monash Law Clinics

Fay Gertner, Principal Lawyer and Practice Manager Monash Law Clinics Clayton

Jennifer Lindstrom, Principal Lawyer and Practice Manager, Monash Law Clinics Melbourne

## **Professional Practice/FLAP Supervisors**

Renata Alexander

Irene Apap

Amanda Graham

Sylvia Maramis

Ann Wollner

## **In House Clinic Supervisors**

Sally Andersen

Cate Banks

Gina Bekker

Steven Castan

Karin Frode

Caroline Henckels

Sara Kowal

Fotini Kypraios

Andrea Olivares Jones

Bryn Overend

Jennifer Panneth

## **Professional Staff**

Kay Jamieson

Donna Binios

Sophie Winzar

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### **MLC Management Committee 2020**

Nahum Mushin AM, President  
Guillaume Ballin, Vice President  
Alan Shanks, Secretary  
Jeff Giddings, Treasurer  
Melissa Fletcher, General Member  
Kathy Ilott, General Member  
Jane Prior, General Member

### **Management Committee 2021**

Jeff Giddings, President  
Rachel Spencer, Vice President  
Lucy O'Sullivan, Secretary  
Natalie Shanahan, Treasurer  
Donald Betts, General Member  
Fiona Bygraves, General Member  
Jackie Weinberg, General Member  
Annie Zhang, General Member



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CLINICS

**Monash Law Clinics**

60 Beddoe Avenue  
Clayton VIC 3168

Level 11, 555 Lonsdale Street  
Melbourne VIC 3000

Telephone: 1800 860 333  
Facsimile: (03) 9905 1113  
Email: [law-clinics@monash.edu](mailto:law-clinics@monash.edu)  
[www.monashlawclinics.com.au](http://www.monashlawclinics.com.au)