

**MONASH LAW CLINICS
ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23**

JUSTICE FOR ALL



CONTENTS

Introduction		
Contents & Acknowledgement of Country	2	
Who we are	3	
Our impact	4	
A heartfelt thanks to our funding partners	5	
Chapter 1: Community	6	
A shared focus on justice for all		
Student empowerment, community impact	7	
How community and connection support access to justice	8	
Hands-on learning: building the skills to make a difference	9	
Chapter 2: Collaboration	10	
Improving outcomes together		
Driving change through law reform and policy	11	
Sustained support and solidarity with the people of Afghanistan	12	
Hadi and Maryam's story	13	
Chapter 3: Engagement	14	
Action to improve access to justice		
Informed choice for the Voice	15	
Increasing legal literacy	17	
Learning through community engagement	18	
Chapter 4: Reflections	19	
Looking back with pride		
President's report	20	
Director's report	22	
Financials		
Income and Expenditure Statement	24	
Statement of Comprehensive Income	25	
Statement of Financial Position	26	
Statement of Changes in Equity	27	
Statement of Cash Flows	28	
Notes to the Statement of Cash Flows	29	
Notes to the Financial Statements	30	
Statement by Members of the Committee of Management	32	
Independent Auditor's Report	33	

Acknowledgement of Country

Monash University recognises that its Australian campuses are located on the unceded lands of the people of the Kulin Nations, and pays its respects to their Elders, past and present.



WHO WE ARE

OUR VISION

To lead by redressing the imbalance in access to justice by engaging and applying the clinical legal education resources of the Faculty of Law at Monash University.



▶ Monash Law Clinics Staff

OUR VALUES

Social Justice

We prioritise matters of social justice, locally and globally.

Safety

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

Diversity

We embrace diversity, actively further inclusivity, and dismantle barriers to equity.

Integrity

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

Empowerment

Our work empowers 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

- 1 To reduce the unmet needs of diverse communities by providing legal and related services.
- 2 To deliver high-quality, collaborative, impactful and experiential education for law students.
- 3 To create meaningful impact at an international level by supplying legal research and advocacy support to organisations and individuals in need of social justice advocacy.
- 4 To dispense legal information and education to the community.

OUR IMPACT

1480+

The number of people who benefited from our free legal assistance this financial year

Type of help:

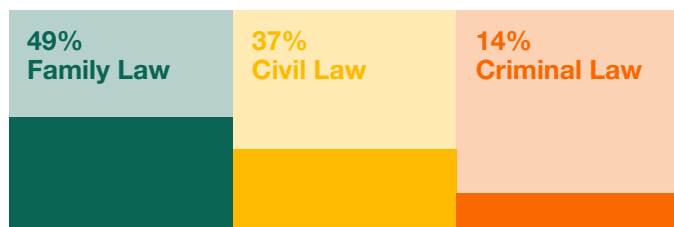
We provided ongoing legal assistance through 608 matters.

We gave short-term assistance and advice on 1133 occasions.

( = 10 people)

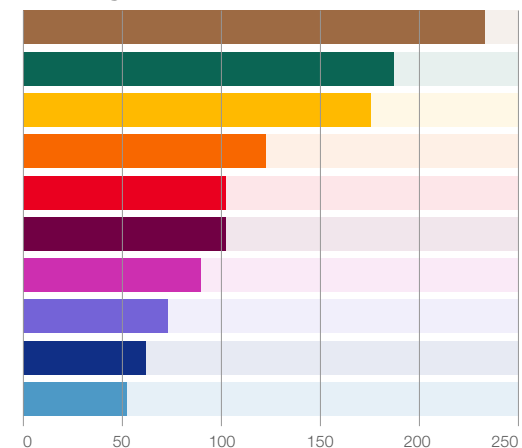


Areas of law



10 most common legal problems this year:

- 1 Parenting
- 2 Family or Domestic Violence
- 3 Divorce
- 4 Credit & Debt
- 5 Fines and Infringements
- 6 Motor Vehicle Accident
- 7 Tenancy
- 8 Consumer complaints
- 9 Traffic and driving offences
- 10 Property Settlement



Client story

“When Monash Law Clinics accepted our case, our relief and gratitude cannot be overstated. We are older people (70 and 80) and we have been battling to first get wage justice, and second, Centrelink justice since 2018.

Our initial experience with Monash Law Clinics was characterised by the impressive professionalism, patience, and clarity exhibited by the student handling our case. They meticulously gathered all necessary information, ensured

timely appointments, and kept us informed throughout the process, making it a highly inclusive and efficient experience.

We had not realised how exhausting this process had been, until the burden was lifted. The patience, empathy and support provided by the students and staff at Monash Law Clinics has basically given us back our life.”

[Client of Monash Law Clinics](#)

A HEARTFELT THANKS TO OUR FUNDING PARTNERS

Written by **Melissa Fletcher**
Senior Manager Partnerships and Clinics

The work of Monash Law Clinics would not be possible without several funders, whose unwavering support has been instrumental in advancing our mission and impact. Through their generous contributions, we have been able to provide vital legal services, empower individuals, and foster positive change within our community. In addition, we have been able to engage with law students to enable them to have transformative experiences in specialist areas of the legal sector.



Melissa Fletcher
Senior Manager Partnerships and Clinics

We extend our sincere appreciation to Monash University, who provides the majority of the funding required to operate Monash Law Clinics, as well as the Commonwealth and State Governments and Victorian Legal Aid for the support of our Professional Practice and Family Law Assistance Program. Grants from the Australian Taxation Office and the Grata Fund have enabled the continuation of our Taxation Clinic and Democracies and Freedoms Clinics respectively.

In 2023, Monash Law Clinics has again welcomed the generous support of philanthropic funders, in particular:

- the Pratt Foundation
- the Cybec Foundation
- private benefactors
- Mr Cary Stynes
- Mr Brian Snape AM
- Dr Ernie Chow & Dr Gwen Hinze

These contributions have enabled us to provide expert legal advice, advocacy, and education to those who need it most. Through their commitment to our cause, these funders have amplified our impact and allowed us to address critical legal issues, drive systemic change, and create a more just and equitable society.

We also acknowledge the success of Dr Cate Banks in securing financial support for Monash Law Clinics' Health Justice Partnership (HJP) work with cohealth. Cate secured a Knowledge Grant from the Victoria Law Foundation for a project on 'limiting systems abuse if guardians fail to protect'. Cate also obtained a service delivery grant from the Victorian Department of Justice and Community Safety for HJP work. This is great recognition of Cate's expertise and Monash Law Clinics' capacity to make a difference in the health justice area.

Thank you to Russell Kennedy Lawyers and Lander & Rogers for their continued support of our Climate Justice Clinic. They provide secondee lawyers who contribute significantly to the impact of the clinic and the education of our students.

Finally, we express our gratitude to our dedicated staff, volunteers, and supporters, without whom none of our accomplishments would be possible. Their passion and dedication, coupled with the support of our funders, form the bedrock of our success.

COMMUNITY

A SHARED FOCUS ON JUSTICE FOR ALL



▶ **Nicholas, Melissa Fletcher, Brynnie and Alyce**
Student / Senior Manager Partnerships and Clinics / Student / Student

/07

**Student Empowerment,
Community Impact**

/08

**How community and connection
improve access to justice**

/09

**Hands-on learning: building
the skills to make a difference**

STUDENT EMPOWERMENT, COMMUNITY IMPACT

Written by **Fay Gertner**
Principal Lawyer and
MLCC Legal Practice Manager

“True community requires commitment and openness. It is a willingness to extend yourself to encounter and know the other.”

David Spangler, American philosopher



▶ **Nathan Basile, Kay Jamieson and Elizabeth Smart**
Administrative Assistant / Senior Administration Officer / Legal Services Officer

Four times each year, law students descend on our clinics for periods of time ranging from 12 to 14 weeks. It is a time of intense and overwhelming exposure to many new experiences. Whilst all are law students and have reached a particular point in completing their degree – their entry into a new space that is accompanied by new expectations and a very different type of ‘workplace study’ can be both overwhelming and exciting.

I would say that our students – all individuals who don’t necessarily know each other beforehand – form a community through their shared time at the clinic. It is one that develops and builds on their general ‘law student’ identity. But in the clinic, through the work, responsibilities, and their shared experiences, it morphs into community without any real conscious attempt to do so. It is in the nature of the clinic as well as the support and mentorship of their supervisors and all other staff who engage and work with students and clients.

This growth happens in part because of engagement with clients, but also because of the work setting. Students form their own community which fits within, but is also a discrete and identifiable part of the broader Monash Law Clinics community. Our community is made up of: our clients; all members of our staff; stakeholders including Monash University Law Faculty; and, donors. All are important and together we are able to provide much-needed legal assistance to the Victorian community whilst enabling and empowering our students to be a dynamic, vital and integral part of the clinic.

It is through the individual and specific aspects of legal practice in a community setting that these outcomes can be achieved. Law students at clinic become a community while they are:

- meeting and supporting individual members of the broader community
- engaging in thoughtful and reflective practice
- challenging their preconceptions and bias
- experience exposure to uncomfortable and challenging situations
- grappling with the real face of access-to-justice issues and what they can do about it.

We hope they take that belonging with them as they move on in their studies and into their careers.

HOW COMMUNITY AND CONNECTION SUPPORT ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Written by **Emily Singh**
Principal Lawyer and MLCM Legal
Practice Manager (Acting)

Community is at the heart of Monash Law Clinics. We are a community of students. A community of practice. A community of educators. A community of people – lawyers, professional staff, educators, students, clients and stakeholders – working together towards justice, fairness, understanding and wellbeing in our society. The importance of understanding who we are as a community, and the communities we are part of, cannot be underestimated.

When facing constant, insurmountable, demand for assistance – increasingly fuelled by the punishing rise in ‘cost of living’ – feeling connected to each other and to the bigger picture is critical to our work and our well-being.

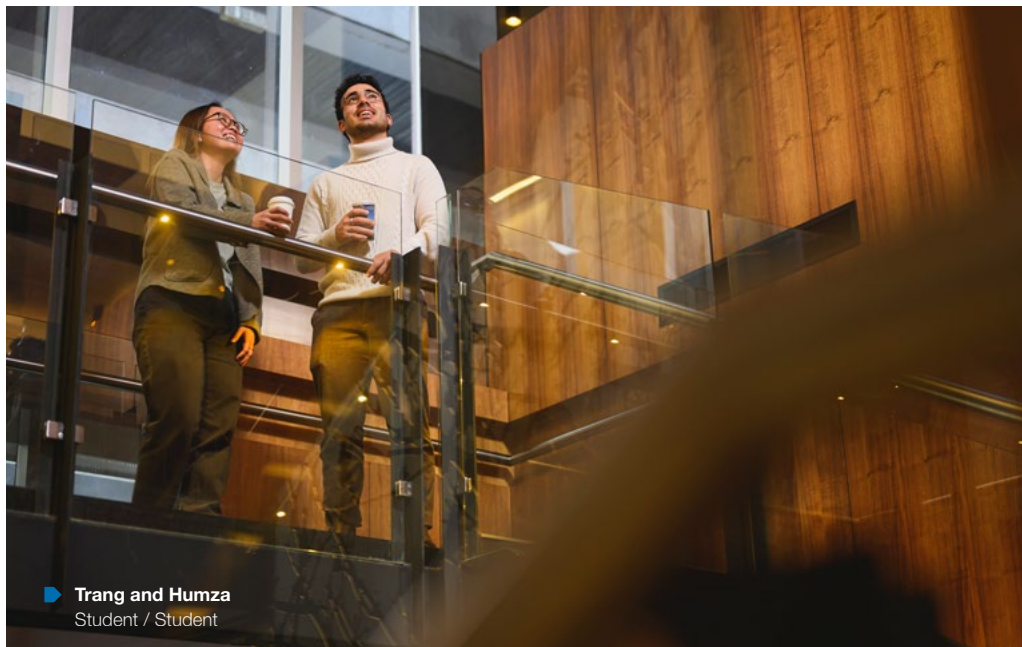
We must understand what we can offer as a unique student clinic and what we can offer through our connection with our colleagues in the Monash University Law Faculty. We must ensure we understand the needs of the communities we assist, or are a part of – what gaps we fill, where our resources are best spent and how we can have the biggest impact.

The 2022/23 year has confirmed our distinctive role in the community legal centre community in Victoria. We receive referrals from far and wide, including from many other community legal centres. Our student clinic model allows us to be an adaptable part of the community. We can stretch our capacity when needed and be flexible about the location of our clients and the areas of law we cover.

Our generalist clinics operating in Clayton and Melbourne are among only a few general community legal services that aren't bound by strict catchment-area eligibility criteria. Our specialised family law service, which also operates at both our Melbourne and Clayton clinics, is one of only a handful of free family law clinics in the state.

This community of staff, students and clients, as well as the broader communities that we are part of, are endlessly grateful for the support of the Monash University, its Faculty of Law, donors and other supporters. Their support preserves the vital legal services for those we assist. It gives access to justice for many who might otherwise have none and offers students a clinical education experience.

This experience at Monash Law Clinics prepares our students to tackle the formidable access-to-justice issues of the future.



▶ **Trang and Humza**
Student / Student

HANDS-ON LEARNING: BUILDING THE SKILLS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Written by **Isabel**
Monash Law Student

Completing a professional practice placement at Monash Law Clinics has been the highlight of my law degree, for so many reasons. Monash Law Clinics provides a unique opportunity for students to gain invaluable practical legal skills, while addressing access-to-justice issues, by providing free legal assistance to those in need.



■ Caryacos and Dr Jacqueline Weinberg
Student / Director of Clinical Units

Under the guidance and supervision of lawyers and professional staff, students are entrusted with direct client communication and are immersed in real life legal matters. Taking a transformative approach to legal education, supervisors encourage us to reflect on our work with clients as well as the broader social and legal contexts.

For me, the most important reflections come through client interactions. One client in particular, who experienced financial, social, physical and mental health challenges, found themselves with numerous fines, no capacity to pay them, and limited ability to seek assistance. When I began working with this client, I immediately identified key barriers that had prevented them from accessing legal support in the past. After collecting helpful advice from other lawyers at the clinic, my supervisor and I harnessed our collective strengths to work with this person in an effective manner by breaking down more discrete access barriers, such as distrust in the legal system and ineffective communication.

Witnessing first-hand how systemic issues prevent individuals from accessing services they need, this client, among many others, showed me just how important community legal centres like Monash Law Clinics are. The collective action and collaborative approach taken by Monash Law Clinics has enabled its continued success in making legal services more accessible. This collaboration, both internally between students and supervisors, and externally between Monash University, the community legal sector and the broader community, is what makes Monash Law Clinics a key contributor to quality legal services in the community sector.

My placement at Monash Law Clinics not only opened my eyes to the nuances of the law and community-based legal practice, it equipped me with highly transferable and unique skills that I can carry with me as I embark on my legal career. Reflecting on my time at Monash Law Clinics, I am reminded of the importance of empathy and adaptability, and I am inspired to apply my skills in the pursuit of increased access to justice.

COLLABORATION

IMPROVING OUTCOMES TOGETHER



▶ **Sophie Winzar, Madeline Aulia and Andrew Kershaw**
Clinical Program Officer / Administrative Assistant / Senior Student & Academic Services Officer

/11

Driving change through
law reform and policy

/12

Sustained support and solidarity
with the people of Afghanistan

/13

Hadi and Maryam's story

DRIVING CHANGE THROUGH LAW REFORM AND POLICY

Written by **Associate Professor Brendan Gogarty**
Law Reform Clinic Supervisor

Initially, the Law Reform Clinic collaborated solely with the Australian Law Reform Commission (ALRC), a key partner and stakeholder. However, this year we had a significant expansion in partnerships to include the Victorian Law Reform Commission, Committees of the Legislative Council of Victoria, and The Australia Institute. These organisations contribute to law reform from diverse perspectives and stages, enriching students' understanding of the law reform process.

While the specific work undertaken by Monash students and staff in the Law Reform Clinic is often confidential, its broader impact is clear. Contributions have been incorporated into parliamentary inquiries, reports, scoping studies, and briefing papers. Students have assisted in legislative processes and had the opportunity to engage with specialists in the field of law reform, both within partner organisations and the clinic itself.

This unique opportunity for hands-on involvement in the law reform process sets Monash Law apart as Australia's leading clinical provider. It serves as a vital training ground for future lawyers, reinforcing the actionable commitment to 'Justice for All' as both an immediate and systemic societal goal.

“Through the Law Reform Clinic, I have gained important research, teamwork and project management skills, which are highly beneficial for careers within and outside of the law. The opportunity to work with clients, such as leading Australian policy think tanks, provides incredible insight into the role of research in creating important societal changes.”

Felice, Law Reform Clinic Student



▶ **Maxwell, Lucy and Joel Townsend**
Student / Student / Law Reform Clinic Supervisor & Director of Monash Law Clinics

SUSTAINED SUPPORT AND SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN

Written by **Azadah Raz Mohammad** and **Karin M Frod **
Afghanistan Support Clinic Supervisors

“Working on this case has solidified for me that in my legal career I want to help people rather than companies. This has been an interesting realisation for me given my current career in commercial law.”

Afghanistan Support Clinic Student

The Afghanistan Support Clinic started in direct response to the Taliban’s violent return to power in August 2021. The clinic supports a volunteer-initiative known as the ‘Ham Diley Campaign’ (ham diley means solidarity or empathy in Farsi) which initially provided emergency response (through direct and indirect support of evacuations). More recently, the campaign has focused on research and policy aimed at holding the Taliban and affiliated terrorist groups accountable for atrocities.

Since its establishment, 31 students have participated in the Afghanistan Support Clinic over six clinical periods.

“The Ham Diley Campaign has been for me the most cherished experience of my university degree. I can’t wait to see the future things Karin, Simone and Azadah achieve through the campaign, and I hope I can continue to be a part of it.”

Afghanistan Support Clinic Student

The campaign and the clinic have engaged with stakeholders around the world including experts from Afghanistan and diaspora communities, as well as relevant international organisations and professionals.

Melbourne is home to one of the largest Hazara communities. The Hazaras are one of the largest ethnic minorities in Afghanistan and have experienced discrimination for more than a century. They are currently subjected to targeted attacks by the Taliban and other terrorist groups. We owe it to this community, and the population of Afghanistan more broadly, to use our respective skills and networks to stand in solidarity with persecuted peoples as we work to increase geopolitical security. Indeed, this is part of Monash University’s strategic plan.

In one of the earlier rounds of this clinic, students assisted with the preparation of a risk profile statement for one of the families that we were connected with in Afghanistan. The mother, the main person at risk, was actively sought by the Taliban for several reasons, including her ethnicity and work which gave her access to the personal records of hundreds of persons wanted by the



Hadi, Maryam and Azadah Raz Mohammad

Taliban. Students in subsequent rounds continued to assist with outreach and preparation of the family’s file for various evacuation lists. Despite no positive responses, our efforts continued and eventually we were able to assist the family to move to a safe house in a neighbouring country. At the beginning of 2023, the family’s humanitarian protection application to Australia was finally approved and students in our current clinic round were able to meet the family in person at Monash Law Clinics Melbourne.

Since the start of 2022 the Afghanistan Support Clinic has been contributing to a handbook on the possibilities and challenges of universal jurisdiction to holding the Taliban accountable. The handbook

was commissioned by diaspora communities around the world and a large number of experts from Afghanistan and elsewhere are engaged in the process.

Testimonies from some of the more than 90 individuals who have received assistance from the Ham Diley Campaign, and feel able and willing to share their stories, are currently being compiled. The aim is to launch the handbook in March 2024, in recognition of the International Day for the Right to the Truth Concerning Gross Human Rights Violations and for the Dignity of Victims, as well as Persian New Year celebrations.

HADI AND MARYAM'S STORY

Written in collaboration with
Hadi and Maryam

The persistent efforts of students in the Afghanistan Support Clinic played an important role in helping Hadi and Maryam escape persecution in Afghanistan. Hadi, Maryam and their two daughters belong to the Hazara ethnic group who are historically persecuted in Afghanistan. They arrived safely in Melbourne in March 2023.

In Afghanistan, Hadi was working with an international non-governmental organisation, Climate Solidarity. Maryam was an organisational structure (human resource) manager at the Office of the Chief of Staff of the Afghan President.

In this capacity, Maryam had full access to the government's password protected human resource database. This Human Resource Management Information System (HRMIS) contained information on all of the Government of Afghanistan's employees.

Immediately after the Taliban's return to power, Maryam received a call from members of the Taliban asking for the password of the HRMIS system. Understanding the danger it posed for thousands of government employees across Afghanistan, Maryam risked her life and provided them with a fake password. Soon after, the Taliban's Intelligence Unit issued an arrest warrant for her.



Maryam and Hadi

For the six months after the Taliban's return to power, Maryam, Hadi and their two young daughters lived in hiding and were constantly changing locations.

The Ham Diley Campaign became aware of the family during their several failed attempts to leave the country. The campaign assisted them to obtain visas for a neighbouring country and arranged their departure from Afghanistan. Once in safety in the second country, the Ham Diley Campaign provided the family with housing, financial support and assisted them with humanitarian visa applications for Australia.

Hadi and Maryam's family have now started a new life in Melbourne and are settling well into the community. Their two daughters are finally back at school after a gap of over two years and Maryam is studying accounting and bookkeeping at Melbourne Polytechnic. Hadi is actively volunteering in the community while looking for opportunities for further education in management.

The Ham Diley Campaign acknowledges and is grateful for the volunteering assistance of many immigration lawyers who assist the campaign with urgent cases like these.

ENGAGEMENT

ACTION TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO JUSTICE



▶ Aidan, Irene and Sally Andersen
Student / Student / Law Reform Clinic Supervisor

/15-16
Informed Choice
for the Voice

/17
Increasing
legal literacy

/18
Learning through
community engagement

INFORMED CHOICE FOR THE VOICE

Written by **Dr Gina Bekker**, Castan Centre
for Human Rights (Voice to Parliament Clinic) Supervisor

On 14 October 2023, Australians were asked to vote 'Yes' or 'No' on whether to 'alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.' This was a defining moment in our country's history where, as Australians we were called upon to take the first steps towards righting the wrongs of the past and giving the First Nations peoples a voice in the laws made about them – a voice that has over the course of history been silenced.



Professor Melissa Castan, Dr Gina Brekker
and the Voice to Parliament Clinic Students

In Clinical Period 2, the Castan Centre's Voice to Parliament Clinic provided law students who have an interest in social justice and human rights with a unique opportunity to be part of this watershed moment.

Given the misinformation and disinformation surrounding the Voice to Parliament, clinic students designed and developed an 'Informed Choice for the Voice' campaign. The aims of this campaign were to educate, advocate and engage with the public in order to raise knowledge and awareness of this historic opportunity.

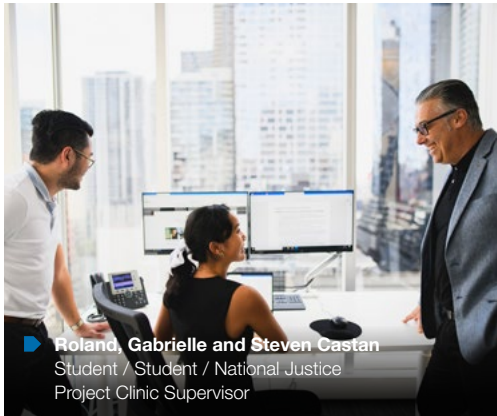
As part of these efforts, students published news articles highlighting the importance of a 'Yes' vote. They also created an online social media presence as a means of engaging young adults. These social media activities debunked myths and misconceptions and provided reliable information relating to the Voice to Parliament. Additionally, the students ran educational workshops in a range of different settings including schools, universities, clubs, aged care homes and in the general community.

Finally, in recognition of the importance of supporting and amplifying First Nations voices, students produced a video entitled Ask us First showcasing prominent First Nations academics, activists, athletes, comedians, musicians and media personalities responding to Australia's burning questions around the Voice to Parliament.

A testament to the dedication and commitment of each one of the students involved in the Clinic is that they continued to volunteer and campaign in the community right up until the day of the referendum.



INFORMED CHOICE FOR THE VOICE (CONTINUED)



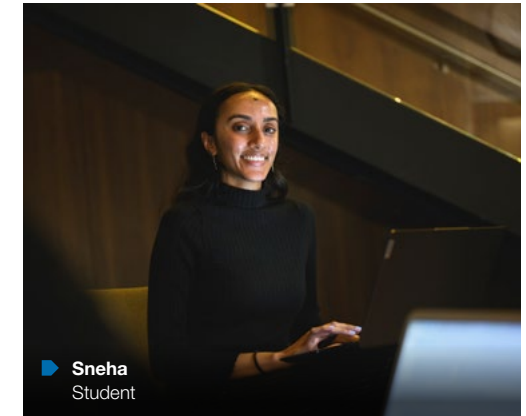
▶ **Roland, Gabrielle and Steven Castan**
Student / Student / National Justice
Project Clinic Supervisor



▶ **Dr Jacqueline Weinberg, Shehara, Kanimozhi**
Director of Clinical Units / Student / Student



▶ **Maxwell, Lucy and Joel Townsend**
Student/Student/Director of Monash Law Clinics



▶ **Sneha**
Student

“The clinic opened my eyes as to how I can grow as a justice-hungry, advocacy-focused law student, and how we, as the next generation of lawyers and advocates, can pursue equality in every facet of the legal and social communities of which we are a part. It shaped my perspective around what I can use my law degree for and the potency of the negotiation, leadership, and analytical skills in my day-to-day life.”

Elizabeth
Human Rights (Voice to Parliament Clinic) Student

“My clinical experience at the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law has been transformative. I truly noticed the depths of my potential to effect positive change in the world. Working on advocacy in the Voice to Parliament YES23 Campaign has been truly enriching – to kinaesthetically work on a project at the end of my degree feels like my studies have come to fruition.”

Meghna
Human Rights (Voice to Parliament Clinic) Student

“Throughout the clinic, we were lucky to be visited by various guest speakers who presented on a broad range of topics. I was particularly influenced by the presentation provided by Andy Gargett, CEO at First Peoples’ Assembly of Victoria. Andy spoke about the journey of the First Peoples’ Assembly in becoming what it is today and offered his insights as to how to meaningfully advocate for Indigenous issues as a non-Indigenous person.”

Chloe
Human Rights (Voice to Parliament Clinic) Student

“This placement with the Castan Centre has been an enriching opportunity for my own personal development, as it reinforced to me the value of collaboration with peers and being bold about legal issues that are important to me. Most importantly, it has fostered my passion for social justice and the ongoing pursuit for meaningful change for First Nations Australians.”

Jess
Human Rights (Voice to Parliament Clinic) Student

INCREASING LEGAL LITERACY

Written by **Belinda** and **Sabrina**
Street Law Officers

Ambitious law students want to make a difference in their community. However, there are very few opportunities available to them to do so, particularly when they have limited professional experience. Monash Street Law (MSL) is a student-led organisation operated by a partnership between Monash Law Students' Society and Monash Law Clinics.

We provide our student community the opportunity to gain this valuable client-facing experience by connecting with their wider community to enhance their legal literacy. This is achieved through students presenting free and engaging workshops on pertinent legal topics to schools and organisations. Some of our most popular topics include employment law, bullying, police powers and cyber safety.

Our 49 Street Law Facilitators, including LLB students from 1st to 5th year and JD students, participated in an intensive training session before this program began. They were given an opportunity to collaborate and practise thinking creatively about how to communicate legal information in a digestible manner through role-plays and case studies.



▶ Professor Jeff Giddings
and the Monash Street Law Students

These students also conducted a 'practice presentation workshop' where facilitators presented a workshop outline and slide deck, and received immediate feedback from the MSL cohort. This workshop enabled facilitators to practise their presentation in front of a live audience, refine their communication skills and learn from each other.

A key emphasis of the program is professional development. To achieve this, in addition to team-wide sessions, we also provide support to each facilitator individually. They have access to a bank of presentation resources and are assigned a Deputy Officer to check in on their progress and help them prepare for their presentations.

Since March 2023, MSL has delivered 15 workshops to schools in Melbourne and regional Victoria, with eight more (and counting) scheduled before the end of the year. We have received overwhelmingly positive feedback from our 800 workshop attendees, with a 100% take-up of our offer to return in a year to deliver another workshop.

Schools have commented on the importance and practical nature of our program in preparing their students for the future – particularly when it comes to employment law-related issues. Not only does the MSL program help our facilitators learn about the law and develop their interpersonal skills, but it also empowers community members to understand their legal rights.

Our role is to strengthen and build the communities around us through the law and if people understand their legal rights, a sense of solidarity can be fostered and people can look out for each other when things go awry.

We have also organised several social events for MSL students to encourage internal community building and collaboration. This has created increased enthusiasm for the program, which has been reflected in the exceptional quality of the workshops delivered.

Whether in its external activities to improve community legal literacy or internal goals to improve camaraderie among law students, community is integral to the function of Monash Street Law.

LEARNING THROUGH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Written by **Dr Jacqueline Weinberg**
Director of Clinical Units

The Monash Clinical Program has a strong community service focus. Student participation enhances our dual purpose of servicing the community while strengthening students' understanding of social justice. Students develop an appreciation of social justice issues and develop a heightened awareness of the operation of the justice system, law reform and policy issues.

At Community Engagement (CE) workshops, students learn about community development theory and practice, and the challenges some people face in advocating for their rights when accessing the legal system. CE projects have a positive impact on clients, the community, students, legal systems and the profession.

Some of our recent CE projects include:

Social security debts

Supervisor: Joel Townsend

Students explored the assistance provided to clients with social security debts, including facing prosecution for social security fraud. They asked whether the principle of increased weight being given to general deterrence in the context of social security offending can still be justified.

Therapeutic jurisprudence practice in courts

Supervisor: Amanda Graham

Students explored how therapeutic jurisprudence examines laws and the roles of participants in the court process to improve the wellbeing of people impacted by laws and legal systems. This project focused on the Marram-Ngala Ganbu Children's Court.

Access to justice for self-represented parties from CALD backgrounds in the FCFCOA in property and parenting matters

Supervisor: Sylvia Maramis

Students looked at challenges faced by clients from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds when dealing with the court system, including poor English language skills and a low standard of education. The focus was on the current court processes within the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (FCFCOA) and how they promote or hinder access to justice for self-represented parties in property and parenting matters.

Virtual reality, education and access to justice

Supervisor: Jacqueline Weinberg

Students explored ways in which technology breaks down the barriers to accessible justice, especially how VR technology is used to assist with access to justice and will continue to do so in the future.

Self-represented parties from CALD backgrounds in the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia in divorce matters

Supervisor: Irene Apap

This project took the same approach as the CALD project for property and parenting matters, but with a focus on self-represented parties in divorce matters.

Non-take-up of social security rights in Australia

Supervisor: Emily Singh

Students reviewed outcomes in social security decisions to determine whether a lack of legal representation is a leading cause of the phenomenon known as 'non-take-up of rights' in the context of social protection rights in Australia.

"Outreach" for the community

Supervisor: Fay Gertner

Students looked at how a legal service might connect with communities that may be experiencing homelessness or have limited capacity to engage with lawyers. The focus was on what outreach might look like, how to establish it and which communities might have a need for legal services.

The new Financial Assistance Scheme for victims of crime

Supervisor: Vicky Kordouli

Students investigated ways that victims of crime (particularly victims of family violence) access government-funded assistance, through the Victims of Crime Tribunal (VOCAT), which has been replaced by the Financial Assistance Scheme.

REFLECTIONS: LOOKING BACK WITH PRIDE



▶ **Azadah Raz Mohammad, Melissa Fletcher and Sara Kowal**
Afghanistan Support Clinic Supervisor / Senior Manager Partnerships
and Clinics, Eleos Anti-Death Penalty Clinic Supervisor

/20-21
President's report

/22-23
Director's report

/24-34
Financials

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Written by Professor **Jeff Giddings**
President - Monash Law Clinics Management Committee

The theme of this annual report is 'community', celebrating Monash Law Clinics' work in the service of multiple communities. Across the 2022/23 financial year, we welcomed more than 700 Monash Law students, allowing us to provide a range of comprehensive legal services to our clients.

Partnerships underpin our work. We work with a range of community legal centres, the broader legal profession, the judiciary, community organisations and government departments. This year, we expanded our Law Reform Clinic, welcoming new placement partners.



Professor Jeff Giddings,
President, Monash Law Clinics Management Committee

In November 2022, the Clinical Program received the Monash University Vice-Chancellor's Education Excellence Award in the Community Engagement Category of the Awards for Industry and Community Education Programs. In May 2023, the program received a 2023 Australian Legal Education Award. The Selection Committee noted that the 'local, national and international impact of the Monash Clinic Program is to be commended'.

Monash University's Faculty of Law makes the greatest financial contribution to the operation of Monash Law Clinics, employing many of the staff who work in our clinics, including the Leadership Team, Associate Professor Joel Townsend (Director of Monash Law Clinics), Melissa Fletcher (Senior Manager Partnerships and Clinics), Fay Gertner (Practice Manager for our Clayton office) and Jennifer Lindstrom (Practice Manager for our Melbourne office). The Monash Law Clinics Management Committee thanks each of them for their work.

Monash Law Clinics welcomed new staff employed by the Faculty of Law this year. Amanda Graham and Emily Singh joined our team.

Our professional staff team transitioned to the Actionstep client management system. The Management Committee thanks Kay Jamieson for her work on this project.

The sustained commitment of the Faculty and the University across five decades has created a program that delivers great benefits for students, clients, partner organisations, the Faculty of Law, and the University. Monash Law Clinics brings together support from government, philanthropists, the legal profession and the University to serve twin objectives of community service and student learning.

I particularly thank Monash Law Executive Dean, Professor Bryan Horrigan, Associate Dean (Staffing), Professor Melissa Castan and Faculty Manager, Fiona Bygraves for their active support of Monash Law Clinics' work.

We operate a volunteer service that enables more than 30 current students to contribute to legal advice sessions. We are grateful for the volunteer supervision provided by Michelle Cohen, Charlotte Connolly, Stephanie Koumbarakos, Georgia Miller, Alexa Segerius and Jacqueline Weinberg.

Monash Law Clinics and its staff have had an impact beyond individual casework.

(continued)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

Written by Professor **Jeff Giddings**
President - Monash Law Clinics Management Committee

Joel Townsend led the preparation of a submission to the Robodebt Royal Commission on behalf of Monash Law Clinics and the Faculty of Law.

Significant contributions to scholarship about clinical legal education have included:

'The Law Tech Clinic: Leading the way in Entrepreneurial Law Clinics', an article by Jacqueline Weinberg and Ross Hyams in the International Journal of Clinical Legal Education.

A chapter by me (Jeff Giddings), Sara Kowal, Sally Andersen, and Jennifer Paneth in a book on academics in criminal justice settings (based on our Anti-Death Penalty Clinic).

My book chapters, Clinic for All: Implementing a Clinical Guarantee, and Innovative Opportunities in Technology and the Law: The Virtual Legal Clinic with Jacqueline Weinberg

In July 2022, my presentation to a workshop at the European Network on Clinical Legal Education Annual Conference in Brescia, Italy, on the pros and cons of expanding a clinical program.

In April 2023, my contribution to a workshop in San Francisco on Effective Practices for Cross-jurisdictional Clinical Collaborations with international clinical colleagues. I also attended the Clinical and Experiential Law Program Directors Workshop.

Monash Law Clinics is participating in a Faculty of Law project supported by the Victorian Higher Education Strategic Initiative Fund, considering how remote technologies might enhance access to justice for survivors of family violence in Australia.

Ours is a distinctive community legal centre because of its commitment to law student learning. Our work is informed by clinical legal education pedagogy which develops ethical, reflective professionals. Clinic provides students with unparalleled opportunities for 'learning by doing and reflecting' by serving local, regional and international communities.

Along with our foundational Professional Practice units, Monash Law Clinics offers a suite of in-house clinical placements covering a wide range of areas of work and addressing a variety of justice needs.

We extend a special thanks to partner organisations and to those who make these collaborations so successful.



Thanks also to Monash Law Clinics staff for their hard work and dedication across the year, as well as to my Management Committee colleagues who have served Monash Law Clinics well since the 2022 AGM. I note the great work of Lucy O'Sullivan, Committee Secretary, and our bookkeeper, Annette Antolino. The Management Committee continues to be well supported by the Finance Sub-Committee. I thank Natalie Shanahan (Treasurer), Annette Antolino, Joel Townsend, Gab Webb and Melissa Fletcher for their contributions.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Written by Associate Professor **Joel Townsend**
Director of Monash Law Clinics

Monash Law Clinics traces back to its origins as a law student volunteer service for the student community of Monash University. One of the successors to that tradition of service was the Monash Oakleigh Legal Service.

Monash Oakleigh Legal Service has become Monash Law Clinics – a larger, multi-site service. It has expanded the range of services it provides, and the work in which it involves Monash law students. It has seen the changes in engagement and communications wrought by technological innovation and the pressures of the pandemic. It faces the question with which many in the sector are grappling: what is now signified by 'community' when we call ourselves a 'community legal centre'?



Associate Professor Joel Townsend
Director of Monash Law Clinics

When it comes to Monash Law Clinics, I think we are a 'community' legal centre in at least three senses. First, we are not here to serve our own ends, but rather we respond to the needs of the world – the community – around us. Second, we are part of a larger Monash University community. Third, we seek to build community around the work we do, providing staff, students and clients with a sense of collective purpose.

Over the past year, we have sought to respond to the needs of the community around us in the following ways:



We have continued to look for new ways to reach unmet legal need, including through our partnerships with cohealth, the Sunshine Family Relationships Centre, with colleagues across Monash University (notably the School of Social Work), and with community legal centre partners across Victoria.



We have drawn on the stories of our clients, and the scholarly work of colleagues across the Faculty of Law, to make submissions on issues, including robodebt and proposed changes to the Family Law Act, which profoundly affect the lives of the most disadvantaged members of our community.



As the fractious public discussion about the Voice to Parliament referendum has unfolded, we have run a clinic in conjunction with the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law, through which students have developed resources to improve the quality of that debate.



Through our Eleos Anti-Death Penalty Clinic and our Afghanistan Support Clinic, we have responded to justice needs in the wider global community.



We have maintained the quality of our service delivery, going through the periodic community legal centre re-accreditation process with Community Legal Centres Australia.



With the Gippsland Community Legal Service, our Climate Justice Clinic developed and launched the *Guidebook to Public Land Management in Victoria*

DIRECTOR'S REPORT (CONTINUED)

Written by Associate Professor **Joel Townsend**
Director of Monash Law Clinics

We have been able to do these things because of the support of the larger community of Monash University, the institution of which we are a part. Monash University backs us financially, but also helps us to find ways to do our work better, more creatively, and to impact outcomes more deeply for our students, our clients and the wider world.

With the University's support we have:



Built research work around our service delivery, with a particular focus on family violence and our health justice partnership work. Funders have recognised the distinctive contribution we can make to justice research, as a legal centre actively engaged in service delivery, which is also part of a leading research university.



Spent time with key colleagues and partners in community legal centres, notably hosting staff from South East Monash Legal Service (SMLS) at our Clayton site, and attending the SMLS 50th anniversary celebration.



Celebrated the recognition of the excellence of our work, and the work of the wider Monash clinical legal education program, in its receipt of the 2023 Australian Legal Education Award for Excellence in Teaching (Engagement).



Grown our impact on the clinical legal education movement globally, developing research which improves the work of our counterparts around the world.



Improved how we tell the stories of the impacts of our services, and the successes of our students.



Sustained ourselves as a community over the past year, supporting each other and marking our moments of success. We have worked to build a deeper community understanding throughout casework and annual planning meetings.

As we move through our 40th year, and towards a milestone celebration, we remind ourselves that we were founded as a community legal centre. Though much has changed about the work of providing legal assistance, and delivering legal education, community remains at the core of what we do.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Monash Law Clinics Incorporated
ABN 90 901 523 080

INCOME	2023 \$	2022 \$
Grant Funding Income		
Commonwealth Funds – Generalist	270,364	266,432
State Funds – Generalist	26,868	26,340
COVID-19	-	-
Department of Justice & Community Safety	31,635	-
Reallocation from VLA Grants In Advance	10,813	13,325
Reallocation to VLA Grants In Advance	(1,141)	(5,648)
Monash Uni – external support for CEP	55,899	26,347
	394,438	326,796
Other Income		
Donations	-	799
Costs recovered & retained	-	538
FCLC Legal Management Systems Project Funding	15,000	-
FCLC Interpreter Funding	2,500	2,978
	17,500	4,315
TOTAL INCOME	411,938	331,111

EXPENDITURE	2023 \$	2022 \$
Client Disbursements	56,416	38,858
Communications – ICT Funding for Legal Management Systems Project	15,000	-
Finance, Audit & Accounting Fees	7,357	11,920
Insurance	1,062	523
Interpreter Costs	8,378	2,978
Library, Resources & Subscriptions	4,025	4,832
Office Overheads	65	-
Transfers to Monash Uni Law Faculty - salaries	319,635	272,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	411,938	331,111
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	-	-

The Income and Expenditure Statement is to be read in conjunction with the independent audit report and the notes to the financial statements.

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Monash Law Clinics Incorporated
ABN 90 901 523 080

	2023 \$	2022 \$
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	-	-
Other Comprehensive Income for the Year	-	-
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE ASSOCIATION	-	-

The Income and Expenditure Statement is to be read in conjunction with the independent audit report and the notes to the financial statements.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

Monash Law Clinics Incorporated
ABN 90 901 523 080

	2023 \$	2022 \$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash at Bank	406,981	113,770
Accounts Receivable	-	225,333
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	406,981	339,103
TOTAL ASSETS	406,981	339,103

	2023 \$	2022 \$
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	102,953	1,785
Accrued expenses		
GST payable	(8,819)	(2,926)
Grants in Advance		
Department of Justice & Community Safety	193,698	225,333
Federation of Community Legal Centres – Interpreter Funding	-	22
Victoria Legal Aid – Commonwealth & State Funds	38,885	48,557
Monash University – External Support for Clinical Education Program (CEP)	48,183	54,081
Victoria Law Foundation	19,830	-
PLEA – fundraising	6,364	6,364
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	401,094	333,216
TOTAL LIABILITIES	401,094	333,216
NET ASSETS	5,887	5,887
EQUITY		
Accumulated funds	5,887	5,887
	5,887	5,887

The Statement of Financial Position is to be read in conjunction with the independent audit report and the notes to the financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Monash Law Clinics Incorporated
ABN 90 901 523 080

	Accumulated funds \$	Total \$
Balance as at 1 July 2021	5,887	5,887
Surplus/(deficit) attributable to the Association	-	-
Balance as at 30 June 2022	5,887	5,887
Surplus/(deficit) attributable to the Association	-	-
TOTAL ASSETS	5,887	5,887

The Statement of Changes in Equity is to be read in conjunction with the independent audit report and the notes to the financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Monash Law Clinics Incorporated
ABN 90 901 523 080

	Notes	2023 \$	2022 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from other grants		592,374	340,442
Receipts from other sources		17,500	4,315
Payments to Monash Uni Law Faculty & suppliers		(316,663)	(336,218)
Interest received		-	-
Net cash generated from/(used in) operating activities	(i)	293,211	8,540
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		-	-
Net cash (used in) provided by investing activities		-	-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		293,211	8,540
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year		113,770	105,230
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	(ii)	406,981	113,770

The Statement of Cash Flows is to be read in conjunction with the independent audit report and the notes to the financial statements.

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Monash Law Clinics Incorporated
ABN 90 901 523 080

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Note (i). Net cash generated from/(used in) operating activities		
Net surplus for the year	-	-
(Increase)/decrease in current and other receivables	225,333	(225,333)
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	95,275	(5,107)
Increase/(decrease) in grants received in advance	(27,397)	238,979
	293,211	8,540
Note (ii). Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year		
Cash at bank	406,981	113,770
	406,981	113,770

The Statement of Cash Flows is to be read in conjunction with the independent audit report and the notes to the financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

Monash Law Clinics Incorporated
ABN 90 901 523 080

Note 1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

This financial report includes the financial statements and notes of Monash Law Clinics Incorporated, an incorporated association, which is incorporated in Victoria under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

Basis of preparation

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012* and the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*. The Board has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and also a not-for-profit association.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the association in the preparation of the special purpose financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

Accounting Policies

a. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at-call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities on the balance sheet.

b. Revenue

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable.

AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers and AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities

The Association applies Australian Accounting Standards AASB 15 and AASB 1058.

AASB 15 involves the use of a five-step recognition model for recognising revenue, the steps are:

- Step 1 – Identify the contract with the customer
- Step 2 – Identify the sufficiently specific performance obligations to be satisfied
- Step 3 – Measure the expected consideration
- Step 4 – Allocate that consideration to each of the performance obligations in the contract
- Step 5 – Recognise revenue

AASB 1058 measures income by reference to the fair value of the asset received. The asset received, which could be a financial or non-financial asset, is initially measured at fair value when the consideration paid for the asset is significantly less than fair value, and that difference is principally to enable the entity to further its objectives. Otherwise, assets acquired are recognised at cost.

Where the asset has been measured at fair value, AASB 1058 requires that elements of other Accounting Standards are identified before accounting for the residual component. These standards are:

- AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers
- AASB 16 Leases
- AASB 137 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities & Contingent Assets
- AASB 9 Financial Instruments

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

Revenue from the rendering of a service is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customers. All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023 (CONTINUED)

Monash Law Clinics Incorporated
ABN 90 901 523 080

Note 1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

c. Income Tax

By virtue of its aims as set out in the constitution, the Association qualifies as an organisation specifically exempt from income tax under Section 50-45 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

d. Goods and Services Tax (GST)

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

e. Employment Entitlements

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee benefits that are expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the amount expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Contributions are made by the association to employee superannuation fund and are charged as expenses when incurred.

f. Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

g. Related Party Transactions

The Committee of Management members act in an honorary capacity and are not paid for their services as Committee Members.

There were no transactions with related parties during the 2023 year.

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

Monash Law Clinics Incorporated
ABN 90 901 523 080

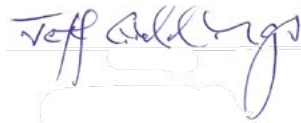
The Committee of Management has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Committee of Management, the financial report as set out on pages 2 to 8, satisfy the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and:

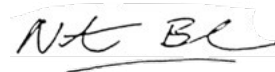
1. a. comply with Australian Accounting Standards applicable to the association; and
b. give a true and fair view of the financial position of Monash Law Clinics Incorporated as at 30 June 2023 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Monash Law Clinics Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This declaration is signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

President
Jeff Giddings



Treasurer
Natalie Shanahan



Dated this
13th day of October 2023

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT

TOWARDS A VISION SHARED



**Collins & Co
Audit Pty Ltd**

127 Paisley Street
Footscray VIC 3011
Australia

Phone (03) 9680 1000
Fax (03) 9689 6605

www.collinsco.com.au

MONASH LAW CLINICS INCORPORATED
A.B.N. 90 901 523 080
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial report of Monash Law Clinics Incorporated (the Association), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2023, and the income statement, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes and the statement by the members of the Board.

In my opinion, the financial report of the Association is in accordance with *the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012* and *the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*, including:

- i. giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its performance for the year ended; and
- ii. complying with Australian Accounting Standards as per Note 1, *the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012* and *the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. I am independent of the Association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

I draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Monash Law Clinics Incorporated to meet the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012* and *the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the applicable legislation and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT (CONTINUED)



**Collins & Co
Audit Pty Ltd**

127 Paisley Street
Footscray VIC 3011
Australia

Phone (03) 9680 1000
Fax (03) 9689 6605

www.collinsco.com.au

TOWARDS A VISION SHARED

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the registered entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the responsible entities.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the responsible entities use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the registered entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal controls that I identify during my audit.

Auditor: Frederik Ryk Ludolf Eksteen

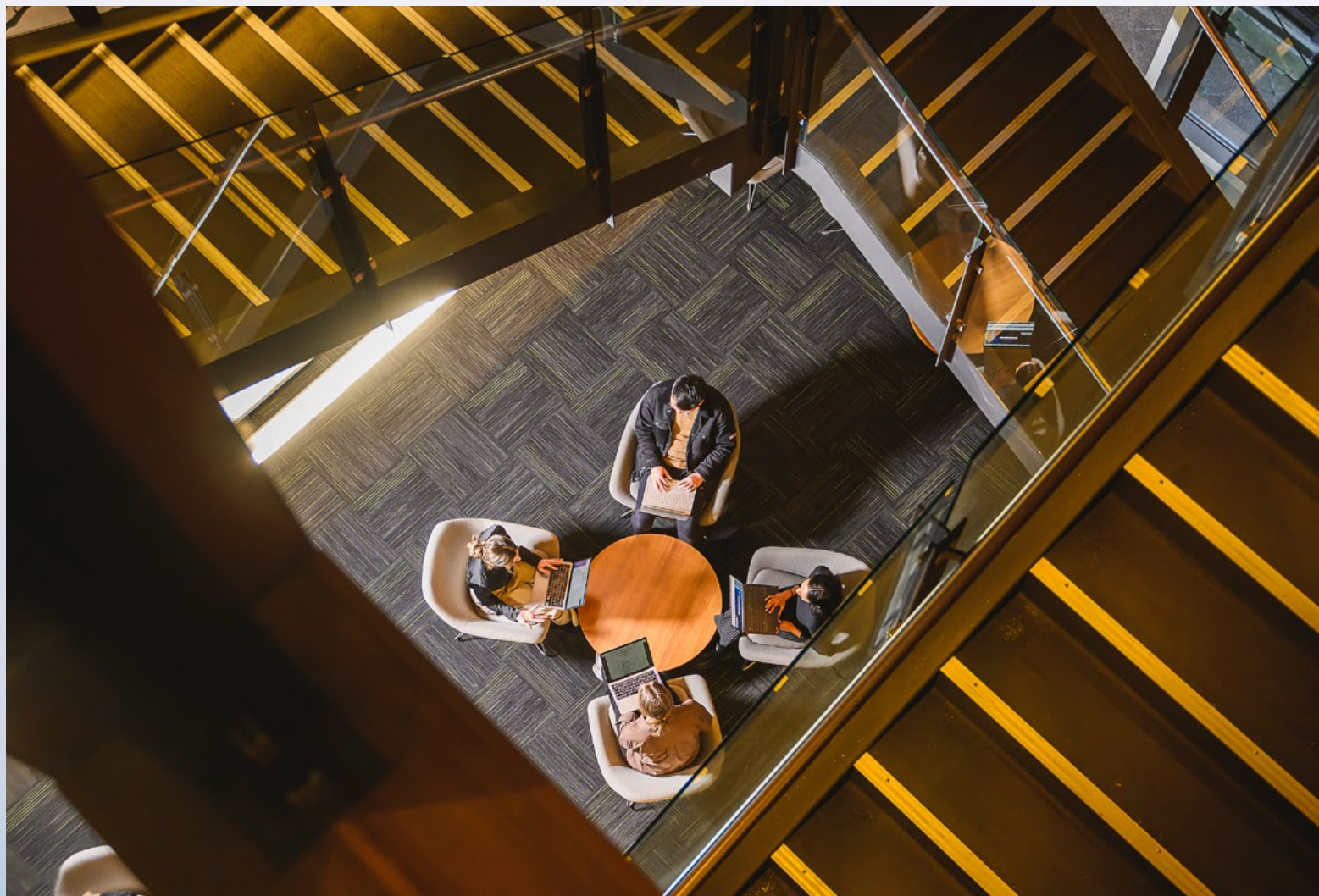
ASIC Registration Number: 421448

Address: Collins & Co Audit Pty Ltd, 127 Paisley Street, FOOTSCRAY VIC 3011

Signature:

Date: 13 October 2023

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation
ABN 33 614 161 796



**MONASH LAW CLINICS
ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23**

MONASH
LAW
CLINICS

MONASH LAW CLINICS

T: 1800 860 333
F: +61 3 8686 1443
E: law-clinics@monash.edu
W: monashlawclinics.com.au

MONASH LAW CLINICS MELBOURNE

PO Box 13086, Law Courts VIC 8010
Level 11, 555 Lonsdale Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

MONASH LAW CLINICS CLAYTON

60 Beddoe Avenue
Clayton VIC 3168