



ANNUAL REPORT 2022 - 2023

Celebrating serving Aboriginal Communities
for 50 years! 1973 - 2023



**Aboriginal
Legal Rights
Movement
ALRM**

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ABN: 32 942 723 464

ALRM is aware that many Aboriginal people are offended by the depiction of deceased members of their communities. While we have made every effort to ensure that only pictures of Aboriginal people still living are used, the Aboriginal community is respectfully advised that some photographs may contain images of people who have passed away.

ALRM acknowledges the Australian Government, the Federal Attorney-General’s Department, the South Australian Department for Premier and Cabinet, the South Australian Department for Families and Communities for funding support. It also acknowledges the significant support from the Wyatt Benevolent Institution Inc (The Wyatt Trust).

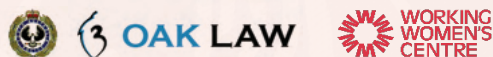
ARTISTS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Artwork by Lyn Lovegrove Niemz
Ngarrinjeri-Wirangu

FUNDING BODIES:



MAJOR STAKEHOLDERS AND SUPPORTERS:



ALRM ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

“We acknowledge this land that we meet on today is the traditional lands of the Kurna people and that we respect their spiritual relationship with their country. We also acknowledge the Kurna people as the custodians of the greater Adelaide region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Kaura people today. We also pay respects to the cultural authority of Aboriginal people visiting/attending from other areas of South Australia/Australia present here”.

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

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ABOUT ALRM

Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement

The development of an Aboriginal legal service in South Australia was part of a national movement to improve legal and civil rights for Aboriginal people.



In the late 1960s Aboriginal people were over-represented in the criminal justice system. Most Aboriginal people appearing before the Courts were not represented by a solicitor, and many pleaded guilty to their offences and were unaware of their rights and obligations under the law. This pattern evolved for a variety of reasons, such as traditional Aboriginal people were inclined to plead guilty or induced to do so. The newly formed Aboriginal organisations were not experienced enough to gain access to legal aid for Aboriginal defendants.

The South Australian Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement began in 1972, with the assistance of the Aboriginal Cultural Centre Inc, the Council of Aboriginal Women of SA Inc and the Redfern Legal Centre.

The Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement was incorporated in 1973 and received its first government funding (\$22,000) from the Commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

Since its incorporation in 1973 the Movement has grown from a small service employing a solicitor, a field officer and a secretary to an organisation of over 90 staff, with offices in Adelaide, Ceduna, Murray Bridge and Port Augusta.

ALRM's major aim is to advance the legal interests of Aboriginal people in South Australia, and to ensure that those rights are protected by the law and not adversely affected by abuse or misuse of any powers under the law.

Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement is an independent incorporated Aboriginal community organization controlled by a Board of 10 Aboriginal members from Aboriginal communities across South Australia.

ALRM Locations

Adelaide Office

321-325 King William Street
Adelaide SA 5000
Ph: (08) 8113 3777
(24 hr service for emergencies)
Fax: (08) 8211 7618

Email: info@alrm.org.au
Website: www.alrm.org.au

Port Lincoln

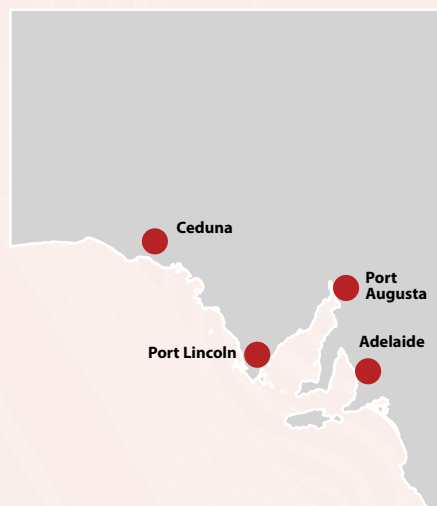
12 Lewis Street
Port Lincoln SA 5606
Ph: 0447 618 292

Port Augusta

12 Church Drive
Port Augusta SA 5700
Ph: (08) 8113 3788

Ceduna

Cnr East Terrace and
Merghiny Drive
Ceduna SA 5690
Ph: (08) 8113 3799



ALRM'S FREECALL NUMBER 1800 643 222.

The number is available from fixed phone lines or from mobile phones within South Australia.

ALRM History

Celebrating Serving Aboriginal Communities for 50 Years!



1973

Incorporation

Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement incorporated as an association under the Associations Incorporation Act of South Australia on 25 January 1973.

1978

Port Augusta

Port Augusta regional office opened staffed by one solicitor and 2 Aboriginal Field Officers.

1980

Ceduna

Ceduna regional office opens staffed by one solicitor and two field officers

1986

Civil

A full-time civil solicitor is retained marking the beginning of The Civil, Family and Human Rights section of ALRM.

1990

Financial Counselling

16 July 1990 the Low Income Support Program (LISP) is born, marking the beginning of ALRM's Financial Counselling service.

2017

Aboriginal Visitors Program

The AVP is piloted under an agreement with the Minister for Correctional Services in SA. \$40,000 was provided to ALRM to trial program for 3 months at the Adelaide Remand Centre and Later at the Yatala Labour Prison.

1996

NAIDOC Award

ALRM awarded Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Organization of the Year in the National NAIDOC awards.

1995

Aboriginal Visitors Scheme

The AVS program commences to provide help and support to Aboriginal people who are arrested and detained in police custody.

1994

Native Title Unit / Aboriginal Justice Advocacy

The NTU of ALRM was established to provide services and resources to Aboriginal people with native title interests. The Aboriginal Justice Advocacy Committee is established to independently monitor the implementations from the Royal Commission into Aboriginal deaths in Custody.

2019

Prisoner through care

With the support of the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA), the Prisoner through Care (PCP) program commences. This project assists Aboriginal prisoners and juvenile detainees to successfully reintegrate back into community following detention.

2019

SAACCON

The South Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Organization network for closing the gap is auspiced by ALRM, supported by a secretariat, based in Adelaide's ALRM office. SAACCON is funded by the Department of Premier and Cabinet through Aboriginal Affairs and Reconciliation (AAR).

2020

Custody Notification Scheme

The CNS funded by NIAA, provides a 24/7 call line for police to notify ALRM when an ATSI person is held in custody without charge. CNS staff perform a wellbeing check on those held in custody with a view to reducing preventable ATSI deaths in custody.

2023

Book launch & Wage parity

Together with university academics, the Magnolia Project, ALRM produces "The culturally safe practice guide with ALRM". ALRM lobbies for and wins additional funding to assist in bringing lawyers wages to parity with Legal Services Commission.

ALRM BOARD

Glen Wingfield
Chairperson



Rosney Snell
Director



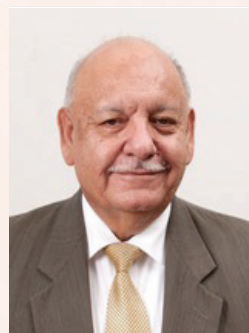
Anita Taylor
Director



Michael Turner
Director



David Rathman
Director



CHAIRPERSONS REPORT

GLEN WINGFIELD



Since the last AGM, board members, Frank Lampard OAM, retired, and it was found that in the middle of 2023, the term of Anita Taylor, another board member had expired. In fact, her membership of the board was continued by virtue of the Constitution itself since the appointment committee had not met to arrange for her replacement. Nevertheless, for a period in 2023, the board was restricted to just six members, the minimum required for a quorum. Accordingly, the board desired to add new members and to renew itself.

Also, since the last AGM, Ms Lana Chester and Dr Sinclair resigned from the Appointment Committee. This caused some difficulty, insofar as there was a delay in their replacements being named. However, the board itself appointed Ms Marg Mibus, the Legal Services Commission appointed Mr Frank Lampard OAM and the Appointment Committee now has four members.

The Appointment Committee met on 1 September 2023 and approved the reappointment of Anita Taylor to the board and made new appointments of Mr Jonathan Chester and Ms Yan Robson McInerney. These board members will sit for a period of three years and will be subject to reappointment. Mr Jon Chester is a highly respected senior member of the Aboriginal community. He brings years of experience to the board from his extensive knowledge of the Aboriginal communities of the state.

Our other new board member, Yann Robson McInerney will bring to the board the benefit of her years of experience as a practising criminal lawyer as well as her knowledge of the Aboriginal community both here and interstate. Her experience of legal practice will provide valuable information and practical wisdom to the board in its consideration of the work of the ALRM law practice.

The board now has eight members and we all welcome you to this Annual General Meeting

It has been another eventful and extremely busy year for ALRM. I don't want to go over matters covered in the reports of the CEO and the PLO, but a few matters are worthy of mentioning. ALRM has been grossly underfunded for many years and this came to a head in 2023. The rate at which we were losing lawyers and aboriginal staff was too great, and we had to look at the reasons. The workloads were too high, the pay was too low. Accordingly, we had to take the drastic step of temporarily cutting services. We think we are the best legal service provider for Aboriginal people, and we did not take this step lightly. Nevertheless, we express our gratitude to the Legal Services Commission for having taken up the work we are unable to do until we get better resources.

We have received some extra funding in mid-2023, but it was not enough to provide pay increases to all of our staff. We regret that. The CEO and the PLO have put a great deal of effort into the submission and dealings with the review of the National Legal Assistance Program (NLAP). ALRM now has a reasonable expectation that there will be a substantial funding increase in 2024. That is because the NLAP Review will be making an interim report in time for the 2024 budget. We expect a substantial funding increase by mid-2024.

The board urges all members to stay involved in the affairs of ALRM. We are the peak body for the representation of Aboriginal people in the legal system of South Australia. We are very proud of our heritage and although we celebrated our 50th anniversary this year 2023 we have not been able to hold a proper celebration yet.

This is terrible, but the board had to take the hard decision that providing services to the community was more important in the use of a very limited budget than holding proper celebrations. But we certainly hope to be able to hold a proper celebration in 2024.

CHIEF EXECUTIVES REPORT

CHRIS LARKIN



FUNDING OF ALRM AND THE REVIEW OF NLAP

On 23 January 2023 ALRM wrote a letter to the Commonwealth Attorney General setting out the degree of ALRM's underfunding, its consequences ALRM cannot provide a statewide service as required by NLAP, and we called for a multimillion dollar and immediate injection of funding into ALRM. ALRM has held meetings with Dr Warren Mundy, the review officer and he has endorsed the approach that we have made to the Attorneys General regarding fully costed requests for urgent funding increases for expanding ALRM operations to become a full statewide service by covering the south-east of the state.

ALRM also participated in a meeting with the Attorney General in Canberra, with the other ATSILS under the auspices of NATSILS. We all had the same story to tell, of cutting of services, and of the incapacity of our services to continue under existing arrangements of gross underfunding. As a result of that meeting, a total of \$21 million was immediately made available to ATSILS, however ALRM's share was a meagre 6% or \$1.25 million. It has been used to increase lawyer's salaries to those equivalent to the Legal Services Commission. In turn lawyers are staying on and past lawyers are wanting to return to work for ALRM.

ALRM provided to the state Attorney General, in April, a fully costed estimate for providing services under the existing NLAP agreement and again, it was a multimillion-dollar figure. That extra and immediate funding has not yet been provided and accordingly temporarily service restrictions covering Whyalla, Port Pirie and associated courts, the Riverland and Murray Bridge has had to be maintained.

ALRM held negotiations with the Legal Services Commission of South Australia and there has been a temporary transfer of files from those centres to the Legal Services Commission or lawyers nominated by the Commission.

THE REVIEW OF NLAP

There will be a stronger emphasis upon meeting closing the gap targets in justice and the proper implementation of the Justice Policy Partnership.

This leads to the question whether the state should make a contribution to the cost of ALRM, or whether ALRM should remain a Commonwealth responsibility? Our fundamental position is that we need a vastly increased budget, to nearly double the size of the criminal section, and to add substantially to the civil section. Much more needs to be done in rural regional and remote areas, particularly in the area of representation for civil family law and child protection.

ENTERPRISE BARGAINING AGREEMENT

Work on the enterprise Bargaining Agreement is still proceeding. However, it is plain from the proposals made by the civil and criminal practice managers that even allowing for the cuts in services that have been made, (and they are small as we can make them) lawyers will still have significantly raised workloads, beyond what is acceptable and beyond what can be bargained for.

That is the reason that a very detailed costed letter went to the Attorney General on 23 January 2023. It set out the resources needed to make a viable statewide service, with many more lawyers, to meet the existing workload and projected workload, as well as new buildings and infrastructure required, as well as salary increases to be consistent with LSC. In addition, there will need to be proportionate salary increases for all other employees and for training and further education. ALRM has also recommended to the NLAP Review that ALRM be able to provide scholarships and cadetships for Aboriginal employees to be able to study, and we are seeking resources to enable all Aboriginal employees to undertake TAFE certificate four course in Aboriginal legal studies.

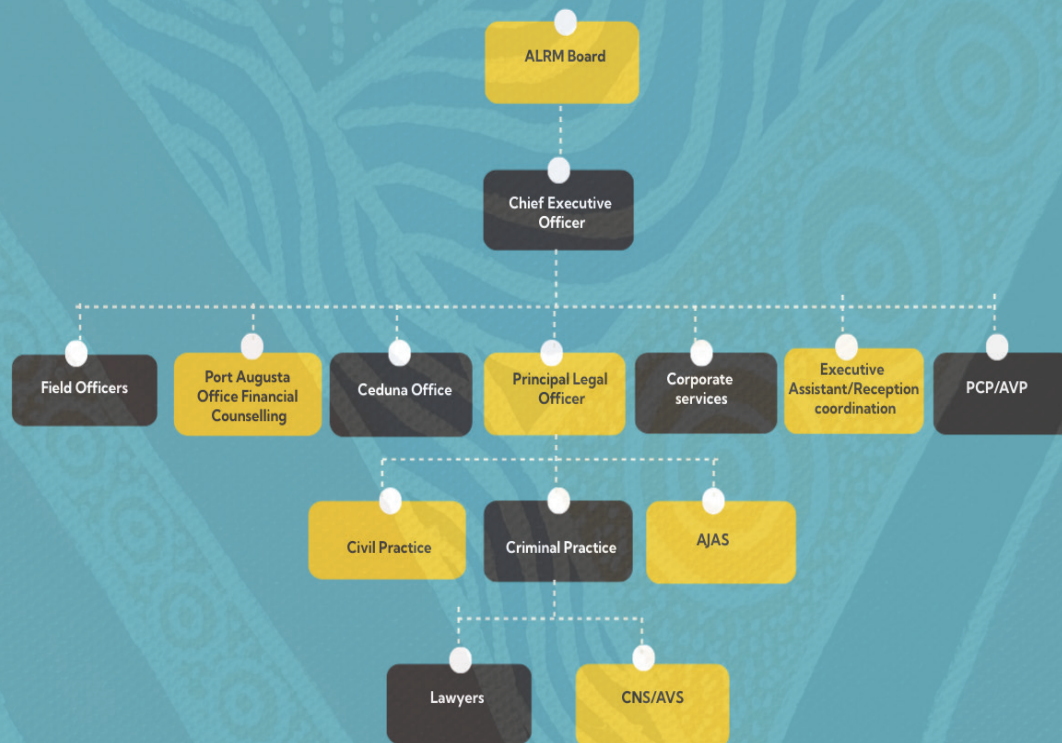
WORK WITH SAACCON

ALRM has been the auspicing body for the South Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations Network (SAACCON). As a result of assistance from ALRM SAACCON was incorporated in late 2022 and a process of separation of ALRM from SAACCON in accordance with the MOU, which had been established between the organisations, has resulted in their complete independence from ALRM.

ALRM will remain a member of SAACCON and will wish to contribute significantly in relation to work on the Justice Policy Partnership JPP.

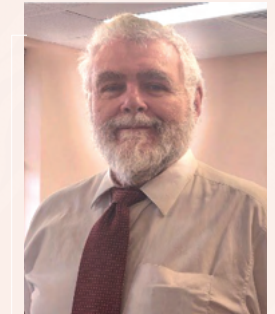


ALRM ORGANISATION CHART



PRINCIPAL LEGAL OFFICERS REPORT

CHRIS CHARLES



1. The Chairperson and the CEO have, in their reports outlined the essential strategic directions which ALRM has followed in the last 12 months. ALRM put considerable effort into the review of the National Legal Assistance Program (NLAP) in the hope and expectation that our submission would be heeded and better provision made for ALRM in the 2024 budget. We worked closely with NATSILS and with our sister organisations in preparing the submissions.
2. The Civil and Family Law Practice Manager has prepared her own report as to the operation of that part of the law practice ALRM and the Criminal Practice Manager has done the same. I wish to thank them both for their efforts throughout the year. Both sections have provided ample information as to unmet legal need for Aboriginal people in South Australia. We cover perhaps 20% of the child protection applications launched every year against Aboriginal families, and our coverage of the criminal courts is limited by lack of resources.
3. In my view, it is essential that all ALRM lawyers understand their position very precisely as to their status as associates of a law practice, under a principal. Instruction on the legal nature of the ALRM law practice is now part of the induction for all ALRM lawyers. Also, a very precisely worded practice direction about a policy within the organisation as to how to deal with conflicts of interest, both within the sections and between the sections.
4. There is better and better collaboration and cooperation between the two sections. They have clients in common. They are two parts of one law practice. The criminal section has acknowledged that because up to 30% of its clients are Aboriginal women, and that they may be experiencing serious distress from a variety of causes, that the criminal section will provide to female clients written information sheets from the civil and family Law section about their services. During the course of the year, members of the civil section were able to provide to the criminal section advice regarding the legal status of children in state care and the obligations of the Department to such children Not only with respect to children in Kurlana Tapa but also children with respect to the fiduciary obligations of the Department as the children's guardian. Both sections have welcomed the return of Erin Maher, our policy and advocacy officer, and she is actively working with both sections on matters of mutual and separate interest in advocacy for their client base.
5. At the same time, we acknowledge the departure of Khatija Thomas, who had been the other advocacy officer within ALRM, but has now left us. We wish her well in her career, and we are sure that we will see more of her in the future.

REVIEW OF THE CIVIL SECTION AND COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION

1. The review of the civil section has now been completed and discussions are commencing with the members of the civil section regarding the review and those aspects of it which can be and should be implemented immediately.
2. ALRM has commenced working directly with the community legal education section of the Legal Services Commission so as to improve outreach to Aboriginal communities not generally visited by the civil section.

STRATEGIC LITIGATION UNIT

1. ALRM now has access to a significantly increased coronial and expensive Case fund until 24-25. Apart from its significance in terms of being able to fund strategic litigation, this has also meant that the ALRM Briefing Committee has been revived and is being used to fund conflict cases and other matters in which external practitioners act for Aboriginal people, as needed. It will be used to fund litigation which ALRM is unable to cover, but where there is clearly unmet legal need.

2. Senior ALRM lawyers, the CEO and external Counsel constitute the Strategic Litigation unit itself and its terms of reference are set up in order to consider the ways in which ALRM resources can be used for the maximum benefit of Aboriginal people in South Australia. The purpose is to find suitable vehicles for test cases which can be run for the purpose of advancing the interests of Aboriginal people generally or calling into question, discriminatory practices.

3. The strategic litigation unit is already in operation, since ALRM is already involved in significant strategic litigation. Examples are:

a. the inquest involving the death of an aboriginal child in state care has been concluded.

b. litigation contesting the obligation of the Crown to pay costs in child protection proceedings, which had been argued unsuccessfully and unfortunately an application for special leave to the High Court of Australia was also unsuccessful.

c. A murder trial at which interstate experts have been called by ALRM to contest the understanding of mental impairment as it applies to a defence to a criminal charge, put forward by the state forensic psychiatry service and

d. the follow-on work with LK Law flowing from the Ombudsman's report into electricity and water charges in Coober Pedy is ongoing.

e. ALRM is funding an external solicitor in an appeal against a decision of the Youth Court not to allow an Aboriginal grandmother standing to appear in child protection proceedings.

f. Two death in custody inquests were conducted this year. The first inquest raised questions regarding the inadequacy of the response of the Department of Corrections and the Prison Health Service over a young man who displayed very serious signs of mental illness, both in prison and whilst he was under the charge of community corrections and the community based mental health service. The second inquest raised questions in relation to mental health care of an aboriginal prisoner on remand, and after his transfer to the Royal Adelaide hospital and the standard of care that he and his family received in relation to his mental illness. Both inquests raised serious questions about the non-implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

COLLABORATIVE SERVICES PLANNING AND UNMET LEGAL NEED SURVEY

1. ALRM has been involved in two major meeting groups with the legal aid sector of South Australia with the Attorney General's Department, looking at collaborative Services planning across the legal aid sector to better meet the needs of the priority clients of the legal aid sector.
2. ALRM's position is that until unmet legal need is properly understood and measured, legal aid policy work by the State of South Australia will be operating from a perspective of uncertainty and funding allocations will never correspond with actual need for services.
3. A submission which ALRM had put forward to AGD on the need for a proper unmet legal needs survey for the whole state has borne fruit and ALRM is actively involved. Particular concerns of ALRM relates to unmet legal need for criminal representation throughout the state and unmet legal need for civil representation, particularly in regional rural and remote areas and in respect of Aboriginal women and victims of crime.
4. Information obtained from the Courts Administration Authority has been of great use in mapping unmet legal need, and this in turn has informed our submission to the NLAP Review. Effectively, unmet need for services in the criminal courts is already known, – 20% of aboriginal people in South Australia do not receive representation in criminal matters. We also know that our criminal section is much too small to handle the volume of work which we could handle with proper resources. All of this has been sent to the review and to the Commonwealth and State Attorneys General.

POLICE LIAISON

Since 2021/22 ALRM has held regular three-monthly meetings with the Assistant Commissioner of Police, Governance and Capability Services. He is accompanied at the meetings by senior officers and senior managers of ALRM attend. These meetings have been very beneficial in raising issues of concern between police and ALRM, particularly in the implementation of the Custody Notification Service, and the continuing relevance of the RCIADIC recommendations. It is likely that this police liaison group will become part of a broader Strategic Policy Committee involving senior members of the Attorney General's Department, ALRM and senior police officers.

CJ Charles
Principal Legal Officer
18 October 2023



The clients we assisted in FY 2023

Client Statistics



3406 Clients served in FY 2023

The ALRM serves its clients for 50 years standing up for justice without prejudice in preserving people's rights.



10304 Services excluding community services

Legal Advice	876
Duty Lawyer	1424
Representation	4500+



We provided services to **244 clients in custody**



We catered to the needs of **534 children and adolescents**



We assisted **637 clients affected by family violence**



Financially disadvantaged clients made up approximately **49.69%** of the clients we served



Over 1 in 4 clients live in rural or remote areas of South Australia.



"We provided services in **140+** different locations across South Australia."

The key achievements and contributions of our law team in FY'23

What our law teams do?



\$ 35,000+ damages claimed for our clients in FY'23



7500+ the number of matters handled by the law team.



Our client relationship satisfaction scores an average of **9 out of 10**



We are a team of **52 members**



Each lawyer handles a caseload ranging from **70 - 150 cases**.



The law team dedicated **56,380+** hours

CRIMINAL SECTION



The ALRM Criminal Team, (consisting of our Lawyers, Law Clerk and Secretaries) provides a high quality and culturally safe legal service.

ALRM Criminal Section focus remains on providing service to both youth and adult clients from arrest to parole. Our Lawyers expertise includes Duty Solicitor to Counsel. We provide advice and representation for clients facing criminal charges, ranging from relatively minor street offences in the Magistrates Court through to the most serious charges in the District and Supreme Courts including drug trafficking, sexual assaults and murder. Further, clients seeking to appeal to the Court of Criminal Appeal and to the High Court can also be provided with advice and representation.

An area of our unique expertise is representing in the Supreme Court for Extended Supervision Orders and clients at the Parole Board. During 2022-2023 there has been a notable upsurge in people receiving applications for Extended Supervision Orders after completing a Supervision Order. The chief complaint with these subsequent orders appears to be that the person has reoffended, in which case it is a tacit admission that the Order did not reduce offending, or that the offender had not completed a rehabilitation course, which is the sort of thing that the Orders were introduced to address. In addition, there are traditional clients who have been subjected to orders with conditions sought that would prevent them returning to the APY lands. The reasoning behind this relates to the Woodforde Inquest which made recommendations about the ability for Corrections to supervise offenders on correctional orders, claiming that there was no ability to enforce or monitor. Recently the Attorney General agreed for one of our clients to be allowed to return to the lands on a supervision order, but it required that the matter be listed for a hearing before it was agreed. This development is promising as there is now a precedent (albeit not a judgment) for traditional people to be supervised on the lands under exceptional circumstances.

Our Lawyers travelled far and wide across the State in order to provide “Justice Without Prejudice”. The further our clients live from the metropolitan areas, the greater the challenge. This is more apparent in regional and remote South Australia where predominately services are delivered by “fly in fly out” or “drive in drive out” Lawyers.

Law reform activities and initiatives included identifying and advocating in relation to laws, policies and practices, particularly in relation to incarceration, policing, family violence and the needs of youth that impact adversely and disproportionately on Aboriginal People.

The Criminal Team also represented ALRM on numerous committees, advisory Boards and Forums. These included:

- “Court Users Committees” – All Suburban, Regional and Adelaide Magistrates Courts
- “CJM Forum” – The District Criminal Court Committee
- ECMS Project Committee
- Law Society of South Australia
- Port Court Lincoln Magistrates Forum
- Youth Aboriginal Community Court Adelaide
- Nunga Court Steering Group
- ACCE Steering Group
- PADIC Meetings

In August 2022 the Courts Administration Authority moved to an online portal for all Criminal documents Electronic Court Management System (ECMS) that collects, stores and processes information and documentation for court matters electronically.

ALRM Criminal Section was required to register the organisation and Lawyers. CourtSA ECMS is now used to lodge and access all criminal cases information, applications and notifications of hearings. As the court enters a new era, with the ‘paperless files’ of the Electronic Courts Management System (ECMS) we must ensure that we have the technology and coverage to run systems from each court location.

By December 2022 ALRM Criminal section had reached above the requisite KPIs of 5000. The challenges faced by our Section to provide a service that meets the needs of our clients are compounded by the increasing overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in criminal justice proceedings. The flow on effect on lawyers and administrative staff has been substantial with the average number of allocated files higher than ever, the complexity of matters ever increasing and the demands on time considerable. The efforts of everyone in the face of these considerable challenges needs to be acknowledged. As is often noted, ALRM ‘punches way above its weight’ in terms of the nature and quality of the legal services it provides to clients and the community. This is especially the case with ALRM’s regional offices which have limited numbers of staff but massive workloads and arduous court circuits.

In January 2023 we successfully filled the role of Managing Senior Lawyer for Port Augusta and Ross Colthorpe joined the Team. Throughout 2022 & 2023 ALRM Criminal Section had to make the difficult decision to temporarily suspend a range of services in several regions. In April 2023 the Board concluded that due to the high turnover of staff and inability to recruit we were no longer able to provide service to Whyalla, Murray Bridge, Berri, Port Pirie. We worked with Legal Services Commission to ensure a smooth and successful transition.

During this period negotiations for EBA and wage parity with LSC commenced and we are excited of the prospect of being on par with wages as of 1/7/2023. This will enable ALRM to recruit Lawyers with greater experience and retain our experienced lawyers.

I would like to thank the amazing team I work with for their support, dedication, hard work, empathy and vision. It has been a year of many changes, high activity with many successes along the way. I am extremely proud of the resilience and strength displayed by all Lawyers throughout this period. Let us continue with confidence in providing “Justice without Prejudice”.



CIVIL AND FAMILY SECTION

Over the last year we have continued to commit in providing a front-line specialist service delivering culturally proficient and trauma informed legal and non-legal assistance in the following areas:

- Abuse in Care
- Child Protection
- Family Law
- Guardianship
- Housing
- National Redress Scheme
- Personal Injury
- Police Complaints
- Royal Commission into Disability
- Worker's Compensation
- Victims of Crime

ALRM has strengthened essential legal and non-legal wrap around support for vulnerable Aboriginal women and children escaping family violence connected to Family Law and Child Protection matters under the Women's Legal Assistance program. Our Civil Community Engagement team has delivered workshops and information sessions statewide by way of creating awareness of legal rights and responsibilities in various jurisdictions such as Civil (i.e. lodging a police complaint, motor vehicle accident claims, tenancy issues & power of attorney) Family Law (i.e. children's matters, divorce & property settlement), Child Protection (i.e. lodging a review against a decision made by Department for Child Protection) and accessing culturally appropriate services where there is presence of family violence, mental illness, cognitive impairment, homelessness, and substance misuse.

We have increased our outreach services for clients in prison and for Aboriginal women exiting prison seeking housing assistance and legal representation to reconnect with their children. In addition, implementing early intervention and preventative measures by providing outreach legal advice/representation and practical support to pregnant women with substance abuse problems at health clinics to address the risk factors before it develops into a situational crisis where babies are removed by Child Protection authorities.

We continue to strongly advocate for systemic change and law reform in Child Protection and Family Law. ALRM Civil made a submission to the review of the *Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017 (SA)* ("the **CYPS Act**") in November 2022. Our response to the review outlined that the CYPS Act is not being applied with sufficient rigour to ensure that the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ("**ATSI**") children placed in care, especially long-term care, outside of their families and communities is declining. Our submissions were also centered on the need for the Department for Child Protection ("**DCP**") and the State Government to take meaningful action to recognise the needs of ATSI families within the child protection system, as they relate to culture, community, child rearing, kinship, and the right to self-determination. Our submission to the Family Law Amendment Bill 2023 (Cth) in March 2023 supports the recognition of a child's right to culture and focusses on the intricacies of ATSI families and culture associated when making decisions pertaining to parenting orders.

Last year we expanded our services by establishing a new partnership with the Working Women's Centre ("**WWC**") in developing a program to train and provide assistance to Aboriginal Community Controlled organisations ("**SAACCON**") in relation to their policies on Sexual Harassment, Bullying and Discrimination in the workplace. This involved solicitors from the Civil team together with WWC conducting community outreach services in regional and remote areas i.e., on the APY Lands, Coober Pedy, Port Augusta, Whyalla and Port Pirie to various Aboriginal Health and community Services providers promoting awareness to employers and employees on issues pertaining to sexual harassment, bullying and discrimination in the workplace.

We continue to face challenges addressing the unmet civil need in particular regional and remote areas due to the difficulties of recruiting experienced and culturally competent solicitors. The flow on implications places additional pressure on existing staff from the Adelaide metropolitan office to accommodate the demand of our regional offices in Port Augusta and Ceduna ensuring accessibility of a legal service. Ongoing financial support is very critical by the South Australian Government and Federal Government for our operations.

CASE STUDY

Intersection of Family Law and Child Protection Jurisdictions (Wraparound Service)

ALRM initially represented a mother in Child Protection proceedings whereby her young child was removed from her care by the Department for Child Protection (“DCP”) due to substance misuse, homelessness and violence perpetrated by the father.

DCP applied for a long-term order guardianship until the child turned (18). ALRM successfully advocated for a 12-month guardianship as it was able to demonstrate to the court that the mother was addressing the child protection concerns by engaging relevant services. The referrals for services were made following an intake risk assessment conducted by our Aboriginal Family Practitioner (“AFSP”). The AFSP identified the risk factors and immediately referred the mother for drug and alcohol counselling, a mental health plan with an Aboriginal Health Service provider to address the trauma she sustained as a child and the trauma she sustained regarding her violent relationships with men in the past. The AFSP advocated for priority housing to ensure stable accommodation. In addition, applied for financial assistance for clothing and furniture. The AFSP also provided narrative counselling and practical support by taking the mother to her therapy/medical appointments and accompanied the client to the Reunification Court. By ensuring the client had access to relevant services she was able to demonstrate to DCP and to the Reunification court she had been adequately addressing the child protection concerns which as a result enabled her child to return to her care prior to the 12-month guardianship order expiring. Following the reunification between the client and child ALRM prepared documentation and filed an application to the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (“FCFCOA”) before the Specialist Indigenous List obtaining parenting orders and an injunction against the father ensuring the physical and emotional safety of the child.

Civil Jurisdiction (Adult Guardianship)

In a matter where a service provider applied for a Guardianship order to be imposed on a client to protect their finances, our civil solicitor worked together with the client’s Neuropsychologist to get the Guardianship Order revoked. New medical evidence was presented at the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (“SACAT”) that showed the client had restored mental capacity, satisfying the Tribunal that the order should be set aside.

Finally, as the Civil and Family Law Director I would like to thank the Civil & Family Law team for their passion and exceptional work, without them we would not be able to deliver a service that offers cultural support and cultural connection ensuring our clients obtain the best outcome.

Civil and Family Law Team 2022-2023

Cinzia Aglieco	(Senior Family Law and Child Protection Solicitor)
Angela Carlisle	(Civil Law Clerk)
Kerrie Cowburn	(Legal Secretary)
Courtney Dolphin	(Family Law and Child Protection Solicitor)
Dimitra Droulias	(Civil and Family Law Practice Director)
Kim Heath	(Legal Secretary)
Christine Leahy	(Senior Family Law Solicitor)
George Lesses	(Senior Civil Law Solicitor)
Sarah Letts	(Legal Secretary)
Sharon Lucas	(Civil and Family Law Solicitor)
Chelsea Marks	(Family Law and Child Protection Solicitor)
Lynn Valentine	(Senior Family Law Solicitor)
Jean Walla	(Aboriginal Family Support Practitioner)
Rebecca Scott Weetra	(Aboriginal Family Support Practitioner)



BUSINESS PRIORITIES

- Increased participation growth to **50 %**
- Client satisfaction rate **9.6/10**
- Served **178** clients for FY 2023



ADDED PRIORITIES

- Brief Interventions **40+**
- Team’s caseload **15-20** participants.



ABOUT PARTICIPANTS

- JUL 2022 – DEC 2022 served **83 active** participants.
- JAN 2023 – JUN 2023 served **95 active** participants.

STATISTICS FOR PCP

- 1. July – Dec 2022: 83 Active participants during this periods, 67 men and 16 women.
- 2. Jan – June 2023 95 Active participants during this period, 77 men, 18 women.
- From July 2022 – June 2023 we have serviced 178 participants of the PCP program. This has increased by more almost 50% from the previous year.

PRISONER CARE PROGRAM

Selina Gollan – Prisoner Services Manager

Philippa Edge – Prisoner Care Program Coordinator

Sandra Traeger – PCP Case Worker

Darryn Foale – PCP Case Worker

Donna Williams – PCP Case Worker

Case Workers meet with sentenced Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders (juvenile and adult) both pre-release and post-release to offer support with a focus on reducing re-offending behaviors that lead back to incarceration.

Support commences with a comprehensive needs assessment to confirm eligibility, identify support needs and assess motivation for positive change. If proceeding with support, a culturally sensitive case plan is developed in conjunction with the participant that identifies goals, necessary actions and supports required to implement case plan.

The Case Worker supports and empowers the participant to achieve, and review set goals.

Support is available up to 3 months prior to a participants release date from prison and can continue for up to 2 years post-release.

Participants can be assisted with:

- Support that is planned and carried out in a way that is culturally relevant and appropriate to the needs of the participant
- Access to a range of programs, activities and essential services
- Referrals, liaison and advocacy with other agencies for support in the areas of accommodation, health, mental health, legal, employment, education/training, domestic violence, parenting, drug and alcohol, disability, social/leisure and family reunification.

During 2022-2023 the Prisoner Care Program has grown significantly. We currently have 83 active participants in the program and have serviced approximately 178 clients during 22-23 FY period. Our team on average, carry a case load of 15-20 participants.

PCP staff are also providing brief interventions for people who do not meet the PCP criteria and/or just need brief support such as a housing support letter or advocacy for health in with health or AOD referrals. Brief Interventions for 2022-2023 is approximately 40.

The prisoner care program has been successful in securing funding until June 2025. This has been a significant win for the PCP program and has provided PCP staff with job security for the next 2 years.

PCP currently service Adelaide Women's Prison, Yatala Labour Prison, Adelaide Remand Centre, Adelaide Pre-Release Centre, Mobilong Prison and Kurlana Tarpa. Although these are the service delivery prisons, we do have clients who have been transferred to other prisons within the state for various reasons such as course delivery for Individual Development Plans, COVID outbreaks or regression. At present, we have clients in Port Augusta Prison, Cadell Training Centre and Mount Gambier Prison.

Prisoner Care Program have also supported people in prison by following up brief interventions to assist with a smoother transition for the person from prison to community.

PCP have also been involved in numerous community groups, network meetings and partnership meetings such as Inner-City Network, Adelaide Day Centre, SA Prison Health Services – Aboriginal Model of Care Committee, Courts Administration Authority Community Reference Group, Magnolia Project, Case Management Meeting at Mobilong Prison to address discharge planning and attended PADIC Forums at Adelaide Women's Prison, Mobilong, Cadell and Yatala Labour Prison.

ASD staff attended National Corrections Day at AWP, Department for Correctional Services - AWP/APC Partners Workshop - 29 June 2023, ran a stall at Mobilong Prison's Health and Wellbeing Expo, NAIDOC Stalls at Family Fun Day, NAIDOC Celebrations in Yatala Labour Prison, Mobilong Prison's NAIDOC Football Game and the Adelaide Remand Centre NAIDOC Cricket & Basketball Tournament.



ABORIGINAL VISITORS PROGRAM

ADELAIDE REMAND CENTRE & ADELAIDE WOMEN'S PRISON TEAM:

Selina Gollan – Prisoner Services Manager
Caleb Coaby – AVP Officer Adelaide Remand Centre
Cherald Aston – AVP Officer Adelaide Women's Prison (until 18th April 2023)

ALRM receives funding from SERCO for the delivery of the Aboriginal Visitors Program within the Adelaide Remand Centre.

The role of the AVP Officer consists of:

- Advocating for client
- Taking direction from client regarding legal matters and forwarding onto lawyers.
- Seeking Legal representation – ALRM or LSC or private
- Networking with stakeholders – Parole Board, ALO's, Advocates for ALRM, Community Organisations – Government and Non-Government
- Verbal, written and electronic communication with SERCO staff – ALO, Officers, Management
- Welfare checks – Monitor by using a basic questionnaire
- Escalate Welfare/Medical concerns – Medication administration, Injuries
- Providing choices of referral pathways for support services – ARCHES, AOD Counselling, Mental Health, housing
- Finding family members – In the community, online.
- Communication with employers of clients
- Seek support from Ombudsman when needed
- Assist with complaints
- Research – Phone numbers, Organizations, Support people
- Case noting
- Keeping data records of clients seen

AVP ADELAIDE REMAND CENTRE

Unfortunately, the AVP Program did not run from July 2022- June 2023. An agreement has now been reached between SERCO and ALRM and we are pleased that the AVP Program recommenced on 8th August 2023.

It has been approved that the AVP Program case workers will become regular attendees for the cultural space each week at the Adelaide Remand Centre, with the hopes that interacting with prisoners in a different environment will help with rapport building and connections whilst in a more culturally respectful area.

Bi-annual reports will be given to SERCO for updates of the following measures:

1. Number of Prisoners who received ALRM support
2. Numbers and types of referrals
3. Number of Aboriginal participants who are not first time offenders
4. Numbers of Aboriginal offenders securing bail and/or bail accommodation

Since 8th August 2023, Caleb has supported and advocated for approximately 80 men in the Adelaide Remand Centre. This program has been vital for Aboriginal people in custody in helping them connect with family, lawyers, bail accommodation options, addressing medical and dental needs, welfare checks and any other advocacy needs of the client.

AVP WOMEN'S PILOT

AVP ran a pilot in the Adelaide Women's Prison (AWP) from November 2022- April 2023. Approximately 70% of Aboriginal women in custody are on remand and need support finding a bail address, accessing health/dental in the prisons and support with family connections etc. AVP in the Women's Prison supported and advocated for approx. 5-10 women per week even though it was only run once per week. It was evident that AVP in the women's prison was needed, and the women were extremely vulnerable and restricted to accessing programs, information, family members, lawyers, health and dental assistance.

MENTAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER

The Mental Health Practitioner's (MHP) role is to provide emotional and practical support to ALRM clients and their families. The MHP undertakes psychosocial assessments to determine client needs and pre-existing supports, and then works collaboratively with the client to determine suitable referral pathways. The MHP works alongside ALRM lawyers and other staff to provide a holistic, wraparound service for those who come into contact with ALRM. To date the MHP has been heavily involved in coronial inquests, providing valuable assistance to bereaved families and loved ones. The MHP works with family members at both pre-and post- inquest to ensure that family members receive the support they require during their time of need, and to make sure that families are emotionally prepared prior to the commencement of the coronial inquest. The support given by the MHP during coronial inquests includes attending the coroner's court with the family, referrals for grief and loss counseling, assisting family members to write family statements, and providing information about court processes and procedures. The MHP can work with ALRM clients around their feelings of anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues. This may include, for example, counseling clients who have just been arrested, are awaiting trial, or just need emotional support while in prison. For clients who need specialized support or treatment, the MHP will make a referral to a dedicated service. The MHP is available to support ALRM clients at all stages of their legal journey, including bail, sentencing, and civil claims.



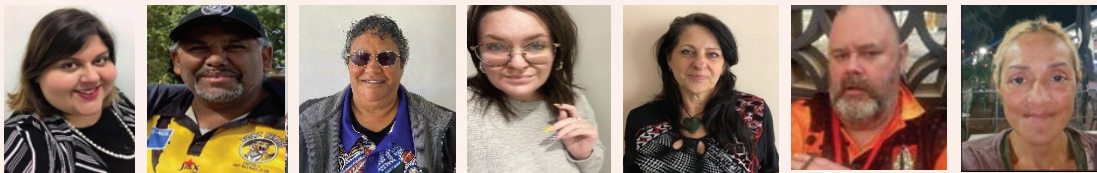
ABORIGINAL VISITOR SCHEME

THE AVS TEAM:

Custody Services Manager: Eliana Truscott

AVS Visitors:

- Griselle Carter
- Sheryl Giles
- Alana Heuzenroeder
- Lana Lloyd
- Sam Mitchell
- Shaun Russell



THE AVS SERVICE

The Aboriginal Visitor Scheme (AVS) was established to provide care, comfort and support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees in police custody. This initiative was a response to the recommendations of the 1988 Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody. AVS seeks to reduce the distress caused by the detention of Aboriginal people, both at an individual and wider community level. Particularly, we aim to minimize the number of indigenous Australians who self-harm or die in police custody by supporting SAPOL in exercising their duty of care.

THE VISITOR ROLE

AVS workers draw to SAPOL's attention any medical, welfare or service needs of the detainee. They also refer detained people to local community services for ongoing support. AVS acts as a check and balance to ensure the wellbeing of Aboriginal people; if a Visitor has concerns that a detainee's needs are not being met, these can be escalated and addressed. AVS operates across South Australia, in metropolitan, regional and remote areas. The service is provided outside of business hours, from 5pm to 9am on weekdays and 24 hours on weekends and public holidays.

SERVICE DELIVERY

AVS conducted 267 visits in the last year. **This is an increase of 520% in visits against the previous 12-month period.** AVS improved its visit numbers by 26% against the previous six-month period. Once recruiting initiatives are fully implemented, we expect the number of visits to increase further. In 2024, AVS intends to expand significantly into regional custodial stations.

CASE STUDY

An AVS Visitor supported a young Aboriginal woman over the course of a weekend. She was hysterical and CNS reported SAPOL had been unable to calm her down. The AVS Visitor noted she was not responding to stimuli and organized a medical review. They made a referral to Homelessness Connect and organized a case manager for her. The worker located a vacancy for her at a St John's Crisis Response shelter. There was only a one-hour vacancy window for a referral, so the AVS worker liaised with the young woman's private solicitor and confirmed the intake. This woman had been sleeping rough in Adelaide for some time and this was the first intervention she had been able to access.



AVS Visitor Shaun Russell and Aunty Nelly Egan at the Nunga Tag Carnival



Total Visits through the Aboriginal Visitor Scheme

267

bringing the warmth of connection and support to those who need it most.



Total Regional Area Visits

39

spreading our care and community involvement even further

ABORIGINAL FIELD OFFICERS

Aboriginal Field Officers

Field Officers provide a valuable, culturally relevant role supporting our clients in their interactions within the criminal justice system.

As the first point of contact for clients and other agencies, Field Officers are the vital link between clients, Solicitors, Police, Department of Correctional Services, and other community organisations. This is a unique service not provided by other organisations, or other legal representatives.

Our Field Officers will:

- Explain clients' rights,
- Provide support during Police interviews, Bail Reviews, Forensic Procedures, and Court appearances,
- Offer advice on Police and Court processes,
- Attend residential addresses, and correctional facilities to obtain instructions for Solicitors,
- Respond to field calls from Solicitors, other ALRM staff, and clients,
- Be the contact point between clients and Police, and community organisations,
- Prioritise juvenile clients, prisoners, and other vulnerable community members.

We have continued to provide these services to clients, working alongside other staff to achieve successful outcomes for all involved.

Field Officers are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, including all public holidays, providing support to clients alongside our Custody Notification Service (CNS).

Adelaide-based Field Officers cover Police stations in the Adelaide metropolitan area.

Our regional Field Officers cover Police stations in their corresponding regions surrounding Port Augusta, and Ceduna.

Our Field Officers provide presentations outlining ALRM history and services to Police Cadets at the SAPOL Academy, and similar presentations alongside the CNS Manager to Police Security Officers.

Positive feedback has been received on our presentations, and we continue to update and improve the presentations as new legislation and processes are adopted.

The Senior Field Officer manages the Field Office, providing supervision and back up support to all Field Officers across the State.

Our Field Officers attend the following courts, supporting clients and our Solicitors as needed:

- Adelaide Magistrates Court
- Adelaide Youth Court
- District Court
- Port Adelaide Magistrates Court
- Elizabeth Magistrates Court
- Port Augusta Magistrates Court
- Whyalla Magistrates Court
- Ceduna Magistrates Court

We have a dedicated Field Officer permanently stationed at Elizabeth Magistrates Court, providing support directly to our Solicitors and clients, including attending field calls in the surrounding area.

Our regional Field Officers also provide support on the Coober Pedy Court Circuit, and the APY Lands Court Circuit, travelling alongside our Solicitors.

ALRM Field Officers also attend the various Aboriginal Courts:

- Nunga Court in Port Adelaide Magistrates Court
- Nunga Court in Murray Bridge Magistrates Court
- Aboriginal Community Court in Elizabeth (ACCE)
- Aboriginal Community Court in Adelaide (ACCA)

There are currently 9 Field Officers across South Australia. There are 5 in the Adelaide Office, 2 in Port Augusta Office, and 2 in Ceduna Office.

Our current Field Office includes:

Senior Field Officer

Robert Gillespie

Field Officers

Jordan Agius

Adam Francis

Zoe Saunders

Melissa Tralau

Owena Brady

Darcy Coulthard

Kirsty Sansbury

Charles

We have continued to successfully deliver services to clients and provide support to other ALRM staff and look forward to the challenges in 2024 and beyond.

POLICY AND ADVOCACY

The Policy and Advocacy Section, established in late 2021, works to address systemic issues disproportionately impacting Aboriginal people in South Australia. The section works across and with all areas of ALRM to advocate for policy and law reform on a State and Federal level and provides escalated individual advocacy where needed. The section is also responsible for responding to requests for comment or consultation from the government on proposed law or policy reform. The section's work is primarily aimed at influencing change at the State and Federal Government level, but also advocates for changes within the non-government sector to increase cultural safety and improve outcomes for our clients and the broader Aboriginal community. The section has also participated in a number of inquiries conducted by various Statutory Office Holders and Parliamentary Committees.

This year the Policy and Advocacy Section has provided a number of written submissions to Government on proposed areas of law reform, including detailed commentary and technical feedback on the Nunga Court Amendment Bill, the First Nations Voice Bill 2022, the Police (Police Security Officers) Amendment Regulations 2022, the Evidence (Aboriginal Traditional Laws and Customs) Amendment Bill 2023, 'Claim Farming' of child sexual abuse and other personal injury claims, the Draft South Australian Statewide Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Strategy and the Statutes Amendment (Attorney-General's Portfolio) (No 4) Bill 2023 which among other things attempted to decrease the reporting requirements and transparency of certain police operations. The section has seen a number of our proposed changes to these draft bills and areas of law reform taken up by the government.

The section has continued its involvement in several Closing the Gap processes including participation in the Justice Policy Partnership Strategic Workshops (an unfunded role), and negotiations with the South Australian Government on the SA Partnership Schedule Agreements on Justice and Safety and Child Protection.

The section joined a pilot program exploring system and support barriers for women on remand, including safe and supported exits into community. The section will continue its involvement in the pilot noting the challenges for Aboriginal women are particularly acute, and they are severely over-represented. We continue to prioritise working to ensure suitable bail accommodation is available for women to reduce their interaction with the criminal justice system, as well as working with the pilot group and other service providers to understand the gaps in supports available and needed for women exiting the prison system.

Significant issues relating to youth justice remain a priority. These encompass the conditions of detention at Kurlana Tapa, the lack of bail accommodation for Aboriginal youth resulting in continued detention, the practices of police and the media in regards to Aboriginal children and the ongoing need to raise the age of criminal responsibility.

In conjunction with the Criminal Practice, the Policy and Advocacy Section was interviewed by the Guardian Australia to provide our views on the Kurlana Tapa Youth Training Centre, following reports by Shona Reid, Youth Training Centre Visitor, about the unacceptable treatment of young people held in custody. Amanda Lambden and Erin Maher were quoted in a subsequent media article. The section remains extremely concerned about the conditions of young people held in the Kurlana Tapa Youth Training Centre. We have sought to work with DHS and our Criminal Section to remedy a number of significant issues that cause harm to young people and will continue to pursue these efforts.

We remain concerned about the interactions of police with Aboriginal young people that often escalate rather than seek to de-escalate situations of concern, and the over-charging or Aboriginal children in relation to non-Aboriginal children. The section made a detailed written submission to the National Children's Commissioner as part of her Inquiry into Youth Justice and Wellbeing where we highlighted the role of police in the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children in detention, and the failures of the Child Protection system as a major driver in the poor outcomes for Aboriginal children and young people. ALRM is continuing its advocacy efforts to address the conditions of detention in the Youth Training Centre and the fundamental need for major reform of the Child Protection system.

The Policy and Advocacy section continues to identify over-policing of Aboriginal people as a key driver in the over representation of Aboriginal people in contact with the justice system. Following media reports that SAPOL has requested the Attorney-General expand the existing Declared Public Precinct, which provides police officers with extraordinary discretionary powers within certain places at certain times ALRM prepared a submission to the Attorney noting our significant concerns with the proposal. The section drew attention to the extraordinary powers given to police within the DPP and the concern that this would result in over policing of Aboriginal people in the CBD. The willingness to provide police with expanded and extraordinary discretionary powers is particularly concerning to the section, especially where the evidence used to make these extraordinary decisions is not publicly released. We have worked to establish a productive relationship with SAPOL to understand the impact of these measures. Officers from Operation Paragon, and the Remote Visitor Outreach service led by the Department of Human Services have visited ALRM to discuss their work and we have established a regular dialogue to advocate for appropriate police responses to Aboriginal people present in the Adelaide CBD. This work has also involved meeting with the Lord Mayor of the Adelaide City Council to further advocate for the need for a more permanent place in the CBD for Aboriginal people to meet and gather and support for additional sobering up units.

The Policy and Advocacy Section provided escalated advocacy to several prisoners experiencing significant health issues after concerns were raised by lawyers, caseworkers and family members. The section's advocacy activities were directed at the South Australia Prisoner Health Service, including Executive level staff and health officers within the prisons, and to DCS' Serious Offenders Committee. We noted our absolute priority to ensure appropriate standards of care in prison to avoid deaths in custody. The section intends to prioritise prisoner health as a key project to reduce the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in the prison system.

This year the section has predominantly operated with only one staff member at a time, supported by the PLO and Criminal and Civil sections. The staffing of the Policy and Advocacy Section over the last financial year was as follows:

July 2022 – March 2023

Khatija Thomas
Erin Maher (parental leave)

March – June 2023
Erin Maher

Low staffing levels of the Policy and Advocacy section have been a real concern and impact ALRM's ability to effectively influence decision makers and undertake major and necessary reform projects. Recruitment for an additional Policy Officer is being undertaken during September-October 2023. The section will continue to advocate for additional funding to ensure it can properly and effectively provide the advocacy services required to address the overrepresentation of Aboriginal people in the criminal justice and child protection systems.

CUSTODY NOTIFICATION SERVICE (CNS)

The CNS Team:

- Custody Services Manager – Eliana Truscott
- Aboriginal Contact Officer – Emma-Lee Beckman-Collins
- Aboriginal Contact Officer – Charlee Saunders
- Aboriginal Contact Officer – Simone Vuata
- CNS Solicitor – Nour Andrinopoulos
- CNS Solicitor – Karen Lark
- CNS Solicitor – Cameron Smith
- CNS Solicitor – Rachel Strickland



THE CNS SERVICE

CNS provides a culturally appropriate welfare check and legal advice, information and advocacy to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in police custody. The service operates 24/7, including public holidays. This ensures Aboriginal people always have access to a lawyer, and cultural support from Aboriginal Contact Officers with mental health first aid training.

CHANGES TO THE CNS REGULATIONS

With the support of the SA Attorney-General, ALRM successfully advocated for changes to the *Summary Offences (Custody Notification Service) Variation Regulations 2020*. The changes will commence on the 7th of November 2023 and expand the requirement for SAPOL to contact ALRM whenever an Aboriginal person is taken into custody.

COMMUNICATION WITH SAPOL

CNS works closely with the Custody Management Team in SAPOL towards the common goal of ensuring the welfare of Aboriginal people in police custody. We conduct a monthly Operations Meeting where concerns are raised about delays in notifying ALRM about the detention of individuals, issues with their treatment or operational interactions of note. ALRM also meets with an Assistant Commissioner on a quarterly basis to discuss policy issues.

ONGOING TRAINING

Staff attended a Mental Health First Aid skills development workshop, “Understanding Suicide and Non-Suicidal Self-Injury” and Aboriginal and TSI specific mental health training. All CNS staff attended Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training. CNS Solicitors also had a minimum of ten hours of additional specialist Continuing Professional Development and an Advocacy training day in the custody court. Staff accompanied Field Officers for a tour of the Adelaide City Watch House, to better understand the environment detainees experience.

CNS CASE STUDIES:

CASE STUDY A:

During a CNS notification, the Officer advised that a female client would like to be referred to a drug rehabilitation service. The CNS Aboriginal Contact Officer (ACO) contacted Aboriginal Connection Program and inquired about a referral. The ACO was sent a referral form that she completed on behalf of the client. Before the client was released, the ACO spoke with her and had her consent to participation in rehab. The ACO then sent the referral back to the Aboriginal Connection Program, who was able to provide that support upon release from custody.

CNS provides intervention services for receptive clients to address criminogenic factors.

CASE STUDY B:

A 14-year-old child detained at Port Adelaide became very distressed when refused police bail. She had an anxiety attack and was unable to speak with the CNS solicitor. The CNS solicitor used our database records from previous dealings to support the child in a phone review before the on-call Magistrate, even though the girl was unable to assist herself. The child was granted bail. CNS and SAPOL worked together to provide medical care for her so she could be in a calm enough state to understand and enter into the bail agreement.

CNS is a mental health and legal support for detainees, especially children.



PORT AUGUSTA OFFICE

Since January 2022 Port Augusta Office has had Two Lawyers Ross Colthorpe Senior Lawyer and David Dang Junior Lawyer.



Ross Colthorpe

David Dang

Port Augusta ALRM has undergone a comprehensive transformation in the past 12 months, not just by staff turn-over but also with a restructuring and down-sizing of staff numbers and responsibilities.

The office was previously staffed by 4 solicitors and a law clerk but re-structuring in March 2023 has reduced this to two solicitors only. Ross Colthorpe, formerly firm principal of 19 years in Christies Beach commenced employment as senior solicitor in January 2023 and David Dang commencing in April 2023 in his first role as solicitor after his admission earlier in the year.

The courts of Whyalla and Port Pirie are no longer serviced by ALRM. The files for the APY Lands and Coober Pedy, previously maintained by the Port Augusta office are now the responsibility of the Adelaide office, with Port Augusta staff frequently supporting those courts. Some disruptions to the APY Lands circuits occurred in the past 12 months with Men's business, COVID outbreaks, Tuberculosis infections and road closures due to unseasonal flooding. There will be 5 APY Lands circuits in 2023 and 7 Coober Pedy sittings.

PRISON RATES

On a selected day in September 2023 revealed the Port Augusta Prison held 499 prisoners, 205 (41.08%) of those were Aboriginal. Of those Aboriginal detainees, 124 were on remand, 75 were serving a sentence and 6 had dual status of serving sentence and pending court matters. This essentially means that a quarter of the prison population were aboriginal men remanded in custody yet to have been found guilty/sentenced. Guilty pleas on the next or subsequent hearings are often the quickest escape route from goal.

The gross overrepresentation of aboriginal people in custody is a long-standing and complex issue but this author suggests the over-use of Intervention orders by police and the presumptions against bail (S10A Bail Act) largely contribute to this figure. Port Augusta has a population of about 13,515 (2021 census) with 20.8% either Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Whyalla by comparison has a 4.7% ATSI population.

YOUTHS

Specific targeting by police against Aboriginals particularly youths is a daily reality. Youths from 10 years of age are frequently arrested for minor/summary offences. Offences such as petty shop lifting, trespassing or behavioral offences usually dealt with by way of caution or report result in arrests for Aboriginals. Stringent bail (e.g., early curfew) conditions are applied with sometimes 6 – 8 weeks before the matters are brought before the court. Trivial breaches of bail (riding a pushbike in the same street as residence – but not *at home*) are treated with further arrests, refusal of bail, opposition to court bail and often periods of detention on remand.

Trauma is inflicted on young teenagers or pre-teen youths from incarceration and disrespect for the police and law generally is created.

Young children are being removed from their homes and bailed to alternate accommodation. A recent incident occurred where a 12-year-old girl was arrested for fighting and O/C spray was deployed against her by the officers. A 7pm – 7am curfew imposed, with the first hearing before the court due 8 weeks later. Guardians of the youth, usually parents or grandparents, are required to act as guarantors and are reported/arrested when a non-compliance by the youth is detected.

Youths are reporting that the record of interviews commences with a warning that failing to answer questions will reduce their chances of bail.

FINANCIAL COUNSELLING



Ralph Coulthard Administrator
Financial Counsellor

Financial Counselling is delivered Statewide including the Metropolitan area and travels with the Court Circuits to provide Financial Counselling services to the communities in the APY Lands. ALRM Financial Counselling service is in partnership with the Wyatt Foundation, and we receive two funding streams Wyatt (1) being the Wyatt Small grant funding & (2) the Community Capacity Grants funding, this year we have also been in Partnership with the AEC, Australian Electoral Commission.

For the past three years ALRM has only had (1) one financial counsellor and in previous years ALRM was staffed by (2) two Financial Counsellors and (2) trainees and until recently (1) Financial Capability worker. Since COVID19 the number of community members seeking assistance has increased dramatically for a range of issues statewide including the metropolitan area. This increase has caused a huge workload for the financial counsellor.

Ralph Coulthard
Administrator
ALRM Port Augusta
September 2023

ALRM PORT AUGUSTA STAFF AND OUTREACH PICTURES



Bridgette Pondi Receptionists



Darcy Coulthard Field Officer



Owena Brady Field Officer



Kenni-Anne Iles



Shakira Allen Legal Secretary

FIELD TRIP COURT CIRCUIT PICTURES

Court Circuit Team prior to leaving Pt Augusta September 2023

Road to Pipalyatjara



Travel break comfort stop



My workplace on Circuit



Tessa reducing tire pressure

Desert Oaks, Plants & vegetation



Yellow flame Grevillea

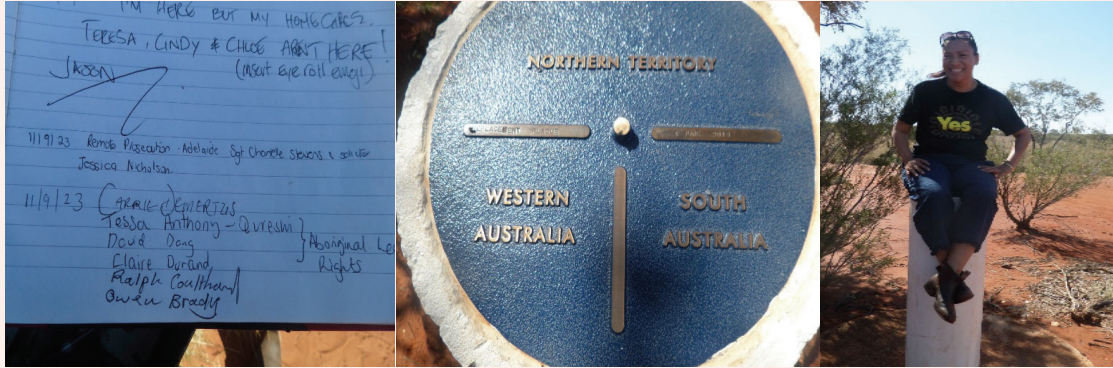
Footprints in the sand

Parakeelya desert plant

Parakeelya (*Calandrinia balonensis*) is a fleshy herb with succulent leaves. Parakeelya is the native name given by the Aboriginal people. This plant occurs throughout Central Australia: it is prolific in the arid regions west of the Great Divide spreading out across central Australia into Western Australia. It is highly dependent on winter rain and will not germinate without the rain. A stunning edible flower. It grows in the desert and both the flowers and seed heads are used by the Pitjantjatjara people.

The whole plant is eaten, flowers, leaves and roots. The most common method is to steam the whole plant. In times of emergency, when there is little or no alternative source of water, the succulent leaves are eaten raw because of their high-water content. The seeds are sometimes eaten, but they ripen unevenly, and it requires a lot of hard work to gather enough seeds.

Visitor book Surveyor Generals Corner (WA, NT, SA Borders) Tessa Qureshi sitting on three states Saying "YES"



David Dang

Staff at Pipalyatjara

Rockhole APY Lands



Waterhole APY Lands

Mintabie Opal field

Ralph Pink Roadhouse Oodnadatta



CEDUNA OFFICE



Ceduna NAIDOC 2023 – Kirsty Sansbury, Charles, Billy Haseldine, Vivian Sansbury

The Ceduna Team

- Office Administrator Gavin (Billy) Haseldine
- Aboriginal Field Officer (AFO) Kirsty Sansbury
- Aboriginal Field Officer (AFO) Charles
- Reception/Admin Support Officer Vivian Sansbury

CEDUNA SERVICE DELIVERY

Over the past 12 months Shelly Haseldine resigned from her Field Officer position we advertised the position and the successful applicant was Charles. Our Reception/Admin Support worker Rachel Grocke also resigned from her position due to pregnancy, Vivian Sansbury was the successful applicant for this position, Vivian has previously been working with us filling the Field Officer role while Shelly was on maternity leave.

Nesrin El-Gadba has been the visiting solicitor for approximately 3 years and has built a great relationship with our clients and a good knowledge of the community and the issues faced by our indigenous clients.

Criminal service delivery – Nesrin El-Gadba has been the solicitor responsible for attending the Ceduna Magistrates court sittings, Clare Smyth was the second lawyer attending to assist but since Justin Slater started this arrangement has now changed, Ceduna Magistrates court sits one week of every month Yalata Magistrates court sits every second month.

Due to the unreliability of REX airlines flights in our area the solicitors have been flying to Pt Lincoln and then driving to Ceduna and then back to Pt Lincoln at the end of the week.

There are some occasions where only one solicitor can attend to do the Magistrates court circuit on their own, we note this is a lot of work for one person.

Justin Slater started with ALRM in early August 2023 he has been employed as the Pt Lincoln & Ceduna solicitor. Justin is based in Pt Lincoln and will represent ALRM clients from that location, he also represents any Ceduna and the surrounding community's clients.

Justin drives to Ceduna each month for the Magistrates court sitting and then drives back to Pt Lincoln at the end of the week. This is a relatively new arrangement as we are still working on organising how things will be done and dealing with any issues that may arise.

Civil service delivery – we have regular contact with the Adelaide office civil section for a variety matters, our Field Officers do their best to assist our clients who are seeking advice by organising phone linkups to their relevant lawyers for any civil matters and scanning and emailing documents. We also assist clients to contact private lawyers if they need and help them to lodge Legal Aid application forms, so these people don't fall through the gaps.

We are hopeful that a civil lawyer will be able to attend Ceduna in person once the civil section is adequately staffed again.

Financial Counselling – if we have any clients needing assistance with financial matters, we refer them to the financial councillor Ralph Coulthard at the Pt Augusta ALRM office.

We often assist clients with setting up fine payment plans, we also refer few clients to the Ceduna Centre-care office as they have a financial councillor based in their office that can also assist with financial and debt matters.



PORT LINCOLN OFFICE

Staff – Solicitor Justin Slater

Pt Lincoln Service Delivery

Before Justin started the Pt Lincoln Magistrates court circuit was done by lawyers from the Adelaide ALRM office who would fly to Pt Lincoln for the week of the Magistrates court sitting, all the administration of files was done from the Adelaide office.

Now that ALRM have a solicitor based in Pt Lincoln permanently I expect an increase of work in criminal and civil matters.

Report written by
Gavin (Billy) Haseldine
Administrator
ALRM - Ceduna
27/9/23

CORPORATE SERVICES

TEAM FUNCTIONS

Reception	Executive Support
Fleet and Property Management	WHS
HR	Payroll
Finance	IT and DATA Management

CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGER REPORT

ALRM has been grappling with four successive years of more than 50% employee turnover. This has a huge impact on Corporate Services ability to provide the appropriate supports to our teams to aid them in achieving our strategic objectives. Our CEO and PLO have been instrumental in driving change in this area through advocating for ALRM to receive further funding. This is reflected in our financial statements as follows:

Our income grew 28% from \$8.9 million in 2022 to approximately \$11.4 million in 2023.

Expenditure increased by 20% from \$8.8 million in 2022 to approximately \$10.6 million in 2023.

The difference between these resulted in a surplus of \$766,466 for 2023 which will support future board-led initiatives for ALRM.

Our team has been involved with much of the data interpretation and forecasting required to support various applications for further funding mentioned in our CEO's report.

In addition to supporting the objective of growing our funding, our team has throughout 2022-2023 been focused on accumulating and documenting lost knowledge resulting from successive years of high employee turnover. We have also improved our board reporting and various templates used for forecasting, budgeting, and proposal write-ups.

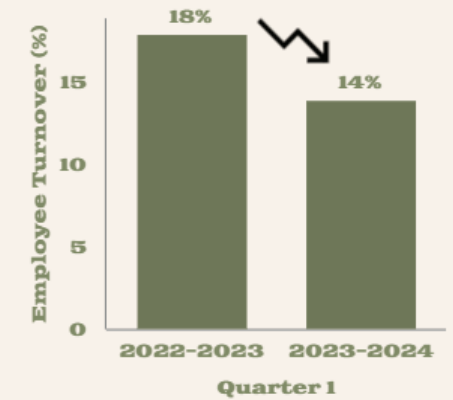
During December 2022, we were able to separate our HR and payroll functions which allowed us to direct attention towards retention strategies.

The extra funds we received at the end of June 2023 enabled ALRM to bring wage parity with legal services commission from June 2023.

It is pleasing to see that our efforts are starting to pay off. This is reflected in a comparison of 22-23 Q1 and 23-24 Q1 which shows a 4% reduction in employee turnover.

↓ 4%

“When we compare the 1st quarter of the financial year 2022-2023 to the same period in 2023-2024, we've successfully reduced our employee turnover rate by 4%. It's dropped from 18% to a fantastic 14%. We are making steady progress toward creating an even more stable and vibrant work environment.”

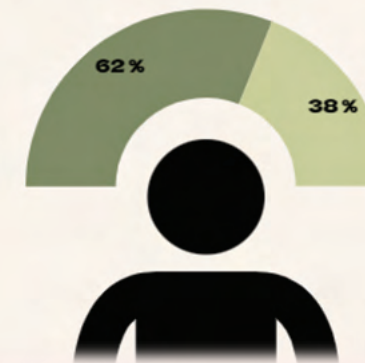


Our workforce



93

We have a total of 93 employees, including AVS Visitors, comprising 65 active female employees and 28 active male employees.



38% of our employees are of Aboriginal background, while remaining 62% are non-Aboriginal

New Work Health Safety regulations concerning psychosocial safety will be enforced in South Australia in December 2023 and training has already been booked to enable the ALRM board and executives to be on the front foot when this is implemented.



From Left to right, Back: Julie Batt, Liana Walker, Laura Gollan, Caron Brown, Sherrie Angwin
 From Left to right, Front: Edith Halls, Aili Deng, Madhu Thonthiraju, Amy Brooks, Remo Mastrogiuseppe
 Absent: Lorraine Wilson-Tralau, Mariam Hii and Amanda Boyle.

I am proud of the Corporate Services Team and am looking forward to what we can achieve together over the next 12 months.

Amy Brooks, Corporate Services Manager

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

This year has been one of much change, progress, and achievement!!

In October we welcomed Madhu Thonthiraju to the team as our new Data & IT Officer. Madhu arrived with a wealth of knowledge in Data Analytics, database management, and Business Information processing and reporting. Since commencing her role, Madhu has strengthened our ability to provide timely and accurate service delivery reports to our funding bodies – the importance of this cannot be overstated and has allowed ALRM to make very important and accurate decisions with regards to service delivery and resourcing appropriate staff to meet the increase in service demands.

November saw a long-awaited refresh to our internal IT infrastructure. The following items were replaced with new, more modern hardware:

- Consolidation of our Server infrastructure to a single high-powered and high-capacity HP server, resulting in a streamlined computing architecture to serve the needs of the organization for years to come.
- A high-capacity UPS battery to provide Power redundancy to the IT Infrastructure during times of power loss.
- An advanced Disaster Recovery solution that allows the organization to recover from a catastrophic failure or other loss of data, by restoring any or all data from a highly available cloud service as required.

During the year, we continued to improve both the CMS (Client Management System) and the CNS (Custody Notification System) applications in conjunction with our application partner, and these improvements have improved the workflow of our Legal Services teams.

Cybersecurity continues to be a priority for the organization, and this year we rolled out Multifactor Authentication (MFA) across the organization, thereby adding an extra layer of security to everyone’s computing credentials. This simple strategy makes it very difficult for malicious individuals to “hack” or break into our IT environment.

The next 12 months promise more development in the IT section with the increased focus on strengthening our Cybersecurity to better protect the organization and added development of our CMS and CNS applications. This work will contribute to ALRM’s digital transformation journey.

Remo Mastrogiuseppe, IT Manager



FINANCE

Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement

ABN: 32 942 723 464

Directors' Report and Financial Report

For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement

ABN: 32 942 723 464

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Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement

ABN: 32 942 723 464

Directors' Report For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

The directors present their report, together with the financial statements of the Company, being Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement, for the financial year ended 30 June 2023.

Information on board directors

The names of board directors throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Names

Glen Wingfield (Chairperson)
Karina Lester
Anita Taylor
Rosney Snell
David Rathman
Michael Turner
Yan Robson (appointed September 2023)
John Chester (appointed September 2023)
Brenda Carter (Deputy Chair) (resigned April 2023)
Frank Lampard (resigned November 2022)

Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

Principal activities

The principal activities of the Company during the financial year was to provide legal services to the Aboriginal Community in South Australia.

No significant changes in the nature of the Company's activity occurred during the financial year.

There were no significant changes in the nature of company's principal activities during the financial year.

Benefits as a result of contracts

During the financial year, there were no benefits received or entitled to be received as a result of a contract between an officer, firm or body corporate and the Company.

Payments and other benefits

No payments or benefits of a pecuniary value were received by any officers of the Company during the financial year.

Operating results

The profit of the Company amounted to \$767,916 (2022: \$66,501).

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.

Director: 
Glen Wingfield (Chairperson)

Director: 
Rosney Snell

Dated this 31st day of October

2023

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AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION TO THE DIRECTORS OF ABORIGINAL LEGAL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

In accordance with the requirements of subdivision 60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the audit of Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement for the year ended 30 June 2023 there have been no contraventions of the independence requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's *APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* in relation to the audit.



MOORE AUSTRALIA AUDIT (SA/NT) PTY LTD



STEPHEN CAMILLERI
Director

Adelaide, South Australia
Dated: 31 October 2023

Moore Australia Audit (SA/NT) Pty Ltd – ABN 34 144 550 461. Authorised Audit Company Registered Number 374246.
An independent member of Moore Global Network Limited - members in principal cities throughout the world.
Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement

ABN: 32 942 723 464

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
Income			
Revenue	3	9,876,884	8,247,497
Other income	3	1,546,109	655,478
Total income		11,422,993	8,902,975
Expenses			
Employee benefits expense		(7,309,443)	(6,289,339)
Depreciation, amortisation and impairment		(235,049)	(208,635)
Occupancy costs		(152,801)	(38,326)
Motor vehicle and travel costs		(323,130)	(253,932)
Other expenses		(2,627,958)	(2,040,354)
Interest expense on leases		(6,696)	(5,888)
Total expenses	4	(10,655,077)	(8,836,474)
Profit for the year		767,916	66,501
Other comprehensive income		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		767,916	66,501

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

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Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement

ABN: 32 942 723 464

Statement of Financial Position As at 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	5,583,238	2,873,662
Trade and other receivables	6	-	155,370
Other assets	7	241,441	218,011
Total current assets		5,824,679	3,247,043
Non current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	8	4,730,536	4,680,985
Right of use assets	9	118,825	175,220
Total non current assets		4,849,361	4,856,205
Total assets		10,674,040	8,103,248
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	10	634,137	593,346
Employee benefits	11	675,798	555,850
Lease liabilities	12	56,370	120,165
Contract liabilities	13	2,367,103	682,163
Total current liabilities		3,733,408	1,951,524
Non current liabilities			
Employee benefits	11	69,213	58,463
Lease liabilities	12	68,340	58,098
Total non current liabilities		137,553	116,561
Total liabilities		3,870,961	2,068,085
Net assets		6,803,079	6,035,163
Equity			
Reserves	14	3,521,850	3,481,793
Retained earnings		3,281,229	2,553,370
Total equity		6,803,079	6,035,163

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

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Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement

ABN: 32 942 723 464

Statement of Changes in Equity For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	Retained Earnings \$	Asset Revaluation Reserve \$	Special Reserve \$	Human Capital and Infrastructure Fund \$	Total \$
Balance at 30 June 2021	2,515,621	2,635,535	550,894	266,612	5,968,662
Profit for the year	66,501	-	-	-	66,501
Transfer to / from reserve and funds	(28,752)	-	583	28,169	-
Balance at 30 June 2022	2,553,370	2,635,535	551,477	294,781	6,035,163
Profit for the year	767,916	-	-	-	767,916
Transfer to / from reserve and funds	(40,057)	-	37,529	2,528	-
Balance at 30 June 2023	3,281,229	2,635,535	589,006	297,309	6,803,079

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

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Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement

ABN: 32 942 723 464

Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Operating grants received		12,546,291	7,770,016
Other receipts		1,503,434	653,844
Payments to suppliers and employees		(11,094,370)	(9,115,381)
Interest received		42,675	1,634
Interest paid		(6,696)	(5,888)
Net cash provided by / (used in) operating activities		2,991,334	(695,775)
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(223,343)	(319,198)
Net cash (used in) investing activities		(223,343)	(319,198)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Payment of lease liabilities		(58,415)	(100,605)
Net cash (used in) financing activities		(58,415)	(100,605)
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held		2,709,576	(1,115,578)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		2,873,662	3,989,240
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	5	5,583,238	2,873,662

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

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Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement

ABN: 32 942 723 464

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

The financial report covers Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement ('the Company'). Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement is a not-for-profit Company, incorporated and domiciled in Australia.

The principal activities of the Company for the year ended 30 June 2023 were to provide legal services to the Aboriginal community in South Australia.

1 Summary of significant accounting policies

Basis of preparation

These financial statements are general purpose financial statements which have been prepared in accordance with AASB 1060: *General Purpose Financial Statements - Simplified Disclosures* issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission Act 2012*.

The financial statements, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs, unless otherwise stated in the notes. The amounts presented in the financial statements are in Australian Dollars and have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

(a) Revenue and other income

The Company recognises revenue as follows:

Revenue from contracts with customers

Revenue is recognised at an amount that reflects the consideration to which the Company is expected to be entitled in exchange for transferring goods or services to a customer. For each contract with a customer, the Company: identifies the contract with a customer; identifies the performance obligations in the contract; determines the transaction price which takes into account estimates of variable consideration and the time value of money; allocates the transaction price to the separate performance obligations; and recognises revenue when or as each performance obligation is satisfied in a manner that depicts the transfer to the customer of the goods or services promised.

Grant revenue

Grant revenue is recognised in profit or loss when the Company satisfies the performance obligations stated within the funding agreements. If conditions are attached to the grant which must be satisfied before the Company is eligible to retain the contribution, the grant will be recognised in the statement of financial position as a contract liability until those conditions are satisfied.

Interest revenue

Interest revenue is recognised as interest accrues using the effective interest method. This is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset and allocating the interest income over the relevant period using the effective interest rate, which is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset to the net carrying amount of the financial asset.

Other revenue

Other revenue is recognised when it is received or a right to receive payment is established.

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Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement

ABN: 32 942 723 464

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

1 Summary of significant accounting policies (cont)

(b) Income tax

The Company is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

(c) Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payable are stated inclusive of GST. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables.

Cash flows in the statement of cash flows are included on a gross basis and the GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities is classified as operating cash flows.

(d) Current and non current classification

Assets and liabilities are presented in the statement of financial position based on current and non-current classification.

An asset is classified as current when: it is either expected to be realised or intended to be sold or consumed in the Company's normal operating cycle; it is held primarily for the purpose of trading; it is expected to be realised within 12 months after the reporting period; or the asset is cash or cash equivalent unless restricted from being exchanged or used to settle a liability for at least 12 months after the reporting period. All other assets are classified as non-current.

A liability is classified as current when: it is either expected to be settled in the Company's normal operating cycle; it is held primarily for the purpose of trading; it is due to be settled within 12 months after the reporting period; or there is no unconditional right to defer the settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the reporting period. All other liabilities are classified as non-current.

(e) Financial instruments

Initial recognition and measurement

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the Association becomes a party to the contractual provisions of an instrument.

Financial instruments (except for trade receivables) are initially measured at fair value plus transaction costs.

Classification and subsequent measurement

A financial asset that meets the following conditions is subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method:

- the financial asset is managed solely to collect contractual cash flows; and
- the contractual terms within the financial asset give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding on specified dates.

Financial liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

The effective interest method is a method calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset and allocating the interest income over the relevant period using the effective interest rate, which is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial asset to the net carrying amount of the financial asset.

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Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement

ABN: 32 942 723 464

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

1 Summary of significant accounting policies (cont)

(e) Financial instruments (cont)

Derecognition

Derecognition refers to the removal of a previously recognised financial asset or financial liability from the statement of financial position.

A financial asset is derecognised when the holder's contractual rights to its cash flows expires, or the asset is transferred in such a way that all the risks and rewards of ownership are substantially transferred.

All the following criteria need to be satisfied for the derecognition of a financial asset:

- the right to receive cash flows from the asset has expired or been transferred;
- all risk and rewards of ownership of the asset have been substantially transferred; and
- the Association no longer controls the asset (ie has no practical ability to make unilateral decision to sell the asset to a third party).

On derecognition of a financial asset measured at amortised cost, the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the sum of the consideration received and receivable is recognised in profit or loss.

A financial liability is derecognised when it is extinguished (ie when the obligation in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires). An exchange of an existing financial liability for a new one with substantially modified terms, or a substantial modification to the terms of a financial liability, is treated as an extinguishment of the existing liability and recognition of a new financial liability.

The difference between the carrying amount of the financial liability derecognised and the consideration paid and payable, including any non-cash assets transferred or liabilities assumed, is recognised in profit or loss.

Impairment

The Association recognises a loss allowance for expected credit losses on financial assets that are measured at amortised cost.

Expected credit losses are the probability-weighted estimate of credit losses over the expected life of a financial instrument. A credit loss is the difference between all contractual cash flows that are due and all cash flows expected to be received, all discounted at the original effective interest rate of the financial instrument.

At each reporting date, the Association recognises the movement in the loss allowance as an impairment gain or loss in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

The carrying amount of financial assets measured at amortised cost includes the loss allowance relating to that asset.

(f) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents, which are a financial asset, comprises cash on hand, demand deposits and short term investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

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Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement

ABN: 32 942 723 464

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

1 Summary of significant accounting policies (cont)

(g) Trade and other receivables

Trade receivables are initially measured in accordance with the revenue policy and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method as described in the financial instruments policy note.

Impairment of trade receivables have been determined using the simplified approach which uses an estimation of lifetime expected credit losses. The Association has determined the probability of non payment of the receivable and multiplied this by the amount of the expected loss arising from default.

The amount of the impairment is recorded in a separate allowance account with the loss being recognised in or loss. Once the receivable is determined to be uncollectable then the gross carrying amount is written off against the associated allowance.

Where the Association renegotiates the terms of trade receivables due from certain customers, the new expected cash flows are discounted at the original effective interest rate and any resulting difference to the carrying value is recognised in profit or loss.

(h) Property, plant and equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment.

Items of property, plant and equipment acquired for nil or nominal consideration have been recorded at the acquisition date fair value.

Assets measured using the revaluation model are carried at fair value at the revaluation date less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. Revaluations are performed whenever there is a material movement in the value of an asset under the revaluation model.

Land and buildings

Land and buildings are measured using the revaluation model.

Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment are measured using the cost model.

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Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement

ABN: 32 942 723 464

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

1 Summary of significant accounting policies (cont)

(h) Property, plant and equipment (cont)

Depreciation

Property, plant and equipment, excluding freehold land, is depreciated on a straight line basis over the assets useful life to the Company, commencing when the asset is ready for use.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable asset are shown below:

Fixed asset class	Depreciation rate
Buildings	3.3% - 7.5%
Plant and equipment	16.67%
Furniture, fixtures and fittings	10.00%
Computer equipment (excluding laptops and desktops)	33.33%
Computer software	20.00%
Motor vehicle	12.50%

At the end of each annual reporting period, the depreciation method, useful life and residual value of each asset is reviewed. Any revisions are accounted for prospectively as a change in estimate.

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when there is no future economic benefit to the Company. Gains and losses between the carrying amount and the disposal proceeds are taken to profit or loss.

(i) Impairment of non-financial assets

At the end of each reporting period, the Company assesses whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired. If such an indication exists, an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value in use, to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognised immediately in profit or loss.

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the Company estimates the recoverable amount of the cash generating unit to which the asset belongs.

Where the future economic benefits of the asset are not primarily dependent upon the asset's ability to generate net cash inflows and when the Company would, if deprived of the asset, replace its remaining future economic benefits, value in use is determined as the depreciated replacement cost of an asset.

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Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement

ABN: 32 942 723 464

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

1 Summary of significant accounting policies (cont)

(j) Leases

At inception of a contract, the Company assesses whether a lease exists i.e. does the contract convey the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

This involves an assessment of whether:

- The contract involves the use of an identified asset which may be explicitly or implicitly identified within the agreement. If the supplier has a substantive substitution right then there is no identified asset.
- The Company has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from the use of the asset throughout the period of use.
- The Company has the right to direct the use of the asset i.e. decision making rights in relation to changing how and for what purpose the asset is used.

At the lease commencement, the Company recognises a right of use asset and associated lease liability for the lease term. The lease term includes extension periods where the Company believes it is reasonably certain that the option will be exercised.

Right of use asset

The right of use asset is measured using the cost model where cost on initial recognition comprises the lease liability, initial direct costs, prepaid lease payments, estimated cost of removal and restoration less any lease incentives received.

The right of use asset is depreciated over the lease term on a straight line basis and assessed for impairment in accordance with the impairment of non-financial assets accounting policy.

Lease liability

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the remaining lease payments at the commencement of the lease. The discount rate is the rate implicit in the lease, however where this cannot be readily determined then the Company's incremental borrowing rate is used.

Subsequent to initial recognition, the lease liability is measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method. The lease liability is remeasured whether there is a lease modification, change in estimate of the lease term or index upon which the lease payments are based (e.g. CPI) or a change in the Company's assessment of lease term.

Where the lease liability is remeasured, the right of use asset is adjusted to reflect the remeasurement or is recorded in profit or loss if the carrying amount of the right of use asset has been reduced to zero.

Exceptions to lease accounting

The Company has elected to apply the exceptions to lease accounting for both short term leases (i.e. leases with a term of less than or equal to 12 months) and leases of low value assets. The Company recognises the payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight line basis over the lease term.

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Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement

ABN: 32 942 723 464

Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

1 Summary of significant accounting policies (cont)

(j) Trade and other payables

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Company prior to the end of the financial year and which are unpaid. As a financial liability, trade payables are initially measured at fair value less transaction costs and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

The effective interest method is a method calculating the amortised cost of a financial liability and allocating the interest expense over the relevant period using the effective interest rate, which is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts through the expected life of the financial liability to the net carrying amount of the financial liability.

Due to their short-term nature trade and other payables are not discounted. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

(k) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Company 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. Provisions recognised represent the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

(l) Employee benefits

Short term employee benefits

Short term employee benefits are benefits that are expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service, including wages, salaries and annual leave. Short term employee benefits are measured at the (undiscounted) amounts expected to be paid when the obligation is settled.

The Company's obligations for wages and salaries are recognised as part of current accounts payable and other payables in the statement of financial position and the annual leave is recognised as a provision in the statement of financial position.

Long term employee benefits

Provision is made for employees' annual leave and long service leave entitlements not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service. Long term employee benefits are measured at the present value of the expected future payments to be made to employees. Expected future payments incorporate anticipated future wage and salary levels, durations of service and employee departures, and are discounted at rates determined by reference to market yields at the end of the reporting period on corporate bonds that have maturity dates that approximate the terms of the obligations. Any remeasurements of obligations for other long term employee benefits for changes in assumptions are recognised in profit or loss in the periods in which the changes occur.

The Company's obligations for long term employee benefits are presented as non current provisions in its statement of financial position, except where the Company does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the reporting period, in which case the obligations are presented as current provisions.

Defined contribution superannuation expense

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

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Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement

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Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

1 Summary of significant accounting policies (cont)

(m) Contract liabilities

The Company recognises contract liabilities for grants which have commenced and are completed after the balance date and for grants commencing after the balance date. Contract liabilities are shown as other liabilities in the statement of financial position and are brought to account as revenue when the performance obligations of the grant has been delivered.

(n) Comparative figures

When required by Accounting Standards, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform to changes in presentation for the current financial year.

(o) New or amended accounting standards and interpretations adopted

The Company has adopted all of the new or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ('AASB') that are mandatory for the current reporting period.

Any new or amended Accounting Standards or Interpretations that are not yet mandatory have not been early adopted.

(p) Economic dependency

The Company is dependent on the ongoing receipt of funding from the Commonwealth and State government to continue delivering its charitable programs. At the date of this report, the Board Members have no reason to believe that the Commonwealth and State government will not continue to support the Company.

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Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement

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Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

Estimates and judgements are made during the preparation of these financial statements regarding assumptions about current and future events affecting transactions and balances. These estimates and judgements are based on the best information available at the time of preparing the financial statements, however as additional information is known then the actual results may differ from the estimates.

The significant estimates and judgements made have been described below.

Key estimates - revenue recognition

For many of the grant agreements, the determination of whether the Company has met sufficiently specific performance obligations was a significant judgment involving consideration of the terms and conditions of the grant agreement to determine whether revenue is recognised or taken up as a contract liability. Revenue is only recognised to the extent that it is highly probable that a significant reversal of the revenue will not occur.

Key estimates - lease term

The lease term is a significant component in the measurement of both the right-of-use asset and lease liability. Judgement is exercised in determining whether there is reasonable certainty that an option to extend the lease or purchase the underlying asset will be exercised, or an option to terminate the lease will not be exercised, when ascertaining the periods to be included in the lease term. In determining the lease term, all facts and circumstances that create an economical incentive to exercise an extension option, or not to exercise a termination option, are considered at the lease commencement date. Factors considered may include the importance of the asset to the Company's operations; comparison of terms and conditions to prevailing market rates; incurrence of significant penalties; existence of significant leasehold improvements; and the costs and disruption to replace the asset. The Company reassesses whether it is reasonably certain to exercise an extension option, or not exercise a termination option, if there is a significant event or significant change in circumstances.

Key estimates - lease incremental borrowing rate

Where the interest rate implicit in a lease cannot be readily determined, an incremental borrowing rate is estimated to discount future lease payments to measure the present value of the lease liability at the lease commencement date. Such a rate is based on what the Company estimates it would have to pay a third party to borrow the funds necessary to obtain an asset of a similar value to the right-of-use asset, with similar terms, security and economic environment.

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Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
3 Revenue		
Grant revenue		
– Federal government	7,752,589	5,866,398
– State government	1,872,241	2,036,756
– Other grants	252,054	344,343
	<u>9,876,884</u>	<u>8,247,497</u>
Other revenue		
– interest	42,675	1,634
– rental	15,934	32,473
– recoveries	1,379,450	588,629
– other revenue	108,050	32,742
	<u>1,546,109</u>	<u>655,478</u>
4 Expenses		
Profit for the year includes the following specific expenses:		
– Salaries and wages	6,543,682	5,661,986
– Superannuation contributions	674,163	534,148
5 Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash at bank	5,583,238	2,873,662
	<u>5,583,238</u>	<u>2,873,662</u>
6 Trade and other receivables		
Current		
Trade receivables	-	18,247
Other receivables	-	137,123
	<u>-</u>	<u>155,370</u>
Trade and other receivables classified as financial assets at amortised cost		
Trade and other receivables	-	155,370
Financial assets	<u>-</u>	<u>155,370</u>
7 Other assets		
Current		
Prepayments	241,441	218,011
	<u>241,441</u>	<u>218,011</u>

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Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement

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Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
8 Property, plant and equipment		
Land and buildings		
At fair value	4,842,501	4,842,501
Accumulated depreciation	(637,915)	(596,018)
	<u>4,204,586</u>	<u>4,246,483</u>
Plant and equipment		
At cost	245,990	227,165
Accumulated depreciation	(228,467)	(227,165)
	<u>17,523</u>	<u>-</u>
Furniture, fixtures and fittings		
At cost	208,535	205,763
Accumulated depreciation	(198,805)	(195,250)
	<u>9,730</u>	<u>10,513</u>
Motor vehicles		
At cost	416,715	295,417
Accumulated depreciation	(102,959)	(55,745)
	<u>313,756</u>	<u>239,672</u>
Computer equipment		
At cost	587,995	551,556
Accumulated depreciation	(485,051)	(470,762)
	<u>102,944</u>	<u>80,794</u>
Computer software		
At cost	65,239	65,239
Accumulated depreciation	(59,495)	(53,227)
	<u>5,744</u>	<u>12,012</u>
Art work		
At cost	16,382	16,382
Accumulated depreciation	-	-
	<u>16,382</u>	<u>16,382</u>
Leasehold improvements		
At cost	90,754	77,188
Accumulated depreciation	(30,883)	(2,059)
	<u>59,871</u>	<u>75,129</u>
Total property, plant and equipment	<u>4,730,536</u>	<u>4,680,985</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

8 Property, plant and equipment (cont)

Movements in carrying amounts

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of Property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year:

	Land and Buildings \$	Plant and Equipment \$	Furniture and Equipment \$	Motor Vehicle \$	Computer Equipment \$	Computer Software \$
Year ended 30 June 2023						
Balance at the beginning of the year	4,246,483	-	10,513	239,672	80,794	12,012
Additions	-	18,825	2,772	121,299	66,881	-
Disposals - written down value	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation expense	(41,897)	(1,302)	(3,555)	(47,215)	(44,731)	(6,268)
Balance at the end of the year	<u>4,204,586</u>	<u>17,523</u>	<u>9,730</u>	<u>313,756</u>	<u>102,944</u>	<u>5,744</u>

	Artwork \$	Leased Improvements \$	Total \$
Year ended 30 June 2023			
Balance at the beginning of the year	16,382	75,129	4,680,985
Additions	-	13,566	223,343
Disposals - written down value	-	-	-
Depreciation expense	-	(28,824)	(173,792)
Balance at the end of the year	<u>16,382</u>	<u>59,871</u>	<u>4,730,536</u>

9 Right of use assets

Buildings		
At cost	168,720	163,858
Accumulated depreciation	(76,969)	(28,622)
	<u>91,751</u>	<u>135,236</u>
Motor vehicles		
At cost	37,332	37,332
Accumulated depreciation	(27,484)	(22,229)
	<u>9,848</u>	<u>15,103</u>
Office equipment		
At cost	38,917	38,917
Accumulated depreciation	(21,691)	(14,036)
	<u>17,226</u>	<u>24,881</u>
Total right of use assets	<u>118,825</u>	<u>175,220</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

9 Right of use assets (cont)

	Buildings \$	Motor Vehicles \$	Office Equipment \$	Total \$
Year ended 30 June 2023				
Balance at the beginning of the year	135,236	15,103	24,881	175,220
Additions	-	-	-	-
Adjustments	4,862	-	-	4,862
Depreciation expense	(48,347)	(5,255)	(7,655)	(61,257)
Balance at the end of the year	91,751	9,848	17,226	118,825

10 Trade and other payables

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Current		
Trade payables	44,286	46,408
GST payable	271,834	122,935
Sundry payables and accrued expenses	318,017	424,003
	634,137	593,346

Trade and other payables classified as financial liabilities at amortised cost

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Trade and other payables	634,137	593,346
Less: GST payable	(271,834)	(122,935)
Financial liabilities	362,303	470,411

11 Employee benefits

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Current		
Annual leave	453,843	358,423
Long service leave	221,955	197,427
	675,798	555,850

Non current Long service leave

	69,213	58,463
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Analysis of total provisions:

	Annual \$	Long Service \$	Total \$
Opening balance at 1 July 2022	358,423	255,890	614,313
Additional provisions raised during the year	498,652	35,278	521,930
Amounts used	(391,232)	-	(391,232)
Balance at the end of the year	453,843	291,168	745,011

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Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

12 Lease liabilities

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Current		
Lease liability	56,370	120,165
Non current		
Lease liability	68,340	58,098
Total lease liabilities	124,710	178,263

i) Lease related amounts recognised in the statement of profit or loss

Interest expense on lease liabilities	6,096	5,888
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ii) Total future lease payment commitments at the end of the reporting period

No later than 1 year	60,607	64,570
Between 1 to 5 years	70,330	128,177
Greater than 5 years	-	-
Total future lease payments	130,937	190,747

The option to extend or terminate are contained in several of the property leases of the Company. There were no extension options for equipment or motor vehicle leases. These clauses provide the Company opportunities to manage leases in order to align with its strategies. All of the extension or termination options are only exercisable by the Company. The extension options or termination options which were reasonably certain to be exercised have been included in the calculation of the right of use asset and the lease liability.

13 Contract liabilities

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Current		
Government grants deferred revenue	2,299,218	608,022
Other grants and service obligations	67,885	74,141
Total contract liabilities	2,367,103	682,163

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Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement

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Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

14 Reserves

Asset revaluation reserve

The asset revaluation reserve records fair value movements on property, plant and equipment held under the revaluation model.

Special reserve

The special reserve records funds set aside for future costs relating to non-grant funded expenditure of company.

Human capital & infrastructure fund

In addition to the existing special reserve, the Company established the human capital & infrastructure fund during the year. The Human capital & infrastructure fund records monies set aside to meet service delivery obligations arising in the normal course of business

15 Members' guarantee

The Company is incorporated under the Corporation Act 2001 and is a company limited by guarantee. If the Company is wound up, the constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$1 each towards meeting any outstandings and obligations of the Company. At 30 June 2023 the number of members was 91.

16 Related parties

The Company's main related parties are as follow:

Key management personnel - refer to Note 17.

Other related parties include close family members of key management personnel and entities that are controlled or significantly influenced by those key management personnel of their close family members.

Transactions with related parties

Transactions between related parties are on normal commercial terms and conditions no more favourable than those available to other parties unless otherwise stated.

17 Key management personnel remuneration

The aggregate compensation made to the Director's and other members of key management personnel of the Company is set out below:

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Aggregate compensation	<u>707,454</u>	<u>571,475</u>

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Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement

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Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2023

18 Remuneration of auditors

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
Audit of the financial statements	18,900	20,461
Compilation of the financial statements	<u>1,500</u>	<u>1,500</u>
	<u>20,400</u>	<u>21,961</u>

19 Contingencies

In the opinion of those charged with governance, the Company did not have any contingencies at 30 June 2023.

20 Events occurring after the reporting date

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or could significantly affect the operations of the Company, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Company in future financial years.

21 Statutory information

The registered office and principal place of business of the Company is:
Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement
321 - 325 King William Street
Adelaide SA 5000

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Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement

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Directors' Declaration

In the Directors' opinion:

- (a) There are reasonable grounds to believe that the Company is able to pay all of its debts as and when they become due and payable.
- (b) the financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Directors.

Director: 
Glen Wingfield (Chairperson)

Director: 
Rosney Snell

Dated this 31st day of October

2023



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ABORIGINAL LEGAL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement ("the Company") which comprises the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2023, the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income, the Statement of Changes in Equity and the Statement of Cash Flows for the year then ended, Notes to the Financial Statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the Directors' Declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement is in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2022*.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's *APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other Information

The Directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the Directors' Report for the year ended 30 June 2023, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ABORIGINAL LEGAL RIGHTS MOVEMENT (CONT)

Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The Directors of Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*. This responsibility includes such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view so that it is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Directors either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our 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 the 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 this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located on the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf. This description forms part of our auditor's report.

MOORE AUSTRALIA AUDIT (SA/NT) PTY LTD

Stephen Camilleri
Director

Adelaide, South Australia
Dated: 31 October 2023

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Acronyms & Abbreviations

ACCA	Aboriginal Community Court Adelaide
ACCE	Aboriginal Community Court Elizabeth
ADAC	Aboriginal Drug & Alcohol Council
AFCS	Aboriginal Financial Counselling Service
AFO	Aboriginal Field Officer
AGD	Attorney Generals Department
AGM	Annual General Meeting
AJO's	Aboriginal Justice Officers
ALRM	Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement
APY	Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY Lands)
ARC	Adelaide Remand Centre
ATSILS	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services
AVS	Aboriginal Visitors Scheme
CARP	Contact Arrangements Review Panel
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CLE	Community Legal Education
CPD	Compulsory Professional Development
CSD	Corporate Services Division
DCS	Department of Correctional Services
EA	Executive Assistant
ILAP	Indigenous Legal Assistance Program
NAIDOC	National Aboriginal Islander Day of Celebration
NATSILS	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services
NIAA	National Indigenous Australians Agency
PADIC	Prevention of Aboriginal Deaths in Custody
PCP	Prisoner Care Program
PLT	Professional Legal Training
SAACCON	South Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Network
SACAT	South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal
SALAF	South Australian Legal Assistance Forum
SAPOL	South Australian Police



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