



SOUTH WEST

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE INC



ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF COUNTRY



SWCLC acknowledges the traditional custodians of the South West of Western Australia, the Wardandi People of the Noongar Nation, and recognises their continuing connection to land, waterways and community.

We pay our respect to Elders past, present and emerging.



Christine Winmar from Midland- Noongar Artwork

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Strategic Plan

Our Vision

Equal access for
justice for all

OUR MISSION

To Empower our
community to achieve
fair legal outcomes

OUR VALUES

Courage, Compassion
and Committment



SOUTH WEST

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE INC

Goals

SERVICE DELIVERY

To achieve the greatest impact and best outcomes for the clients within our community.

Increase and enhance our reputation as a critical service and leader within our local and state communities.

EXPERTISE AND INFLUENCE

PEOPLE AND CULTURE

To build and retain an engaged, skilled and diverse workforce.

To develop a financial business model that ensures sustainability of the organisation.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

GOVERNANCE

To have effective and transparent governance, led by a diverse, skilled and connected board.



SOUTH WEST

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE INC

About Us

South West Community Legal Centre

South West Community Legal Centre Inc. (“SWCLC”) is a not for profit community legal centre which provides legal advice and assistance to disadvantaged and vulnerable clients throughout the South West of Western Australia.

Our service commenced in 1989 with a weekly pro bono legal clinic offered by local private practitioners. Our service has continued to grow and in the financial year of 2023 to 2024, we employed 17 staff across our legal and administrative teams. We deliver most of our services from our Bunbury office.

We also undertake outreach services at a number of locations throughout the South West, and provide duty lawyer services at the Magistrates Court and Family Court of Western Australia Bunbury circuit.

SWCLC is a generalist service, providing advice on many areas of law. However, our primary practice areas are family law; including parenting arrangements and property settlement, and civil law; including restraining orders Tenancy Advocacy Services for tenants and criminal injuries compensation. SWCLC also regularly presents Community Legal Education to the public, community groups and schools, on topics such as family law, and restraining orders.

SWCLC currently receives funding from the Commonwealth and State Governments, and through grants from the Law Society of WA Public Purposes Trust, in addition to one-off grants for smaller projects.

SWCLC undertakes a range of projects, and manages the reporting and acquitting of several funding streams, to achieve individual program objectives and client outcomes.





Meet Our Board



BOARD CHAIR

Rebecca H



DEPUTY CHAIR

Summer B



SECRETARY

Lauren H



BOARD MEMBER

Michelle W



BOARD MEMBER

Renae T



Meet Our Legal Team



PRINCIPAL SOLICITOR

Renée T



ACTING PRINCIPAL
SOLICITOR

Eleanor Y



SOLICITOR

Michelle G



SOLICITOR

Amanda J



TENANCY ADVOCATE

Lee E



SOLICITOR

Amy C



PARALEGAL

Pam W



PARALEGAL

Inge S



VOLUNTEER SOLICITOR

Maria S



Meet Our Admin Team



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Tahleisha M



EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Crystal P



BOOKKEEPER

Janice V



ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

Vivienne W



ADMINISTRATION OFFICER

Cheryl W



Chair's Report

by Rebecca Harnett

I am honoured to present the Chairperson's report, beginning by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land on which we live and work, the Wardandi people. I extend my deepest respects to Elders past and present and acknowledge that sovereignty has never been ceded.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all staff for their unwavering commitment and dedication to the Centre. Amid increased demand for services, especially during the housing and cost-of-living crisis, and in response to the alarming epidemic of violence against women and girls across the nation, the team has shown remarkable resilience and professionalism. Their continued delivery of high-quality services is a true testament to their strength and capabilities.

We have successfully extended our outreach services across the region, including disability advocacy and tenancy support, and have responded effectively to the rising demands placed on our organisation. As a result, we have adapted to the ever-changing environment and the evolving needs of our community.

I would like to acknowledge our CEO, Tahleisha Bennell-Mustica, for her outstanding leadership, particularly in spearheading collaborative efforts to reform the current service model. Her innovative approach has led the organisation to explore more efficient and sustainable methods of service delivery. Tahleisha's guidance has been invaluable in leading the board through this transformative period and working collaboratively with stakeholders, including other Community Legal Centres (CLCs). Special thanks also go to Brodie Lewis from the Great Southern Community Legal Services, whose instrumental support has propelled this work forward.

The board is also pleased to welcome our newest member, Michelle Woosnam, a proud Ballardong Noongar and Banjima woman. Michelle has lived and worked in Bunbury for over 30 years, and her extensive experience and knowledge are a valuable addition to the board.

Looking ahead, we are excited to participate in the upcoming strategic planning workshop in November. The board remains committed to working alongside our exceptional team to provide clear strategic direction and effective governance, ensuring the continued growth of the organisation. We recognise the critical role the Centre plays in delivering equal justice and advocacy for our communities.

Finally, I would like to extend my gratitude to the entire board. We are fortunate to have a team of talented and dedicated individuals who volunteer their time to guide the organisation, ensuring that strategic decisions are made and that we continue to strengthen our governance framework.



Managers' Report by Tahleisha and Crystal

We are pleased to present the annual manager's report for South West Community Legal Centre (SWCLC) for the financial year 2023-2024. This year has been one of growth, adaptation, and impact, highlighting the resilience and dedication of our team and partners. Reflecting on this journey fills us with pride as we continue to champion justice and support vulnerable communities.

Our achievements would not have been possible without our incredible staff, the ongoing support of our board, and invaluable contributions from our funders. Your unwavering commitment has been the foundation of our success. Special thanks go to our legal team—Amanda, Inge, Lee, and Michelle—for going above and beyond for our clients and organisation. We deeply appreciate your collaboration, trust, and hard work as we continue to create positive change.

We are also grateful for our volunteers, both long and short term, with a special thank you to Rosario for his dedication and support of SWCLC's vision.

This year brought farewells and fresh beginnings. We thank Ashley, a trainee who provided administrative support; Rattan, who supported our legal team; and Chloe, whose energy and dedication strengthened both our admin and paralegal teams. We wish them the best in their future endeavours. Furthermore, Amy took maternity leave and will re-join us next year and we also temporarily said goodbye to our principal solicitor, Renée, who is travelling with family and will return next year.

We are thrilled to welcome new staff members. Cheryl's expertise in the not-for-profit sector has strengthened our client support systems, while Pam's years in the legal and social support sectors offers key contributions to the paralegal team, ensuring smooth operations. We also welcomed back Eleanor, whose leadership, legal knowledge, and passion for our clients make her a valuable asset to both management and service delivery. These talented individuals have invigorated our team, and we look forward to their contributions.

SWCLC continues to evolve, responding creatively to the needs of our community. The support of our staff, board, and funders ensures we remain a vital resource for those seeking justice. Together, we are making a meaningful difference, and we look forward to the journey ahead.

Our commitment to improving service delivery remains at the forefront of our goals for the upcoming year. We will continue to seek out innovative ways to meet the evolving needs of our clients and community. With the dedication of our staff and the ongoing support of our stakeholders, we are confident that SWCLC will continue to thrive, providing vital assistance to those who need it most.

Please enjoy our highlights and service delivery statistics, as we anticipate more exciting changes in the next financial year. The future holds new opportunities for SWCLC, and we are eager to build on the solid foundation laid this year.

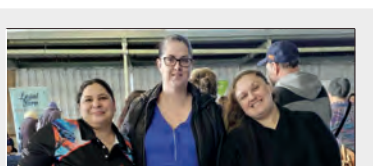


Highlights of the Year

SWAMS Family Fun Day

The SWAMS Family Fun Day was a joyful and memorable event that brought the community together for a day of laughter and bonding. Hosted by the South West Aboriginal Medical Service (SWAMS), it was a celebration of family, culture, and well-being. The Fun Day was a testament to the strength of community and the importance of coming together to celebrate shared values and experiences. At the Fun Day, SWCLC were able to participate by having a stall to provide legal information and support to the community, handing out water and fruit while having empowering conversations.

Our team that attended: Tahleisha, Amanda, Ashley, Chloe and Vivienne



7 July 2023



SWAMS Family Fun Day

White Ribbon March

White Ribbon Day in Bunbury is an important event held annually in November, dedicated to raising awareness about Family and Domestic Violence and promoting education on this critical issue. The event collaborates with local organisations such as Harbour Refuge, Bunbury Police, and Waratah Support Services to engage the community and specifically encourage men and boys to take a stand against violence towards women.

The day typically features a silent march through Bunbury's CBD, drawing community members and service providers together in solidarity. It also includes guest speakers and information stalls, such as one hosted by the SWCLC, which offers vital information and support to attendees. This gathering not only highlights the issue of domestic violence but also fosters a sense of community commitment to ending it.

Our team that attended: Tahleisha, Eleanor, Ashley, Crystal and Vivienne



24 November 2023



Highlights of the Year

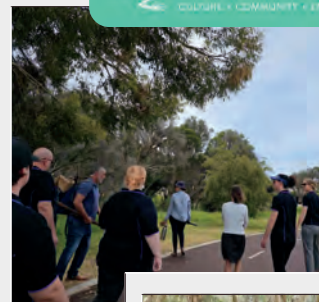
Cultural Awareness Training

On 4 December 2023, the South West Community Legal Centre attended Cultural Awareness Training, offering an insightful and engaging experience. Uncle Bill Bennell and staff from Kooyar Wongi spent the day with SWCLC staff at the office and nearby Big Swamp Park. The focus of the day was on connecting with Nyungar cultural values and learning how to incorporate these into everyday professional practices.

Attendees explored ways to bridge cultural understanding, integrating Nyungar history, perspectives, and traditions into organisational practices and client interaction. The training deepened participants' awareness of the cultural significance of the Nyungar heritage, fostering a stronger connection with the community.

Everyone left with valuable insights and a renewed commitment to culturally responsive work.

Our Team that attended: Tahleisha, Renee, Eleanor, Lee, Michelle, Vivienne, Rattan, Crystal



4 December 2023

Ladies Morning Catch up

On Tuesday, 19 March 2024, a ladies' morning catch-up was hosted by Lauren from Southern Aboriginal Corporation.

It was a fantastic opportunity to network with various community services over great coffee. Attendees shared information, assessed current projects, and explored ways to strengthen referral pathways, all with the goal of enhancing collaboration and providing better support to those most in need of these services.

Our team that attended: Eleanor and Crystal



19 March 2024



Highlights of the Year

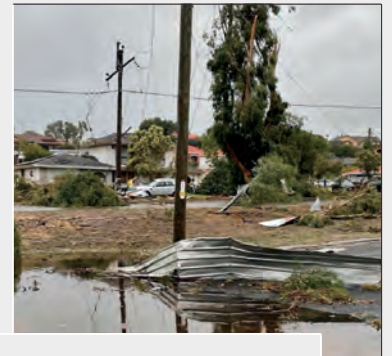
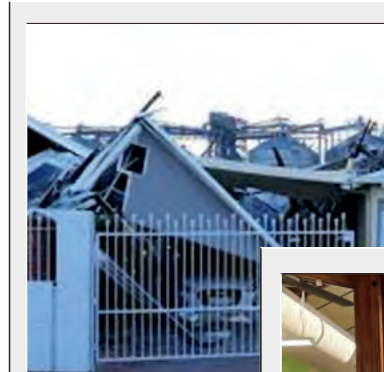
Tornado Hub

The Recovery Hub was set up for those whose lives and property were affected by Bunbury's tornado in May of 2024. The SWCLC team provided aid to the community in its recovery efforts and assistance to those who needed it.

We partnered with Legal Aid South West Office, Consumer Protection and the City of Bunbury.

The Recovery Hub was held at different locations throughout the recovery period.

Our team that attended: Tahleisha, Eleanor, Amanda, Lee, Pam, Cheryl



10 May 2024



31 May 2024

Reconciliation Walk

A tremendous turn out for the reconciliation walk in 31 May 2024. The community walked in solidarity for the reconciliation movement from the Wardandi Boodja statue at Koombana Bay Foreshore to the Graham Bricknell Music Shell. SWCLC closed the office for the morning to share in the community spirit and show support for the reconciliation movement.

The City of Bunbury hosted speakers and performers to celebrate and highlight how much progress has been made toward reconciliation but to also remind there is still a lot to go on the journey- a call to action inspired SWCLC staff.

Our team that attended: Eleanor and Crystal



Principal Solicitor's Report by Eleanor

Introduction

As we reflect on the past year, it is essential to acknowledge the resilience and dedication displayed by our team, as well as the strength and resilience of our clientele. This year has been marked by significant achievements, challenges, and opportunities that have shaped our practice and the legal landscape in which we operate.

Leadership Transition

In the 2023-2024 financial year, the role of Principal Solicitor was shared between Renee Turner, who served in this capacity until December 2023, and myself. I took over from Renee in January 2024 when Renee commenced extended leave.

Our Legal Team

We are a small but mighty legal team comprising of myself, Renee Turner, Amanda Jarvey, Michelle Gorham, Inge Slottje, Lee Edmundson and our newest paralegal, Pamela Woodmore, whom we welcomed in February 2024. We also acknowledge that Amy Coole was on maternity leave during the past financial year, and the invaluable efforts of Maria Scott, our dedicated volunteer.

I would like to extend heartfelt congratulations to Amanda Jarvey on successfully completing her period of restricted practice and transitioning to an unrestricted solicitor. We are very grateful that Amanda chose to come and work for SWCLC all those years back, when she first joined us as a tenant advocate.

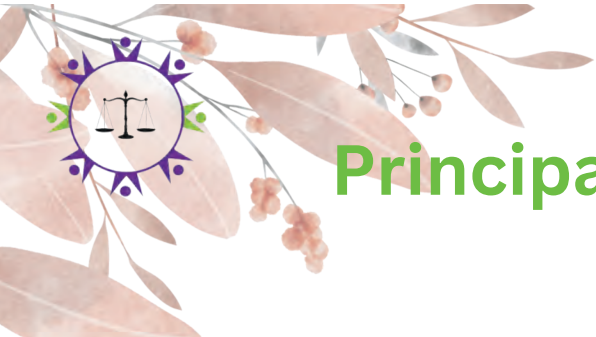
Performance

Despite being a small team, SWCLC, our empathetic and quality service delivery has strengthened our reputation as a leading provider of legal assistance services with particular expertise in supporting people affected by family violence.

We continue to adapt our service model to work more intensively with clients in the hope that deeper, more wraparound support can achieve better outcomes. We have supported clients to obtain Family Court WA parenting and property orders, represented clients in restraining order applications and assisted in negotiations both informal and structured. We have achieved countless resolutions for clients and helped demystify legal processes by providing real and robust legal support and advocacy.

We regularly seek feedback from clients regarding our service, and are very proud to say that:

- Of those clients who responded to our surveys, 97% agreed or strongly agreed that they would recommend our service,
- 100% of those who indicated that they had specific needs, agreed or strongly agreed that we accommodate their needs, and
- 93% agreed or strongly agreed that we helped them understand their rights and responsibilities.



Principal Solicitor's Report by Eleanor

Client Relationships and Community Engagement

Building and maintaining strong relationships with our local stakeholders remains our top priority. We believe that the best outcomes for clients are achieved through united community responses. We continued to strengthen our relationships with Advocacy WA, Harbour Refuge, Legal Aid WA, and Southern Aboriginal Corporation. Additionally, we commenced collaboration with other centres as part of the Better Together Project, an initiative uniting several regional community legal centres to build collective advocacy and strengthen each participating agency through shared expertise and resources.

Challenges and Adaptations

As always, our centre and the legal assistance sector faces many challenges. SWCLC was understaffed for all of the previous financial year, and difficulties with recruitment meant that it was not possible to replace all staff on extended leave.

Despite this, the demand for our service continues to grow. Unfortunately, this means that we cannot assist all those who ask for help and are regularly turning away clients. In the last financial year, we were turning away 5-6 clients on average each week.

New Initiatives

In January 2024, we commenced the Family Violence Restraining Order (FVRO) Shuttle Conference program. This program is designed to facilitate discussions between the Applicant and the Respondent, exploring options for resolution without direct contact between the two parties. SWCLC is very supportive of this project, believing it to be a much more effective and client-centred approach to the management of FVRO applications.

Since January 2024, SWCLC has assisted in 32 number FVRO applications and has achieved excellent feedback from clients involved in this process.

Future Directions

Looking ahead, we are excited about many upcoming opportunities. We are soon to relocate to offices in Stirling Street in a move which we hope will increase our accessibility and connection with other stakeholders including the Bunbury Magistrates Court. We are also extending our work as part of the Shuttle Conferencing Project and building our partnerships within the Better Together project, and locally. We are eagerly awaiting the return of staff on extended leave and are considering expanding our service provision to cover new areas of law. Lastly, we are also planning on redesigning and increasing our community education services.

Conclusion

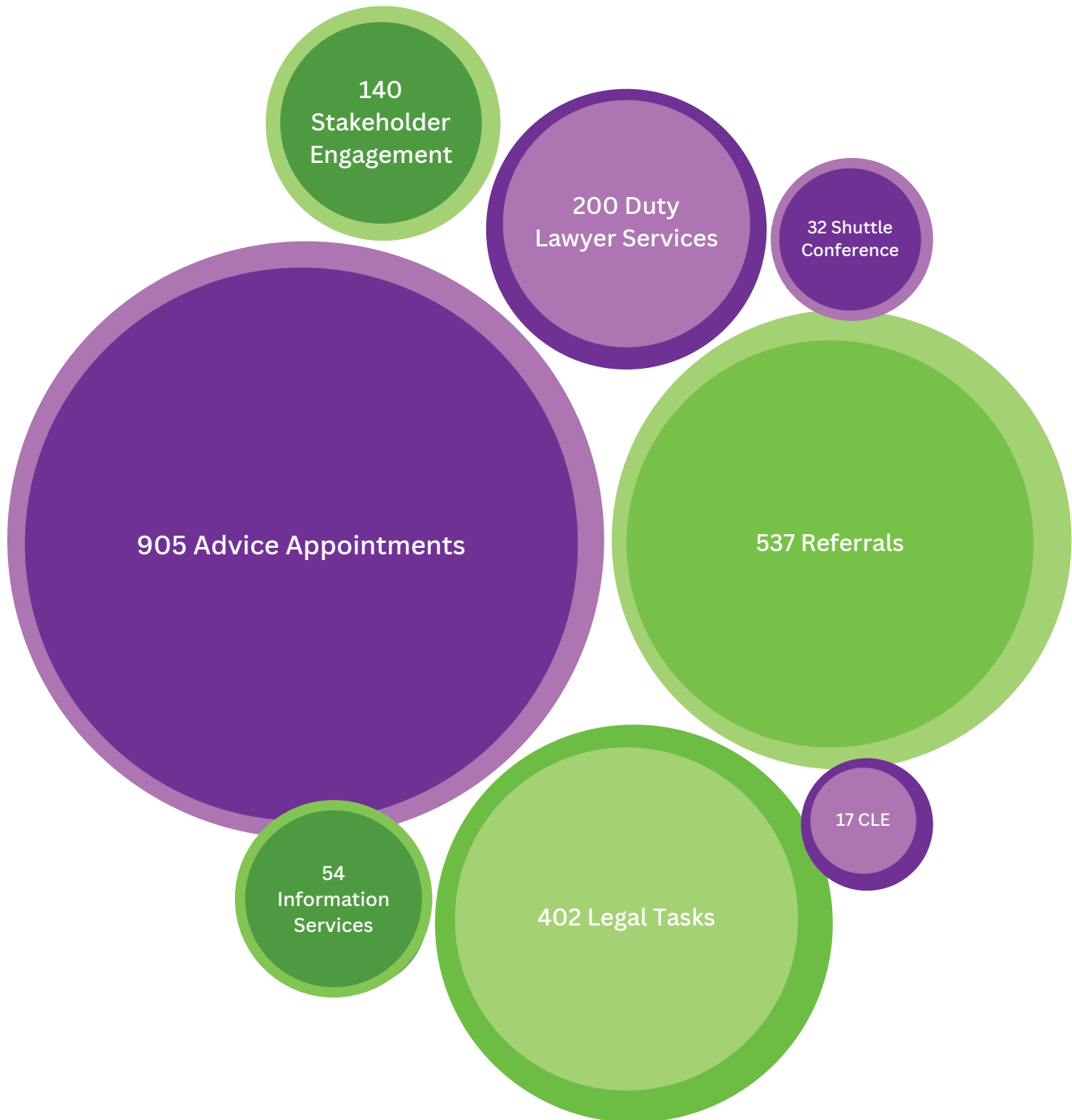
In closing, I would like to express my gratitude to our dedicated team for their hard work and commitment, as well as to Renee Turner for her leadership during her tenure. I also want to thank our clients for their trust and support, and for the resilience they have shown throughout the year. Together, we look forward to another successful year ahead.



Service Delivery

Legal Services Statistics

With support from our funding bodies, in the 2023/2024 financial year SWCLC was able to deliver the following services across all funding streams:



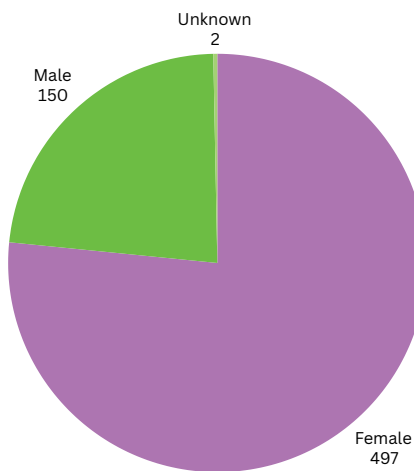


Service Delivery

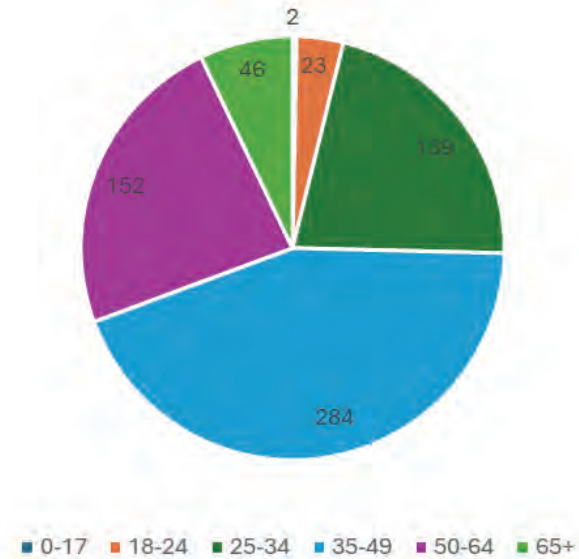
About our Clients

We are proud to continue supporting clients within our South West community. Over the past 12 months, SWCLC helped 649 people with various legal matters. Our clients experience many challenges, including financial disadvantage, experience of family violence, disability, mental illness or homelessness.

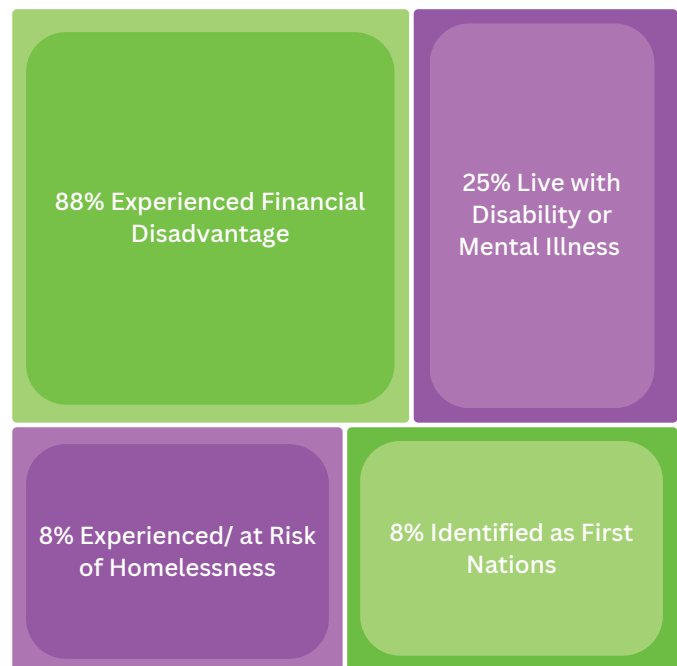
Clients By Gender



Clients By Age



Client Demographics



Who We Could Not Help
Sadly, we turned away 311 potential clients in the past financial year.



Service Delivery

Legal Services

Restraining Order Duty Lawyer Service

In partnership with Waratah Support Services, SWCLC was able to provide integrated Duty Lawyer and Social support services to clients affected by family violence. SWCLC was able to offer a weekly duty lawyer service in the Bunbury Magistrates Courts and fortnightly services in the Busselton Magistrates Court.

Family Advocacy Support Services- Duty Lawyer

During the 2023/2024 financial year, SWCLC again partnered with Waratah Support Services to deliver integrated social and legal for self-represented litigants in Family Court matters. SWCLC provided advice, assisted with negotiations, drafted documents and represented multiple clients during the Family Court of Western Australia Bunbury circuits.

Shuttle Conferencing

In January 2024, SWCLC also commenced providing assistance to clients attending Magistrates Court Shuttle Conferences. As at 30 June 2024, SWCLC had provided assistance in 32 Shuttle Conferences, and have assisted clients to agree 14 Conduct Agreement orders, 13 Undertakings and the cancellation of 11 Family Violence Restraining Order applications.



Community Legal Education

During the last financial year, SWCLC provided nine Community Legal Education (CLE) activities. During the 2024-2025 financial year, SWCLC partnered with the Western Australian Family Pathways Network to deliver 'Walk in their Shoes' Tours. These tours explain the paths that clients take during Restraining Order matters, and separately through the Family Court.

Outreach

SWCLC continued to provide in person and remote assistance to clients located all over the South West. Over the past 12 months, SWCLC traveled to Harvey, Collie, Manjimup, Bridgetown, Margaret River, Nannup and Busselton to deliver face to face legal services.

Tenancy

Our tenant advocate, Lee, did an incredible job in the 2023-2024 financial year, exceeding many targets set for SWCLC's services for this year. Unfortunately, the South West region continues to experience an accommodation crisis. Lee has indicated that many clients are concerned about 'rocking the boat' about tenancy matters, for fear that it may prejudice their existing tenancy.



CLIENT FEEDBACK

“Once again, I cannot thank you both enough for your ongoing support, empathy and understanding in this regard”

“Very polite and helpful, has the time to listen and understand and help as much as they can. 5/5 stars”

“The lovely lady I spoke to on the phone was so good and was able to process me to get an appointment really quickly. You guys do an awesome service”

“I felt understood and supported during the process and that was really nice. Thank you for your time”

“Thank you for your time and assistance, it proved invaluable to me and my situation. Without your advice I would’ve agreed to the applicants orders... I am sincerely appreciative. Thank you so much”

“Once again, I cannot thank you both enough for your ongoing support, empathy and understanding in this regard.”

“Anyway, I wanted to thank you with all my heart for giving me the advice I needed, the confidence to have a go and to be there when the days were dark for me. A little knowledge is indeed powerful so thank you for giving me just a little power”.

“I absolutely hate dealing with my legal matter as I feel like it has been going on forever but dealing with SWCLC has made the experience so much better! Everyone has been so helpful, understanding and patient with me and it has definitely made an unpleasant situation easier to deal with.”

"My duty lawyer today was calm, kind, compassionate and incredibly competent. I am so incredibly grateful for this service and cannot wait express my gratitude enough".





Case Study: Tenancy

Case Title: Tenancy Advocate vs. Private Lessor

Court: Magistrates Court of Western Australia

Case Summary:

This case involves a vulnerable elderly tenant with mobility issues who faced eviction from her rental property. The lessor, the tenant's own mother, initiated legal action to terminate the lease and evict the tenant. The tenancy advocate represented the tenant and successfully argued that the lessor had not followed the correct procedure for issuing a legal notice.

The court dismissed the matter, thereby preserving the tenant's tenancy.

Background:

Tenant: Elderly woman with significant mobility issues, living independently in a rental property, rented directly from the private lessor.

Lessor: Tenant's mother, who sought to terminate the lease and evict her daughter following a family disagreement

Property: A residential property in Western Australia, subject to the Residential Tenancies Act 1987 (WA).

Key Issues:

The lessor's failure to follow the correct legal procedure for issuing a termination notice under the Residential Tenancies Act 1987 (WA).

The tenant's right to remain in the property given her vulnerability and reliance on the current accommodation.

Legal Framework:

Residential Tenancies Act 1987 (WA):

Governs the rights and obligations of lessors and tenants in Western Australia.

Section 61:

Outlines the procedures for terminating a tenancy, including the requirement for proper notice.

Section 75:

Provides for the protection of tenants, particularly those who are vulnerable or have special needs.

Case Details:

The lessor issued a termination notice to the tenant without adhering to the correct legal procedures outlined in the Residential Tenancies Act 1987 (WA). Specifically, the notice did not meet the requirements regarding notice period, form, and content.

The tenant, due to her mobility issues and vulnerability, was at significant risk if evicted from the property.

Representation and Advocacy:

The tenancy advocate provided legal representation for the tenant, preparing a defense based on the procedural deficiencies of the termination notice.

The advocate also emphasized the tenant's vulnerability and the potential impact of eviction on her well-being.



Case Study: Tenancy Continued

Case Title: Tenancy Advocate vs. Private Lessor
Court: Magistrates Court of Western Australia

Court Proceedings:

The tenancy advocate presented evidence and arguments demonstrating the lessor's failure to comply with the statutory requirements for terminating the tenancy.

The court reviewed the notice and found it to be legally insufficient.

The advocate further argued that the tenant's special circumstances warranted additional consideration and protection under the Act.

Outcome:

The Magistrates Court of Western Australia ruled in favour of the tenant.

The court dismissed the lessor's application to terminate the tenancy, citing the procedural errors in the notice and the tenant's vulnerability.

The tenant was allowed to remain in the property, and the lessor was instructed to follow the proper legal procedures if they wished to pursue termination in the future.

Implications:

This case underscores the importance of following the correct legal procedures when issuing termination notices under the Residential Tenancies Act 1987 (WA).

It highlights the role of tenancy advocates in protecting the rights of vulnerable tenants, ensuring they are not unjustly evicted.

The decision reinforces the need for landlords to consider the special needs and circumstances of their tenants, particularly those who are elderly or have disabilities.

Conclusion:

The successful defence by the tenancy advocate not only preserved the tenant's right to remain in her home but also set a precedent for the proper handling of termination notices under the Residential Tenancies Act 1987 (WA). This case serves as a critical reminder of the legal protections available to tenants and the necessity for lessors to adhere strictly to statutory requirements.





Case Study: Family Advocacy Support Service Duty Lawyer

Court: Family Court of Western Australia

Background:

Anthea* and her partner, Mark*, had been in a relationship for approximately thirteen years, married for twelve of those years. They have two children together, Sally* and Tim*.

During the relationship, Mark was the primary breadwinner and Anthea was the primary caregiver for the children. Throughout the relationship, Mark was also verbally and emotionally abusive to Anthea.

Mark and Anthea separated in 2021, although both continued living close-by to each other in the same rural town.

Following separation, Mark's abuse escalated, and he would send Anthea long, ranting emails and text messages. Anthea applied for a Family Violence Restraining Order against Mark. The parties ultimately agreed a Conduct Agreement Order for a two-year period.

Initially following separation, the children lived with Anthea and spent time, including overnight time, at Mark's house. Over the years, the time the children spend with Mark has incrementally increased. Now the children spend close to half of their time with Mark.

In recent years, Mark has de-escalated his abuse. Whilst Anthea feels more comfortable with Mark, she is still concerned that if she does not agree with him, he will send her abusive emails or messages.

Recently, the parties have been trying to put in place some more formal arrangements for the care of the children. The parties have tried mediation but could not get agreement. Mark has since applied to the Family Court of Western Australia for court orders. Mark has also engaged a private lawyer to assist him. Mark's lawyer sent Anthea a proposed Minute of Consent Orders.

Anthea had driven approximately 1 hour from her regional town to attend a Directions Hearing in the Bunbury Circuit of the Family Court of Western Australia.

Anthea did not have a lawyer representing her and was very unsure of the court processes and what would be expected of her. Anthea agreed with many of the proposals put forward by Mark, but there were other orders, such as those relating to holiday time which she disagreed with. Anthea was hoping to take Sally and Tim on an overseas holiday during the summer school break but was not sure whether Mark would agree to this.

***All names have been changed to protect confidentiality.**



Case Study: Family Advocacy Support Service Duty Lawyer Continued

Court: Family Court of Western Australia

Description of client needs:

Anthea needed both advice and advocacy. Anthea was unaware of the process governing Family Court of Western Australia matters and the principles which were applied by the court when determining parenting matters.

Given Mark's previous history of family violence, and the fact that he had engaged representation, there was a clear power imbalance between Mark and Anthea. Anthea needed support to advocate for herself and the interests of her children.

Actions & Referrals:

SWCLC assisted Anthea as Duty Lawyer. We were able to provide Anthea with legal advice about the court process and the applicable legislation. We discussed various options with Anthea and provided advice about how the matter could proceed.

SWCLC also assisted Anthea in negotiations with Mark's lawyer. SWCLC were able to clarify certain clauses, and draft alternative orders that could potentially be agreed. Ultimately, whilst a written agreement could not be finalised, SWCLC assisted Anthea to reach a substantive in-principle agreement about the children's matters, and in particular, that Anthea had permission to take them overseas for a holiday.

SWCLC represented Anthea in the Family Court of Western Australia hearing and made submissions based on the agreement between the parties. The Family Court of Western Australia made orders requiring the parties to file a signed Minute of Consent Orders (MOCC) within the next week.

SWCLC were also able to provide Anthea with a referral to the Waratah Support service, who were represented on site at the court building.

Further comments:

Through the provision of FASS, SWCLC were able to assist Anthea to negotiate a parenting arrangement which provided safety and flexibility for the children. SWCLC were able to provide Anthea with strong, although, conciliatory advocacy support which ensured that Anthea's requests were heard and protected during negotiations and subsequently, during the court hearing.

Anthea commented that it was "wonderful" to have a lawyer represent her and that she "did not realise that this service would be available". Anthea commented that she previously felt overwhelmed about the process and was concerned about potential backlash if she did not agree with Mark's proposals. After the court hearing, Anthea commented that she felt "very relieved."



OUR FUNDERS

The Board of Management and staff of South West Community Legal Centre Inc. gratefully acknowledge the support of key funding from:

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



LEGAL AID WESTERN AUSTRALIA



**THE LAW SOCIETY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
PUBLIC PURPOSES TRUST**

The Law  Society

**DEPARTMENT OF MINES, INDUSTRY
REGULATION AND SAFETY**



Thank You
For your ongoing support

OUR PARTNERSHIPS

We would also like to thank and acknowledge the agencies we have worked with this year:

WARATAH SUPPORT CENTRE



HARBOUR REFUGE INC.

ADVOCACY WA INC.



LEGAL AID WESTERN AUSTRALIA



COMMUNITY LEGAL WESTERN AUSTRALIA

COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRES AUSTRALIA



**GREAT SOUTHERN COMMUNITY LEGAL
SERVICES**

Thank You
For your ongoing support

WHERE TO FIND US

SERVICE INFORMATION



SOUTH WEST
COMMUNITY LEGAL CENTRE INC

Hours of Operation:

Monday to Wednesday 9am - 4pm

Thursday 9am - 3pm

Friday 9am - 2pm

Address:

South West Community Legal Centre
14 Plaza Street
South Bunbury WA 6230

Postal Address:

PO BOX 6162
South Bunbury WA 6230

(08) 9791 3206

info@swclc.org.au

www.swclc.org.au

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