

**Free Legal Advice For Women**



**Top End Women's Legal Service**

*Celebrating 20 years of providing legal services to women in the Top End*

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2015/2016**

## CONTACT US

Trading as Top End Women's Legal Service Inc. (TEWLS)

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Web: [www.tewls.org.au](http://www.tewls.org.au)

Office hours: 8:30am – 4:30pm  
(Monday to Friday)

### Women's Correctional Centres:

Darwin Correctional Precinct:	Every second Thursday
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### Outreach advice clinics:

Adult Migrant English Program (AMEP):	Monthly on Wednesday
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### Legal advice clinics:

Darwin: Every Wednesday (evening)  
Every Thursday

Palmerston: Every Monday

### Community outreach advice clinics:

Acacia: First Tuesday of every month

Amangal: First Tuesday of every month

Bagot: Every second Wednesday

Belyuen: Last Wednesday of every month

Knuckey's Lagoon: Every second Tuesday

PIV: Every second Tuesday

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## MANAGING SOLICITOR'S REPORT

The Top End Women's Legal Service Inc. (TEWLS) is a community legal centre funded by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department and the Prime Minister & Cabinet. TEWLS provides information, referrals, legal advice and representation to women in the Top End of the Northern Territory. We also deliver community legal education and law reform submissions on salient issues.

Established in 1996, following the Australian Law Reform Commission inquiry into Equality before the Law, TEWLS plays a vital role in allowing women to voice their personal experiences and receive support and advice about legal matters.

Acknowledging the gender of law and promoting justice for women, TEWLS activities cover areas of the civil law that are of particular importance to women. The greatest demand for service is in the areas of family law, domestic violence and consumer law. Particular focus is given to Indigenous and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse women. In tandem with TEWLS general women's legal service, culturally safe specialist outreach services are provided to Indigenous women on community.

TEWLS' small but dedicated legal team has over 30 years experience in providing proactive, high quality legal and related services, with excellent outcomes. In the past 12 months, legal advice numbers have almost doubled and legal case numbers have tripled. Sixty percent of all TEWLS clients experience domestic violence, and almost all present with a complex matrix of interrelated legal matters that require, and receive, a dedicated focus.

TEWLS has close connectivity and collaborates extensively with all NT women's legal services, and related stakeholders; and currently chairs the Northern Territory Association of Community Legal Centres.

TEWLS particularly acknowledges the Legal Practitioner Fidelity Funds that significantly extend service capacity, and ensure an improved capacity to address existing unmet need.

TEWLS continues to pursue additional funding, and alternate and innovative assistance options. However, current demands for service provision are like a pressure cooker, and in this context, it is concerning that TEWLS faces a 30% funding cut from 1 July 2017.

**Vanessa Lethlean**  
**Managing Solicitor**

## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

We have had a great year of continuing our assistance to women who have otherwise little or no access to legal help. However, the funding battle continues, and we have had to again turn women away given our limited resources and increasing demand.

We note the continued focus by both Commonwealth and Northern Territory governments on women who are the victims of domestic violence, but highlight the impending cuts to funding organisations, such as ours, who assist those very women. We continue to lobby for an increase in funding in order to extend our help to more women who find themselves and their families victims of domestic and family violence.

The great news is that in late 2016, the Northern Territory Government will commence providing us with premises at no cost. This 'in kind' support is so valuable to TEWLS and we are very grateful; it will allow us to use the money that offer frees up to assist even more women in the Top End.

Our small, great and dedicated TEWLS team are passionate about their work and provide high quality, sensitive, culturally safe and holistic support to women from all walks of life to track their way through the legal minefield.

We have also been able to extend our regular Wednesday evening advice sessions thanks to a dedicated group of volunteers. This session is very important to TEWLS and I express my gratitude to those who volunteer so regularly. However, as always we need more volunteers, so please tap those women solicitors you know on the shoulder to see if we can get even more support.

I would like to thank all of those who have contributed to the work of TEWLS this year. Further thanks to the Board and staff for their dedication and ongoing support of TEWLS and the outcomes that we are able to achieve for our clients, together.

**Chris Osborne**  
Chairperson



# STRATEGIC PLAN 2013 – 2016

## **Vision**

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All women in the Top End have a 'voice'; they have access to justice and are empowered rather than disadvantaged by the legal system.

## **Purpose**

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TEWLS is a women's organisation working for the advancement of the rights of all women.

TEWLS recognises that women do not have equal access to justice and the legal system and our mission is to work systematically to empower and assist women to overcome these barriers.

## **Goals**

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The five goals of service delivery for TEWLS are:

### ***Specialisation***

TEWLS will identify key gaps in legal services for the women in the Top End and structure its funding, staffing and work allocation to address these gaps.

### ***Legal Services***

TEWLS will have clear and efficient referral, advice and casework guidelines and procedures promoted through a variety of mediums to both clients and stakeholders that enable the allocation of resources to women who are most in need and which are promoted to clients and stakeholders.

## ***Funding***

TEWLS will endeavour to diversify its revenue streams.

### ***Community Legal Education***

TEWLS will provide targeted CLE that is informed by best practice community development and is responsive to the needs of TEWLS' network of women in the Top End.

### ***Induction and Engagement***

TEWLS will have well-established policies and procedures for the induction, professional development and ongoing support of board, staff, volunteers and members.

## TEWLS PERSONNEL DURING 2015/2016

### Management Committee

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Chris Osborne	Chairperson
Rose Mills	Treasurer
Sim O'Callaghan	Secretary
Khami Aughterson	Public Officer
Alex O'Donnell	
Praveena Sharma	
Leila-May Michael	

### Staff

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#### Solicitors

Vanessa Lethlean	Managing Solicitor
Melanie Warbrooke	Senior Solicitor
Caitlin Weatherby-Fell	Solicitor (from 28 September 2015)
Phoebe Riordan	Solicitor (locum from 12 November 2015 – 23 December 2015)

#### Client Services & Administrative Officers

Yvette Armstrong	Community & Project Officer (from January 2016)
Sherree Smith	Client Services Officer
Manuela Seiberth	Administrative Officer (from June 2015 – until 30 June 2016)
Larissa Howarth	Administrative Officer (from 27 June 2016)

### Volunteers and Students

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Special thanks to all our volunteers who generously gave their time to help us serve our clients, extend service provision, contribute expertise, value add to ongoing case work, and to address the increasing gap between service delivery and service requests – we greatly appreciate your work.

Special thanks also to practitioners and firms who provided pro bono assistance, including Clayton Utz, Darwin Community Legal Service, Darwin Family Law, the Solicitor for the Northern Territory, Halfpennys Lawyers, Hubber Coonan Legal, Maurice Blackburn Lawyers and Hunt and Hunt.

#### Supervising and Volunteer Solicitors

##### Supervisors

Chris Osborne  
Peggy Cheong  
Lindy Morgan  
Julie Franz  
Cathy Spurr  
Mary Hawkins

##### Solicitors

Sarah Newman  
Sue Erickson  
Nicole Festing  
Tahnee Coonan  
Jaimi-Lee Tinning  
Ginny Rabling  
Jessica Holgersson  
Taliska Arentsen  
Kate Frost  
Lhia-Clare Davis

#### Volunteer Students

Ursula Stevens	Isabella Johnston
Cassandra Malin	Rikki Hudson
Penny Hallam	Melissa Chen
Tess Kelly	Gabi McMullen
Sue-Lin Wong	Harita Sridhar
Alexandra Wirth	Annie Murphy
Hannah Green	

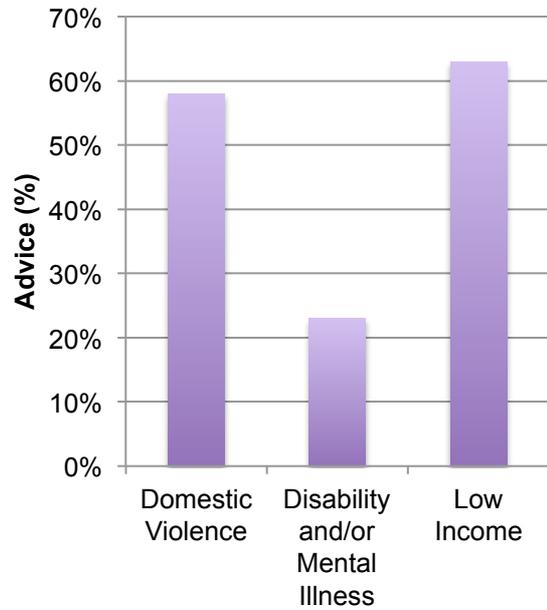
## LEGAL ADVICE AND REPRESENTATION

TEWLS provided high quality and timely legal advice and representation to some of the most disadvantaged women in our community. We exceeded all performance indicators, performance benchmarks and service delivery targets, in some areas by up to 500%, and now employ two Indigenous staff members.

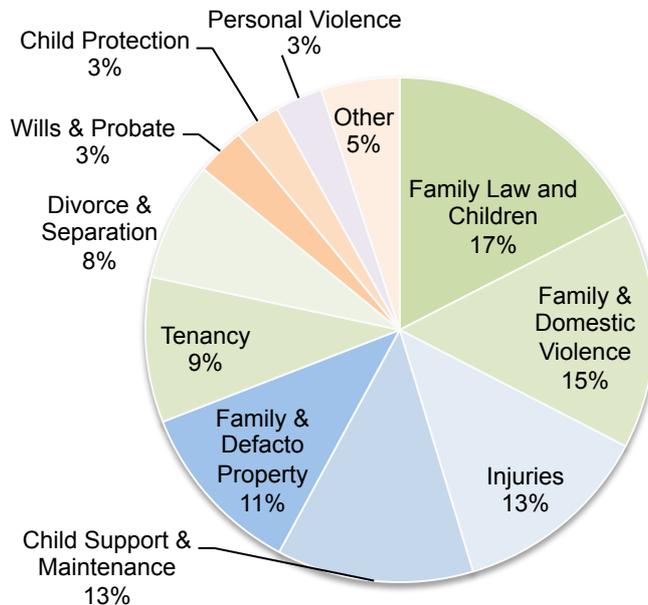
We provided:

- Over 600 legal advices over more than 1,500 legal matter types to women during the year either by phone or face-to-face at nine outreach advice clinic locations, women's prisons and CALD programs
- Over 400 representation services over more than 700 legal matter types

*The majority of our clients were on a low income and were experiencing or at risk of domestic violence*



*Advices by area of law*



## Examples of our casework:

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### Medical treatment with dignity

Nicole\* was injured in motor vehicle accident almost twenty years ago. Her injuries were severe, leaving her without the use of both her legs and one hand. The cost of Nicole's treatment and other expenses are covered by the Motor Accident Compensation scheme (MAC).

In late 2015, Nicole's treating specialist advised that she required depilatory treatment to assist in maintaining personal hygiene and to reduce the stress to her hand. MAC refused the request, and instead offered to fund additional hours with a personal care assistant.

TEWLS advocated that depilatory treatment was a less intrusive and more effective in maintaining Nicole's independence in the long-term. MAC reversed their decision and approved funding for the depilatory treatment within 24 hours of receiving TEWLS' submission.

\*not her real name

### Family law and domestic violence

Sophie\* is a young mother in receipt of government benefits. After being told that another legal service did not have capacity, Sophie attended TEWLS in relation to an urgent family law matter. Sophie instructed that she had been subjected to manipulative and coercive family violence from her partner, Steve\*, and that Steve had taken their young child after an argument.

TEWLS assisted Sophie to make an urgent application to the Federal Circuit Court for Sophie's child to be returned, which was successful. Sophie was overcome with emotion at the hearing after being told that she would be reunited with her child after being apart for more than three weeks. TEWLS also supported Sophie to access counselling services and continues to holistically support Sophie throughout the family law court process.

\*not their real names

### Remedying unconscionable conduct on Indigenous communities

Bess\* lives in an Indigenous community in the Northern Territory. English is her second language. Bess receives a disability pension and has a number of outstanding debts. A consumer lessor company attended Bess's house without invitation and left with a signed contract. The contract was to purchase a freezer over a 12-month period at \$825 more than is permitted at law, and, with an interest rate of 313%.

With the assistance of TEWLS, Bess retained the freezer, secured a refund of unlawful amounts paid, and the company was held accountable for unlawful practices.

\*not her real name

## Systemic changes at Darwin Correctional Precinct

Mary\* was imprisoned for 10 months. Her intake pregnancy test was not followed up and she did not become aware she was pregnant until 36 weeks pregnant. Mary was prescribed contra indicated medication for seven months and participated daily in an outdoor manual labour that included heavy lifting and cyclone clean up activities. Her repeated requests to see a doctor for serious and ongoing symptoms during this time were not actioned for two months.

At 36 weeks pregnant, Mary was evacuated for emergency medical treatment. Mary was alarmed medication she had received may have harmed her child and participation in manual labour could have caused a miscarriage.

Mary's complaint has led to holistic and systemic recommendations that have already improved medical care to women in prison in Darwin. As Mary says, she did not 'want this to happen to other ladies'.

\*not her real name

## Holistic and culturally safe support to address family violence

Josephine\* was referred to TEWLS by a refugee support service. Josephine and George\* met and married while living in a refugee camp. They both have children from previous marriages and a number of children together, and came to Australia three years ago on humanitarian visas.

Josephine advised that when they were living in the refugee camp, George used to beat her and the children every day. Since arriving in Australia, George had not beaten Josephine or the children, as he knows it is against the law. Josephine wanted help as George was drinking every day, verbally abusive, controlling, accused Josephine of cheating on him and threatened to kill her, the children and himself.

TEWLS engaged an interpreter, provided Josephine with domestic violence order advice, and lodged a mandatory report. Police were called to attend at TEWLS that day to speak with Josephine and assess whether an urgent Domestic Violence Order was needed. Police assessed an urgent order was not required and organised emergency accommodation in a shelter for the family.

TEWLS provided a warm referral to the Domestic Violence Legal Service. Josephine obtained a non-contact domestic violence order, which required George to move out of the property they had shared. Josephine and the children were able to move back into the property shortly after the domestic violence order was confirmed.

\*not their real names

## ADVOCATING FOR CHANGES TO LAW AND LEGAL PROCESSES

TEWLS maintained a strong commitment to engagement in policy and law reform on salient legal issues and aspects of the law that impact significantly on women's lives.

In 2015/2016, advocacy and submissions focused on domestic and family violence; personal violence; family law; child protection; housing and tenancy; credit and debt; and, other civil law areas.

### Senate Inquiries, forums and meetings

TEWLS sought to change laws and policies by attending and engaging in formal and informal Inquiries, forums and meetings. These included:

- Providing evidence to the Senate Inquiry into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander access to legal services, and responding to related media interview requests.
- The National Roundtable meeting responding to violence against Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) women and their children, Sydney

TEWLS continued to advocate for legislative reform of the *Medical Services Act* (NT) to permit women in the Northern Territory to access medical termination of a pregnancy outside a hospital.

### Achieving systemic change to personal safety legislation

Whilst all submissions and advocacy link advice and casework to systemic improvements, TEWLS advocacy regarding Personal Violence Restraining Orders (PVROs) resulted in significant improvements to the legislation to advance personal safety.

In February 2015, TEWLS commenced legislative amendment advocacy regarding PVRO legislation and recommended:

- Amendments to the legislation so as to enable victims to obtain interim PVROs, as is available with Domestic Violence Restraining Orders, and provision to hear such interim applications *ex parte*
- Legislation pertaining to PVRO's be incorporated into an Act addressing PVRO's and DVO's in the Northern Territory, such as the *Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Act 2007* (NSW), or alternatively separate pieces of legislation

In January 2016, TEWLS provided feedback regarding the *Personal Violence Restraining Orders Bill 2015* (NT). In May 2016, the *Personal Violence Restraining Orders Act* (NT) commenced, incorporating a range of TEWLS' recommendations.

## Submissions

We made, coordinated or contributed to submissions to and about:

- Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee Inquiry into the phenomenon colloquially referred to as “revenge porn”
- NT Domestic Violence Proposals Issues Paper
- NT Through the Eyes of the Child: Improving Responses to Victims of Sexual Abuse and Criminal Neglect
- Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee Review of the Small Amount Credit Contract Laws
- Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee Family Law Amendment (Financial Agreements and Other Measures) Bill 2015
- NT Sex Offender and Child Homicide Offender Public Website (Daniel’s Law) Bill 2015
- NT Review of the Domestic and Family Violence Act
- NT Review of Department of Housing policies
- NT Personal Violence Restraining Orders Bill 2015



*TEWLS staff holding a stall at World Refugee Day 2016*

## Committees

We continued to build and strengthen alliances and worked strategically with others by participating in the NT Association of Community Legal Centres, National Association of Community Legal Centres and external committees.

Interagencies, networks and other external committees:

- NT Community Legal Education Network, including the NT CLE Professional Development Workshop 2016
- NT Legal Assistance Forum
- NT Domestic and Family Violence Network
- Darwin Correctional Precinct Services Providers Group
- NT Department of Housing Legal Services Group
- Prime Minister & Cabinet Priority Network Group
- NT Department of Children & Families Legal Services Forum
- NT Family Law Pathways Network
- Sexual Assault Network Darwin
- NT Women's Legal Services Group
- NT Family Safety Framework Forum
- Making Justice Work Coalition
- Civil Court User's Forum



*TEWLS staff meeting with Rosie Batty during a session of the NT Family Law Pathways network*



*TEWLS staff contributing to the NACLC #fundequaljustice campaign*

## Ensuring holistic, wrap-around family law servicing – Increasing service collaboration

The Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission's Family Dispute Resolution (NTLAC FDR) service can be an excellent option for family law matters where the parties are litigation averse, particularly where the issues are complex, there is high conflict, and mediation without a lawyer is not appropriate.

TEWLS initiated formal discussions on behalf of NT Women's Legal Services (comprising of TEWLS, the Central Australian Women's Legal Service and the Katherine Women's Information and Legal Service) for NT Women's Legal Services to access NTLAC FDR. Previous access to NTLAC FDR required the NT Women's Legal Services to refer the client to the NTLAC, and to sever family law representation from other ongoing legal assistance.

Agreement has now been reached for NT Women's Legal Services to directly access the NTLAC FDR service, meaning that we are able to ensure holistic, wrap-around family law servicing for our clients.

## COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION

TEWLS' community legal education (CLE) program aims to increase women in the Top End's awareness of the law, their legal rights and access to legal services through presentations, community workshops and stalls.

In 2015/2016, our CLE program targeted our Indigenous community outreach clinic locations, the Darwin Correctional Precinct and the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) community. We undertook 12 programs, with sessions tailored to participants over the following topics:

- Domestic and family violence
- The relationship between domestic and family violence & family law
- Housing and tenancy
- Fines and debts
- Superannuation
- Family law
- Victims of crime compensation
- Domestic violence orders
- Consumer law

### Commencement of CLE in the Darwin Correctional Precinct

In 2015/2016, TEWLS became the first legal service provider to commence CLE within the Darwin Correctional Precinct. In collaboration with Precinct staff, TEWLS has presented CLE sessions on "hot topics" within the Women's Sector of the Precinct, including fines and debts, as well as domestic and family violence.



*TEWLS Aurora intern Hannah during a community stall event*

## TREASURER'S REPORT

We are pleased to present the 2015-2016 audited Annual Report of Top End Women's Legal Services Incorporated, trading as Top End Women's Legal Service.

During 2015-16, our core income for services was received from the Department of the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department for women in the Top End of the Northern Territory and the Prime Minister & Cabinet as part of the Indigenous Advancement Strategy Program.

In brief, TEWLS' funding income was made up of:

- Prime Minister & Cabinet - \$166,666.00
- Commonwealth Department Attorney General's Department - \$333,333.00

On behalf of TEWLS, I would like to acknowledge with thanks the continuing support provided by the Commonwealth Governments, and to extend our appreciation to the program officers who have worked with us during the year.

I would also like to acknowledge the Board's appreciation of the contribution of our staff during the last 12 months. Their professionalism and skill has been essential to effective Board management and to the strategic planning of the development of our service.

**Rose Mills**  
**Treasurer**

**TOP END WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICE  
INCORPORATED**

**ABN: 42 830 944 178**

**Financial Report For The Year Ended  
30 June 2016**

**TOP END WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICE INCORPORATED**  
**ABN: 42 830 944 178**  
**COMMITTEE'S REPORT**

Your committee members submit the financial report of Top End Women's Legal Service Incorporated for the financial year ended 30 June 2016.

**Committee Members**

The names of committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Christine Osborne - Chairperson  
Simmons O'Callaghan - Secretary  
Rose Mills - Treasurer  
Khami Aughterson - Public Officer  
Alex O'Donnell  
Praveena Sharma  
Susana Saffu

**Principal Activities**

The principal activities of the association during the financial year were to provide social facilities to members of the association.

- to provide legal services to women, with special concerns for women who face discrimination for reasons such as, but not limited to: race, culture, language, poverty, age, disability and sexuality;
- to educate women and the community in general so that women can participate fully and confidently in legal matters which affect them;
- to research and evaluate the impact of existing laws and legal processes on women's access to justice and work towards law reform in areas of particular relevance to women;
- to work towards the empowerment of all women within the legal system and consequently within society; and
- to support and uphold the principles of the UN Convention on The Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women, The UN International Covenant and Civil and Political Rights, and The UN Declaration on The Elimination of Violence against Women.

**Significant Changes**

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

**Operating Result**

The surplus for the 2016 financial year amounted to \$83,129.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee.



Christine Osborne - Chairperson



Rose Mills - Treasurer

Dated this 27 day of October, 2016

**TOP END WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICE INCORPORATED**  
**ABN: 42 830 944 178**  
**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>INCOME</b>			
Grant (local) operating		502,575	479,743
Movement in unexpended grant		15,100	71,055
Interest		356	1,681
Other		25	780
		<u>518,056</u>	<u>553,259</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Depreciation expense - leasehold improvements and office equipment		4,799	7,132
Advertising and promotion		753	5,386
Rental expense		45,415	52,715
Employee benefit expense		300,392	387,025
Other expenses		83,568	90,602
		<u>434,927</u>	<u>542,860</u>
Net current year surplus		<u>83,129</u>	<u>10,399</u>
<b>RETAINED SURPLUS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR</b>		<u>177,458</u>	<u>167,059</u>
<b>RETAINED SURPLUS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR</b>		<u><u>260,587</u></u>	<u><u>177,458</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**TOP END WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICE INCORPORATED**  
**ABN: 42 830 944 178**  
**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

**Note 1 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

The financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the NT Associations Act and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where stated specifically, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies under Australian Accounting Standards, which are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise, have been adopted in the preparation of these financial statements.

**(a) Income Tax**

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

**(b) Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)**

The depreciable amount of all PPE is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

**(c) Impairment of Assets**

At the end of each reporting period, the committee reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been 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 in the income and expenditure statement.

**(d) Employee Provisions**

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee provisions have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is

**(e) Provisions**

Provisions are recognised when the association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

**(f) Cash on Hand**

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

**(g) Accounts Receivable and Other Debtors**

Accounts receivable and other debtors include amounts due from members as well as amounts receivable from donors. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

**(h) Revenue and Other Income**

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. For this purpose, deferred consideration is not discounted to present values when recognising revenue.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument. Dividend revenue is recognised when the right to receive a dividend has been established.

Grant and donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt.

If conditions are attached to the grant that must be satisfied before the association is eligible to receive the contribution, recognition of the grant as revenue will be deferred until those conditions are satisfied.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax.

**TOP END WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICE INCORPORATED**  
**ABN: 42 830 944 178**  
**STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

In accordance with a resolution of the members of Top End Women's Legal Service Incorporated, the members have determined that the Association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial report.

The members of the Association declare that, in the directors' opinion:

1. The financial report and notes, as set out on pages 3 to 6, are in accordance with the Association Act NT and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Act 2012 and:

(a) comply with Australian Accounting Standards; and

(b) give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Association as at 30 June 2016 and of its performance for the year ended on that date

2. There are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

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

Signed:

Name:

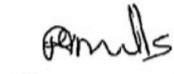
Dated:

Signed:

Name:

Dated:

  
Chris Osborne  
27/10/16

  
Rose Mills  
27/10/16

**TOP END WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICE INCORPORATED****INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT  
TO THE MEMBERS OF TOP END WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICE INCORPORATED (CONT.)****Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial report is prepared in accordance with the accounting policies in Note 1 to the financial report and the requirements of the *Associations Act (NT)* and the *Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission Act 2012* including:

- i) giving a true and fair view of the entity's financial position as at 30 June 2016 and of its performance and for the year ended on that date;
- ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

We have obtained all of the information and explanations required from the Association.

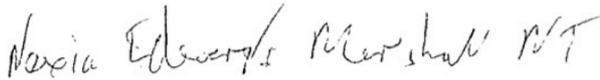
Proper accounting records and other records have been kept by the Association as required by the Act.

**Other matter**

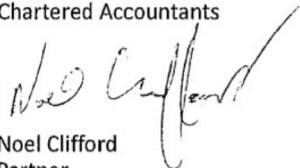
The financial report of the Association for the year ended 30 June 2015 was audited by another auditor who expressed an unqualified audit opinion on the financial report on 30 October 2015.

**Basis of Accounting**

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Top End Women's Legal Service Incorporated to meet the requirements of the *Associations Act (NT)* and the *Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission Act 2012*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.



Nexia Edwards Marshall NT  
Chartered Accountants



Noel Clifford  
Partner

Darwin  
Northern Territory

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