

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22



**TOP END WOMEN'S  
LEGAL SERVICE INC.**

FREE LEGAL ADVICE FOR WOMEN

Advice | Information | Referral | Advocacy



## Acknowledgment

TEWLS acknowledges that we work on Aboriginal land, including the lands of the Larrakia people, who are the traditional owners of the land where our office is located.

We acknowledge the Larrakia people as the Traditional Owners of the Darwin region and pay deep respect to Elders past, present and emerging, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We are committed to a positive future for the Aboriginal community.

### Contact

(08) 8982 3000  
1800 234 441



admin@tewls.org.au  
www.tewls.org.au

### Opening Hours

Monday - Friday | 8:30am - 4:30pm  
Wednesdays | 5:15pm - 6:15pm

### Address

17 Lindsay Street  
Darwin NT 0800

 <https://www.facebook.com/TopEndWomensLegalService>  
 <https://www.linkedin.com/company/top-end-women's-legal-service>







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## About us

TEWLS is a specialist community legal centre focussed on the advancement of women's rights.

For over 25 years, TEWLS has provided high quality, holistic, trauma-informed and culturally secure legal assistance to women living in the Top End (primarily, Greater Darwin region), including legal advice, casework and representation (litigation), and legal information and referral.

TEWLS provides legal services in the areas of family, civil and migration law, with particular expertise in delivering holistic services for clients experiencing domestic, family and sexual violence,



### Our vision

A community in which women enjoy and are entitled to legal and social justice.



### Our purpose

To advocate to achieve justice for women, to promote women's human rights, and to redress inequalities experienced by women.



### Our values

Courage | Collaboration | Accountability | Connectivity | Specialisation  
Inclusivity | Innovation | Respect | Integrity | Excellence

## Chairperson's report

FY 2021/22 has been a period of incredible growth and achievement for TEWLS, and it has been my privilege to continue to serve as chairperson.

This year, we have focussed on forward planning and advocating for our service's expansion to meet the ever-increasing demand for TEWLS' specialist and holistic legal services.

Highlights have included:

- In September 2021, TEWLS commenced delivery of the NT arm of the national Temporary Visa Holders Experiencing Violence Pilot with the recruitment of a talented new migration lawyer, adding migration law expertise to the TEWLS practice. We have known for a long time that some perpetrators use visa-related threats to control and intimidate their partners, and we welcome the opportunity to deliver vital and holistic migration, civil and family law assistance to women in these circumstances.
- Funding was secured to continue our legal outreach clinics at all four (4) women's shelters in the Greater Darwin region, which were due to conclude in April 2022. We are grateful new NLAP funding has enabled these clinics to become part of our core practice, and we thank our partnering women's shelters for their support.

- TEWLS was also successful in a joint bid with our sister-service in Katherine for new funding to establish a specialist workplace sexual harassment practice, which will allow us to provide legal assistance to women who are experiencing workplace sexual harassment and/or discrimination in the Greater Darwin, Katherine and Big Rivers regions.
- In January 2022, TEWLS signed a lease to expand into the office space next door – doubling our floor space and creating space for the new staff joining our team.

Despite our achievements this year, we know that is much work still to be done and we remain steadfast in working towards our vision.

I extend my sincere thanks to our staff, volunteers, committee members and valued partner organisations for your contributions this year and look forward to working with you again in FY 2022/23.



Chris Osborne  
**Chairperson**



## Chief Executive Officer's report

Having celebrated the service's 25th Anniversary in this past Financial Year, the development of TEWLS has been a sight to behold - from humble beginnings in 1996 [with the first TEWLS solicitor/coordinator "camped" in DCLS's then offices on Peel Street for the first six (6) months], TEWLS has become a vibrant, specialist and essential domestic and family violence (DFSV) service provider, all while remaining true to its foundations of being a responsive, accessible legal service for women in the Greater Darwin region and beyond.

### OUR VISION CONTINUES...

In FY2021/22, TEWLS' dedication to our vision - a community in which women enjoy and are entitled to legal and social justice - was unwavering. In providing ever-increasing legal and non-legal services, the service remained at the forefront of women's rights issues in a landscape filled with National Summits, National Plans and DFSV focus. We are hopeful that the groundswell and community buy-in to these issues will equate to meaningful action for our clients, including strong Government (Commonwealth and Northern Territory) backing of specialist women's legal services and our holistic, trauma-informed and culturally safe operating models.

### COVID-19 IMPACTS CONTINUE TO BE FELT BY OUR PRACTICE.

2022 emerged as one of our busiest years yet, with COVID-19 simultaneously causing chaos across the Top End. In collating figures for this Annual Report, and noting that our staffing levels remained unchanged with the conclusion and introduction of separate projects, it would be remiss to not draw attention to dramatically increased statistics for our legal practice (as compared with the previous 12-month period):

- **20.7% increase** in legal advices provided;
- **126% increase** in court representation services; and
- **80% increase** in other representation services.

Adding complexity to the above is more than two-thirds of our clients presenting with DFSV indicators, with demands and presentations for our assistance continuing to outstrip capacity.

### ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TOP END'S FIRST PERMANENT & FREE MIGRATION LEGAL ASSISTANCE PRACTICE

As flagged in last year's Annual Report, we were delighted to establish the Top End's



first permanent and free migration legal assistance practice for women and persons identifying as women, furthering our mandate to provide holistic services to our clients. Funded through the Department of Social Services, the Temporary Visa Holders Experiencing Violence Pilot has already been extended from a 12-month to 2-year Pilot, with our service advocating alongside sister Women's Legal Services across Australia for the Pilot's continuation.

**THE SERVICE HAS HAD FUNDING SUCCESS AND CHALLENGES, WITH NEED CONTINUING TO OUTWEIGH CAPACITY.**

Following the then Commonwealth Government's announcement of increased funding under the NLAP in May 2021, TEWLS partook in rigorous funding proposal application processes. And while the service was successful in securing new monies under two (2) funding streams - the Vulnerable Women and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace streams, respectively - the amounts received/to be received will not bring about the change so desperately sought. Alongside our national and Northern Territory colleagues, we will continue to advocate for needs-based funding models, as well as prioritisation of funding to specialist women's legal services.

**WE HAVE EXPANDED OUR EXPERTISE INTO ARCHITECTURE WITH THE DOUBLING OF OUR DARWIN OFFICE.**

With our office brimming with staff (a happy issue!), we were immensely

fortunate to be approached by an external benefactor with funding to expand our service into next door - and over the course of six (6) months, the TEWLS team have turned into quasi-architects, planning and executing a space that is client-focused, warm and professional. We will be delighted to officially launch this space in September 2022, with our service now having the capability to scale into the future.

**WE REMAIN ENERGISED AND OPTIMISTIC FOR THE NEXT PHASE OF TEWLS' SERVICE PROVISION.**

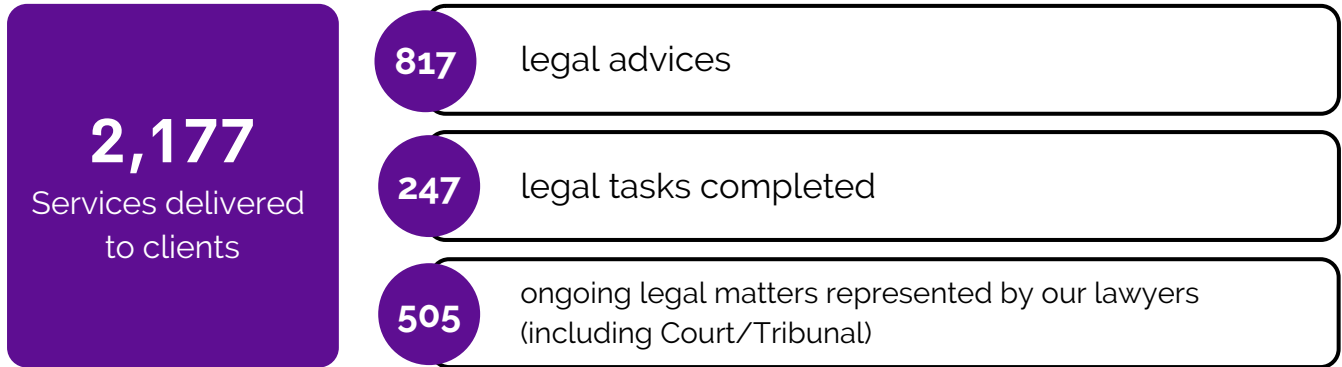
With changes to the TEWLS executive structure and the introduction of the Chief Executive Officer position, our team is ready for the next steps. I am immensely proud and grateful to work alongside our professional, innovative and passionate staff, without whom TEWLS would not shine, and extend my sincere thanks to our dedicated and supportive Management Committee who continue to guide our service to new heights.

With women continuing to experience hardships because of their gender and associated vulnerabilities, the need for specialist women's legal services remains as strongly as 25 years ago - and we stand ready to meet this challenge.



Caitlin Weatherby-Fell  
**Chief Executive Officer**

## Snapshot - our services



On average, **4 legal matter types** were covered per legal advice



### Top 3 legal matter types:

1. Parenting arrangements
2. Domestic and family violence
3. Family law - property



Over **\$50,000** worth of legal advice provided by our volunteer lawyers

\*based on the NT Supreme Court costs schedule



**100%** of clients who participated in our 2022 survey said that they would recommend TEWLS to other people

**"Good mob. Tell other families"**

Client survey response, March 2022

**"At the most stressful time of my life you were such a solid source of support ... you always treated me with the highest degree of respect and always made my feelings validated"**

Client feedback, services delivered  
FY2021/22



## Snapshot - our clients



**7.5 out of 10 ongoing clients were experiencing or at risk of domestic and family violence**



## Snapshot - our reach



**199** legal clinics delivered at **12** locations



**12** community event attendances



**28** community legal education sessions delivered



**17** network, advocacy and reference groups memberships

**"Having one lawyer visit our service to provide support across legal areas reduces re-traumatization associated with client retelling their stories, promotes more integrated and positive outcomes and complements our existing services"**

Stakeholder endorsement, November 2021

## Snapshot - our reach





## Our impact

### Specialist women's funding stream - NLAP

#### Highlights

- Funding expanded - enabling outreach legal services at all four (4) women's shelters in the Greater Darwin region to become part of our ongoing, core practice.
- New funding awarded - enabling TEWLS and KWILS to establish a specialist workplace sexual harassment practice.

The specialist women's funding stream, funded through the National Legal Assistance Partnership (NLAP) under the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department, is the core funding stream under which TEWLS operates. This funding stream enables us to deliver services at our Darwin office, as well as at outreach locations including Palmerston and the Darwin Correctional Centre (non-Indigenous clients).

From FY2019/20 to FY2020/21, TEWLS noted significant increases in demand for services under this stream, and our representation services delivered increased by 50.0% during this period. In November 2021, to help address these service demand pressure-points and ensure that we can help as many women as possible, we sought an expansion of funding under this stream under the new "Vulnerable Women" NLAP stream.

In December 2021, TEWLS was advised that our bid for increased NLAP funding was successful, and the additional funding was gratefully received in June 2022. This has been critical in ensuring that our outreach work at all four (4) women's shelters in the Greater Darwin region has been able to continue following the conclusion of the Darwin Women's Shelter Project in April 2022 (which operated under COVID-19 Legal Assistance Grant Funding).

Further, in conjunction with our sister service, the Katherine Women's Information and Legal Service (KWILS), TEWLS was successful in a bid for additional NLAP funding to establish a specialist sexual harassment practice. This new practice will provide legal assistance services to women and persons identifying as women, who are experiencing workplace sexual harassment and/or discrimination in the Greater Darwin, Katherine and Big Rivers regions, due to commence in late 2022.





## Indigenous outreach funding stream - NIAA

Our work under this stream is funded by the Indigenous Advancement Strategy, which is managed by the National Indigenous Advancement Agency (NIAA).

Under this stream, TEWLS provides legal and non-legal services to Indigenous women at the Darwin Correctional Centre and six (6) Indigenous communities in the Greater Darwin Region: Acacia Community, Amangal Community, Bagot Community, Belyuen Community, Knuckey Lagoon Community and Palmerston Indigenous Village (15 Mile).

TEWLS is the only legal service in the NT that has provided consistent and long-standing civil and family law clinics for incarcerated persons, and we have continued to experience a high demand for our services at the Darwin Correctional Centre this year.

Our delivery of reliable and wraparound legal services and community legal education at the six (6) Indigenous communities we attend has also continued, with our strong partnerships and relationships within community having been built through the consistent delivery of holistic and culturally safe services to these locations over many years.

### Rose's story

Rose\* is a 45-year-old aboriginal woman who was incarcerated at the Darwin Correctional Centre. Rose attended our legal clinic at the Darwin Correction Centre for legal advice due to ongoing violence from her ex-partner. Rose was concerned that upon release, her ex-partner would find her and continue controlling and abusing her.

Through regular contact and listening to Rose's story, Rose disclosed to TEWLS years of abuse, including sexual abuse, from the same offender. She disclosed feeling trapped and unable to see how she could leave the situation. Rose advised that she had not told anyone about the abuse due to feelings of shame, and felt able to disclose to TEWLS after building trust over a number of months.

Our Indigenous Community and Project Officer assisted Rose with domestic violence education and referred her to counselling and housing services to help rebuild Rose's self-esteem. Our lawyers assisted Rose to obtain a Domestic Violence Order, lodge a Victims of Crime Application and liaise with Community Corrections to ensure her safety once released.

Through legal and non-legal support, we were able to develop a strong support network for Rose during her incarceration, which has been maintained post-release. Rose is currently living in community with family and attends counselling at her community health centre.



Left: TEWLS catching up with Aunty Helen Fejo-Frith in November 2021 during one of our regular visits to Bagot Community. The work that Helen has done for her community inspires us everyday, and during this visit Helen shared with us a quote from her Dad that inspires her: "Open your mouth. If you keep your mouth shut, no one will hear you".

Right: TEWLS making new friends during a monthly visit to 15 Mile Community in May 2022.





## Temporary Visa Holders Experiencing Violence Pilot - DSS

In September 2021, TEWLS commenced a new pilot program: the Temporary Visa Holders Experiencing Violence Pilot (the Pilot), funded by the Commonwealth Department of Social Services (DSS). The Pilot was initially funded for a 12-month period, however, in May 2022 and following significant advocacy, TEWLS received confirmation of a 12-month extension to 30 May 2022; a testament to the early success of the Pilot.

Under the Pilot, TEWLS provides free, wrap-around legal and migration assistance to women on temporary visas or with no visa, who are experiencing domestic and family violence. As the case study below describes - the Pilot is essential in reducing the re-traumatisation of women through having to retell their stories to multiple legal services to get assistance across their migration, family and civil law matters. TEWLS' legal practice has significantly benefitted through the commencement of our specialist migration lawyer, with TEWLS the only free legal assistance service in the Top End with a migration practice.

### Clara's story

In January 2022, TEWLS facilitated an urgent appointment for Clara\*, who instructed that her abusive ex-partner was unilaterally withholding their two-year-old child.

Clara advised that she had recently been working with three (3) other legal services in relation to her migration matters and an application for a Domestic Violence Order, however, Clara said that none of these legal services could assist with the urgently presenting issue of her child being withheld by her ex-partner; an act of continuing domestic and family violence.

Under the scope of the Pilot, TEWLS gave Clara urgent advice and commenced to act on her behalf, preparing the necessary court documents for a recovery order application to the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia while also negotiating with Clara's ex-partner for the safe return of the child. Fortunately, TEWLS' negotiations were successful, and the child was returned to Clara, avoiding an emotionally draining and time-consuming litigation process. The parties are now in agreement to participate in family dispute resolution (mediation), avoiding the need for family law proceedings. TEWLS will now assist Clara as her legal representation at the upcoming mediation.

Clara has also given instructions for TEWLS to commence as her representative for migration matters and, following the resolution of parenting matters, has advised that she intends to engage TEWLS to act in respect of property matters. Clara has told us that she wished she knew of TEWLS and the Pilot earlier so she could have sought our assistance first and only needed one lawyer.



## COVID-19 legal assistance funding stream - NTG and Cth AGD

2022 saw the conclusion of TEWLS' two (2) projects funded under the Northern Territory Government and Commonwealth Government COVID-19 legal assistance grant program, however, the success of both projects has helped to shape future planning for TEWLS.


<b>Project</b>	Darwin Women's Shelters Project <b>(DWS Project)</b>	Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Legal Health Check & Community Legal Education Project <b>(CALD Project)</b>
<b>Overview</b>	<p>The DWS Project enabled TEWLS to expand our existing women's shelter outreach program from one to four domestic and family violence shelters in the Darwin region.</p> <p>The outreach model adopted by the DWS Project has meant that women being supported by our partnering women's shelters have been able to receive trauma-informed legal advice and, where required, ongoing representation assistance within a safe and known environment.</p>	<p>The CALD Project delivered two (2) key sub-projects:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Legal Health Checks (LHCs); a flexible screening tool to facilitate conversations and identify previously unidentified legal needs; and</li><li>2. Community legal education (CLE) and corresponding creation of legal factsheets in the five (5) most prevalent CALD languages.</li></ol> <p>The CALD Project also built capacity to provide dedicated services to the underserved CALD community.</p>
<b>Outcome</b>	<p>The DWS Project formally concluded in April 2022, however, as a result of TEWLS successful bid for expanded NLAP funding, TEWLS outreach work to all four women's shelters continues, and now forms an important and fitting component of our core business.</p>	<p>The CALD Project formally concluded in January 2022, with 54/50 LHCs completed, 16/16 CLE workshops delivered, and four (4) new civil law factsheets created per the most common legal matter types identified in the LHC data.</p>
<b>Partners</b>	<p>TEWLS would like to acknowledge and thank our partners for this project: Catherine Booth House, Darwin Aboriginal and Islander Women's Shelter, Dawn House Women's Shelter and the YWCA Domestic and Family Violence Centre.</p>	<p>TEWLS is grateful to our primary project stakeholder, Melaleuca Australia. We also acknowledge the invaluable support of the Darwin CALD community, including stakeholders, and multicultural community groups and associations.</p>



## Law reform and submissions

Integral to our work to ensure better outcomes for women in the Top End is our contribution to law reform and systems change. TEWLS welcomes the opportunity to make submissions and express our views on a wider scale on matters of importance to our clients and our areas of service.

- TEWLS - Response to draft Northern Territory Gender Equality Statement of Commitment - July 2021
- TEWLS - Endorsement of the DVFN submission to the Commonwealth Second National Plan - July 2021
- TEWLS - Consultation with the Officer of the Solicitor Assisting (OSA), Disability Royal Commission - August 2021
- TEWLS - Endorsement of the Harmony Alliance Joint Statement for Women's Safety Summit (WSS) re supporting women from migrant and refugee backgrounds - August 2021
- TEWLS - Consultation re development of Action Plan 2, Northern Territory Government 10-year Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Reduction Framework - Sept 2021
- TEWLS - Joint submission of the Northern Territory Legal Services Forum to Territory Families' Legislation Amendment Act 2021 - September 2021
- TEWLS - Consultation re draft Northern Territory 10-year Generational Strategy - Oct 2021
- TEWLS - Letter to Northern Territory Attorney-General re bail matters and the NT Charter of Victims Rights - Oct 2021
- TEWLS - Endorsement of DVNSW's concerns re implementation of the Escaping Violence Payments Program - Nov 2021
- TEWLS - Endorsement of Equality Australia's open letter to the Prime Minister re Religious Discrimination Bill - Nov 2021
- TEWLS - Consultation re proposed amendments to the Northern Territory Anti-Discrimination Act - Feb 2022
- TEWLS - Submission to the Draft National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children 2022-32 - March 2022
- TEWLS - Submission to LSNT membership consultation re bullying, discrimination and sexual harassment - March 2022
- TEWLS - Consultation re Northern Territory NDIS Advocacy - March 2022
- TEWLS - Consultation re OPCAT implementation in the Northern Territory - March 2022
- TEWLS - Endorsement of the Consumer Action Law Centre's open letter re Youlpa/ACBF liquidation ("Save Sorry Business" campaign) - April 2022
- TEWLS - Endorsement of the Settlement Services Network's support letter for continuation of TEWLS' Temporary Visa Holders Experiencing Violence Pilot - May 2022



In addition to making individual submissions and endorsements and/or partaking in individual consultations, TEWLS also advocates alongside our sister services, both in the Northern Territory through the Northern Territory Women's Legal Services (NTWLS - a coalition of TEWLS, KWILS and CAWLS), and Women's Legal Services Australia (WLSA).

- NTWLS - National Summit on Women's Safety - September 2021
- WLSA - WLSV on behalf of WLSA appearance before the Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee re the Family Law Amendment (Federal Family Violence Orders) Bill 2021 [Provisions] - July 2021
- WLSA - Endorsement of No to Violence's Joint Statement to Women's Safety Ministers (Women's Safety Summit) - July 2021
- WLSA - Consultation re Attorney-General's Department consultation: Genuine steps requirement and Section 60I Certificate - August 2021
- WLSA - Endorsement of the Harmony Alliance Joint Statement for Women's Safety Summit (WSS) re supporting women from migrant and refugee backgrounds - August 2021
- WLSA - Endorsement of the ERA Statement on the Safety Summit - August 2021
- WLSA - Endorsement of the Australian Communications Consumer Action Network (ACCAN) E-Safety Industry Codes and Consultations - October 2021
- WLSA - Endorsement of Equality Australia's open letter to the Prime Minister re Religious Discrimination Bill - Nov 2021
- WLSA - Endorsement of ERA Submission re the Cth Religious Discrimination Bill 2021 - December 2021
- WLSA - Endorsement of ERA Pre-budget submission - January 2022
- WLSA - Submission to the Crimes and Other Legislation Amendment (Strengthening the Criminal Justice Response to Sexual Violence and Other Measures) Bill 2022 - January 2022
- WLSA - Endorsement of the ERA submission in response to the Review of the Maternity Leave (Commonwealth Employees) Act 1973 (Cth) - February 2022
- WLSA - High-level response to the National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children - February 2022
- WLSA - Endorsement of the ERA submission to the PC Review of National Housing and Homelessness Agreement - March 2022
- WLSA - Endorsement of the Power 2 Prevent Coalition Respect@Work Joint Statement - March 2022
- WLSA - Endorsement of Fair Agenda's Joint Statement supporting inclusion, dignity and respect for all women - May 2022
- WLSA - Letter to the Honourable Justice Alstergren, Chief Justice of the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia - June 2022





## Committees, networks and law reform working groups

TEWLS is committed to ongoing system improvement and engagement on behalf of our clients, using our experience and expertise to influence law and justice development to achieve our vision.

In FY2021/22, we participated in the following committees, networks and law reform working groups:

- Community Legal Centres Australia (CLCA)
- Darwin Correctional Centre Service Providers Group
- Domestic and Family Violence Court User's Forum (NT Local Court)
- Domestic and Family Violence Justice Reform Working Group
- Domestic and Family Violence Network (DVFN)
- Housing Legal Services Group
- Northern Territory Association of Community Legal Centres (NTACLCLC)
- Northern Territory Community Legal Education Network (CLE Network)
- Northern Territory Family Law Pathways Network
- Northern Territory Legal Assistance Forum (NTLAF)
- Northern Territory Women's Legal Services (NTWLS)
- NTCOSS Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Network
- Palmerston Indigenous Network (PIN)
- Residential Tenancy Act Review Working Group
- Settlement Support Network (SSN)
- Women's Legal Services Australia (WLSA)
- Women's Legal Services Australia - TVHEVP Pilot sub-committee

## Community legal education and community engagement

In FY2021/22, we continued to assist women to better understand their legal rights and pathways to access legal services through community legal education and community engagement. We believe that empowering women with knowledge is some of the most important work we do and we have made it a priority again this year. In total, we delivered **28** community legal education sessions and engaged with the public at **12** community events.

### Legal education month

The highlight of our CLE calendar was legal education month (Oct/Nov 2021), and this year we decided to improve accessibility by holding our sessions at locations where we have a high client base. We held four (4) sessions at the Palmerston Community Care Centre and four sessions (4) at the Casuarina Library, respectively.

### Community events

- City of Darwin, 2022 International Women's Day Walk and Celebrations
- Young Territorians, All Youth Conference 2022
- City of Palmerston, Palmerston Pride Picnic
- Services Australia, NAIDOC Celebration
- CDU Women's Collective, Self Defence Night
- My Body My Choice: Stand in Solidarity Protest
- Top End Pride, Rainbow Family Day, Darwin Pride Festival 2022
- Kindness Shake, Kindness Festival 2022
- Indian Cultural Society Northern Territory Inc., India@Mindil 2022
- Top End Youth Sector Training Day and Speed Networking
- Australian Red Cross NT, The Joy of Many Colours

**TOP END WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICE**  
*Legal Education Month*  
**OCTOBER/NOV 2021**

Are you a woman (or identify as a woman) living in the Greater Darwin Region?  
Do you want to learn about your legal rights in a safe, respectful space?  
You are invited to join TEWLS for a month of **free** legal information sessions at Palmerston and Casuarina during October & November 2021.

Topic	Session 1	Session 2
<b>Topic 1</b> Divorce and Property	Tues 12 October - 10:00 to 11:30am @ Palmerston Comm Care Centre	Thurs 24 October - 9:00 to 9:30am @ Casuarina Library
<b>Topic 2</b> Image-based abuse, DVOs and PVROs	Tues 19 October - 10:00 to 11:30am @ Palmerston Comm Care Centre	Thurs 21 October - 9:00 to 9:30am @ Casuarina Library
<b>Topic 3</b> Migration, Visas & Domestic and Family Violence	Tues 26 October - 10:00 to 11:30am @ Palmerston Comm Care Centre	Thurs 28 October - 9:00 to 9:30am @ Casuarina Library
<b>Topic 4</b> Separation and Parenting	Tues 19 November - 10:00 to 11:30am @ Palmerston Comm Care Centre	Thurs 24 November - 9:00 to 9:30am @ Casuarina Library

For more information and to book contact us:  
☎ (08) 8982 3000 ✉ admin@tewls.org.au

**TOP END WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICE INC.**  
NT & QLD DIVISION





Above: TEWLS stall at the City of Darwin's International Women's Day event on 5 March 2022. This year, we offered an activity inviting attendees to receive and share messages of positivity, some of which have since become the positive affirmations available at all TEWLS stalls/events.

Below: TEWLS and KWILS' shared a stall at the All Youth Conference on 8 April 2022. We used fun and thought-provoking activities to engage youth in discussions about gender inequality and domestic, family and sexual violence.



## Our people

### Management Committee

#### Chairperson

Chris Osborne

#### Treasurer

Rose Mills

#### Secretary

Sim O'Callaghan

#### Board Members

Carol Cummins

Danielle Eveleigh

Emma Farnell

Sizol Fuyana

### Chief Executive Officer

Caitlin Weatherby-Fell

### Legal Team

#### Senior Lawyers

Kathryn Baumeister

Georgia Hagias (resigned April 2022)

#### Lawyers

Giselle Hutchins

Alyce Boemia

Brittany Carmody

Georgia King

Khami Aughterson (concluded Dec 2021)

#### Paralegals

Piper Horner

Teresa Parnis (Volunteer Nov 21-March 22)

Carina Stone (Volunteer Jan-March 22)

### Client Support Team

#### Indigenous Community Project Officer

Pamela Lasker

#### CALD Project Officer

Carina Kapiamba (concluded August 2021)

#### Administration Officer

Kara Mills

### Volunteer Lawyers

#### Supervising Lawyers

Cathy Spurr

Chris Osborne

Julie Franz

Peggy Cheong

Michelle Duggan

#### Lawyers

Anna Lindsay

Anne-Marie Chin

Bahareh Jaber

Bridgette Vanderwolf

Elena Zola

Georgia Hagias

Harita Sridhar

Harriet Murphy

Hiliary Thornberry

Kendra Frew

Madeleine Grant

Monica Thompson

Nicola Leach

Ruby Rayner

Sarah Strzelecki

Stella Noor

Tisha Tejaya

Winnie Chen

Yasmin Osborne

Zarah Ramoso



Above: TEWLS team showing off our new t-shirts, which feature the same incredible artwork by Muluymuluy Wirrpanda that accents our Annual Report.

Below: Our paralegal team delighted upon their commencement with TEWLS in February 2022.





## Our supporters

We extend heart-felt thanks to our key partners and supporters. You are invaluable in working towards our vision of a community in which women enjoy and are entitled to legal and social justice.

In particular, we would like to thank our dedicated team of volunteer lawyers, who helped us to deliver specialist legal advice appointments to 140 women this year.

We also sincerely thank our dedicated and talented volunteer paralegals, Teresa Parnis and Carina Stone, and we wish them well for their bright futures.

## Our donors

Thank you to all those who generously supported us through donations in 2020-21. In particular, we acknowledge the private donations made by members of our community, which have allowed us to undertake our office expansion.

## Our funders

Special thanks also to our funders; without whom we could not exist.





## Milestone celebration - TEWLS turns 25!

In 2021, TEWLS celebrated a significant milestone - our 25th anniversary!

Graciously hosted by Her Honour the Honourable Vicki O'Hallaron, Administrator of the Northern Territory and Mr Craig O'Hallaron at Government House, TEWLS celebrated the milestone with staff, Management Committee members and our dedicated volunteers under magical Christmas lights.

We are immensely thankful to Her Honour for hosting TEWLS for this important celebration - here's to 25 years and more of specialist legal services for women and persons identifying as women in the Top End!



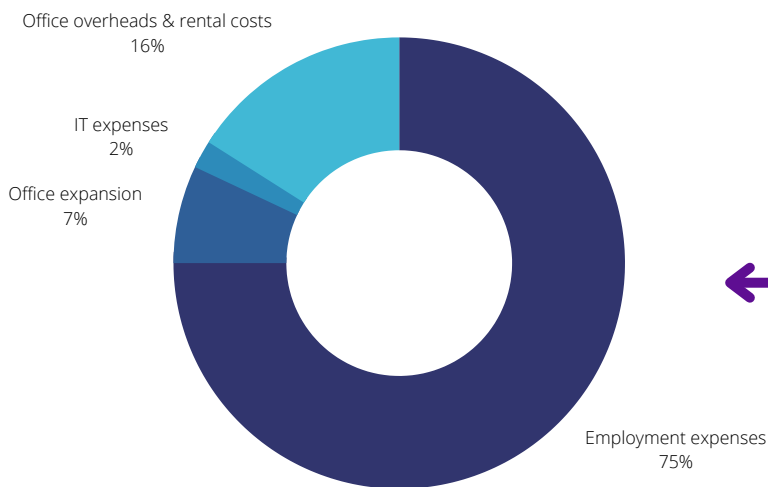
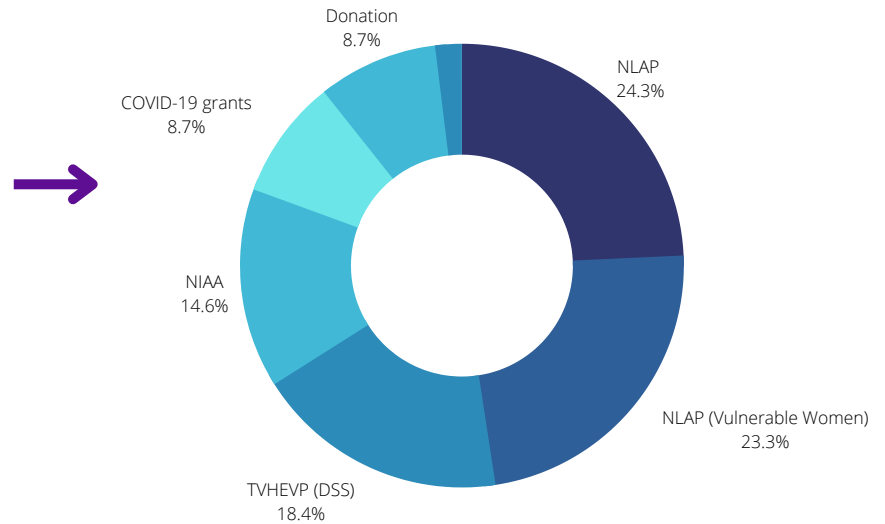
Left: TEWLS' Management Committee with Her Honour the Honourable Vicki O'Hallaron, Administrator of the Northern Territory.

Right: TEWLS staff with Her Honour the Honourable Vicki O'Hallaron, Administrator of the Northern Territory.

## Financial overview

For the year ending 30 June 2022 we recognised a profit of **\$327,444** (noting the receipt of significant funding under the NLAP immediately prior to the EOFY for rollover to future years until 2025).

Our total income recognised was **\$1,235,186**, including funding and grant income of **\$1,104,234** broken down as:



Our total expenditure was **\$907,442**, with major expenses related to staff and office costs.

**As at 30 June 2022, our net assets were \$765,024.**

### Assets

Cash and bank	\$999,045
Right of use assets	\$336,338
Other assets	\$15,743

**Total Assets \$1,337,649**

### Liabilities

Trade and other payables	\$109,269
Lease liabilities	\$341,546
Employee provisions	\$121,810

**Total Liabilities \$572,625**



# TOP END WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICE INC.

FREE LEGAL ADVICE FOR WOMEN

Advice | Information | Referral | Advocacy

