



SERVICE SNAPSHOT

WHY WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES

- We act on our vision and purpose by:
- Supporting women to gain equitable access to integrated, holistic, trauma-informed, and culturally secure free legal and support services in the Top End of the Northern Territory (NT).
 - Empowering and assisting women to make informed legal choices and achieve fair outcomes.
 - Advocating for laws and policies that respect and promote women's rights.
 - Educating women to know their legal rights.
 - Building the capacity of our community to identify, and respond to women's legal needs.

OUR VISION

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

OUR PURPOSE

Top End Women's Legal Service (TEWLS) is a not-for-profit, specialist women's legal service focused on advancing the rights of women and non-binary persons.

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

ABOUT US

Violence is gendered, driven by gender inequalities. Women have less income, opportunities, and power than men.

Women have a range of legal, social, economic, and cultural needs that require a holistic approach.

Women's legal services have specialist experience providing assistance across intersecting areas of law, such as family law and domestic, family, and sexual violence (DFS).

Women continue to encounter disproportionate and significant barriers to justice, safety, and equality.

We are person-centred and provide tailored, integrated, and trauma-informed services to the unique needs of each woman.



TOP END WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICE INC.

FREE LEGAL ADVICE FOR WOMEN

Advice | Information | Referral | Advocacy

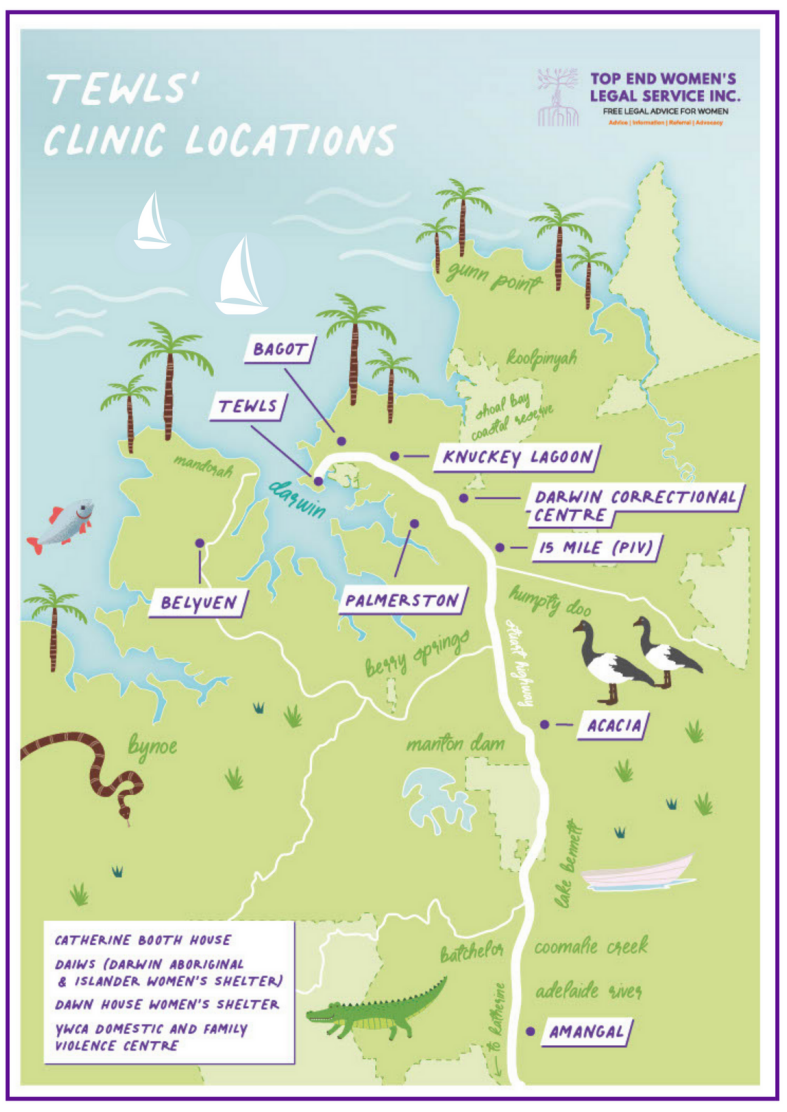
ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

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.

Always was, always will be.



OUR CLIENTS

WHO ARE OUR CLIENTS?

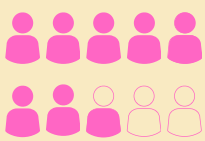
565
total clients

31%
of all clients identified as
Aboriginal or Torres
Strait Islander

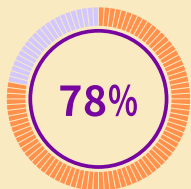
28%
of all clients speak a
main language other
than English at home

26%
of all clients identified as
having a disability or
mental ill health

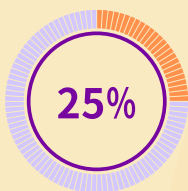
ISSUES OUR CLIENTS ARE EXPERIENCING



76% of our
ongoing clients
were affected by
DFSV



78% of our
ongoing clients
experienced
financial
disadvantage



25% of all clients
identified they
were affected by
homelessness



HOW WE CAN HELP

In the Top End of the NT, TEWLS is one of six free legal assistance services and the only gender-specific service. TEWLS is also a specialist DFSV service.

TEWLS has three core components to our service delivery model:



**Direct client services
(integrated legal and
support practice)**



**Community legal
education**



**Law and policy
reform**

TEWLS' service model means that a client can access legal assistance from one legal practitioner in multiple areas of law, including:



FAMILY LAW
including separation, parenting,
property, and divorce



MIGRATION LAW
for temporary visa holders
experiencing DFSV



DFSV
including court orders (DVO and
PVRO) and sexual assault



EMPLOYMENT LAW
including workplace discrimination
and/or sexual harassment



COMPENSATION
including victims of crime
compensation



HOUSING AND TENANCY
including public and private
housing issues



**DISCRIMINATION AND
COMPLAINTS**
including issues with Police,
Health, and other government
bodies/services



**DEBT, SUPERANNUATION, AND
ESTATES**
including fines, lost
superannuation, and deceased
estates

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In FY22-23, TEWLS continued to assist women and the wider community to better understand their legal rights and pathways to access legal services. This was primarily achieved through community legal education (CLE) and participation in community events, including the coordination of TEWLS-led events. Community engagement plays a fundamental role in TEWLS' early intervention and prevention activities which are informed by our experience and expertise.

46 CLE sessions

+150 stakeholder and
community activities

3 TEWLS-led
community events

LAW AND POLICY REFORM

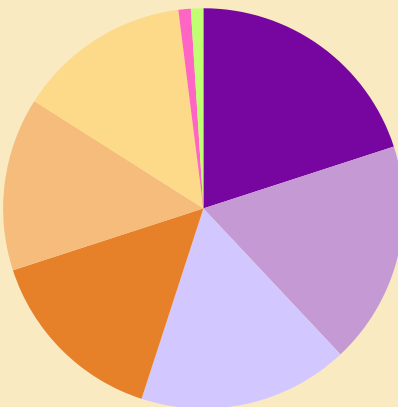
Integral to TEWLS' work in ensuring better outcomes for women are our contributions to law reform and systems change.

TEWLS welcomes opportunities to make submissions and offer expertise on a broad spectrum of matters important to our clients and areas of service. TEWLS contributes both as an individual service and as part of relevant collectives, such as the Northern Territory Women's Legal Services (NTWLS).

In response to urgent and growing DFSV legal need and imminent funding cliffs, TEWLS turned our focus to the influence of and connection with government and media. In raising our service profile and the unique needs of our clients, TEWLS were successful in securing funding for a number of streams over the coming two (2) years, as well as providing expertise to influence the development of new policies and strategies.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Total revenue for the year ended 30 June 2023 is **\$1,749,034**



Aboriginal Womens Community Outreach (NIAA)	20%
NLAP Baseline	18%
NLAP Workplace Sexual Harassment	17%
NLAP Vulnerable Women	15%
Temporary Visa Holders Pilot (DSS)	14%
Paul Ramsay Foundation (for 2023-2025)	14%
Legal Practitioners Fidelity Fund	1%
Other	1%

Total expenditure for the year ended 30 June 2023 is **\$1,321,415**



**Employee
expenses
(78%)**



**Premises
costs
(8%)**



**IT &
communications
(3%)**



**Office
management
(4%)**



**Other
expenses
(7%)**

ANNUAL POSITION

As at 30 June 2023, our member's funds balance is **\$1,192,643**



**Assets
\$1,976,643**



**Liabilities
\$748,000**



**Equity
\$1,192,643**

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Increased and diversified funding sources have allowed for service expansion.

Monies received in advance of operations commencement ensures security for future years.