



**NATIONAL CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH LAW CENTRE**

# ANNUAL REPORT

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**2013 - 2014**



**UNSW**  
AUSTRALIA

| Law

**KING & WOOD  
MALLESONS**



**An Australian Government Initiative**

According to the Law & Justice Foundation of New South Wales' Legal Australia-Wide (LAW) Survey, 42% of 15-17 year olds and 55% of 18-24 year olds reported experiencing at least one legal problem.

Survey respondents reported that their legal problems caused stress-related illness in 20% of cases, physical ill health in 19%, relationship breakdown in 10 %, having to move home in 5% and loss of income or financial strain in 29%.

**By helping kids solve their legal problems, we're also improving their overall wellbeing and breaking the cycle of vulnerability.**

# CONTENTS

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SECTION 1	<b>CALL TO ACTION: OPEN LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR</b>	<b>02</b>
SECTION 2	<b>HIGHLIGHTS</b>	<b>06</b>
	<b>CHAIR'S REPORT</b>	<b>08</b>
	<b>YOUTH LAW</b>	<b>10</b>
	Lawstuff	11
	Lawmail	13
	Student Legal Services	16
	<b>CHILD RIGHTS</b>	<b>17</b>
	<b>LEADERSHIP</b>	<b>19</b>
	Law Awards	20
	Cyberbullying	21
	<b>OPERATIONS</b>	<b>23</b>
	Partners	24
	Board	25
SECTION 3	<b>FINANCIAL REPORT</b>	<b>26</b>

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 [www.twitter.com/Lawstuff\\_Aus](http://www.twitter.com/Lawstuff_Aus)

SECTION 1

CALL TO ACTION:

OPEN LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

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Dear Supporter

We urgently need your support. For nearly 25 years we've been helping Aussie kids to overcome their problems. Now, it's us that have a problem.

Due to huge growth in demand for our services without a growth in resources, in 2015 for the first time ever we will turn away kids who contact us for help.



**Up to 1 in 4 kids who ask us for help this year won't receive it.**

Next year, it will be 1 in 2 or 1 in 3!

**That's over 1,000 kids turned away in 2016.**



And with each passing year, our information service – which **served over 1 million young people in 2014 – deteriorates because we cannot now dedicate resources to its upkeep – all our permanent staff and volunteers are responding to the kids who contact us for help.**

Please, we need your financial support to solve this problem and to help us help more young people.

## WHO WE ARE

**We are the only online practical and legal problem-solving service for all Aussie young people under 25.**

Our website, Lawstuff ([www.lawstuff.org.au](http://www.lawstuff.org.au)) provides easy to understand practical and legal information to over a million kids, parents and youth workers a year on a wide variety of issues confronting kids as they grow up.

Those who need additional help are invited to send us a Lawmail ([www.lawstuff.org.au/lawmail](http://www.lawstuff.org.au/lawmail)) with details of their problem so we can provide them with free, confidential and non-judgmental advice, help and referrals by email.



A national service



An online service



Accessible to kids everywhere



A great support

The ability to reach out to us anonymously, 24/7, from anywhere with an internet connection, eliminates the typical barriers to youth help-seeking (such as embarrassment) as well as the particular access barriers that affect remote, rural and regional youth, kids with disability and those who can't access help during school or work hours.

Lawstuff and Lawmail are amazing and unique resources, but they are in trouble.

The people behind these technology-enabled and award-winning national youth services are a volunteer Board, 3 legal staff and over 100 volunteers of the charity, the National Children's and Youth Law Centre.



*"I just want to express my deep appreciation for the work you and the team have done. To provide such concise advice in such short a period of time for no cost is something nowhere else to be found in the world. Thank you so much. You guys have been a great help."*

17 year old, WA  
(school expulsion problem)



## OUR PROBLEM

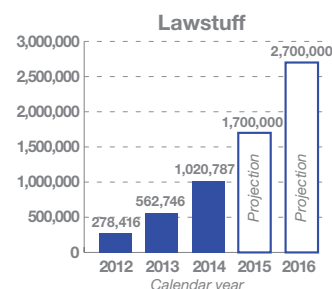
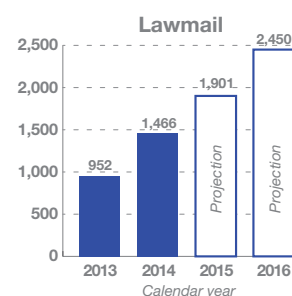
Because we are the only service of its kind in Australia—and because we are very good at what we do (particularly at creating innovative solutions to new and quickly evolving problems like cyberbullying, online sexual harassment and child marriage)—we are in high demand.

**With only \$250,000 p.a. in recurrent revenue (an Attorney-General's grant and a regular private donation) and only 3 permanent staff:**

- Lawmail helped 1,500 young people in 2014 (up 50% from 2013). **Much of this**

**growth can be attributed to a huge increase in cyberbullying and sexting-related queries, which now account for 25% of all Lawmails (up from <1% just five years ago). We are now at absolute peak capacity and cannot sustainably meet the current demand for help or projected future demand.**

- Lawstuff received over one million visits in 2014 (up half a million from 2013). Due to the pressures in Lawmail, it has become impossible to maintain the currency of the information and resources we provide.
- If Lawstuff fails, Lawmail fails!**



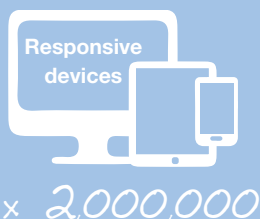
## SOLVING THE PROBLEM WITH YOUR HELP

With an additional \$250,000 per year, we can engage an extra 2-3 staff to enable us to:

- Meet the current Lawmail demand, ensure that no one is turned away and serve 1,000 more kids p.a. by 2016.



- Create a new device-responsive Lawstuff website serving over 2 million kids by 2016 and develop scalable and automated content curation to deliver even more engaging and relevant information and resources.



- Expand the reach and accessibility of our services by opening new communication channels for seeking and providing advice, including phone calls, SMS and social media private messaging.



New advice channels

- Dedicate resources to fundraising to drive further, sustainable growth.



**Please help us to help more Aussie kids through a donation.**

**Donations can be made at [www.lawstuff.org.au](http://www.lawstuff.org.au).**

**Thank you for considering it.**

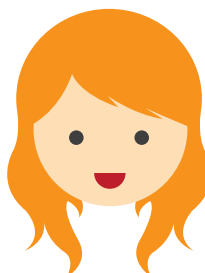
Yours faithfully,



Matthew Keeley  
Director  
National Children's and Youth Law Centre

*"I found (your) site at the top of the search engine and contacting you guys was very easy . . . I'm really happy with how fast a reply was sent out - it was detailed (and) you treated me with great respect . . . It was written in a way I could understand (and) I did what was advised and thus haven't so far had anymore problems . . . I would recommend your site and contact details for anyone needing legal advice."*

**18 year old, NSW  
(online sexual  
harassment problem)**



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[www.lawstuff.org.au](http://www.lawstuff.org.au)

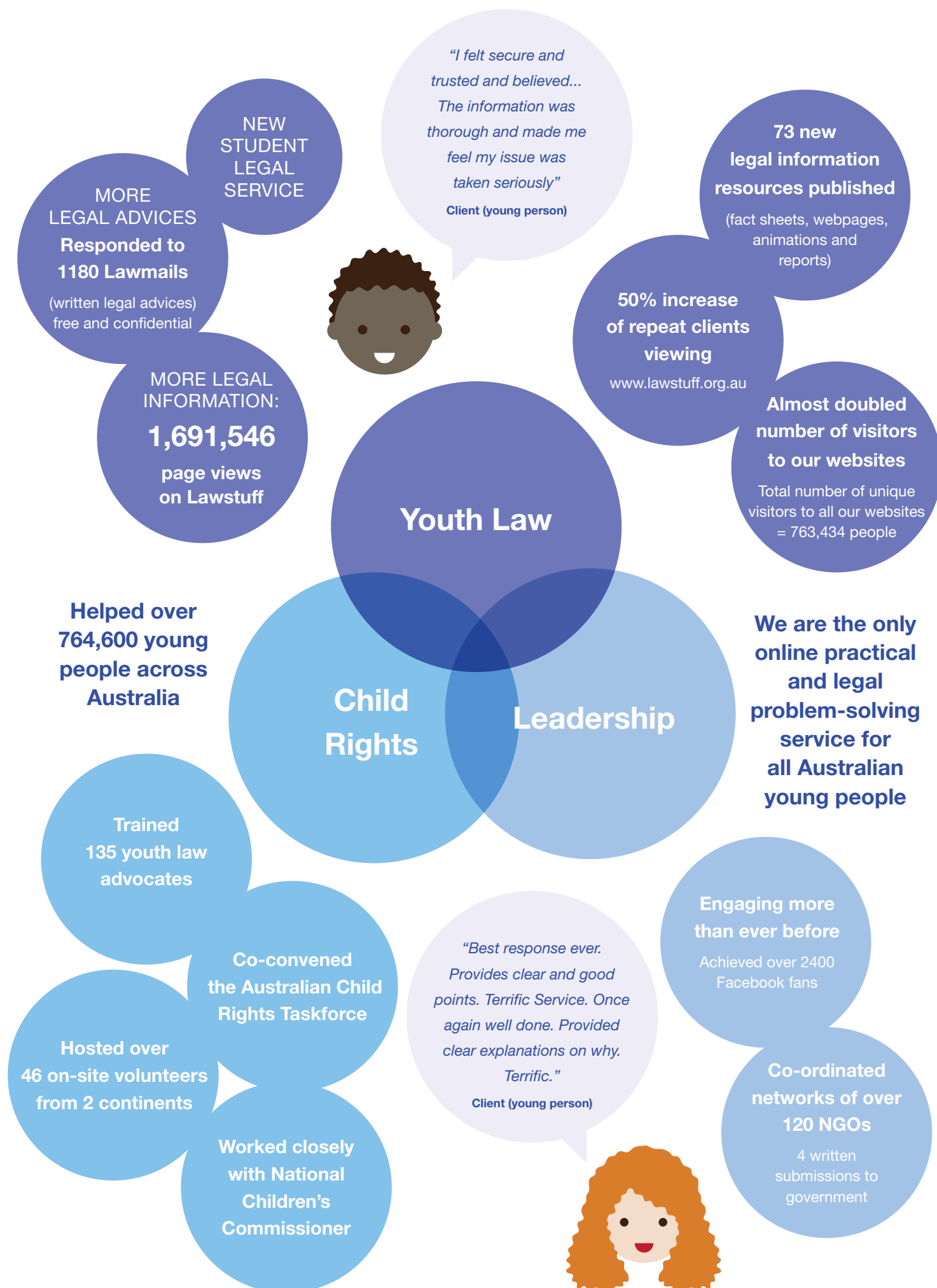
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[www.twitter.com/Lawstuff\\_Aus](https://www.twitter.com/Lawstuff_Aus)

SECTION 2

# HIGHLIGHTS

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# CHAIR'S REPORT

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## CHAIR'S REPORT

Our Centre was established because our founding Board recognised the need for a specialist children's legal service to ensure children's rights were not marginalised or ignored. This need clearly remains, as demonstrated by the growing demand for the Centre's services. This year, the Centre has helped more children through direct legal assistance and legal information than ever before.

In recognition of the multidisciplinary nature of managing an organisation aiming for equality and justice for children and young people, this year the Board welcomed the valuable and diverse contributions of new Board members, Mr Roger Christie, Ms Jackie Woods and Mr Fionn Skiotis. Roger, Jackie and Fionn bring with them expertise in public relations, information/computer technologies and international human rights amongst other things.

The Board's Finance Committee continues to meet before every Board Meeting to review the Centre's Financial Reports. The Committee is grateful for the continued assistance of Mr Adam Gordon and the high quality financial reporting of the Director and Operations and Legal Projects Manager.

The Board continues to prioritise the major ICT goals of the Strategic Plan under the stewardship of the ICT Committee. Led by Mr Roger Christie and Mr Adam Gordon, the Committee is pleased to report that projects are underway to develop a new software platform for Lawmail and to review Lawstuff in its entirety.

In undertaking the Centre's Strategic Performance Review with the support of Deputy Chair, Mr Michael Chaaya, I am pleased to report that the Centre is well in advance of meeting the Strategic Plan's key performance indicators in the four main areas of Youth Law, Child Rights, Leadership and Organisational Excellence. I, and the Board have full confidence that by the end of 2014 we shall see the completion of substantially all the work we set ourselves in the Strategic Plan 2011-2014.

The significant achievements of the Centre are a result of the Centre's dedicated Staff, Board and Director who are committed to outputs of the highest quality. I am proud to be a part of an organisation that remains passionate about improving outcomes for children and young people. In particular, I thank outgoing Board members, Dr Judy Cashmore and Ms Pheona Twist for their outstanding contributions to the Centre during their 10 years of service. It has been inspiring to work alongside these passionate and dedicated child rights advocates who have volunteered their time and expertise to the Centre. I have no doubt that their support of the Centre's work will continue in various other ways.

I thank all of the Centre's Board members for their support of the Board, the Centre and myself, and the Director and Staff for their unwavering commitment to the rights of Australia's children and young people. I look forward to the Centre's ongoing work to facilitate children's participation, wellbeing and rights across Australia.



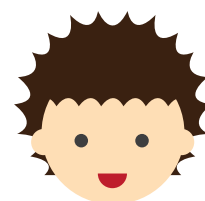
**Sarah Winter**



*Sarah Winter*

*"I found it really easy... it was very quick and helpful... I found that you were treated me very well"*

**Client (young person)**

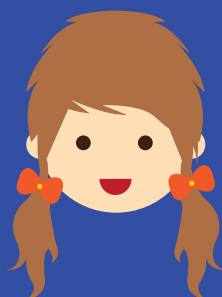


## YOUTH LAW

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**2013-2014 has seen significant growth in the total number of young people seeking help through Lawstuff and Lawmail.**

This quote, taken from a client's reply to our Lawmail advice, demonstrates the tremendous impact that accurate, easily accessible, plain-English legal advice or information can have on a young person's life.



*"Thank you so much for your help. I have dealt with the situation accordingly and thanks to the information it ended quickly. I feel so much better knowing that I was able to just tell somebody but the extra legal help... well you already know. Again I would like to thank you so much. You're understanding, support and genuine thoughtfulness has helped me to understand to a further extent my past wrong doings and to create a new perspective of life."*

Client (young person)



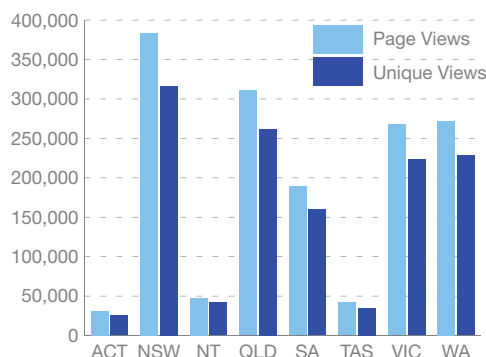
The utility of our Lawmail advice is monitored through client surveys. 97% of survey respondents reported that they understood our advice and found it 'useful' or 'very useful'.

## Lawstuff provides quality legal information to Australia's children and young people and their advocates.

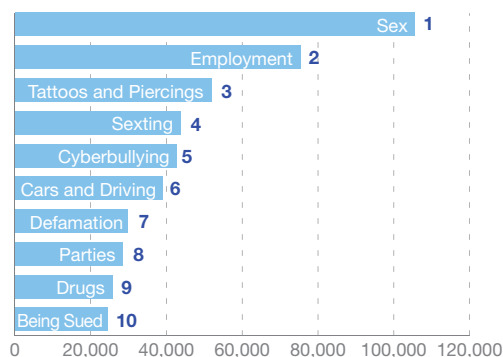
Google Analytics is used to monitor the number of page views, total visitors and unique visitors to Lawstuff. We're pleased to report that we have had another year with a significant increase in the number of total visits, unique visits and page views of the Lawstuff website. Total visits have increased by 68.3%, and the number of unique visitors has increased by 72.1%, with the website receiving 319,832 more unique visitors than the 443,602 unique visitors in the previous financial year.

Financial Year	2012-2013	2013-2014
Total Number of Page Views	1,247,612	1,691,546
Total Number of Visits	520,109	875,489
Total Number of Unique Visitors	443,602	763,434

Lawstuff views by State and Territory

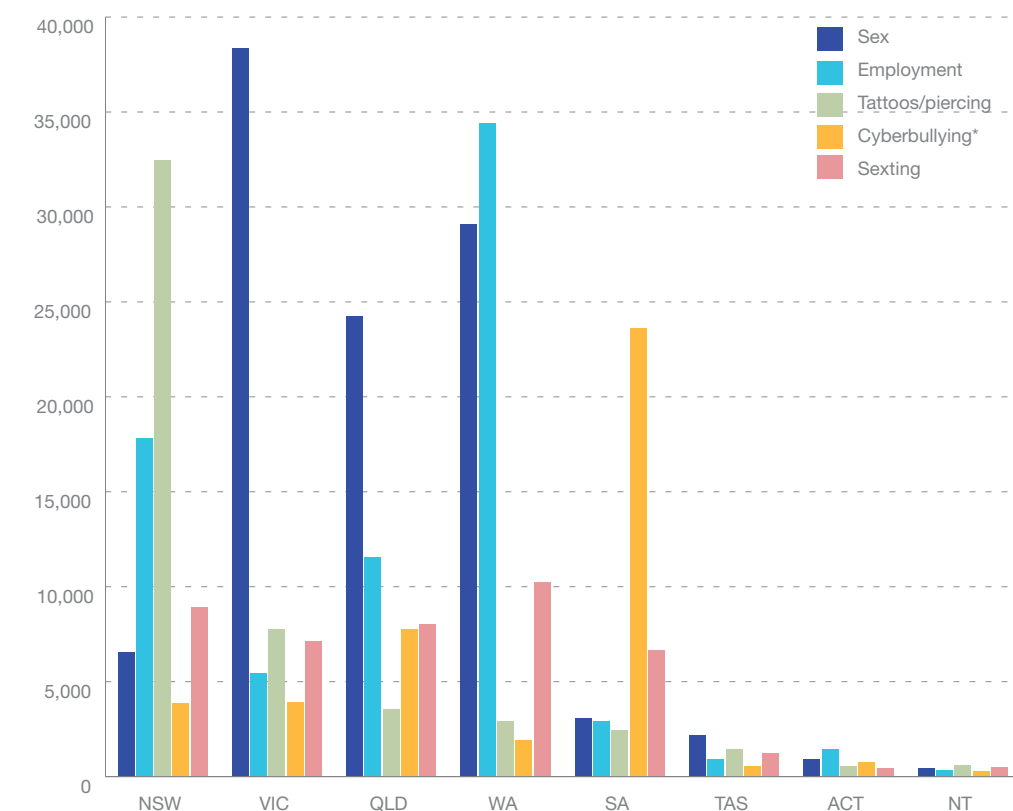


Nationally the top-ten topics viewed on Lawstuff



The Centre acknowledges in particular the work of our on-site volunteers, Practical Legal Trainees and Social Justice Interns (UNSW Law), without whom Lawstuff could not reach so many Australian children and young people.

### The top-five topics in each State and Territory

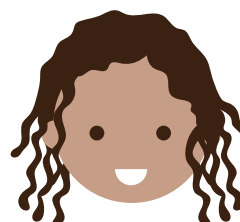


TOPICS	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	TOTAL
<b>Sex</b>	6557	38352	24239	29095	3075	2201	925	464	104908
<b>Employment</b>	17808	5432	11573	34390	2946	927	1474	368	74918
<b>Tattoos/piercing</b>	32466	7751	3571	2926	2445	1453	559	596	51767
<b>Cyberbullying*</b>	3848	3924	7744	1926	23599	578	768	270	42657
<b>Sexting</b>	8920	7160	8010	10258	6688	1234	442	505	43217

\*(includes cyberbullying, bullying at school and bullying in the workplace)

*"I felt so nervous typing the email not knowing what to do. Your reply was really welcoming and informative. We know where we stand now, something the school has never done. Thanks so much for your help."*

Client (young person)



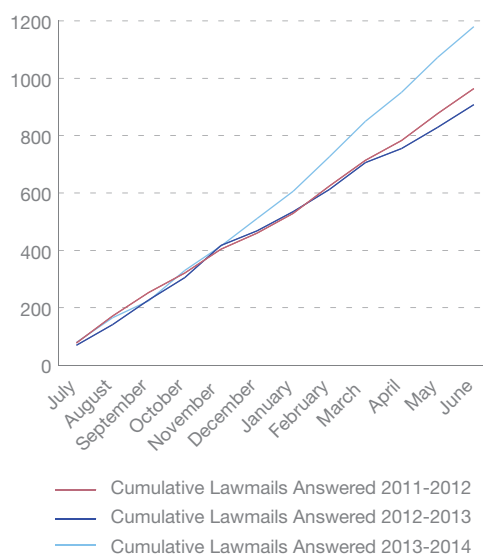
## LAWMAIL

[www.lawstuff.org.au/lawmail](http://www.lawstuff.org.au/lawmail)

## Lawmail provides quality legal advice and referral to Australia's children and young people and their advocates.

This year, we responded to 1180 requests for legal advice with the help of our pro bono partners at King & Wood Mallesons, Telstra and ASIC, for whose support we are immensely grateful.

Cumulative Lawmails answered



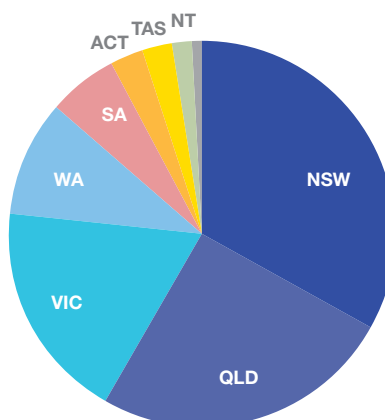
Kelly Tallon  
Cyber Volunteer  
Project Coordinator

### Lawmails by State and Territory

The highest number of Lawmails originated in New South Wales, where we responded to 392 requests for assistance. Queensland ranked second with 297 responses, followed by Victoria with 218 responses.

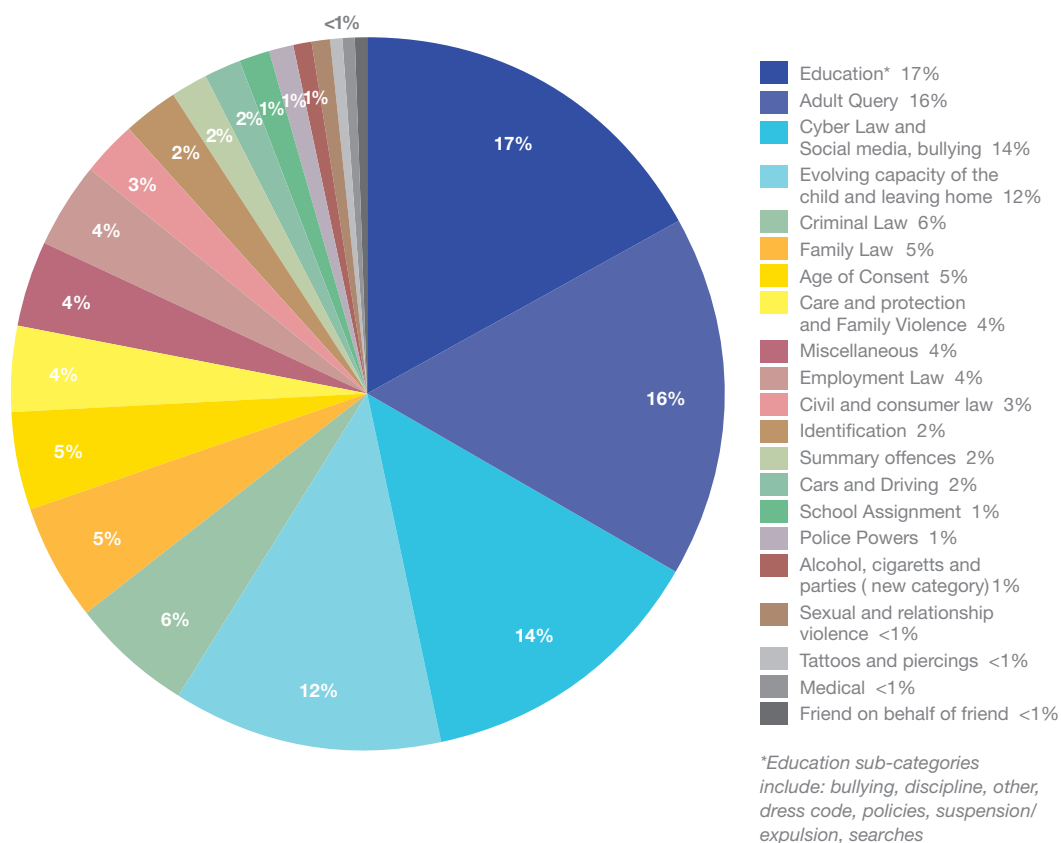
Each state and territory experienced an increase in demand from last year.

Lawmails were received on a broad range of topics, including the legal capacity of the child, education law, family law, criminal law and employment law. We continue to receive a growing number of queries in relation to cyber law and online behaviours following the Centre's significant project work on cyber safety and the law.

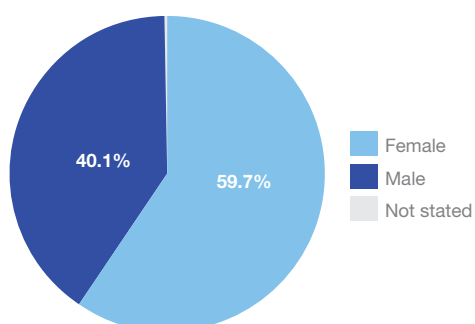


STATE	NSW	VIC	QLD	WA	SA	ACT	TAS	NT	Not stated	Inter-national
Lawmails	392	218	297	113	71	31	30	19	2	7

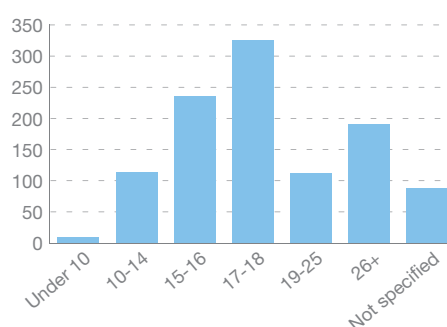
## Lawmail categories



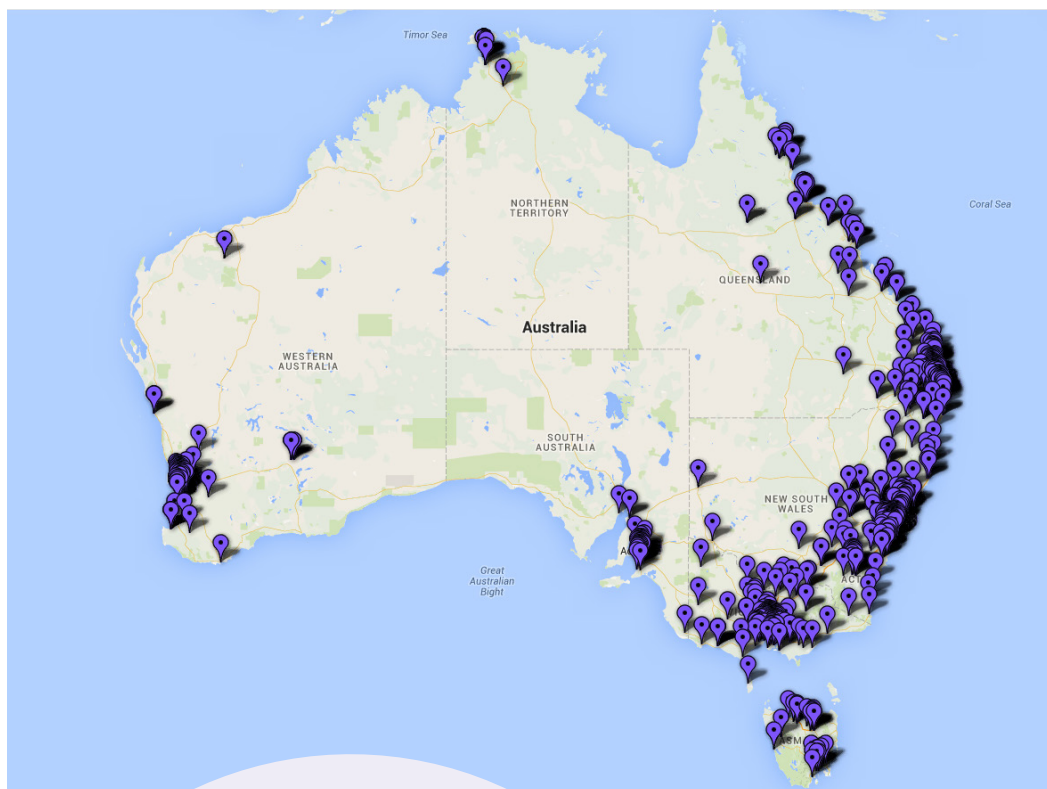
## Lawmail: By gender



## Lawmail: By age



## Lawmail's geographic reach



*"The long distances that some respondents travelled to consult advisers for their legal problems, especially in remote areas, highlight the specific need to improve the accessibility of legal services in less urban areas. Australia has vast geographical areas with sparse populations, where providing easily accessible services of any kind is an enormous challenge... Improving legal services in rural and remote areas of Australia may require multifaceted solutions involving extensions to telephone and internet legal information and advice services, together with additional local services and outreach services".*

**Law & Justice Foundation of New South Wales'  
Legal Australia-Wide (LAW) Survey:  
Legal Need in Australia**

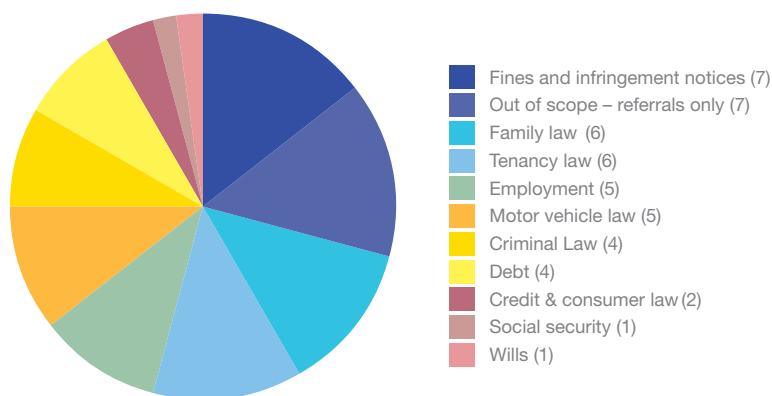
The map shows Lawmail's geographic reach with each pin representing a legal advice given to a person in that postcode in this financial year.



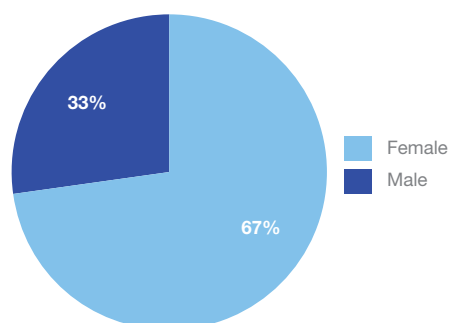
## STUDENT LEGAL SERVICES

In September 2013, the Centre commenced providing legal services for Australian Catholic University students. This includes the provision of legal advice and referrals as well as the development of legal education resources on areas of interest for the students. As at 30 June 2014, we had responded to 48 requests for legal advice.

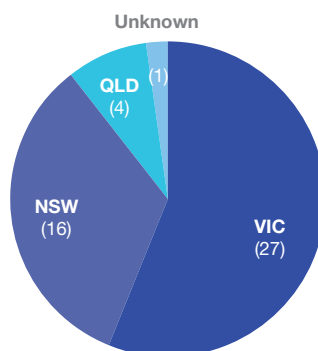
Matter types



Advices by gender



Advices by State or Territory



The Australian Catholic University has campuses in New South Wales, Queensland, Australian Capital Territory and Victoria. We received the highest number of requests for legal advice from Victoria, which accounted for 56 percent of all requests for legal assistance.

# CHILD RIGHTS

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## The Centre effectively promotes the realisation of Australia's children's human rights.

The Centre continues to co-convene the Australian Child Rights Taskforce with UNICEF Australia.

It's been a busy year for the Taskforce, which hosted two Child Rights video conferences with leading children's rights advocates and organisations. Guest speakers included:

- Ms Megan Mitchell, National Children's Commissioner;
- Ms Sarah Winter, Acting Principal Adviser, Australian Human Rights Commission; and
- Ms Janet Wight, Youth Advocacy Centre, QLD.

The meetings were kindly hosted by King & Wood Mallesons at their offices in Sydney, Canberra, Brisbane, Perth and Melbourne. The meetings were attended by over 90 children's rights advocates.

Along with UNICEF Australia, the Centre has been developing issues-based child rights report cards to provide updates on Australia's child rights progress. The report cards will be available on a forthcoming new Childrights website ([www.childrights.org.au](http://www.childrights.org.au)).

The Taskforce also developed child friendly booklets on the most recent UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's Concluding Observations for Australia. The booklet can be accessed at: [www.humanrights.gov.au/sites/default/files/document/publication/UN1620\\_Youth\\_f.pdf](http://www.humanrights.gov.au/sites/default/files/document/publication/UN1620_Youth_f.pdf)

The Taskforce also prepared a submission to the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to identify and outline some of the key issues from the Australian experience in seeking to provide access to justice for children.



AUSTRALIAN  
CHILD RIGHTS  
TASKFORCE

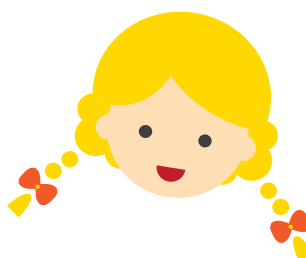


Ahram Choi  
Operations & Legal  
Projects Manager

## 2014 SPECIAL CHILDREN'S RIGHTS EDITION OF RIGHTS AGENDA

Each year, in partnership with King & Wood Mallesons and the Human Rights Law Centre, our Centre publishes a special edition of the Human Rights Law Centre's Monthly Bulletin, *Rights Agenda*, that focuses exclusively on human rights and legal issues affecting children and young people.

This year, the bulletin reported on significant issues affecting children across Australia, exploring the abuses and harms caused by forced child marriage, cyberbullying and the treatment of young people in the criminal justice system amongst other issues. To read the Special Children's Rights edition, see: [http://hrlc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/HRLC\\_Bulletin\\_CHILDSRIGHTS\\_September\\_2014.pdf](http://hrlc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/HRLC_Bulletin_CHILDSRIGHTS_September_2014.pdf)



# LEADERSHIP

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**The Centre improves outcomes for Australia's children and young people through research, policy development and law reform.**

## LAW AWARDS

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**The Centre and King & Wood Mallesons were proud to host the Children's Law Awards ceremony on the 5th of September 2014 in Sydney. The Awards recognise the achievements and commitment of those individuals and organisations that advance the legal rights and interests of children and young people across Australia. The Awards aim to effect real and lasting change for children, and to ensure that children, one of the most vulnerable groups in our society, receive the best possible start to life.**

### OVERVIEW OF THE AWARDS

The Children's Law Awards present a unique opportunity to highlight the important legal issues confronting children and young people, and serve as a means to focus the Australian community on the need to continually promote and advocate for children's legal rights. The Awards demonstrate that the tireless efforts of those who work to represent, advocate for, and raise awareness of children's legal rights is worthy of public recognition and support.



*Michael Chaaya, (Deputy Chair, NCYLC and Partner, Corrs Chambers Westgarth), Sue Kench (Managing Partner Australia, King & Wood Mallesons) and Sarah Winter (Chair, NCYLC and Senior Advisor, Australian Human Rights Commission)*



### 2014 CHILDREN'S LAW AWARDS

Promoting the Rights of Children and Young People

### WINNERS OF THE AWARDS

Congratulations to the Unaccompanied Humanitarian Minor Consortium for winning the National Award for Outstanding Legal Representation, and to Lucas Moore and the CREATE Foundation for winning the National Award for Outstanding Contribution to Policy and Law Reform.

A warm thank you for all those who participated in this special evening.

More information can be found at [www.ncylc.org.au](http://www.ncylc.org.au)

## CYBER BULLYING

**The Centre contributed to the UNSW Social Policy Research Centre's research report on youth exposure to, and management of, cyberbullying incidents in Australia. In doing so, we provided the following case studies to provide a clearer understanding of the types of cyberbullying incidents being dealt with by us. Note that these are composite case studies and contain de-identified scenarios from a broad range of incidents dealt with recently by the Centre. Fictional names have been used in each case study.**

### MOST COMMON CYBERBULLYING SCENARIO

*My name's Larissa and I am 14 years old. I have been having some trouble with this girl Georgia. She goes to my school and I thought we were friends until she started saying hurtful and mean things about me.*

*It started on Monday when I was on Facebook, Georgia inboxed me and said 'you're an attention seeker that needs to stay out of my relationship with Robbie'.*

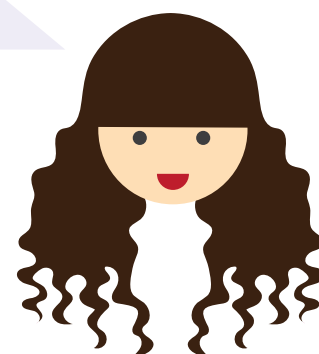
*I replied saying 'I don't know what you're talking about. Me and Robbie are only friends. I wouldn't do that to you cause you're my friend'.*

*The conversation went back and forward for a couple messages, her pretty much saying that I was trying to break them up. I know for a fact that I haven't done anything like that. I think people have told her things which made her go off at me.*

*When I got to school on Tuesday I find out that Georgia has started spreading rumours about me, telling people at school that I'm a slut and I shouldn't be trusted. I tried to talk to Georgia at school but she turned away from me and won't listen.*

*That night I went on Facebook to find many hurtful and abusive messages in my inbox and on my wall, all from Georgia and her friends. They are calling me a 'slut', 'ugly', 'low life piece of shit' or telling me to 'do the world a favour and kill yourself'. I had enough, so I inboxed Georgia telling her to stop and leave me alone because I hadn't done anything. She replies 'do you think I will give up? Sorry but I won't'.*

*I want this all to stop. What can I do? There's not much more I can handle.*



### Centre response

The Centre provided Larissa with both practical and legal advice. The practical measures included telling a trusted adult about the situation, keeping a record of the 88 messages she received, deleting/blocking Georgia and her friends from her Facebook account, and not replying to any bullying messages. The Centre advised Larissa to report this behaviour to Facebook (noting that the Centre could do this on her behalf) as well as to her school, which may be able to facilitate reconciliation between the two students.

The Centre also provided Larissa with legal advice about certain laws that had been broken and offered Larissa the option of drafting a Notice to Georgia which outlines the laws that Georgia may have broken and tells Georgia to stop this behaviour. The Centre also advised Larissa to notify the police if she felt threatened, and if Georgia's behaviour continued and made Larissa feel scared. To help support Larissa during this time and help her cope, the Centre also provided Larissa with contact details for the Kids Helpline.

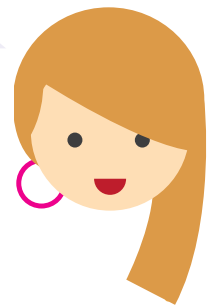
### MOST SERIOUS VICTIM SCENARIO

*About two months ago I met this boy on a site called Omegle. We started talking and he told me he was 16 years old. We became Facebook friends and chatted a bit on there. Then he asked me to go on Skype so I did, I couldn't see his face but he asked me to take my top off. I didn't want to do this but he kept flirting with me and persisting, so I gave in and flashed him.*

*I knew it was a mistake as soon as I did it. He told me he took a screenshot of my naked chest. I was really upset he did this. Then he started asking me to do more stuff and show more of my body. I told him I didn't want to do anything else because I was uncomfortable. But then he started threatening me to send the*

*photo to all my Facebook friends if I didn't do what he was saying. I was embarrassed and afraid so I just did as he said.*

*Now he keeps messaging me every night and making me do stuff on Skype or he says he will publish everything he made me do the first time. Once it's over I cry myself to sleep purely because I know this is wrong and that I never wanted to do it. He won't stop. I don't want to keep playing his game, but I don't want to tell anyone because I am so ashamed and embarrassed. I am on the border of depression and hate coming home to this. I don't know his real name. I don't know what to do.*



### Centre response

The seriousness of this situation is compounded by the fact that the victim feels isolated and is afraid to tell her parents about what is happening. The Centre recommended that the victim speak to a trusted adult, someone like a parent, teacher or relative who can help her report this to the police and provide her with ongoing support. If she felt uncomfortable with this, the Centre also provided her with a warm referral to a local counselling/sexual assault service where she would be able to talk to someone in confidence and obtain help in dealing with the trauma. This service had connections to the police, so they were able to assist in this way as well. The Centre also provided her with the details for Kids Helpline and 1800RESPECT.

The Centre provided the victim with legal advice about certain laws that have been broken and provided her with the option of sending the perpetrator a 'Notice of Criminal Behaviour'. This notice would outline the laws that had been broken and ask the other person to stop and delete the content. The Centre recommended she talk with the counsellor about sending this Notice to the perpetrator.

The Centre has seen a significant increase in the number of cyberbullying incidents being reported, from one per cent of Lawmails in 2010 (6 of 787 Lawmails received in the period) to 7 per cent for the 12 month period from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014 (76 of 1052 Lawmails received). This amounts to a seven fold increase in three years. In the calendar year 2014, problems relating to online or mobile technologies constituted one in four Lawmails (367 out of 1466).

To view the full report, see [www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/media/SPRCFile/Youth\\_exposure\\_to\\_and\\_management\\_of\\_cyberbullying\\_in\\_Australia\\_Part\\_B.pdf](http://www.sprc.unsw.edu.au/media/SPRCFile/Youth_exposure_to_and_management_of_cyberbullying_in_Australia_Part_B.pdf) Appendix D

# OPERATIONS

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## PARTNERS

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### **The Centre builds enduring relationships with public and private sponsors.**

The Centre owes much to the many stakeholders who contribute to our operations. Most notable among those are the Centre's primary partners, King & Wood Mallesons, the UNSW Faculty of Law and the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department.

#### **KING & WOOD MALLESONS**

The Centre's partnership with King & Wood Mallesons spans over a decade. King & Wood Mallesons are a regular and significant donor to the Centre. They also second a full-time solicitor to the Centre and also partner with the Centre in the Cyber Volunteer Project. In that project, King & Wood Mallesons rosters approximately 90 volunteers in five King & Wood Mallesons offices to draft written legal advices for the Centre's Lawmail service. The Cyber Volunteer Project is still the benchmark for the online participation of pro bono advisors in the provision of legal information, referral and advice to the community. King & Wood Mallesons are also major supporters of the Centre's child rights monitoring and advocacy, in particular providing a representative on the Child Rights Task Force Steering Committee and hosting Steering Committee and Child Rights Task Force teleconferences on at least a monthly basis. King & Wood Mallesons also sits on the Centre's Board of Directors – its current representative is Partner, Ms Moira Saville.

#### **UNIVERSITY OF NEW SOUTH WALES LAW FACULTY**

The UNSW Law Faculty is the Centre's longest standing primary partner. The Faculty has provided a home for the Centre almost since the Centre's inception. In addition to providing our home and significant in-kind operational support, the UNSW Law Faculty is also a major provider of volunteers and interns to the Centre. UNSW Law also sits on the Centre's Board of Directors – its current representative is Dr Kyllie Cripps.

#### **COMMONWEALTH ATTORNEY- GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT**

The Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department is the Centre's principal source of recurrent funding. The Department's support is greatly appreciated.

The Centre also thanks the following organisations and individuals for their contributions: University of Sydney Faculty of Law; ASIC; Telstra; Corrs Chambers Westgarth; Squiz; Mr Lionel Robberds QC; and our volunteers, interns and practical legal trainees.

## BOARD

**Transparency and trust is maintained between the Board and the Centre.**

1 JULY 2013 TO 30 JUNE 2014



**Sarah Winter**  
Chair  
2007 to present



**Michael Chaaya**  
Deputy Chair  
2006 to present



**Pheona Twist**  
2004 to present



**Dr Judy Cashmore**  
2004 to present



**Moira Saville**  
2009 to present



**Nina Funnell**  
2011 to present



**Dr Kyllie Cripps**  
2012 to present



**Adam Gordon**  
2012 to present



**Fionn Skiotis**  
2013 to present

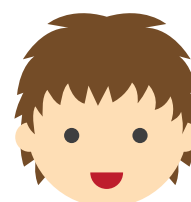


**Roger Christie**  
2013 to present



**Jackie Woods**  
2013 to present

*"Thank you very much.  
This makes me feel so  
much better and really  
helps. Appreciate it."*  
**Client (young person)**



## SECTION 3

# FINANCIAL REPORT

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## FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

National Children's and Youth Law Centre ABN 73 062 253 874

**The Centre is accountable and responsible in its operations, use of funding and resources.**

*"I wanted to EMAIL you to say  
"THANK YOU" for all of your efforts  
in bringing down that page on Facebook  
that someone decided to make. We have taken  
3-4 days to d[e]stress from the situation but am  
so happy that you listened and helped us through  
this : ) I will keep the email as you have suggested,  
just in case something happens again. . .  
Again I cannot thank you enough for what  
you did for my beautiful daughter"*

**Client (parent)**



**DOBBS VUMBACA & CO**

Chartered Accountants

## Partners:

NEIL A DOBBS CA  
GEORGE VUMBACA CA  
HELEN YIANNIKAS CA

Level 2 Suite 202 83-87 York Street SYDNEY NSW 2000

POSTAL ADDRESS: GPO Box 2590 SYDNEY NSW 2001

PH: (02) 9299-6824 FAX: (02) 9290-3168

EMAIL: [admin@dobbsvumbaca.com.au](mailto:admin@dobbsvumbaca.com.au)The Board of Directors  
National Children's and Youth Law Centre  
University of New South Wales  
SYDNEY NSW 2052

Dear Sirs,

**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION**  
**UNDER S 307C OF THE CORPORATIONS ACT 2001**

In accordance with Section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001, I am pleased to provide the following declaration of independence to the directors of the company. As audit partner for the audit of the financial statements of the company for the financial year ended 30th June 2014, I declare that to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been no contraventions of:

- (i) the auditor independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Yours faithfully,

**DOBBS VUMBACA & CO**George Vumbaca  
Partner

15th September 2014

Sydney, NSW

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF  
NATIONAL CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH LAW CENTRE  
A.C.N. 062 253 874 A.B.N 73 062 253 874

*Report on the Financial Report*

We have audited the accompanying financial report of the National Children's and Youth Law Centre, which comprises the Directors' Declaration and Statement of Financial Performance as at 30th June 2014, the Statement of Comprehensive Income, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flow for the year then ended, a summary of significant Accounting Policies and other explanatory notes including disclosures required for the purposes of compliance with the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 & associated regulations as set out in pages 3 to 12.

*Governing Body's Responsibility for the Financial Report*

The directors of the company are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations), the Corporations Act 2001 and the requirements of the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 & associated regulations, and for such internal control as the governing body determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

*Auditor's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. The Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

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

*Independence*


In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001.

*Audit Opinion*

In our opinion:

- a) the financial report of the National Children's and Youth Law Centre is in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001 including:
  - i) giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 30th June 2014 and of its performance for the year then ended; and
  - ii) complying with applicable Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations).
  - iii) complying with the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and associated regulations.

**DOBBS VUMBACA & CO**  
Chartered Accountants

  
George Vumbaca CA  
Partner

Dated 24/9/14

## STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2014

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
<b>REVENUE</b>	<b>359,087</b>	<b>473,074</b>
Employee Costs	(248,838)	(334,595)
Consultants	-	(3,500)
Depreciation and Amortisation	(3,342)	(3,235)
Insurances	(2,920)	(3,355)
Computer and Website Expenses	(18,433)	(17,524)
Auditor's Remuneration	(3,600)	(3,500)
Accounting & Bookkeeping Expenses	(24,858)	(23,987)
Printing and Production Costs - Publications	(2,590)	(3,124)
Travelling & Staff Development	(20,554)	(37,364)
Administration and Overhead expenses	(4,264)	(5,665)
<b>Profit/(Loss) before Income Tax</b>	<b>29,688</b>	<b>37,225</b>
Income Tax Expense	-	-
<b>Profit/(Loss) for the year</b>	<b>29,688</b>	<b>37,225</b>
Other Comprehensive Income for the year	-	-
<b>Total Comprehensive Income for the year</b>	<b>29,688</b>	<b>37,225</b>

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2014

	2014	2013
	\$	\$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Receipts from grants, donors, projects & customers	284,677	576,654
Payments to suppliers and employees	(339,416)	(446,526)
Interest Received	3,636	5,264
<b>Net cash from/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>(51,103)</b>	<b>135,392</b>
<b>CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Purchases of Property, plant & equipment and Intangibles	-	(3,447)
Disposals of Property, plant & equipment and Intangibles	-	-
<b>Net cash from/(used in) investing activities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(3,447)</b>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held	(51,103)	131,945
Cash at the beginning of the year	373,435	241,490
<b>Cash at the end of the year</b>	<b>322,332</b>	<b>373,435</b>

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY****FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2014**

	Retained Earnings \$	Asset Replacement Reserve \$	Total \$
<b>Balance at 1st July 2012</b>	83,250	11,676	94,926
Profit/(Loss) for the year	37,225	-	37,225
Other Comprehensive Income for the year	-	-	-
<b>Balance at 30th June 2013</b>	<b>120,475</b>	<b>11,676</b>	<b>132,151</b>
Profit/(Loss) for the year	29,688	-	29,688
Other Comprehensive Income for the year	-	-	-
<b>Balance at 30th June 2014</b>	<b>\$150,163</b>	<b>\$11,676</b>	<b>\$161,839</b>

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2014

	2014 \$	2013 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	322,332	373,435
Trade and other receivables	107,407	4,089
Inventories	2,000	2,000
Other current assets	4,175	9,817
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>435,914</b>	<b>389,341</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Property, plant and equipment	7,030	10,296
Intangible assets	151	226
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>	<b>7,181</b>	<b>10,522</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>443,095</b>	<b>399,863</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Trade and other payables	136,570	123,026
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>136,570</b>	<b>123,026</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Trade and other payables	144,686	144,686
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>	<b>144,686</b>	<b>144,686</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>281,256</b>	<b>267,712</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$161,839</b>	<b>\$132,151</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Retained Earnings	150,163	120,475
Asset Replacement Reserve	11,676	11,676
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$161,839</b>	<b>\$132,151</b>



