

PUBLIC INTEREST ADVOCACY CENTRE



PIAC  
ANNUAL REPORT

2012-2013

# CONTENTS

About PIAC	1
Chair's report	2
CEO report	3
Core strategies	4
PIAC's 30th anniversary	6
Social justice	7
Equality	10
Accountable government	12
Consumer rights	14
Celebrating 30 years	16
Publications	18
Thank you	20
Staff & placements	22
Financial statements	24

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working for a  
**fair & just**  
democratic society

empowering  
**citizens & consumers**  
communities

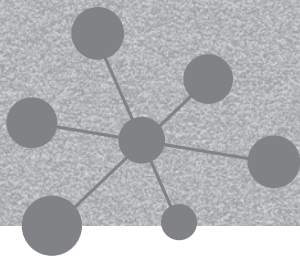
Generous support from individuals, foundations, law firms and others is vital for PIAC's ongoing success. Your contribution helps PIAC address emerging public interest issues and achieve practical outcomes that protect individual dignity and the basic rights of vulnerable people.

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Syndication



**The Public Interest Advocacy Centre** (PIAC) is an independent, non-profit law and policy organisation. We work for a fair, just and democratic society by empowering citizens and communities through training and advocacy, and by taking strategic action on public interest issues.

PIAC works with people who have least access to economic, social and legal resources and opportunities.

PIAC understands how the law can bear harshly on people who are experiencing homelessness, people with a disability, Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander people, people who have suffered discrimination, and those who struggle to access essential services.

Our role is to use the law to achieve practical outcomes that protect individual dignity and the basic rights of vulnerable people.

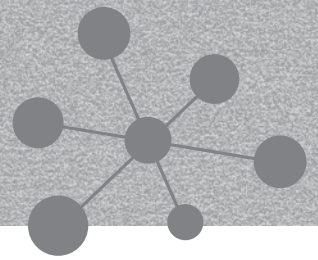
PIAC's multi-disciplinary approach integrates public interest litigation, law reform and policy development and education and training. We work predominantly with other public interest groups, community and consumer organisations, community legal centres, private law firms, academics, experts, industry and government. Since our establishment in 1982, PIAC has grown from a staff of four to a staff of 26 as well as secondees, professional placements, and interns who all make an essential contribution.

## **PIAC AIMS TO:**

- expose & redress unjust or unsafe practices, deficient laws or policies;
- promote accountable, transparent & responsive government;
- encourage, influence & inform public debate on issues affecting legal and democratic rights;
- promote the development of law that reflects the public interest;
- develop and assist community organisations with a public interest focus to pursue the interests of the communities they represent;
- develop models to respond to systemic unmet need; and
- maintain an effective and sustainable organisation.

As the range of issues that require attention always exceeds capacity and resources, PIAC is selective in the issues it will pursue. In making that selection, PIAC asks the following questions:

- Is the issue to be addressed causing significant harm?
- Is the issue impacting on a disadvantaged sector of the community?
- Can PIAC make a significant impact in the short to medium term?
- Does PIAC have the capacity and resources to act effectively?
- Would PIAC be duplicating the efforts of others?
- Can PIAC work in alliance with others?
- Can legal, policy, communications and training strategies be integrated?



It is a great pleasure to be able to report on another year of significant achievements by PIAC.

Such achievements would not have been possible without the hard work of staff, the commitment of the Board and the generous support of funders, donors and volunteers. Their individual and collective contributions are acknowledged in greater detail in the following pages.

Achievements in public interest litigation included the successful case in the Federal Circuit Court by Graeme Innes against RailCorp and the successful case in the Federal Court by Julia Haraksin against Murrays Australia Ltd. Graeme Innes brought his case because of the lack of reliable audible next-stop announcements on Sydney's commuter trains. Graeme is blind, and this problem severely hampered his ability - and that of many other people with vision impairment - to participate actively in work and the community. The Court found that RailCorp had engaged in unlawful discrimination.

Julia Haraksin relies on a wheelchair. She brought a disability discrimination case against Murrays Australia Ltd for failing to comply with federal discrimination standards in its bus service between Sydney and Canberra. The Federal Court found in her favour thus setting an important precedent which is likely to facilitate more accessible buses.

There were also significant policy achievements. PIAC released two important reports in its Energy + Water Consumer Advocacy Program. *More power to you* looks at the problems faced by people with physical disability regarding electricity use and connection. *Cut Off III* is the third in a series of reports over the last eight years which looks at the adverse impact of disconnection from essential utility services. This report documented how the problems of rising energy prices are now affecting new sectors of the community - including those who are in employment.

*In Their Words* is an innovative project from the Homeless Persons' Legal Service and its consumer advisory

group, StreetCare. This project allowed people with experience of homelessness to tell their own stories of how they became homeless and their experience of life on the streets. Those stories were video-recorded and are now used in a range of training and other situations.

PIAC's education and training program continued to expand. There were record enrolments in the Practising in the Public Interest Course and in the Social Justice Summer Clinical Course developed for the University of Sydney law school.

Other important achievements during the year included:

- a fundraising dinner to mark PIAC's 30th anniversary. The keynote speeches were given by State Attorney General Greg Smith and the Hon Justice Stephen Gageler of the High Court of Australia.
- the 2013 Children's Law Award given to PIAC for its work on the Children in Detention Advocacy Project. PIAC shared this award with Legal Aid NSW, Maurice Blackburn and PILCH, demonstrating the importance of collaboration with like-minded organisations to PIAC's successes.

Notwithstanding these and other significant results in the areas of public interest litigation, policy and education and training, PIAC continues to confront formidable obstacles. Litigation continues to be constrained by limited resources and the costly and protracted nature of legal proceedings in most jurisdictions coupled with the deterrent effect of the prospect of adverse costs orders. Policy proposals face impediments to implementation from a variety of sources. Undeterred by such challenges PIAC will continue to seek to advance the public interest through its many and varied activities, no doubt with further success in the future.

PROFESSOR PETER CASHMAN  
CHAIR

**A**s we mark 30 years of PIAC's work in the public interest and for social justice, it is worth reflecting on the organisation's history, and what that history means for PIAC's future.

This anniversary afforded a chance to speak with a number of people who were instrumental to PIAC's birth, and the formation of its values and strategies. Those conversations reinforced to me that a hallmark of an enduring organisation is its ability to balance two competing impulses.

On one hand, the organisation must have and maintain a strong sense of its purpose, values and spirit. And on the other hand, it must respond to the changing world: to be aware of our community's shifting needs, and to find new ways to be useful in pursuing the organisation's guiding principles.

I am proud of the balance PIAC seeks to strike. In the coming year, I hope you will continue to see PIAC at the forefront of key issues of present social importance - including access to the key services of energy and water; homelessness; combating discrimination; justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; and accountable government.

This year saw a severe tightening of some of PIAC's, and the community sector's, traditional sources of funding. This is inescapably difficult, but we are delighted that old and new partners have stepped forward to work with us to help to achieve shared goals.

I am very grateful to all of these partners. The level of support that PIAC receives - from across the government, corporate, community and philanthropic sectors - is reflected in the long list of appreciation later in this Annual Report.



Financially, PIAC's road ahead involves consolidating our existing funding relationships, and continuing to forge new ones. Two years ago we were reliant on a single source of funding for 60% of PIAC's income; now we have significantly diversified our

revenue streams.

Working at PIAC can be quite exciting, but I am exceptionally grateful for the price that many of my colleagues pay for this - especially in their commitment to our clients and partners, in sacrificing some of the emoluments they could easily attract elsewhere, and in the exhaustion that comes from doing high-quality work.

PIAC's work is supported and overseen by a highly-skilled and dedicated board of directors. The chair, Professor Peter Cashman, was one of the founders of PIAC. His ingenuity, his refusal to be deterred by practical impediments and his powerful sense of social justice are qualities that we as staff seek to emulate.

They are also reflected in the work of the Deputy Chair, Ralph Pliner, and all of the other Directors. On behalf of PIAC's staff, I thank the Board for its tireless and very generous service.

PIAC moves into the new financial year invigorated by its successes over the last year, and aware of the need to play to our strengths. I look forward to our continued collaboration with government, as well as the community and corporate sectors, to achieve important social justice outcomes.

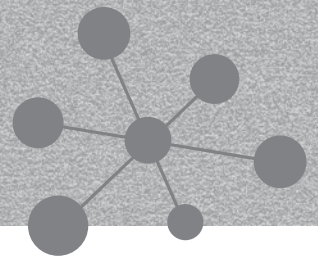
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Edward Santow". The signature is fluid and cursive.

EDWARD SANTOW  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

*The organisation must have a strong sense of its purpose, values and spirit. And on the other hand, it must respond to the changing world: to be aware of our community's shifting needs, and to find new ways to be useful in pursuing the organisation's guiding principles.*

# CORE STRATEGIES

Public interest litigation, policy development and law reform, education and training



## PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION

PIAC seeks to promote social justice and human rights by integrating its three central strategies: public interest litigation; policy development and advocacy; and,



Ben Slade from Maurice Blackburn and Edward Santow, PIAC CEO, outside court. Photo: Gemma Pearce

education and training. Litigation can be a powerful tool to achieve PIAC's strategic objectives. However, we recognise that litigation should only be deployed where other, less adversarial approaches are inappropriate, or cannot achieve these objectives on their own.

PIAC uses public interest litigation especially to combat discrimination, unlawful detention and other violations of human rights.

In addition to more than 1350 clients that were assisted through the Homeless Persons' Legal Service, PIAC had 103 public interest litigation matters over the year. These matters covered issues including:

- false imprisonment
- assault, battery and misfeasance
- discrimination
- freedom of information
- administrative law
- mental health detention.

## POLICY

PIAC's policy and law reform work promotes systemic solutions to problems within PIAC's core focus areas. PIAC provides independent, non-partisan advocacy that is firmly rooted in evidence. That evidence is drawn from PIAC's experience in litigation, high-quality research, and from working with and consulting those directly affected by injustice.

PIAC's hypotheses for change are then road-tested with key stakeholders - including within government - to ensure that the solutions proposed are practical and workable. The overall aim is to produce a compelling blueprint for practical reform that can be implemented by key decision makers.

In 2012-2013, PIAC's policy development and law reform work spanned a broad range of its activities. For instance, PIAC consulted with consumers about energy and water issues; researched clients' experiences of prisons and detention; used freedom of information law to improve Australia's military accountability; and worked closely with our homeless advisory group, StreetCare, to understand better the links between mental illness and homelessness.

PIAC made 38 submissions to government inquiries and regulatory bodies during the year. These included submissions relating to:



CLC lawyers, including PIAC's Michelle Cohen and Camilla Pandolfini, appeared before the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee in January 2013. Photo: Dominic O'Grady

- electricity pricing, regulation and affordability
- human rights law reform
- accessible public transport
- sentencing
- homelessness
- justice reinvestment
- racial vilification.

## EDUCATION & TRAINING

PIAC delivers education and training for not-for-profit organisations and individuals to improve advocacy on public interest issues.

Participants learn to take a rights-based approach to their advocacy and gain a working understanding of the law, the justice system, and alternative dispute resolution.

PIAC trained over 825 participants throughout the year.

Courses offered included:

- Advocacy Strategies
- Advocacy Skills
- Tenancy Law for Non-Lawyers
- Advanced Media Skills
- Electricity & Water: helping clients stay connected
- Negotiation Skills for Advocates
- Law for Non-Lawyers.

*'All parts of the workshop will be useful for my work. Now we know how important preparation is to get in a good result.'*

Participant, Liverpool Interagency

PIAC's courses are designed primarily for community workers and consumer representatives who want to:

- promote an issue, community or group
- contribute to making public policy and reforming laws
- improve service delivery to particular communities or sections of the community
- understand how 'the system' works.

This year, the Advocacy Strategies and Skills workshops were delivered in partnership with the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency and the Northern Territory Council of Social Services. A series of workshops were delivered throughout the year and we were represented on the conference panel for 'Getting your message across - elements of successful campaigning'. PIAC also worked with the Tasmanian Council of Social Services and Advocacy Tasmania delivering a series of advocacy training workshops and in March, with the West Australian Council of Social Services.

PIAC worked with organisations, such as Legal Aid NSW and the Tenants' Union, to promote a greater understanding of the law and how to negotiate a way through tricky legal situations affecting disadvantaged people.



Practising in the Public Interest, February 2013. Photo Amanada James

*'A great eye opener and a lot of information that would help our workplace.'*

Participant, Law for Non-Lawyers

PIAC continues to teach law students about public interest and community law, especially through its long-running course, Practising in the Public Interest. PIAC works with a number of tertiary institutions, including Macquarie University and Wollongong University.

Students are introduced to a range of public, private and community sector organisations that undertake public interest legal work. The program includes sessions on human rights, public interest legal strategies, parliamentary processes, lobbying skills and media strategies.

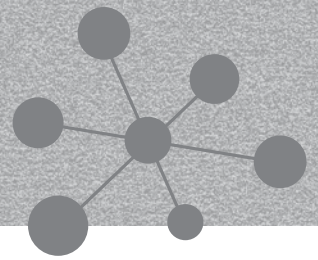
*'Most brilliant way to blend the practical and theoretical aspects of social justice.'*

Participant, Social Justice Clinical Course

In 2013, PIAC presented its second Social Justice Clinical Course, in partnership with University of Sydney law school. The four-day course was followed by a 12-day placement at PIAC, which gave the students a hands-on experience of public interest legal practice.

Students were challenged to consider social justice and its role in their legal careers. They explored legal and non-legal strategies that may be used to achieve social justice outcomes for disadvantaged clients and the communities they represent.

# PIAC's 30th ANNIVERSARY



Guests at PIAC's fundraising dinner, Herbert Smith Freehills, 28 February 2013.



The Hon Justice Stephen Gageler addressed guests at PIAC's 30th anniversary dinner.

This year, PIAC celebrated its 30th anniversary. On 28 February 2013, staff, directors, and supporters came together to celebrate at a dinner, generously hosted by Herbert Smith Freehills and sponsored by Transurban.

To mark the occasion, a new feature was created for our website. '30 Years, 30 Stories', showcases some of our most memorable cases and is a reminder of PIAC's many achievements.

There are three key principles at the heart of what PIAC has strived to do over the past three decades that are clearly reflected in our work.

First, PIAC looks for disadvantage and unmet legal need. The Homeless Persons' Legal Service is a good example. In the past decade alone, it has helped about 8000 homeless clients with a broad range of legal issues.

Last year, PIAC focussed particularly on the link between homelessness and mental illness, as well as ways to remove the revolving door between prison and being homeless.

The second key principle is that PIAC tries to see clients' problems in the broader context by undertaking test cases so that many people in a similar position are able to benefit.

Recently, in the cases of Graeme Innes and Julia Haraksin, we have had success promoting fairness and equality for people with a disability.

The case of Scarlett Finney in 1998 was also significant in that her battle was the first real test of the *Disability Discrimination Act* in relation to enrolment in a private school and it put all schools on notice about their obligations towards students with a disability.

Scarlett's family wanted to enrol her in the Hills Grammar School but the school rejected her application on the ground of her disability even though she could walk short distances and had no learning problems. Scarlett's

parents complained to the then Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, which found the school had unlawfully discriminated against Scarlett and ordered it to pay compensation. The school appealed to the Federal Court but lost - thus sealing an important victory for equality.

The third principle at the core of PIAC's work is that we work with our clients, the community and business sectors, and government to develop comprehensive, systemic solutions that address social justice problems at their source.

Through the Indigenous Justice Program, made possible through the funding of law firm Allens, PIAC has been a key player in protecting the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. A long-running project has been to ensure that the many Aboriginal people, whose wages were for many decades withheld in trust accounts, could have that money repaid.

PIAC worked with the NSW Government to establish a repayment scheme, and then built a coalition of law firms to help Aboriginal workers and their descendants access their money.

This was a complex process involving a mixture of advice on law reform to establish the scheme, education to ensure that eligible claimants were aware of the scheme, and legal advocacy to allow claimants to navigate through the scheme.

As PIAC looks ahead at its next 30 years, we are acutely aware that much remains to be done to promote social justice for disadvantaged people. The support PIAC receives from the community remains crucial to our ongoing success.



## Responding to systemic injustice and unmet need among people who are homeless or are in detention.

### **Beyond the Prison Gates: Straight from Prison to Homelessness**

A fundamental aspect of PIAC's strategy is to draw lessons from the experience of the legal advice clinics, and consultation with people who are homeless, to derive solutions that address the root causes of homelessness.

The Homeless Persons' Legal Service (HPLS), together with its consumer advisory committee, StreetCare, last year undertook a consultation project to record the experiences of homeless people who have recently been released from prison.

The project involved interviews with 26 people who had left prison in the previous two years into housing crisis or homelessness. The interviews discussed what support and assistance were available prior to release, as well as difficulties with finding accommodation after release.

The project report, *Beyond the Prison Gates*, was released by PIAC in August 2013. It finds that a lack of transitional housing and support for people leaving prison may be forcing many ex-inmates into homelessness, and perpetuating a cycle of disadvantage and incarceration.

The report also details concerns about a lack of appropriate exit-planning for all people released from prison, with over a third of interviewed ex-inmates indicating that they spent their first night out of jail sleeping rough or in some other form of primary homelessness.

The full report, including a briefing paper with detailed recommendations, as well as a short video that includes the story of Dale, who left prison in 2012 and found himself in housing crisis, is available at [www.piac.asn.au](http://www.piac.asn.au).

### **Legal literacy project**

PIAC is part of a partnership that is delivering a new pilot education program at Silverwater Women's Correctional Centre. The program aims to provide information about areas of law relevant to prisoners at the same time as enhancing their general literacy and numeracy skills.

Prisoners face significant barriers to accessing legal information. The program clearly explains the key elements of our justice system and so assists

prisoners to better understand many of their legal issues and, therefore, helps to address disadvantage and reduce re-offending.

The project works within the framework of the existing Adult Basic Education curriculum offered to prisoners in NSW correctional centres by Corrective Services NSW's Adult Education and Vocational Training Institute.

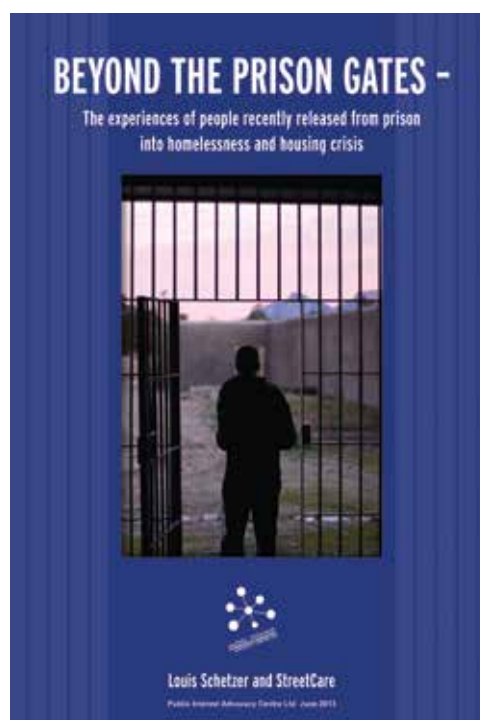
The Legal Literacy in Prison Project is a joint project between PIAC, Corrective Services NSW, Women's Legal Services NSW, Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal Women's Legal Centre, Hawkesbury Nepean Community Legal Centre, and Legal Aid NSW.

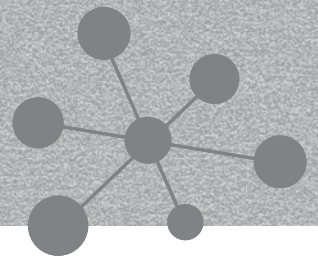
### **Sentencing reform - mental illness**

In May 2013, the NSW Law Reform Commission released a series of Question Papers as part of its review of the *Crimes (Sentencing Procedure) Act 1999* (NSW). The Question Papers address some of the fundamental issues relating to the sentencing of offenders, including the purposes of sentencing, common law sentencing principles, the factors that a court must take into account on sentence and other discounting factors.

PIAC produced a number of submissions to respond to this review. Some of the issues considered by PIAC include:

- the continued operation of 'imprisonment as a last resort' and 'rehabilitation' as valid sentencing purposes under the Act;
- the diversion of people who are homeless and those with a mental illness or chronic disability out of the criminal justice system;
- the diversion of people with mental illness who are unable to comply, or have difficulty complying, with AVO conditions from the criminal justice system and to encourage the use of alternative dispute resolution; and
- the structure and hierarchy of sentencing options and the limited intermediate sentencing options available for offenders with complex needs including those who are homelessness, suffer from mental illness, a disability and drug and alcohol dependency.





## HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness is a growing problem, with the 2011 census data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics showing that homelessness in NSW has increased by 20 per cent since 2006.

Homeless people are some of the most vulnerable members of our community and we know that they have a high prevalence of legal problems that can have considerable impact on everyday life, including adverse consequences for health, financial and social circumstances. Our work on homelessness is designed to respond to this.

### Homeless Persons' Legal Service

PIAC's largest project is the Homeless Person's Legal Service. HPLS is a collaborative venture that brings together community sector organisations, such as the St Vincent de Paul Society and Wesley Mission, with Legal Aid NSW and ten commercial law firms.

PIAC trains and supervises over 400 commercial lawyers who provide pro bono legal advice and assistance to people experiencing homelessness at ten free legal clinics hosted by welfare agencies across Sydney.

Since 2004, HPLS has provided free legal advice and representation to almost 8000 clients who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Last year alone, HPLS assisted 1354 clients through pro bono legal services estimated to be worth more than \$1.5 million. HPLS has assisted clients with a range of legal problems, including tenancy, credit and debt, social security, victim's compensation and family law.

### Solicitor Advocate

Since January 2008, PIAC has employed a Solicitor Advocate, Jeremy Rea, with specialist criminal law skills

and considerable experience representing people who are homeless, people who have a mental illness and those with drug or alcohol addiction.

Since the position was established, the HPLS Solicitor Advocate has provided legal representation for 362 individual clients in 554 matters.

The Solicitor Advocate focuses on homeless clients who cannot effectively access Legal Aid or the duty solicitor at court. The role has enhanced the services we are able to provide and overcomes some of the barriers to homeless people accessing legal services. One of the great strengths of the Solicitor Advocate role is his ability to provide integrated responses for people who face interrelated legal and non-legal problems.

### StreetCare

Since its establishment by PIAC in 2009, StreetCare has enabled HPLS to obtain direct input from people with experience of homelessness. PIAC provides intensive support to members of StreetCare so that they can



Notes from an HPLS consumer consultation.

## GREG'S STORY

Greg (not his real name) was a homeless alcoholic with a long history of offending. He had a history of assaults and assaults on police. He had made numerous attempts to sort out his alcohol issues but without success.

This year he again contacted HPLS requiring assistance in relation to a string of charges. As a consequence of the offending he was

in breach of good behaviour bonds.

He had spent nearly two months in custody before the Supreme Court granted him bail, and any convictions on the offences were likely to lead to considerably longer terms of imprisonment unless he addressed the causes of his offending.

With the assistance of PIAC's Solicitor Advocate, Greg was accepted into the Salvation Army

rehabilitation program in Canberra.

By September 2013 he had spent four months on the program, the longest he had spent in rehabilitation. The Court took no actions on the breaches of bonds and imposed further good behaviour bonds for the other offences.

Greg is continuing with the rehabilitation program and is due to finish it in March 2014.

participate in high-level government and decision-making processes relating to homelessness.

The result is that StreetCare provides valuable advice to government agencies on policies relating to homelessness and housing, as well as assistance on how best to consult with the homeless community.

To promote a greater understanding of the causes and complexity of homelessness, over the last year, HPLS produced a series of short videos in which StreetCare members talk about their experiences.

The project, called *In Their Words*, shows the diversity of homelessness in NSW and points to the benefits of involving homeless consumers in advocacy, training and service design.

The videos are used widely throughout the community, including within Housing NSW, NSW Police and Legal Aid NSW. They are featured on the Something in Common website, and can also be viewed on PIAC's Youtube channel.

## Mental illness and housing

Access to safe and secure housing is one of the most basic human rights, yet for some people living with mental illness, finding appropriate accommodation and retaining it can be challenging. This is reflected in the vast quantity of research that has consistently identified a strong relationship between homelessness and mental illness and is also borne out in the work of HPLS and PIAC's Solicitor Advocate.

A significant number of people living with mental illness are reliant on disability support pensions or other forms of Centrelink payments, or are on low incomes, so social housing is the most likely option for stable, safe accommodation. For these people, legal issues associated with obtaining and sustaining tenancies with social and community housing providers is one of the more



StreetCare members with Minister Pru Goward

commonly identified areas of legal need.

This is confirmed by HPLS casework, in which problems with social housing is the second most commonly reported legal problem for people with mental illness (behind criminal law).

Some of the issues that frequently arise include:

- poor customer service and delayed/inadequate communications from Housing NSW;
- offers of social housing premises that are unsuited to the physical or psychological needs of the applicants;
- inflexible application of Housing NSW policies in relation to accessing priority status;
- housing-related debts leading to tenancy termination; and
- neighbour disputes.

PIAC has produced a discussion paper analysing these issues in the context of HPLS casework, and developed detailed recommendations. It is available at [www.piac.asn.au](http://www.piac.asn.au).

## KAYE'S STORY

Kaye (not her real name) is a woman in her 40s. She suffered domestic violence as a child, and as a result has a significant mistrust of men. She is on a Disability Support Pension, has some learning difficulties, and suffers from anxiety and stress for which she is seeing a counsellor.

She received temporary accommodation from Housing

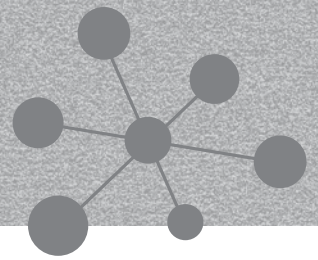
NSW in Western Sydney. However, she did not feel safe in her accommodation and approximately eight months ago she applied to Housing NSW for a transfer. She reported a high incidence of violence, and drug and alcohol abuse among other people living in the premises, and indicated to Housing NSW that she was in constant fear and suffering from anxiety and

depression, because of her history of domestic violence.

Given her level of anxiety and stress, she decided not to stay in the accommodation, preferring to live in her car. At the time she approached HPLS she had been sleeping in her small car for approximately six months. There was no information from Housing NSW as to the status of her application for transfer.

# EQUALITY

## Combating discrimination and advancing Indigenous justice



Michelle Cohen (left) with Ben Slade, Principal Maurice Blackburn; PIAC Principal Solicitor Alexis Goodstone; and PIAC Chief Executive, Edward Santow, leaving court.

### INDIGENOUS JUSTICE PROGRAM

Last year, PIAC advocated strongly for justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, particularly in relation to unlawful detention and racial discrimination.

#### Children in Detention Advocacy Project (CIDnAP)

PIAC is continuing to work with Legal Aid NSW on issues regarding the unlawful detention of young people, as well as matters raising problems with bail and inappropriate policing.

Currently, the Indigenous Justice Program (IJP) is pursuing several cases relating to the false imprisonment of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. PIAC is also in partnership with Maurice Blackburn in a major class action against the State of NSW on behalf of children arrested and detained for breaching out-of-date or incorrect bail conditions.

The class action was commenced in 2011. The case started after PIAC became aware that many young people were being arrested and detained (sometimes overnight) as a result of a structural flaw in the police computer database known as COPS.

After some delay, as a result of a strike out application made by the State, there has now been substantial progress in this matter, with the Court determining the interpretation of key provisions of the *Bail Act*. The class action continues.

#### Racial discrimination and vilification

PIAC collaborates with a number of organisations to advocate for changes to superannuation law, policies and practices. In March 2013, we hosted a forum bringing together consumer advocates, legal experts and Indigenous representatives to develop ideas for improving

access to superannuation by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

PIAC has been appointed to an ASIC Working Group established to reform superannuation industry practices and policy regarding the identification of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members.

In addition, PIAC is assisting an Aboriginal woman concerning a breach of contract by a funeral service in NSW. The funeral service has been reported to have dealt unscrupulously with Aboriginal people over a significant period of time. The IJP is working toward lodging a complaint in the Consumer, Trade and Tenancy Tribunal.

#### Social media

Over the past year, PIAC has made representations to Facebook concerning the practice of 'memorialising' the Facebook accounts of deceased people. When accounts are 'memorialised', photos of the deceased person are repeatedly displayed on their Facebook page.

This can be very distressing for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander family members because of the cultural sensitivity regarding the depiction of images of deceased Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people. We will continue to liaise with Facebook on this issue.

In response to widespread concerns raised with us about 'memes' on Facebook, which racially vilify Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, PIAC will focus on discrimination and vilification via social media over the next year.

#### Access to social housing

The IJP has started a new judicial review test case in the Supreme Court of NSW on behalf of an Aboriginal man who was denied access to social housing because of his offending history. We are seeking review of Housing NSW's decision to refuse our client access to social housing.

#### Stolen wages

For several decades, many Aboriginal people in NSW had their wages and other money placed in trust by the NSW Government. This money was not returned. PIAC played a key role in working with the NSW Government to establish a scheme to repay these 'Stolen Wages'.

This scheme, called the Aboriginal Trust Fund Repayment Scheme (ATFRS), was closed in June 2012. We have continued to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are entitled to repayment of their stolen wages, but were unaware of the ATFRS and did not register in the timeframe, to access their records and make submissions.

## DISCRIMINATION

### Public Transport - Buses and trains

There were two significant discrimination cases in 2012-2013 in which PIAC successfully represented people who were unable to use particular modes of public transport safely as a result of their disabilities. These cases highlight some of the challenges faced by people with disabilities using buses and trains. They have paved the way for lasting change to improve accessibility for people with physical disabilities.

#### Julia Haraksin and Murrays Australia Ltd

Julia Haraksin tried to book a seat on a Murrays Australia Ltd (Murrays) bus between Sydney and Canberra in August 2009. Murrays told her they did not have any wheelchair accessible buses and so could not accept her booking.

In a judgment delivered on 14 March 2013, the Federal Court ruled that Murrays had directly discriminated against Ms Haraksin and had breached national Disability Standards. This decision puts all public transport providers on notice to comply with the standards or risk a finding of unlawful discrimination.

The case also highlights another, unresolved issue. There remains no independent umpire to monitor operators' compliance with the transport standards. Instead, individuals who are discriminated against on public transport must argue the case for equitable treatment by lodging a complaint with the Australian Human Rights Commission, and if not resolved by conciliation, proceeding to a court hearing.

PIAC raised this and other issues in its submission to the 2012 Review of the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport. Our submission was titled *Get On Board!*

#### Graeme Innes AM - Audible on-train announcements

Mr Innes, who is blind, made numerous complaints about the failure to provide audible announcements on trains. These announcements are crucial because they allow passengers with vision impairment to know when they have reached the right station.

On 1 February 2013, the Federal Circuit Court found RailCorp had breached federal disability discrimination law by failing to make audible announcements on 36 train



Julia Haraksin speaks to the media outside court

journeys undertaken by Mr Innes between 28 March 2011 and 9 September 2011.

Sydney Trains - the new rail entity which assumed responsibility for rail services from 1 July 2013 - has agreed to take specific steps to continue monitoring and improving on-train announcements. In light of this, Mr Innes has withdrawn further complaints.

#### Mental illness and insurance

Despite the prevalence of the conditions, discrimination against people with mental illness appears to be significant.

Recently, through discussions with the Mental Health Council of Australia and *beyondblue*, PIAC has become aware that people living with, or with a history of mental illness, find it more difficult than others to obtain many forms of insurance.

We have received reports that concern about mental illness is causing some insurers to offer cover that is more expensive, or deny insurance altogether, despite there being no diagnosis of a mental illness from a mental health professional. For example, a person may be denied insurance cover for all forms of mental illness, just because

they have seen a work counsellor for a short period, but have no other history of mental illness. In other cases, some insurers appear to be overestimating the risks involved in insuring people who can demonstrate a high level of functioning despite their mental illness.

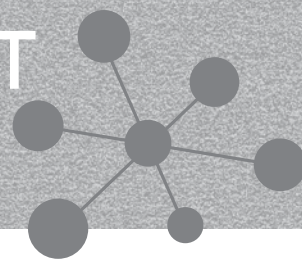
PIAC believes that such practices could be unlawful under state and federal anti-discrimination law. PIAC is providing legal advice to a number of people in this situation.

Graeme Innes: an opportunity for systemic change



# ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT

Promoting accountable and transparent government



## Promoting transparency in government

PIAC uses, and assists others to use, Freedom of Information (FOI) laws to promote government decision-making that is open, transparent and protects fundamental rights.

We continue to be involved in FOI matters relating to the Australian Defence Force's handling, exchange and rendition of people, including military prisoners, as outlined below. In addition, this year we have represented a number of people in their attempt to use FOI law to obtain information in the public interest.

In 2013, PIAC has been retained by the Mental Health Council of Australia to prepare an application under federal FOI law regarding information held by government departments relating to mental illness. The Council is seeking to challenge delays in the provision of material via FOI, where the applicant is seeking personal information.

Recently, there have been considerable delays in reviews by the federal Information Commissioner, and these have presented barriers to achieving access under the FOI regime.

## FOI law reform

PIAC's submission to the review of the federal FOI Act, undertaken by Dr Allan Hawke AC, highlights our concerns, and those of our clients, regarding delays in the process. PIAC submitted that procedures and time frames should be introduced for Information Commissioner reviews to increase efficiency. PIAC also recommends that the Office of the Information Commissioner be sufficiently resourced to perform its administrative, policy and agency reporting roles.

PIAC's submission drew on our earlier submissions to the Australian Government on FOI reform, arguing that the imposition of fees and charges sits uncomfortably with the principle that individuals have a right to access information, and that such a fundamental right should not be made conditional on paying for it. PIAC supports the introduction of a fee-free administrative access scheme to reduce unnecessary bureaucratic processing.

PIAC will continue to monitor opportunities to advocate for reform to improve access to review by the Information Commissioner.



Illustration: Jenny Coopes

# ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT

## Military detention: uncovering the truth

In May 2013, using FOI laws, PIAC obtained more previously classified and confidential documents relating to Australia's involvement in the conflict in Afghanistan. The new documents reveal allegations of mistreatment of detainees captured or 'apprehended' by Australian forces in Afghanistan between 2010 and 2012.

This latest release follows the first phase of PIAC's military accountability project in 2011-2012, which resulted in the publication of documents that raised important questions about Australian military detention practices in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Under international law, Australia must ensure that detainees are treated 'humanely', and that they are not subjected to 'humiliating and degrading treatment'. Australia has this obligation even after transferring detainees to one of its allies. Practices, like invasive body searches conducted in public, raise serious concerns, and need to be investigated further.

Unfortunately, the latest documents have been heavily



The military accountability project has raised questions about Australian detention practices in Afghanistan and Iraq

### Sydney Morning Herald 16 May 2013

Afghan detainees captured by the Australian Defence Force and held at a US military prison near Bagram complained to Australian government officials that they were forced to accept humiliatingly public 'groin and buttocks' searches, previously secret defence documents reveal.

The papers also reveal that the warmest blankets were kept back as a reward for the best-behaved prisoners on freezing winter nights. There were also complaints about food, overcrowding, water quality, lack of progress in having cases reviewed, medical problems and long waiting lists for dental work.



Combined Australian and Afghan patrol in the Baluchi Valley region. Photos: isafmedia/Australian Government Department of Defence

redacted. Potentially important information, therefore, has not been made available.

Australia claims its policies and practices comply with international law. Being transparent about detainee complaints and investigations is crucial to maintaining public confidence in the Australian military - both here and in overseas deployments such as Afghanistan. That is why PIAC has been working with a coalition of organisations to call for a full independent inquiry into Australia's military detention practices.

## Investigating the Sri Lankan civil war: International Crimes Evidence Project

The International Crimes Evidence Project (ICEP), a recent project of PIAC, was established to conduct objective, independent investigations into serious alleged violations of international law in our region.

ICEP is engaged in an investigation into the final months of the Sri Lankan civil war. Through its work, ICEP aims to contribute to achieving justice for victims of alleged crimes committed during this civil war.

There are many forms that post-conflict justice can take. Those most relevant to the work of ICEP include truth telling and documentation, and criminal prosecutions.

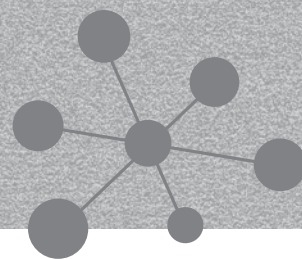
Assisted by an independent committee of experts in the field of global criminal justice, ICEP intends to help fill the gaps in the international community's ability to ensure accountability for violations of human rights in armed conflict.

A recent UN Human Rights Council resolution requires the Sri Lankan Government to ensure there is accountability for alleged violations of international law.

ICEP is preparing a report to assist UN Human Rights Council member states in their consideration of the final stages of the civil war and post-conflict accountability and justice.

# CONSUMER RIGHTS

Exposing and redressing unjust practices and deficient laws, especially in energy & water



## Affordability

PIAC engages with government and regulators to influence pricing regulation and sustainability programs that are likely to impact on affordability for the essential services of energy and water.

A particular focus this year has been to promote the role of rebates and concessions in ensuring that low-income and vulnerable households are not forced, through rising energy bills, into financial hardship and ultimately disconnection. Over the past year, PIAC has continued to provide up-to-date information about energy and water price concessions via our website and in the media.

PIAC has made a range of submissions to reviews and inquiries on energy and water issues. These have included the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal's (IPART) determination of regulated retail energy and water prices, a submission to the NSW Smart Meter Task Force and submissions to the Australian Energy Regulator's Better Regulation program.



Paid workers are as likely as pensioners to be disconnected  
Photo: Flickr/freeotuk cmyk

*The research reveals that for the first time paid workers are just as likely as pensioners and people who are unemployed to be disconnected from electricity, gas or water.*

## Disconnections: *Cut Off III*

April 2013 saw the release of PIAC's third research-based report on electricity, gas and water disconnections for NSW residential consumers.

*Cut Off III* analyses the circumstances that led to disconnection, the impacts of disconnection, and how people manage to finance reconnection. It is based on 171 surveys and four interviews with consumers disconnected in the second half of 2012. Findings are compared with *Cut Off* survey results from 2004 and 2008, noting a number of significant changes over the past eight years.

The research reveals that for the first time paid workers are just as likely as pensioners and people who are unemployed to be disconnected from electricity, gas or water. Disconnection is most often the result of long-term financial stress rather than a one-off event.

A significant number of respondents reported an unusually high utility bill and debt prior to disconnection. There were also high proportions of people who felt that retailer payment plans were unaffordable, or they did not know that vouchers or payment assistance existed to pay utility bills in emergency situations.

This suggests a strong need to improve and promote existing support services, and for utility retailers to engage with consumers in ways that are tailored to their needs, especially for paid workers who may not be eligible for some forms of government assistance.

## Electricity and people with a disability

In late 2012, PIAC and the Physical Disability Council of NSW (PDCN) released a report highlighting the inequity experienced by people with disability when it comes to electricity use and pricing.

*More Power to You: electricity and people with physical disability* finds that people with a physical disability are disadvantaged in several ways regarding access to energy and water.

Affordability is a major issue as many people with a disability have low incomes and their circumstances may bring additional general costs associated with medication, and mobility equipment such as wheelchairs.

In addition, disability brings additional energy costs associated with heating, cooling, communication and life-saving equipment. It can inhibit a person's capacity to adopt energy efficiency measures.

Carolyn Hodge, Senior Policy Officer in PIAC's Energy & Water Consumers' Advocacy Program, said it was often impossible for people with disability to reduce their energy consumption or switch to off-peak supply because doing so would be life threatening.





Tumut Pond Dam wall. Photo: Mick Stanic

'Energy efficiency measures and time-of-use pricing cannot solve the problem of rising energy prices. PIAC and PDCN have released this report to highlight the social impacts that rising electricity prices have on people with physical disability,' Ms Hodge said.

The report includes action plans to guide government and industry on how to reduce the disadvantage that exists in our energy markets.

## **Better Regulation program**

During 2013 PIAC has engaged closely with the Australian Energy Regulator's Better Regulation program. The program involves the preparation of guidelines to steer the development of network pricing proposals. It is generally recognised that industry proposals are rarely challenged effectively because consumers lack the skills and resources to do so.

However, funds provided by the Consumer Advocacy Panel have allowed PIAC to contract expertise in this area and we are making a significant contribution to the formation of the guidelines. Arguments and evidence are on par with (if not better than) those posted by the supply side. This work has the potential to save consumers many millions of dollars and could bring about decisions that are more aligned with consumers' interests.

## **Competition in energy and water market**

In April 2013, PIAC made a submission to the Australian Energy Market Commission (AEMC) review of the effectiveness of retail competition in NSW electricity and gas markets.

NSW currently has a regulated price for electricity and gas, set each year by the IPART. However, under an agreement between all Australian states and territories, governments agree to remove price deregulation once the AEMC has found there is effective competition.

In its submission to the review, PIAC raised some concerns about competition in NSW energy markets.

Based on PIAC's research report, *Choice? What Choice?*, consumers in some regional centres experience much lower levels of competition than their counterparts in metropolitan Sydney.

PIAC argued that if prices were regulated, a targeted public information campaign would be needed. It is important that such a campaign reach all consumers, including those from non-English speaking backgrounds and without internet access.

PIAC also raised concerns about the impact of late payment fees on retail competition. PIAC would like to see late fees banned if prices are deregulated in NSW. PIAC also argued that competition in NSW gas markets is much weaker than in electricity markets.

# CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

For over 30 years, PIAC staff and board, volunteers, clients, students and *pro bono* lawyers have championed public interest advocacy in Australia. We've come so far...and have much still to do.



## Power to the people

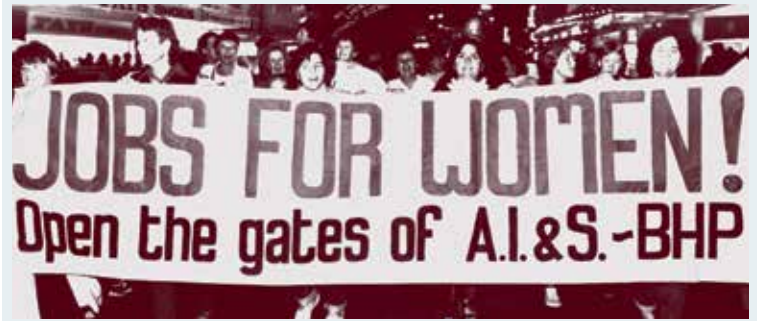
The attempt by energy retailer Sydney County Council to retrospectively charge customers for a hike in electricity prices made PIAC's first client, Arthur Austin, so mad that he took the matter to the Supreme Court.

The ensuing confrontation 'brought home the dangers of taking the public for granted - especially now that PIAC exists to give legal aid to individuals who are prepared to challenge acts of doubtful legality by Government, government instrumentalities and other organisations', reported the *Sydney Morning Herald's* legal correspondent, John Slee, on 16 August 1982.

In the end, the then Premier, Neville Wran, announced that the Government would defer increases in the wholesale costs of electricity to councils and legislated to prohibit retrospective increases for electricity already consumed.

## Sex discrimination in Port Kembla

The Australian Iron & Steel (AIS) case, settled in February 1994, was a landmark sex discrimination case, paving the way for equality for women in employment. The settlement brought to an end 14 years of campaigning by over 700 women, represented by PIAC with assistance from Legal Aid NSW. In 1980, 34 women lodged complaints with the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board after AIS refused to hire them in certain roles. Following conciliation, AIS agreed to engage women as ironworkers, employing over 150 at the Port Kembla steelworks. But a downturn prompted AIS to retrench many of the women it employed. The women claimed their retrenchments (carried out via a 'last on, first off' policy) constituted indirect discrimination. In 1989, the High Court held that AIS employment practices amounted to direct and indirect discrimination, awarding the women approximately \$1.4 million.



*The political process must be stimulated. Parliament, that flawed but precious institution, must be encouraged to act. The charter of PIAC is breathtakingly ambitious.'*

*The Hon Michael Kirby, 1987*

1982

1984

1987

1994

1998

## Asbestos exposure at the Baryulgil mine

The James Hardie Group operated an asbestos mine at Baryulgil Square on the far north coast of New South Wales from 1944 to 1976. Aside from a few white managers, Aboriginal Australians comprised the Baryulgil workforce.

The Baryulgil mine was reportedly often covered in a cloud of asbestos dust from the mining and crushing operations. Children often played in the dust as the tailings were dumped from the trucks.

After media stories on asbestos-related illnesses at Baryulgil, the federal Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs conducted an inquiry. PIAC prepared a detailed submission, which formed a major part of the evidence before the Parliamentary Committee and was relied upon in its report. Unfortunately, the Committee refused to recommend compensation for the miners although it recognised there were legal difficulties in bringing common law claims. The Committee did strongly condemn the failure of James Hardie to protect its workers.

Photo: AAP

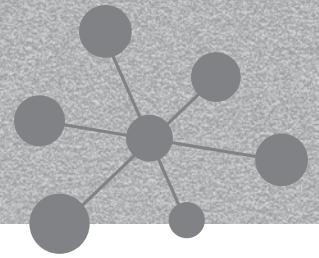


## Scarlett Finney's case

Scarlett Finney was born with spina bifida. Her battle was the first real test of the federal Disability Discrimination Act in relation to enrolment in a private school and it put all schools on notice about their obligations towards students with disability.

Scarlett's family wanted to enrol her in the Hills Grammar School, a co-educational school.

Scarlett could walk short distances and otherwise used a wheelchair. She had no learning problems. The school rejected her application on the ground of her disability. Scarlett's parents complained to the then Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, which found the school had unlawfully discriminated against Scarlett and ordered it to pay compensation. The school appealed to the Federal Court but lost - thus sealing an important victory for equality.



### Stolen Wages repaid after 70 years in trust

PIAC's work with aboriginal communities led to the investigation of claims by clients who were denied access to wages, allowances and pensions held in trust by the NSW Government. In 2004, the Government established the Aboriginal Trust Fund Repayment Scheme to assess claims and pay Aboriginal people and their descendants the money owed to them. PIAC and a number of law firms have helped Aboriginal people access money owed to them under this scheme.



Photo: Flickr/Rae Allen

### HomeFund borrowers faced ballooning debt

HomeFund was a NSW Government-sponsored scheme that made home loans to low-income borrowers between 1986 and 1993. When the economy slowed and interest rates fell, borrowers were left with high fixed-interest loans and ballooning debt. After legal action in the Federal Court and the High Court, a settlement proposal was approved in March 2001. Borrowers who still had loans achieved a reduced interest rate and borrowers who still owed money after the sale of their home had the debt waived.

### Wrongful imprisonment of children

In 2011, PIAC and law firm Maurice Blackburn commenced class action on behalf of young people detained by NSW police because of incorrect bail information.

The case started after PIAC became aware that many children and young people were being arrested, detained (sometimes overnight) as a result of a flaw in the Police computer database. The problem stems from inaccurate or out of date information on the computer system known as COPS (Computer Operational Policing System).

A 'separate question' hearing on 2 September 2013 considered issues that are at the heart of the class members' claims. The Supreme Court was asked to examine how a certain section of the *Bail Act*, which gives powers to police to arrest people for breach of bail, should be interpreted.

The key issue related to those class members who were not on bail at all at the time they were arrested. On 27 September 2013 the Court decided that NSW Police have no excuse for arresting these young people and depriving them of their liberty.

This judgment paves the way for the young people to be compensated and highlights the urgent need for the system to be fixed.



2001 • 2004 • 2011 • 2011 • 2012 • 2013 •

### Death in a prison van

PIAC represents families in coronial inquests and has a continuing interest in coronial law reform. In 2011, PIAC represented the family of Mark Stephen Holcroft, who suffered a heart attack in a prison van while he was travelling between correctional centres in NSW. Although other prisoners banged on the side of the van to get the attention of the guards, the van did not stop until it reached its destination. Sadly, Mr Holcroft had died by then.

The Coroner recommended that inmates be given adequate drinking water during transfers and adequate toilet breaks and meals during long journeys. The Coroner also recommended that two-way intercoms be installed in prison vans. Corrective Services NSW subsequently issued a Commissioner's Instruction to ensure the Coroner's recommendations were implemented.

### Disability discrimination on public transport

PIAC's work on improving disability access is currently focused on public transport. We have achieved positive change for airline passengers with disability and for users of wheelchair accessible taxis. In 2012-2013, *Innes v RailCorp* focused on the need for audible 'next stop' announcements on Sydney trains for blind and vision-impaired passengers. PIAC client, Graeme Innes, successfully sued RailCorp for breach of federal disability discrimination law after the state-owned rail corporation failed to provide adequate audible announcements.

The introduction of accessibility standards has gone some way towards improving public transport accessibility. However, the system continues to rely on individuals to take the substantial risks of litigation.

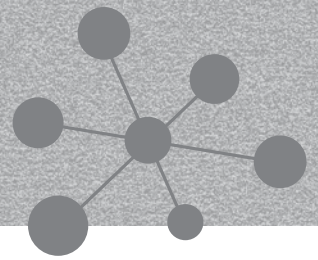


### No room on the bus

Julie Haraksin has claimed bus company Murrays Australia Limited breached the Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport after it said it could not accommodate her on a bus between Sydney and Canberra. In March 2013 the Federal Court's Justice Nicholas ruled that Murrays had directly discriminated against Ms Haraksin and breached national Disability Standards.

# PUBLICATIONS

PIAC published papers, journals, newsletters and submissions to government and regulatory bodies.



PIAC papers, journals, newsletters and submissions to government and regulatory bodies are available on the PIAC website.

Visit [www.piac.asn.au/publications](http://www.piac.asn.au/publications).

## Social justice

**Submission** in response to the Exposure Draft of the Homelessness Bill, 2012, August 2012.

### *Fixing a Bleak House*

Submission in response to the Exposure Draft of the Boarding Houses Bill, 2012, August 2012.

**Submission** to the Statutory review of *Graffiti Control Act 2008* (NSW), August 2012.

**Submission** to the NSW Law Reform Commission – Sentencing Question Papers 5-7, August 2012.

### *Listening to homeless people – they've been saying it for a while.*

Submission to the Consultation Paper issued by the NSW Department of Family and Community Services Consultation Paper – Future Directions for Specialist Homelessness Services, August 2012.

### *Treatment and care rather than crime and punishment – Apprehended Violence Orders.*

Submission to the NSW Law Reform Commission Inquiry – People with cognitive and mental health impairments in the criminal justice system, August 2012.

**Submission** to the NSW Law Reform Commission, Sentencing Question Papers 8-12, September 2012.

### *A Mental Health Act for the 21st Century*

Submission in response to the Discussion Paper: Issues arising under the Mental Health Act 2007 (NSW), December 2012.

**Submission** in response to Ombudsman NSW Issues Paper: Summary Offences Act 1988 Section 9, February 2012.

### *Value of a justice reinvestment approach to criminal justice in Australia*

Submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee Inquiry into the Value of a justice reinvestment approach to criminal justice in Australia, March 2012.

## Equality

### *Aligning the pieces: consolidating a framework for equality and human rights*

**Submission** to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee on the exposure draft Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Bill 2013, December 2012.

**Submission** to the inquiry into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Peoples Recognition Bill 2012, January 2013.

### *Regulating racial vilification in NSW*

Submission to the Legislative Council Standing Committee on Law and Justice Inquiry into racial vilification laws in NSW, March 2013.

### *Securing better outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in superannuation*

Summary of the issues raised at a forum to discuss the difficulties faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in relation to superannuation, April 2013

### *Getting closer: improving rights for all of us.*

Submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs on the Inquiry into the Sex Discrimination Amendment (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Intersex Status) Bill 2013, April 2013.

### *Get on board!*

Submission to the Minister for Infrastructure and Transport, and the Attorney General, to inform the 2012 Review of the *Disability Standards for Accessible Public Transport 2002* (Cth), May 2013.

## Accountable government

Inquiry into potential reforms of National Security Legislation: **Submission** to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security, August 2012.

### *Review of Freedom of Information laws*

Submission to statutory review of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and the Australian Information Commissioner Act 2010, December 2012.

## **Consumer rights**

### ***Reliably affordable?***

Submission to the AEMC's Review of Distribution Reliability Outcomes and Standards – NSW Workstream, July 2012.

### ***Network regulation for all***

Submission to the AER's preliminary framework and approach paper for Ausgrid, Endeavour Energy and Essential Energy, August 2012.

### ***Equitable access to the essential***

Submission to the Senate Select Committee on Electricity Prices, September 2012.

### ***Making every drop count***

Submission to IPART's price determination for Hunter Water, October 2012.

### ***Water pressure on consumers***

Submission to IPART's review of water prices for Gosford City Council and Wyong Shire Council, October 2012.

### ***The big picture***

Submission to the Productivity Commission's Draft Report, Electricity Network Regulatory Frameworks, November 2012.

### ***More power to you: electricity and people with physical disability***

Research report, November 2012.

### ***Charting the affordable course***

Submission to IPART's Issues Paper, Review of regulated retail prices and charges for electricity 2013-16, December 2012.

## ***Marking the market***

Submission to the AEMC's Issues Paper – Review of Competition in the Retail Electricity and Natural Gas Markets in NSW, February 2013.

### ***Better returns for consumers:***

Submission to the AER's Issues Paper – Rate of return guidelines, February 2013.

### ***Let's be smart about this***

Submission in response to the NSW Government Smart Meter Task Force's Discussion Paper, February 2013.

Response to the IPART draft report

on prices for water, sewerage and stormwater drainage services for Gosford City Council and Wyong Shire Council, March 2013.

### ***Seeking better outcomes***

Submission in response to the AER Expenditure Forecast Assessment Guidelines Issues Paper, March 2013.

**Response to IPART** draft report on prices for water, sewerage and stormwater drainage services for Hunter Water Corporation, April 2013.

**Submission** in response to the Proposal for a National Energy Consumer Advocacy Body Directions Paper, April 2013.

### ***Cut Off III: the social impact of utility disconnection***

Research report on electricity, gas and water disconnections for NSW consumers, April 2013.

### ***Better incentives, better outcomes***

Submission to the Australian Energy Regulator's Expenditure Incentives Guidelines Issues Paper, May 2013.

## ***Determining a value of customer reliability***

Submission to the Australian Energy Market Operator review to determine regional-specific values of customer reliability for use in revenue regulation, planning and for operational purposes in the National Energy Market, May 2013.

### ***In who's interest?***

Submission to IPART's Review of regulated retail prices for electricity, 2013 to 2016: Draft report, May 2013.

### ***Inquiry into downstream gas supply and availability in NSW***

Submission to the NSW Legislative Assembly's State and Regional Development Committee inquiry into the issue of downstream gas supply and availability in NSW, May 2013.

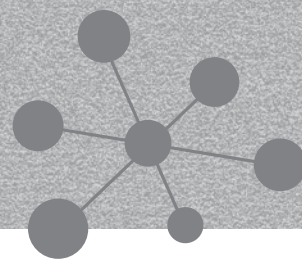
## **Newsletters**

**PIAC Bulletin** [Edition 35] Spring 2012.

**PIAC Bulletin** [Edition 36] Autumn 2013.

# THANK YOU

We would like especially acknowledge and thank all PIAC clients for their willingness to take legal action in the public interest.



## **EWCAP**

Rhiannon Cook and Robyn Edwards,  
Council of Social Service NSW  
(NCOSS)

Helen Scott, Ethnic Communities  
Council NSW

Sean Ferns, Parks and Village Service  
(PAVS)

Gary Martin, Affiliated Residential  
Park Residents Association (ARPR)

Antoine Mangion, Combined  
Pensioners & Superannuants  
Association of NSW

Patricia Le Lievre, Regional and rural  
consumer representative

Ruth Robinson, Physical Disability  
Council NSW (PDCN)

Lurlene Glen and Judith Daley,  
Retirement Village Residents'  
Association

Lukas Rajnoch, St Vincent de Paul  
Society, NSW

Ann-Mason Furmage

## **Training**

Grant Arbuthnot, Patrycja Arvidssen,  
Gemma McKinnon and Sarah Drury,  
Tenants' Union of NSW

Steve Frost, Horizons Legal Centre

Carolyn Jones, Women's Legal  
Services NSW

Amie Meers and Danny Shaw,  
Welfare Rights Centre

Nari Sahukar, Environmental  
Defenders Office

Jane Sanders, Shopfront Youth Legal  
Centre

Matt Dimech, Children's Legal Service  
Legal Aid NSW

Sue Waldon and Kaye James, Legal  
Information Access Centre

Don Palmer

Lynette Simons

Carolyn Grenville, Cancer Council  
of NSW

Katrina Ironside and Sarah Dale,  
PILCH NSW

Dominic O'Grady, Australian Human  
Rights Commission

Rachel Simpson, NSW Legislative  
Assembly

Vanessa Viaggio, NSW Legislative  
Council

Mat Baker and Terence Cook, State  
Debt Recovery Office

Robyn Bradey

Mary Gibson, NSW Trustee & Guardian

Jen Lewis, Consumer Credit Legal  
Centre

Warwick Sams, Housing NSW

Katie Wrigley, Welfare Rights

Mari Vagg, Women's Legal Service

## **Indigenous Justice**

The National Congress of Australia's  
First People

The Indigenous Outreach Program  
at ASIC

Anti-Discrimination Board NSW

Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT)

## **ICEP volunteers**

Alicia Gray

Anna Studman

Annabel Anderson

Anna-Louise Hooper

Aun Qi Koh

Benedict Coyne

Christina White

Deborah White

Genevieve Wood

Georgia Drake

Giovanni Bressan

Hae-Ran Chung

Harry Cook

Helen MacLeod

Isabella Kang

Isabelle Wong

Jahan Navidi

James Hammerton

Jess Stirling

Jessica Luppino

Katie Gauld

Katie Llewelyn

Laura Steele

Lauren Drake

Lucy Geddes

Maggie Thompson

Mark Webster

Matt Lyster

Matthew Kalyk

Michelle Aitken

Monica Stanley

Natalie Pala

Nesha Bala

Nikila Kaushik

Nivedha Thiru

Oswin Perera

Phillip Wardle

Priya Fernandopulle

Sam Hartridge

Taylor Gramoski

Tom Williamson

Vaishnavi Suryaprakesh

Verity Scandrett

Wing Shum

Zeina Touma

## Experts who have provided pro bono advice and support to ICEP

John Ralston  
Professor William Schabas  
Colonel Desmond Travers  
Gordon Weiss  
Paola Gaeta  
Helen Brady  
Kirsten Keith  
Dr Christopher Ward  
Kate Eastman SC  
Professor Steven Freeland  
Mark Ierace SC  
Dana Urban QC

## Homeless Persons' Legal Service partner organisations

Public Interest Law Clearing House

## Host agencies and community support organisations

Edward Eager Lodge  
Matthew Talbot Hostel  
Newtown Mission  
Newtown Neighbourhood Centre  
Norman Andrews House  
Ozanam Learning Centre  
Parramatta Mission  
Salvation Army Streetlevel Mission  
The Station  
Vincentian House  
Wayside Chapel  
Women and Girls' Emergency Centre

## Law firm partners

Allens  
Baker & McKenzie  
Corrs Chambers Westgarth  
Dibbs Barker  
Gilbert + Tobin  
Henry Davis York  
HWL Ebsworth  
Legal Aid NSW  
Maddocks  
Minter Ellison  
Norton Rose Fulbright  
Thomsons Lawyers Australia

## Barristers who provided advice and representation

Angus McCauley  
Anna Perigo  
Ben Fogarty  
Brenda Tronson  
Chris Ronalds SC  
Dr Christos Mantziaris  
Darryl Rangiah SC  
Dean-Lloyd Del Monte  
Dr Melissa Perry QC  
Fleur Ramsay  
Henry El-Hage  
Houda Younan  
Janet Oakley  
Kellie Edwards  
Louise Goodchild  
Professor Margaret Allars  
Margaret Holz  
Michael Lee SC  
Natalie Zerial  
Nicholas Poynder  
Nick Eastman  
Rachel Francois  
Ragni Mathur  
Robert M Goot AM SC  
Simeon Beckett

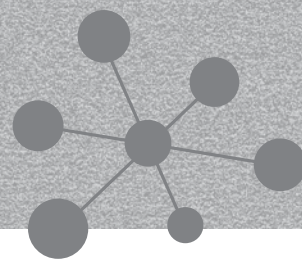
We would like to acknowledge and thank all PIAC clients for their willingness to take legal action in the public interest.

We would also like to thank the many individuals and organisations - clients, students, barristers, private firms and companies, community organisations and government employees, departments and agencies - that work with PIAC to achieve social justice. We are very grateful for your support.

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Robert Stary Lawyers  
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Thomsons Reuters for its printing of the *PIAC Bulletin* and the *Annual Report*



<b>Brenda Bailey</b>	Senior Policy Officer (to 9 August 2012)
<b>Sarah Bassiouni</b>	Solicitor Indigenous Justice Program (commenced 9 September 2012)
<b>Michelle Cohen</b>	Senior Solicitor, IMF (commenced 16 August 2012)
<b>Anastasia Coroneo</b>	Senior Solicitor, HPLS (to 1 November 2012)
<b>Kylie Coventry</b>	Training Officer (on leave from March 2013)
<b>Oliver Derum</b>	Policy Officer – Energy & Water
<b>Peter Dodd</b>	Solicitor - Health Policy and Advocacy (to 30 June 2013)
<b>Tobias Freeman</b>	Legal Officer ICEP (commenced 6 December 2012)
<b>Daniela Gavshon</b>	Senior Policy Officer, (commenced 16 April 2013)
<b>Alexis Goodstone</b>	Principal Solicitor
<b>Marion Grammer</b>	Bookkeeper (to 19 June 2012)
<b>Claire Hammerton</b>	Project Manager – ICEP (6 December 2012 to 19 July 2013)
<b>Carolyn Hodge</b>	Senior Policy Officer, Energy & Water
<b>Jane King</b>	Manager, Finance & Administration
<b>Jane Leibowitz</b>	Senior Solicitor (unpaid leave from November 2012)
<b>Lena Lowe</b>	Administrator – Training & Publications
<b>Sarah Ludowici</b>	Senior Training Officer
<b>Anne Mainsbridge</b>	Senior Solicitor (commenced 12 June 2012 to 24 October 2012)
<b>Vivian Mercadal</b>	Research and Policy Officer EWCAP (to 30 June 2013)
<b>Sarah Mitchell</b>	HPLS Administrator
<b>Deirdre Moor</b>	Manager, Policy & Programs
<b>Dominic O'Grady</b>	Senior Media and Communications Adviser (to 2 May 2013)
<b>Camilla Pandolfini</b>	Senior Solicitor (commenced 19 November 2012)
<b>Scott Parker</b>	Administrator
<b>Gemma Pearce</b>	Senior Media and Communications Officer (commenced 10 July 2013)
<b>Melissa Pinzuti</b>	Legal Secretary
<b>Jeremy Rea</b>	Solicitor Advocate – HPLS
<b>Edward Santow</b>	CEO
<b>Louis Schetzer</b>	Senior Policy Officer – HPLS
<b>Samantha Sowerwine</b>	Senior Solicitor – HPLS (commenced 26 November 2012)
<b>Sally Spence</b>	Receptionist
<b>Elwyn Ward</b>	Finance Officer



**SECONDEES**

<b>Rebecca Silberberg</b>	Baker & McKenzie (to 13 September 2012)
<b>Tami Sokol</b>	King & Wood Mallesons (6 August 2012 to 15 February 2013)
<b>Jessica Do</b>	Henry Davis York (24 September 2012 to 21 December 2012)
<b>Alysson Morgan</b>	Henry Davis York (21 January 2013 to 15 March 2013)
<b>Louise Beange</b>	King & Wood Mallesons (commenced 11 February 2013)
<b>Brianna Terry</b>	Henry Davis York (commenced 27 May 2013)

**COLLEGE OF LAW PLACEMENTS**

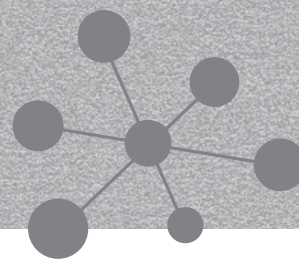
<b>Stephen Hampson</b>	to 21 August 2012
<b>Ritu Mohan</b>	2 July 2012 to 24 August 2012
<b>Cameron Duncan</b>	4 July 2012 to 24 August 2012
<b>Kit Williamson</b>	27 August 2012 to 20 December 2012
<b>Ketki Medane</b>	28 August 2012 to 19 February 2013
<b>Helena Canaris</b>	4 September 2012 to 22 February 2013
<b>Hannah Belnick</b>	20 February 2013 to 26 July 2013
<b>Jessica Stirling</b>	18 February 2013 to 13 September 2013
<b>Ryan Steed</b>	10 March 2013 to 7 June 2013
<b>Verity Smith</b>	commenced 25 June 2013

**PIAC DIRECTORS**

<b>Dr Peter Cashman</b>	Chair Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Sydney
<b>Ralph Pliner</b>	Deputy Chair Consultant, Baker & McKenzie
<b>Britta Bruce</b>	Management Consultant
<b>Rebecca Gilsenan</b>	Principal, Maurice Blackburn
<b>Coralie Kenny</b>	Principal Legal Counsel, Suncorp Life
<b>Alan Kirkland</b>	Chief Executive Officer, Choice
<b>Annmarie Lumsden</b>	Executive Director (Strategic Policy, Planning and Management) Legal Aid NSW
<b>Alison Peters</b>	CEO, Council of Social Services of NSW
<b>The Hon Kevin Rozzoli AM</b>	
<b>Dr Merrilyn Walton</b>	Associate Professor, Faculty of Medicine, University of Sydney
<b>David Weisbrot AM</b>	

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Public Interest Advocacy Centre Ltd  
ABN 77 002 773 524



## **DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS OF THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013**

### **Information on Public Interest Advocacy Centre Limited Summary Financial Report**

The summary financial report is an extract from the full financial report for the year ended 30 June 2013. The financial statements and disclosures in the summary financial report have been derived from the 2013 financial report of Public Interest Advocacy Centre Limited. The summary financial report cannot be expected to provide as detailed an understanding of the financial performance, financial position and financing and investing activities of Public Interest Advocacy Centre Limited as the full financial report. A copy of the full financial report and auditor's report will be provided to any member, free of charge, upon request.

The discussion and analysis is provided to assist members in understanding the summary financial report. The discussions and analysis is based on Public Interest Advocacy Centre Limited's financial statements and the information contained in the summary financial report has been derived from the full 2013 Financial Report of Public Interest Advocacy Centre Limited.

### **Statement of Comprehensive Income**

The company's total revenue increased by \$422,767 or approximately 17.4% to be \$2,844,043 for the year. The increase in revenue is mainly due to an increase in grants and other contributions.

The company's total expenditure for the year increased by \$194,550 or approximately 8.1%. The increase in expenditure is attributable to increased employment costs and project and casework costs.

For the year ended 30 June 2013, the company recorded an overall operating surplus of \$252,667 as compared to an operating surplus in the prior year of \$24,450.

### **Statement of Financial Position**

As a result of the operating surplus, the overall net asset position of the company has increased by 37.3% to \$928,793. The company continues to hold high levels of cash reserves and maintains appropriate levels of working capital as at year end. Trade debtors increased by \$55,501 and unexpended grants and other income in advance decreased by \$34,531 as compared to last year. Provisions for Employee Benefits increased by \$17,790. There are no other notable movements or issues relating to the company's financial position.

### **Statement of Cash Flows**

The company has generated a cash inflow from operating activities being \$323,846 compared to a cash outflow of \$31,348 from the prior year. Minor purchases of additional plant and equipment were also noted during the year.

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST ADVOCACY CENTRE**

The accompanying summary financial report which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2013, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended and related notes and directors declaration, are derived from the audited financial report of the Public Interest Advocacy Centre Limited for the year ended 30 June 2013. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on that financial report in our report dated 14 October 2013. The summary financial report does not contain all the disclosures required by the Australian Accounting Standards Reduced Disclosure Requirements, Interpretations and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the Corporations Act 2001. Reading the summary financial report, therefore is not a substitute for reading the audited financial report of the Public Interest Advocacy Centre Limited.

### **Directors' Responsibility for the Summary Financial Report**

The directors are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the summary financial report in accordance with the basis of preparation as described in note 1 to the summary financial statements. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation of the concise financial report, selecting and applying the appropriate accounting policies, and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

### **Auditor's Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial report based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Auditing Standard ASA 810 Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.

### **Auditor's Opinion**

In our opinion, the summary financial report derived from the audited financial report of the Public Interest Advocacy Centre Limited for the year ended 30 June 2013 is consistent, in all material respects, with (or a fair summary of) that audited financial report, in accordance with the basis of preparation as described in note 1 to the summary financial statements.

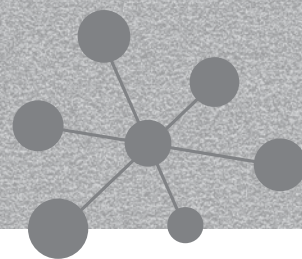


Mark Godlewski  
Partner  
PITCHER PARTNERS  
Sydney, NSW

14 October 2013

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Public Interest Advocacy Centre Ltd  
ABN 77 002 773 524



## STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	Note	2013 \$	2012 \$
REVENUE	2	2,844,043	2,421,276
<b>LESS: EXPENSES</b>			
Depreciation and amortisation expense		(30,537)	(57,338)
Employee benefits expense		(1,884,115)	(1,730,110)
Rent		(209,534)	(265,445)
Project and casework expenses		(323,846)	(171,357)
Other operating expenses		(143,344)	(172,576)
		(2,591,376)	(2,396,826)
SURPLUS		252,667	24,450
Other comprehensive income		-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		252,667	24,450

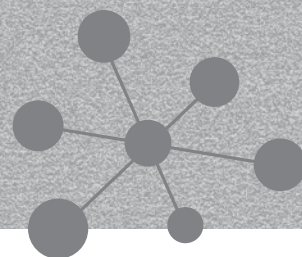
# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2013

	2013	2012
<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>	
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,340,633	1,031,798
Receivables	83,271	27,770
Other assets	6,239	7,269
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>1,430,143</b>	<b>1,066,837</b>
<b>NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Other financial assets	57,090	57,090
Property, plant and equipment	55,586	71,114
<b>TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>112,676</b>	<b>128,204</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1,542,819</b>	<b>1,195,041</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Payables	543,978	454,523
Provisions	64,250	44,009
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>608,228</b>	<b>498,532</b>
<b>NON CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Provisions	5,797	20,383
<b>TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>5,797</b>	<b>20,383</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>614,025</b>	<b>518,915</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>928,793</b>	<b>676,126</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Reserves	163,430	159,371
Retained surplus	765,363	516,755
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>928,793</b>	<b>676,126</b>

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Public Interest Advocacy Centre Ltd  
ABN 77 002 773 524



## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	Reserves	Retained surplus	Total equity
	\$	\$	\$
<b>BALANCE AS AT 1 JULY 2011</b>	195,732	455,944	651,676
Surplus for the year	-	24,450	24,450
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR-</b>		24,450	24,450
Transfers	(36,361)	36,361	-
<b>BALANCE AS AT 30 JUNE 2012</b>	159,371	516,755	676,126
<b>BALANCE AS AT 1 JULY 2012</b>	159,371	516,755	676,126
Surplus for the year	-	252,667	252,667
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR</b>	-	252,667	252,667
Transfers	4,059	(4,059)	-
<b>BALANCE AS AT 30 JUNE 2013</b>	163,430	765,363	928,793

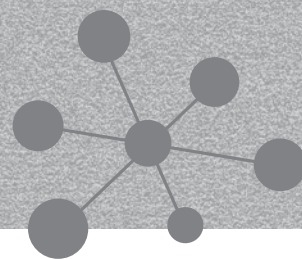
# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
<b>CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Receipts from government, customers and donations	3,128,615	2,606,612
Payments to suppliers and employees	(2,851,240)	(2,710,770)
Interest received	46,472	72,810
<b>NET CASH PROVIDED BY / (USED IN) OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>323,846</b>	<b>(31,348)</b>
<b>CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	-	16,763
Payment for property, plant and equipment	(15,012)	(49,348)
<b>NET CASH PROVIDED BY / (USED IN) INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>(15,012)</b>	<b>(32,585)</b>
<b>CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Proceeds from security deposit	-	27,304
<b>NET CASH PROVIDED BY FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>27,304</b>
<b>RECONCILIATION OF CASH</b>		
Cash at beginning of the financial year	1,031,798	1,068,427
Net increase / (decrease) in cash held	308,835	(36,629)
<b>CASH AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR</b>	<b>1,340,633</b>	<b>1,031,798</b>

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Public Interest Advocacy Centre Ltd  
ABN 77 002 773 524



## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	2013	2012
	\$	\$

### NOTE 1: BASIS OF PREPARATION OF THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT

The summary financial report is an extract of the full financial report for the year ended 30 June 2013.

The financial statements, specific disclosures and other information included in the summary financial report are derived from, and are consistent with, the full financial report of the Public Interest Advocacy Centre Limited. The summary financial report cannot be expected to provide as detailed an understanding of the financial performance, financial position and financing and investing activities of the Public Interest Advocacy Centre Limited as the full financial report. A copy of the full financial report and auditor's report will be sent to any member, free of charge, upon request.

The presentation currency used in the concise financial report is Australian dollars.

### NOTE 2: REVENUE

#### OPERATING ACTIVITIES

Grants and other contributions	2,313,760	1,991,345
Casework	203,221	171,221
Training workshops, seminars and conferences	108,751	106,934
Sale of publications	1,285	5,001
Interest income	42,020	65,437
Other	175,006	80,920
	<hr/> 2,844,043	<hr/> 2,420,858

#### OTHER INCOME

Gain on sales of assets	-	418
	<hr/> 2,844,043	<hr/> 2,421,276

### NOTE 3: REVENUE FROM CHARITABLE AND FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

During the year, the company did not conduct any fundraising appeals or receive any significant donations which are subject to the specific reporting requirements of the *Charitable Fundraising Act 1991* (NSW).

#### Details of gross income and expenditure of fundraising activities:

Gross income from fundraising	168,150	71,408
Total cost of fundraising	400	-
<b>SURPLUS FROM FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES</b>	<hr/> 167,750	<hr/> 71,408
<b>TOTAL CHARITABLE PURPOSE EXPENDITURE</b>	<hr/> 167,750	<hr/> 71,408
<b>NET SURPLUS FUNDS FROM FUNDRAISING APPEALS</b>	<hr/> -	<hr/> -



# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
<b>NOTE 4: KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL COMPENSATION</b>		
Compensation received by key management personnel of the company		
- short term employee benefits	106,274	100,398
- long term employee benefits	-	-
- post-employment benefits	9,565	9,036
	<hr/> 115,839	<hr/> 109,434

### The names of directors who have held office during the year are:

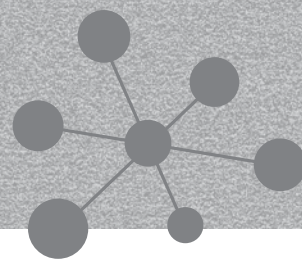
Name	Appointment / resignation details
Ms Britta Bruce	
Dr Peter Cashman	
Ms Rebecca Gilsehan	
Ms Coralie Kenny	
Mr Alan Kirkland	
Ms Annmarie Lumsden	
Ms Alison Peters	
Mr Ralph Pliner	
The Hon. Kevin Rozzoli AM	
Dr Marilyn Walton	
Mr David Weisbrot AM	

### MANAGEMENT

Mr Edward Santow - Chief Executive Officer

### NOTE 5: RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Transactions between related parties are on normal commercial terms and conditions no more favourable than those available to other persons unless otherwise stated.



## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2013

	2013	2012
	\$	\$
<b>NOTE 6: CAPITAL AND LEASING COMMITMENTS</b>		
(a) Operating lease commitments		
Non cancellable operating leases contracted for but not capitalised in the financial statements:		
<b>Payable</b>		
- not later than one year	216,746	207,600
- later than one year and not later than five years	635,185	846,091
	851,931	1,053,691

The property lease commitment is a non cancellable operating lease contracted for but not capitalised in the financial statements with a five-year term.

### NOTE 7: EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO REPORTING DATE

There has been no matter or circumstance, which has arisen since 30 June 2013 that has significantly affected or may significantly affect:

- (a) the operations, in financial years subsequent to 30 June 2013, of the company, or
- (b) the results of those operations, or

## DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

The directors of the company declare that the summary financial statements and notes for the financial year ended 30 June 2013, as set out on pages 24 - 32:

- (a) is an extract from the full financial report for the year ended 30 June 2013 and has been derived from and is consistent with the full financial report of Public Interest Advocacy Centre Limited.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.

Peter Cashman  
Director

Dated this tenth day of October 2013

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