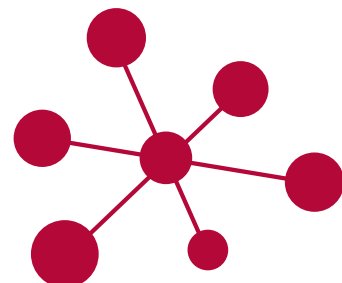


# REPORT

2017-2018



public interest  
ADVOCACY CENTRE



# ANNUAL



# CONTENTS

About PIAC	3
Chair's report	4
CEO's report	5
PIAC at a glance	6
Strategic litigation	8
Equality & accessibility	10
Fair use of police powers	11
Asylum seekers	12
Indigenous Justice	13
Reducing homelessness	17
Energy and water	20
Sri Lanka conflict mapping	23
Training	24
Events and fundraising	25
Governance	26
Board	27
Staff	28
Thankyou	29
Financial statements	32



## **PIAC: leading change**

The Public Interest Advocacy Centre is an independent, non-profit legal centre in New South Wales. We use casework and litigation, public policy development, communication and training to promote social justice in a practical and strategic way.

Established in 1982, PIAC is known for its ability to identify and quickly act on emerging public interest issues as well as bringing our legal and policy expertise to matters that require long-term collaborative responses. We have a reputation for effective advocacy that gets results for individuals and creates sustainable, systemic change.

## Chair's introduction



This has been an exceptional year for PIAC that once again demonstrated why we are a leader in creating change for social justice.

This report highlights some of our achievements throughout the 2017-18 financial year and demonstrates the exceptional skill and dedication of our staff. It illustrates some of the stories of our clients, who remain at the centre of our work, and the impact that our work has on their lives and the broader community.

The report also gives us the chance to thank those who have made our work possible - our many generous funders, partners and supporters in the legal profession and the wider community. PIAC's relationships and partnerships are critical to our success and we are very grateful for the support we receive.

The Cameron Review of Community Legal Centre Services was concluded in December 2017. This report by Alan Cameron AO was a resounding endorsement of the efficiency and effectiveness of our sector. It also contained welcome recognition of the 'vital role' that PIAC plays as a centre that specialises in strategic advocacy. Amongst the report's recommendations was that the NSW Government should continue to provide funding to CLCs like PIAC that engage in strategic advocacy that seeks to identify and remedy systemic issues.

We were, therefore, delighted that the NSW Attorney General, the Hon Mark Speakman SC MP, announced the government's support for the review's recommendations and additional funding for the sector to help meet the vast unmet legal need that exists in the community. While the implementation of the report's recommendations remains underway at the time of producing this report, PIAC looks forward to a period of greater certainty and stability in funding, allowing us to get on with the job of tackling barriers to justice and fairness that confront those in our community who are disadvantaged or marginalised. We remain grateful for the financial support of the NSW and Commonwealth Governments and acknowledge particularly our major funder, the NSW Public Purpose Fund.

I take this opportunity to thank PIAC's excellent staff and in particular our CEO, Jonathon Hunyor. In his second year in the CEO role, he has been central to crystallising PIAC's strategic objectives and developing appropriate impact measurement tools as well as diversifying our funding sources.

This is my last year as PIAC's Chair, after four years in the role and I would like to thank the directors for their thoughtful and energetic support. It has been my great privilege to have been part of PIAC's work and I am enormously proud of what we have achieved together in this time.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ralph Pliner'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

RALPH PLINER  
CHAIR

## CEO report

What does it take to make real change happen? How can we make sure our work has lasting impact? These are some of the questions that PIAC seeks to answer in our pursuit of social justice.



An important part of our work as an organisation this financial year has been to develop a new strategic plan for 2018-2021.

Our strategy commits PIAC to being a sector leader in defining and measuring our impact; delivering and deepening our partnerships; diversifying and consolidating our funding; and maintaining the strong organisational culture that supports us to work creatively and strategically.

The strategy builds on PIAC's record of performance. Highlights from this past year include:

- A landmark report into the NSW Police's Suspect Targeting Management Program, revealing its impact on children and young people
- Challenging in the High Court the controversial decision to hold a postal survey into same-sex marriage
- Helping to reduce homelessness by tackling individual and systemic barriers to stable housing through 15 clinics in Sydney and Newcastle, through our Homeless Persons' Legal Service
- Securing more changes to the policies of major insurance companies to stop discrimination against people with mental health conditions
- Providing an expert voice for household consumers in energy and water policy development and debate through our Energy and Water Consumers' Advocacy Program
- Producing a blueprint for change to ensure people in immigration detention are provided with the healthcare they need, in our report *In Poor Health*
- Launching the Indigenous Child Protection Project, in partnership with the Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT to bring about practical changes that will improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families
- Official endorsement for the work of our Sri Lanka Conflict Mapping and Archive Project, recognising its value as a foundational tool in supporting transitional justice.

Thank you to all of those who have been involved in PIAC's work this year: our directors, staff, volunteers, donors, supporters and partners in the community; and the many clients who have trusted us to seek justice on their behalf. I look forward to continuing our work together in the year ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathon Hunyor'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

JONATHON HUNYOR  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



25.3 full time equivalent staff at 30 June 2018 • In 2017-18: 9 practical legal training

## PIAC at a glance

148 public interest cases run on behalf of 129 individuals and organisations

Leveraged over \$3 million in *pro bono* legal assistance

### Strategic litigation and casework

Changing the system through public interest test cases

- Indigenous Justice
- Mental Health and Insurance
- Police accountability
- Asylum Seeker Health Rights
- Discrimination and human rights
- Government and the rule of law

HPLS helped 709 clients at 1344 advice sessions

### Homeless Persons' Legal Service

Breaking the cycle of disadvantage for people experiencing homelessness

- Legal help at 15 outreach clinics, staffed by almost 500 *pro bono* lawyers
- StreetCare: Consumer-led advocacy and practical advice to government and service providers

81 submissions

70 public forums, workshops and conferences

330 meetings with government and industry

### Energy and Water Consumers' Advocacy Program

A voice for energy and water consumers in NSW

- Research and policy development to promote affordability and sustainability
- Representing consumer interests in regulatory processes



placements • 21 secondees • 14 volunteers and interns • 44 law students trained

## Policy and law reform

Working with government, business and the community in the public interest

- An influential and authoritative voice in the media
- A respected stakeholder, making submissions of substance

## Training for social justice

Developing community capacity for effective public interest advocacy

- Social Justice and Practising in the Public Interest courses for University students
- Training for individuals, government and NGOs on advocacy, media skills and best-practice service delivery to vulnerable communities

## International projects

Supporting transitional justice: the Conflict Map and Archive Project (Sri Lanka)

- Collecting, preserving and analysing evidence of potential human rights and international humanitarian law abuses to promote truth, justice and accountability.

102 publications and submissions

Evidence before 8 inquiries

44,977 visits to the website

2759 subscribers to eBulletin

26 media releases reaching thousands of people

Facebook up 26%

Twitter up 20%

Trained 442 people in public interest advocacy at 22 events

Conflict map database expanded to more than 5,000 source documents



# Strategic Litigation

PIAC takes on cases that can, either individually or as part of a broader campaign, bring about systemic and sustainable change for people facing disadvantage and improve the enjoyment of rights within the community.

We build on our casework through law reform: leading and collaborating with others to develop laws, policies and practices that deliver fair outcomes.

In 2017/18, PIAC ran 176 public interest cases for 165 clients, including in the High Court.





L-R: Andrew Wilkie, Jonathon Hunyor, Felicity Marlowe.

***'This case raised important issues about the way that power is exercised by government and the role of parliament in our democracy.'***

PIAC CEO, Jonathon Hunyor.

## Marriage Equality – government power tested in the High Court

In September 2017 PIAC brought proceedings in the High Court to challenge the controversial decision of the Commonwealth government to hold a postal survey on same sex marriage. It was the first time in Australia's history that an issue of human rights had been decided by popular survey and involved an allocation of funding under a power reserved for urgent and unforeseen circumstances, rather than by approval of Parliament. This was an important test case that examined the limits of executive government power in the context of minority rights.

PIAC brought the case on behalf of Andrew Wilkie, the independent member of parliament for the Tasmanian electorate of Denison; Felicity Marlowe, a Melbourne mother in a same-sex relationship with three children, and advocate for Rainbow Families; and PFLAG Brisbane ('Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays'), with their national spokesperson Shelley Argent.

The High Court held the government's actions were lawful: *Wilkie v The Commonwealth; Australian Marriage Equality Ltd v Cormann* [2017] HCA 40. The case nevertheless played an important role in galvanising support for the LGBTI community and the case of marriage equality, highlighting the extraordinary nature of the process and emphasising the importance of equality before the law.

## Win for children leaving care

Children in out-of-home-care will have access to previously secret legal audit documents held by the department of Family and Community Services, which could result in successful claims for compensation and support their transition to independence.

Following action by PIAC's Children in Care project, supported by Shopfront Youth Legal Centre, FACS will no longer claim legal professional privilege over these audit documents when they are sought by, or on behalf of, the child or young person.

This shift in policy has the potential to make a significant difference to young people leaving care. It will allow children to seek compensation for harms suffered and help them find their feet as they become independent.

## Ending school uniform discrimination

Girls at all NSW public schools are now able to wear pants or shorts to school, following advocacy by PIAC and a Sydney mum, Melissa Mibus.

In 2017 PIAC represented Ms Mibus in her complaint to the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board about John Palmer Public School's failure to offer pants or shorts as standard uniform options for girls attending the school (including her daughters).

The case was successfully resolved, with the School agreeing to allow girls the choice of pants or shorts as part of their uniform. PIAC also raised the issue with the NSW Education Minister to seek changes for all students in the State.

The NSW Education Minister has now announced that all NSW public schools will be required to offer girls the option of wearing shorts and pants under a state-wide overhaul of the government's uniform policy.



Melissa Mibus with her daughter Claire. Photo: Justin Lloyd.

## Equality & accessibility

- ▶ For 35 years, PIAC has been a leader in bringing test cases to challenge discrimination, particularly for people with disability. In areas like public transport, online services, education, banking and insurance, we have successfully protected the human rights of people with disability and delivered practical outcomes.

### Discrimination: mental health and insurance

Since 2013, PIAC has been working with *beyondblue* and Mental Health Australia to reduce discrimination by insurers on the basis of mental illness in the provision of life and travel insurance. Last year, we achieved a major breakthrough, with seven major travel insurers removing blanket exclusions for mental health conditions from their policies. This is a welcome improvement in the protection provided for people while traveling.

In April 2018, we made a detailed submission to the financial services Royal Commission, highlighting the discriminatory and unfair practices of the life insurance industry in relation to mental illness.

PIAC also played a key role in the Review of the General Insurance Code of Practice and assisted in the development of Mental Health Principles to be inserted into the Code.

We successfully resolved a number of claims on behalf of individuals against general and life insurers for denial of insurance or denial of claims on the basis of mental illness.



Signing in Auslan on Facebook, Senior Solicitor, Julia Mansour announces changes to increase Auslan interpretation on free-to-air television.

### Victory for the Deaf community - TV Auslan interpretation

Members of the Deaf community will now be able to take part in major public broadcasts at the same time as family, friends and colleagues via on-screen Auslan interpretation, following a settlement between Deaf Australia (represented by PIAC) and commercial television networks.

The case arose following the announcement of the same-sex marriage postal survey result, which was broadcast on commercial free-to-air networks without including the Auslan interpreter in the frame.

In June 2018, Free TV, the industry body which represents networks Seven, Nine and Ten, agreed to change its policy to ensure that where Auslan interpreters are provided for public announcements, they will be included in the picture that is broadcast.

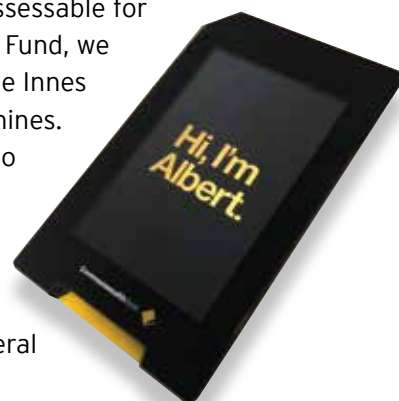
Australia lags behind many countries in the provision of Auslan interpretation on television.

We are pleased Auslan interpretation will now be available beyond emergency broadcasts and visible in other important government, community and sporting announcements, when there is an interpreter present.

### Blind consumers challenge Commonwealth Bank's 'nightmare' EFTPOS machines

PIAC continues to hold corporations to account to ensure technological changes are assessable for all Australians, including those with disability. In March 2018, with the support of Grata Fund, we commenced cases in the Federal Circuit Court on behalf of Nadia Mattiazzo and Graeme Innes against the Commonwealth Bank in relation to their touchscreen 'Albert' EFTPOS machines. There are more than 88,000 Albert machines in operation across Australia. People who are blind or have low vision across the country tell us these machines are inaccessible because they do not offer a tactile keypad - previously a universal design feature.

This case follows advocacy in 2016, when Blind Citizens Australia and PIAC supported a number of individuals who had been adversely impacted by Albert machines to lodge complaints with the Australian Human Rights Commission. The Federal Circuit Court proceedings in both the Mattiazzo and Innes matters are ongoing.





## Fair use of police powers

### Landmark report: exposing a secret NSW Police policy and its impact on young people

In October 2017 PIAC and the Youth Justice Coalition released 'Policing Young People in NSW: A study of the Suspect Targeting Management Plan'. The report highlighted concerns regarding the detrimental impact of the Suspect Targeting Management Plan (STMP), a NSW Police policy which aims to prevent crime by targeting recidivist offenders for proactive police monitoring.

The experience of PIAC's clients is that the STMP can be heavy-handed and counter-productive. It also disproportionately targets Aboriginal young people. The report called for a comprehensive review of the STMP, and for the police to stop applying the STMP to children under 18.

The report was the subject of significant media coverage and received the attention of members of NSW Parliament and the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission (LECC). PIAC is continuing its advocacy on this important issue.

L-R: Senior solicitor, Camilla Pandolfini, Nicholas Cowdery AM QC, Dr Vicki Santas at the launch of the 'Policing Young People in NSW'.



▶ PIAC holds police accountable for misconduct and works to ensure police discretion and powers are used fairly in relation to vulnerable groups, such as young people, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and people who are homeless. Supported by an innovative pro bono partnership with Allens, PIAC represents clients in claims arising from:

- unlawful arrests including unlawful arrest for breach of bail;
- unlawful stop and searches, including strip searches;
- unlawful entry by police into property for bail compliance checks;
- unlawful searches or home visits under Suspect Target Management Plans

### Holding police accountable

PIAC had 58 active police accountability files during 2017-2018, many as part of our Indigenous Justice Project. Highlights include successful outcomes achieved for:

- Two young Aboriginal women unlawfully strip-searched by police. PIAC sought to develop the law in this area, arguing the strip searches also constituted an unlawful invasion of privacy.
- A young Aboriginal man subject to repeated stops and searches by police and attendances at his house while he was on a STMP. PIAC also represented his grandmother, with whom he lived, who claimed police had trespassed on her property (see page 14).
- An Aboriginal man arrested and assaulted by police at a family party, resulting in our client being sprayed with capsicum spray, receiving a significant head injury and being subject to derogatory racial comments.
- A young Aboriginal man unlawfully arrested and detained for breach of bail, despite complying with his current bail conditions.

PIAC also commenced proceedings against NSW Police and Corrective Services in an important case for victims of domestic violence. Our client was arrested and held in detention overnight after she failed to appear at the trial of her abusive former partner because he had made threats against her. The case is continuing.

## Equal access to health care for asylum seekers

▶ The Asylum Seeker Health Rights Project aims to secure humane standards of medical and mental health care for asylum seekers in Australian immigration detention centres.

Despite the high levels of trauma suffered by asylum seekers and the damage to mental health caused by long-term indefinite detention, conditions in immigration detention centres – including rights of access to essential health care – are unprotected in legislation. The Federal Court has described this as a ‘legislative vacuum’.

Through test cases and policy advocacy, PIAC is working to change the system.



L-R: John Samaha (Partner, Allen & Overy), Jonathon Hunyor and Human Rights Commissioner, Edward Santow.

*‘The call for fair and humane treatment of people we detain should not be controversial. In Poor Health sets out the practical steps the government needs to take to ensure people in immigration detention get the health care they need.’*

PIAC CEO Jonathon Hunyor.

### ***In Poor Health* report provides blueprint for change**

In May 2018 PIAC released a report highlighting a lack of basic medical care provided to asylum seekers in Australia’s onshore immigration detention centres. The report called for urgent legislation and practical measures to ensure that asylum seekers receive the same health care as the general community.

*In Poor Health: Health care in Australian immigration detention*, reveals cases of asylum seekers with serious, chronic diseases and injuries, suffering indefinitely without access to treatments that are freely available to inmates in Australian prisons and members of the broader community.

The government owes a clear, common law duty of care to people it detains. However, the legislation which governs the treatment of people in detention does not include a guaranteed right to reasonable medical care and treatment. This ‘legislative vacuum’ stands in stark contrast to the laws of Australian states and territories which ensure people in correctional custody do have such a right.

*In Poor Health* contains 10 clear recommendations, including legislative change, to ensure asylum seekers receive the same health care as the general community.

### **Getting people the help they need**

- Successfully advocated for three of our clients with hepatitis C to receive life-saving anti-viral treatment.
- Secured the transfer of an extremely ill client to the Australian mainland for treatment and agreement that the client not to be handcuffed during transfers to and from detention to attend medical appointments.
- Initiated an inquiry by the Commonwealth Ombudsman in relation to the failure to provide appropriate care to people living with hepatitis C.



# Justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People

Our Indigenous Justice Project (IJP) works closely with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and organisations to provide access to justice and bring about systemic change in areas like discrimination and policing of young people.

Over the last year the IJP focused on:

- Policing practices that disproportionately target or impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; and
- The Indigenous Child Protection Project: (ICPP) a partnership with the Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT to make change in the child protection system to get better outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.

PIAC acknowledges the generous financial support of Allens for the IJP and the BB and A Miller Foundation for the ICPP.



### Support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart

PIAC has been proud to champion the Uluru Statement from the Heart as the foundation of constitutional recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, including through our Social Justice Dinner featuring Professor Megan Davis (pictured left) and a submission to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Constitutional Recognition.

### Successful partnerships

In 2017 PIAC’s long-standing partnership with Allens, through the IJP and our police accountability practice, was recognised with a nomination for the *Pro Bono* Partnership Award at the Law and Justice Awards.

We are also very pleased to continue our full-time, *pro bono* secondment program with the Australian Government Solicitor, employing an Indigenous law graduate to work primarily with the IJP and Homeless Person’s Legal Service.

Law and Justice Foundation Awards, L-R: Laura Bereicua (Allens), Anna Dawson (Senior Solicitor, IJP), Jonathon Hunyor.



### Challenging over-policing and the Suspect Target Management Plan

Last year we settled a major case testing the lawfulness of police powers exercised under the Suspect Target Management Plan (STMP)

PIAC represented a young Aboriginal man and his grandmother with whom he was living at the time in regional NSW. The young person was working in the community and his grandmother was in a management role at a community organisation.

Over a six-month period in 2014, the young person was stopped and searched in public 8 times and police officers came to his home 10 times, after being placed on the STMP. One incident involved police officers spraying the young person with capsicum spray when he attempted to walk away, requiring treatment from paramedics.

As our research has uncovered, the STMP has no statutory basis, criteria for placement on the STMP are not publicly available and individuals cannot access or challenge a decision to subject them to the STMP. In

November 2017, the NSW Police Commissioner revealed that 55% of people who are currently the subject of an STMP are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander.

The STMP does not give police additional legal powers. However, there is a concern that some police officers are under a misapprehension that the STMP replaces the need for reasonable suspicion as required by the Law Enforcement (Powers and Responsibilities) Act 2002 (NSW) when exercising powers such as stop and search.

The claim for our clients alleged trespass to land, assault, battery, false imprisonment and malicious prosecution in relation to the conduct of police officers. The cases were settled in the first half of 2018.

The story of our clients’ experience of the STMP was profiled by the ABC’s AM radio program on 25 October 2017, as part of the media coverage coinciding with the release of ‘Policing Young People in NSW: A Study of the Suspect Targeting Management Plan’(see page 11).

# Indigenous Child Protection Project

- ▶ The Indigenous Child Protection Project is a partnership between PIAC and the Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT (ALS) which responds to the significant over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care in NSW.

Launched in November 2017, the project works to bring about practical changes that will improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families in the child protection system.

In the first phase of the project, PIAC and the ALS have worked together to identify systemic issues in the child protection system for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, through casework, research and stakeholder engagement.

## Ensuring a fair process

Sarah\* is a Wiradjuri woman and mother of a young child, living in a regional town some 600kms from Sydney. When Sarah was served with an application for the removal of her child and required to attend Parramatta Children's Court the following day, she knew it would be impossible for her to get to Sydney in time. The ICPP lawyer who represented Sarah sought an adjournment to allow Sarah to respond to the application, but the court refused and made a finding that her child was in need of care and protection. The ICPP lawyer helped Sarah challenge the finding, which was set aside as a breach of procedural fairness.

\*Name has been changed to protect the privacy of our client.

## The change we want to see

Informed by the national Family Matters campaign, the project goals are to ensure:

- 1. Families are supported to care for their children**
  - Removal is a last resort and early intervention is prioritised.
  - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families have access to culturally appropriate and effective services to assist them to care for children.
- 2. Families and communities have control over decisions affecting their children**
  - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family and communities participate in decision-making.
  - Children who are removed from their families are supported to remain connected to their culture and communities.
  - There is understanding of and trust in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child rearing practices and decision-making.
- 3. Families are treated fairly and with respect, including respect for culture**
  - FACS and the court system respect the rights of children, parents and extended families at all stages of proceedings.
  - The court system is culturally safe and respectful. It is effective at addressing power imbalances between FACS and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.
- 4. FACS Decision-making is transparent and accountable**
  - There is independent oversight of decision-making, including by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities.



L-R: Danielle Hobday, Nadine Miles(ALS) and Brook Greenwood.

PIAC and the ALS are now consulting with stakeholders on a draft Issues Paper, to identify priority issues for action and opportunities for test cases and law reform, with the next phases of the project to focus on developing and implementing strategies for change.



# Reducing homelessness

Our Homeless Persons' Legal Service helps reduce homelessness by tackling legal and systemic barriers that prevent people from accessing and maintaining appropriate, stable housing.

With the support of *pro bono* lawyers from some of Australia's leading law firms and in-house legal teams, we run free legal clinics for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Our in-house lawyers provide specialist legal representation in criminal and civil law matters.

We also address the causes of homelessness through strategic engagement and policy advocacy with government and service providers, led by our consumer advisory group StreetCare.



# Homeless Persons Legal Service

## Our clients and our network

- Free, accessible legal services to people experiencing, or at risk of, homelessness at 15 regular clinics at welfare agencies in inner-Sydney, Western Sydney and Newcastle.
- Assisted 709 clients across 1344 visits to our clinics, with issues including criminal legal problems, credit and debt, tenancy, family law, fines and consumer complaints.
- Represented clients in 473 cases, including criminal and civil matters.
- Collaborated with local legal services and *pro bono* lawyers from a new partner firm, Hall & Wilcox, to establish a new legal clinic in Raymond Terrace to commence in September 2018.
- Increased our representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients, especially through our partnerships with Wayside Chapel's Mob Lunch and The Shed at Mt Druitt.
- Provided support, coordination, supervision and training for approximately 500 *pro bono* solicitors.



L-R: Jerome McClintock (Legal Aid Newcastle), Adam Murphy (PIAC), Eileen McGovern (Hunter CLC), Tiki Wright (Hunter CLC), Roslyn Cook (PIAC).

## Helping James avoid homelessness

James\* is an Aboriginal man living in public housing. James has a number of serious health issues that mean he is unable to work. Following an extended hospital stay, James returned home to find that people had been using his apartment and left a significant amount of rubbish on the floor and in the hallway.

James was not able to clean up the mess himself, as he was still recovering from an extended illness. Investigating a complaint from his neighbours, a property manager from Family and Community Services (FACS) arranged an inspection and gave James a letter terminating his lease.

With support from a specialist tenancy support program, James had the house cleaned up. However, FACS had already filed an application in the NSW Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT) to have James evicted and were not prepared to withdraw the application.

James came to see a lawyer at HPLS in the days before his hearing, and we arranged a lawyer to assist with the proceedings. As James was not well enough to attend NCAT, his lawyer was granted leave to appear on his behalf. We submitted that the evidence FACS relied on (a series of undated photographs) did not represent of the current state of the property and noted that James had an excellent tenancy record prior to his recent hospital stay. The Tribunal Member dismissed the application for eviction.

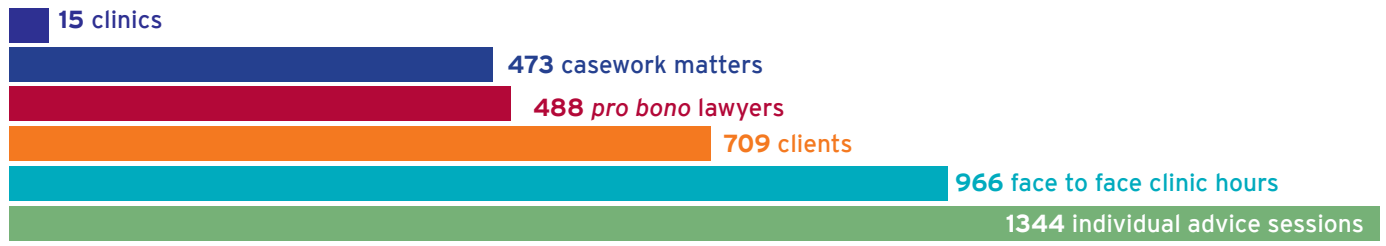
As a result of our work, James remains secure in his tenancy. He now receives the regular support he needs at home and he is in a good position to manage his ongoing health issues.

\*Name has been changed to protect the privacy of our client.

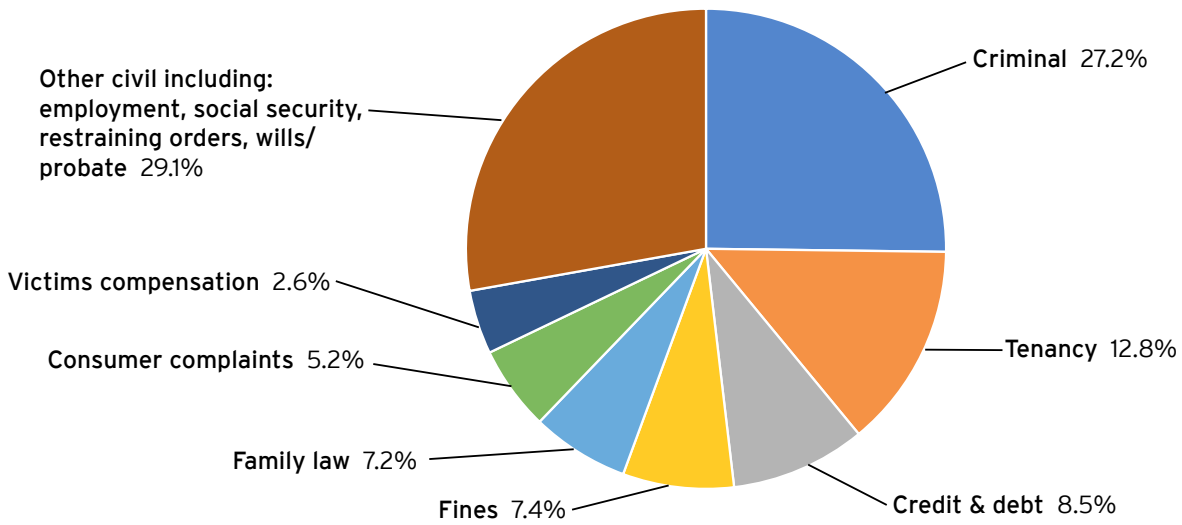
***'Every weekday, our volunteer lawyers are out in the community, hearing people's stories and figuring out how we can help. They do an such an important job, making it possible for us to offer a completely free service, and really getting to know our clients. Together, all the people who are part of HPLS are working to create a community where everyone is included, and everyone can have a stable place to call home.'***

-Roslyn Cook,  
Managing Solicitor, HPLS

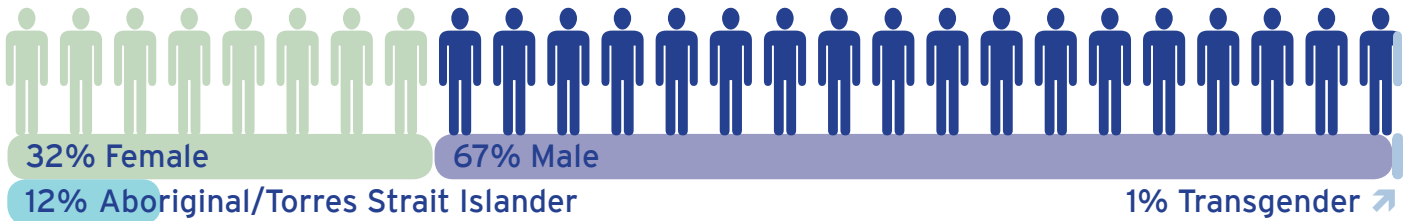
# Homeless Persons' Legal Service 2017-18



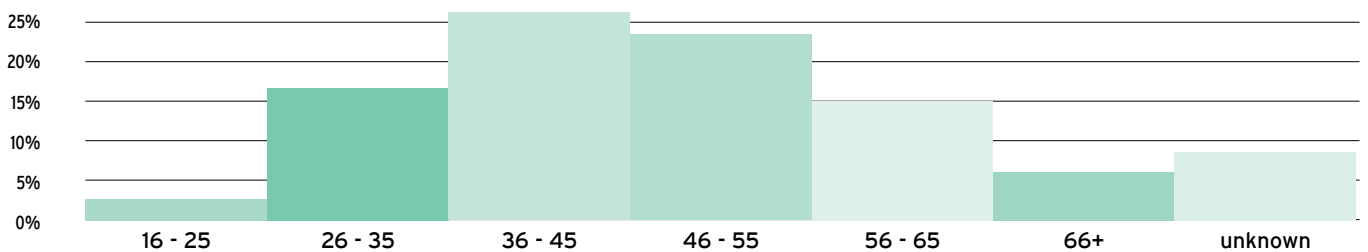
## What type of problems did we help with?



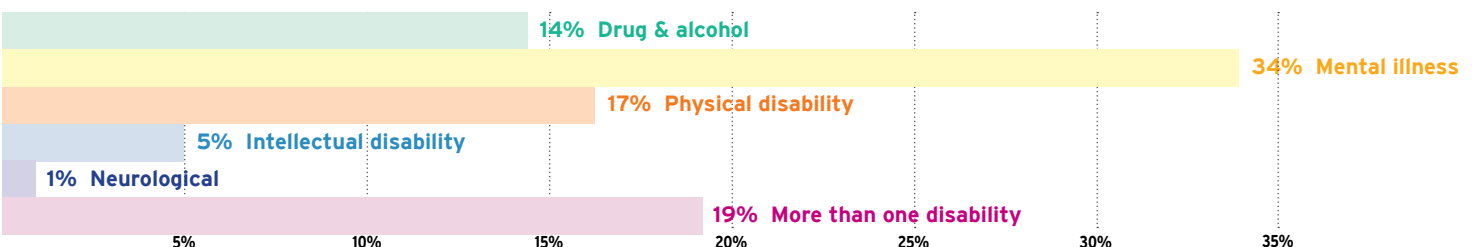
## Our clients



## Age



## Health issues reported by our clients





# StreetCare

## How we helped make change

► StreetCare brings together a diverse group of people with experience of homelessness and supports them to be active advocates and advisors to government and other key services on law reform, decision-making and training relating to homelessness and housing. The group includes men, women, young people, Aboriginal people, people with a disability and representatives from inner Sydney, outer suburbs and rural/regional areas.

- Influenced NSW government policy on homelessness, including the NSW Homelessness Strategy, through our work on the NSW Premier's Advisory Council on Homelessness.
- Advised the Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) on the development of the FACS online social housing portal, which aims to improve accessibility to NSW FACS social housing services.
- Advised FACS on the Social Housing Management Transfer Program, which aims to deliver social housing management services that are better able to meet the needs of social housing tenants, and people exiting homelessness into social housing.
- Worked to improve accountability and complaints processes for non-government homelessness services to ensure consumer voices are heard.
- Secured publication of StreetCare member AJ's story in the Sun Herald during Homelessness Week 2017, promoting greater understanding of the realities facing people experiencing homelessness.
- In response to the Martin Place encampment, hosted a roundtable on public space policing in inner Sydney, with representatives from FACS, NSW Police, the City of Sydney and homelessness, health and mental illness support services. The roundtable reviewed policing and service provision approaches to rough-sleeping encampments.
- Produced and distributed 'Guide to being in public spaces', an accessible, plain-English guide to the rights of people using public space (including those sleeping rough).

*'Consumers, having experienced homelessness themselves, are uniquely positioned to talk about what works. We are the living, breathing, evidence-base that can drive solutions to homelessness.'*



*PIAC's pioneering consumer advocacy group, StreetCare, has earned the respect of policy-makers for their insights into how service providers in the homelessness space can address the needs of people experiencing homelessness more effectively.*

*We have earned our seat at the table and will continue to advocate for the meaningful change that homelessness policy in NSW desperately needs.'*

-Maddy Humphreys (StreetCare Member)



# Affordable energy and water

Our Energy and Water Consumers' Advocacy Program (EWCAP) represents the interests of consumers to improve access for all New South Wales households to affordable and sustainable energy and water services.

The team engages with community organisations, consumer advocates, state and federal governments, rule-makers, regulators, ombudsmen and industry stakeholders, and receives policy input from a community-based reference group.



EWCAP Policy Team Leader, Craig Memery.

## Close to the Edge - research on disconnections and hardship

Disconnection from utility services causes considerable hardship for households that are already struggling, and we know that some of these households could avoid disconnection if support programs were better targeted.

In 2017-18, EWCAP undertook major research on the social impact of utility disconnection on NSW households for its report 'Close to the Edge'. Due to be released in the second half of 2018, this report will be the fourth EWCAP has produced since 2005 in the 'Cut Off' series, which identifies trends in household disconnections.

To inform this research, over 1150 consumers were asked about their experiences of disconnection over 2017-18, via surveys distributed by energy retailers, the Energy and Water Ombudsman NSW and 25 diverse community groups. Some participants had been disconnected, others had come close to disconnection or were worried about being disconnected in future.

The report will examine the factors that contribute to household disconnections, explore which initiatives have been effective in avoiding disconnection for consumers experiencing hardship, and include concrete recommendations for reform.

## EWCAP: our influence and our expertise

- Provided a strong voice for consumers in policy development and public debate through:
  - 81 submissions
  - 70 public forums, workshops and conferences
  - 330 meetings with energy market institutions, consumer organisations, government, companies, independent energy market experts and other influential energy stakeholders.
  - 28 meetings of the customer councils of energy and water businesses and the Australian Energy Regulator
  - Four meetings of the EWCAP Reference Group and 3 meetings of the National Consumer Roundtable
- Delivered training on energy and water consumer issues for community workers and tenant advocates, jointly with the Energy and Water Ombudsman NSW and the NSW Federation for Community Housing Associations.
- Conducted major research on electricity and gas disconnections and water restrictions, as well as measures to reduce household energy bills by 25% by 2025.
- Worked with energy network businesses to negotiate investment and pricing plans in the interest of NSW consumers.
- Commenced research into the adequacy of contemporary consumer protections in the energy market.



Photo: Flickr/Duncan Rawlinson



EWCAP team L-R: Tim Harrison, Thea Bray, Miyuru Ediriweera, Douglas McCloskey.

## NSW network pricing and network engagement report card

Energy prices have plateaued over the past year, but still remain unaffordable for many consumers, especially those experiencing hardship.

EWCAP has been working to place the interests of NSW consumers front and centre in the consultations for the development of investment and pricing plans for the three electricity distribution network providers (Ausgrid, Endeavour Energy and Essential Energy).

Over the past year EWCAP has been actively engaged in assessing their business decisions and revenue proposals, and participated in workshops and meetings with the networks, Australian Energy Regulator (AER) and other consumer representatives.

To drive improved services for consumers, EWCAP also monitors and evaluates the networks' customer engagement, including the quality and effectiveness of engagement programs and how well the networks incorporate their outcomes into their proposals to the AER.

EWCAP was also actively involved in the process to finalise TransGrid's 2018-23 transmission revenue determination. EWCAP participated in stakeholder workshops, had bilateral meetings with TransGrid and made a formal submission to the AER.

## Reducing household energy bills by 25% by 2025

EWCAP has been working with consultants Oakley Greenwood to develop a strategic plan to put downward pressure on NSW electricity bills while reducing emissions and maintaining an acceptable standard of reliability. PIAC's 25 by 25 project has set an ambitious, notional target of reducing overall average NSW residential energy bills by 25% (in real terms) by 2025.

In order to reduce costs at all points across the energy supply chain EWCAP will advocate for reform in:

- energy network policy and regulation;
- wholesale energy market policy, regulation and practices;
- retail energy market policy, regulation and practices and
- enhanced supports for vulnerable and disadvantaged consumers.

The report will form the backbone of EWCAP's proactive advocacy work for the remainder of 2018 and beyond.

## Contemporary consumer energy protections

EWCAP is exploring legal and regulatory options to deliver appropriate protections for consumers in the new energy market.

This work has informed EWCAP's involvement in a number of industry processes including:

- the Federal Government's consultation regarding consumers' access to their metering consumption data as part of the economy-wide Consumer Data Right;
- Australian Energy Regulator guideline reviews and Australian Energy Market Commission rule changes regarding consumer protections and information provision; and
- the NSW Government's 'Consumer protections in a changing world' project.

EWCAP is also a member of the industry working group developing a voluntary industry code for providers of behind-the-meter products and services such as solar PV, battery, home energy management systems and stand-alone power systems. The COAG Energy Council directed the formation of this voluntary industry code in late 2017 and the working group includes various industry bodies as well as consumer advocates.

Through these processes, EWCAP is identifying priority issues for further research and ongoing engagement.





CMAP team in Sri Lanka.

► **The Sri Lanka Conflict Mapping and Archive Project (CMAP) collects, analyses and preserves open source documentation in relation to the Sri Lankan civil war and uses it to develop tools that will be useful for the Sri Lankan transitional justice process. This includes the development of a conflict map narrative and a shared database.**

CMAP is an extension of PIAC's successful work in document and information collection and analysis relating to the Sri Lankan civil war. We work closely with Sri Lankan civil society groups and global experts in the field of international investigations, transitional justice, international law and conflict mapping.

# Truth, justice and accountability for victims of conflict

## Deepening and broadening the CMAP database

Our work this year has significantly expanded the CMAP database through a detailed view of more than 60 different sources that had written or reported on alleged violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Sri Lanka during the civil war (1983 -2009).

With phase 1 almost complete, the database contains:

- Over 5,000 source documents.
- Close to 3,500 incidents.
- Over 1,000 entries that provide contextual overviews of various periods or types of incidents.
- Information from more than 60 sources including international news wires, Sri Lankan based newspapers, Sri Lankan and international NGOs, Sri Lankan Ministry of Defence reporting, reports from Sri Lankan based and international inquiries, and UN and ICRC reporting. Approximately 10% of entries are based on documents in Sinhala and Tamil.
- Incidents that occurred across the entire territory of Sri Lanka with over 500 towns identified across the 3,500 incidents.



International Conference on Reparations in Colombo.

## Support and official endorsement

In 2018, PIAC, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, in Sri Lanka, and together with a Sri Lankan civil society organisation began the further development of CMAP. This will facilitate the inclusion of more sources in English, Sinhala and Tamil, identifying the root sources of information, providing reflective overviews of identified incidents, and targeted searching. In this phase of the project the database will be made accessible to Sri Lankan transitional justice mechanisms so they can leverage CMAP's work.

In February 2018, Program Director Daniela Gavshon attended an international conference on reparations in Colombo and met with stakeholders. CMAP received overwhelming support from donors and official endorsement from the Secretariat for Coordinating Reconciliation Mechanisms.



### ► Our reach into the community

- Trained 442 people at 22 training events
- Delivered a range of courses to develop community capacity, including:
  - Tenancy Law for Non-Lawyers
  - Advocacy Strategies and Advocacy Skills
  - Advanced Negotiation Skills
  - Advanced Media Skills
  - Human Rights Law in Practice
- Conducted the Social Justice Clinical Summer School in partnership with the University of Sydney, including hands-on and theoretical training for final year law students.
- Delivered the Practising in the Public Interest Summer and Winter Law Schools with Macquarie University, Western Sydney University and the University of Wollongong.

## Training for social justice

PIAC's training builds capacity for effective advocacy in the community on public interest issues, empowering people to initiate, inform and influence positive change and develop emerging leaders in social justice.

Our workshops are presented to individuals, government and non-government organisations on topics including advocacy strategies, media skills, human rights and tenancy law. Courses are designed primarily for people who want to:

- build strong, well connected and well-resourced communities;
- promote a public interest issue, community or group;
- contribute to making public policy and reforming laws; and/or
- improve service delivery to vulnerable communities or sections of the community.

We also deliver courses for law students in public interest and social justice lawyering, partnering with the University of Sydney, Macquarie University, Western Sydney University and the University of Wollongong. Students receive high-quality teaching by PIAC staff with unique insights into the challenges of creating change through the law and policy as well as clinical experience and practical training to develop legal and analytical skills.

PIAC's workshops are continuously evaluated and are consistently rated highly for 'achieving course aims' and 'positive experience for participants'.

*'It was an extremely insightful experience. I was beyond impressed with the variety of the speakers that came in and the many of areas of law that they came from.'*

- Participant 2018





## Events and Fundraising



► Fundraising is an increasingly important source of independent income for PIAC, particularly to support our work in new project areas. Grants and individual donations allow PIAC to develop innovative new programs such as the Indigenous Child Protection Project.

### Social Justice Dinner 2018

The 2018 Social Justice Dinner on 1 March was a wonderful event that highlighted the work that PIAC does with its partners and supporters to promote social justice.

With MC Julian Morrow, 320 attendees heard from special guest speaker Professor Megan Davis, speaking about constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

We were honoured to have the Uluru Statement in the room, held on stage by Teela Reid, Gemma McKinnon and Sean Brennan, all of whom played important roles in the Indigenous Constitutional dialogues.



### Sleeping rough, stigma and the importance of home

Despite Australia's record economic boom, rates of homelessness have been on the rise for years, and the social stigma surrounding homelessness only perpetuates the problem.

In July 2017, more than 200 guests joined the host of SBS's Insight, Jenny Brockie, and an expert panel for a public event to discuss the realities of homelessness in Australia and what we can do to tackle it.

Guests heard from panellists Reverend Graham Long AM, Pastor and CEO, Wayside Chapel; PIAC CEO Jonathon Hunyor; Melissa Wolfshoerndl, author and researcher; and Rob Holt, Community Educator, Wayside Chapel.

This was the third in an annual series of public forums that PIAC organises with Sydney Grammar School to promote public discussion about public interest and social justice issues.

All funds raised at this event support the work of the Homeless Persons' Legal Service.

### Equal access in the digital age: lessons from the US disability rights movement

With the Australian Human Rights Centre and the Digital Gap Initiative, PIAC presented a seminar in September 2017 at Ashurst Australia, featuring trailblazing disability rights advocate Lainey Feingold.

Approximately 100 people attended to hear about successful strategies from the US to promote access for people with disability to banking, media, online and health care services.

## ► Governance

### Our strategy 2018-2021

PIAC's organisational focus over the next three years is to ensure we have the culture and systems in place to continually improve how we work internally and externally to maximise our impact: reducing barriers to fairness and justice in our focus areas. We will:

#### 1. Be a sector leader in defining and measuring our impact

- Use our theory of change to review all existing work to ensure it maximises our impact
- Develop impact measurement frameworks for all major PIAC projects
- Report meaningfully against our impact goals
- Use the data from our reporting to review and improve our work
- Support staff capacity and skills development to embed an impact-focused culture

#### 2. Develop strategic partnerships to build and leverage our impact and capacity

- Identify new partners, particularly in areas such as policy advocacy, research and communications, to increase reach into new audiences, leverage skills outside PIAC's capacity and complement PIAC's strengths.
- Deepen relationships with existing partners, including other legal services, law firms and the public sector to boost PIAC's reach, influence and capacity

#### 3. Work better together as an organisation

- Develop our external communications strategy and integrate communications capability across PIAC to better support and align with our impact goals
- Ensure internal processes for identifying and developing new projects promote innovation and our impact focus
- Work more collaboratively across PIAC teams and projects
- Support staff to achieve their goals through effective feedback and review and providing opportunities for training and professional development
- Maintain and update technology and systems to support us to work efficiently and effectively

#### 4. Build our financial sustainability

- Ensure secure funding from diverse funding streams
- Consolidate PIAC's fundraising program to build a reliable source of independent income

### Reconciliation Action Plan

In 2014, PIAC started development of its Reconciliation Action Plan to bring together existing initiatives and promote respectful relationships with, and opportunities for, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

A final draft of PIAC's RAP was completed in 2016, with many of its proposed actions already underway. This first RAP covers the period November 2016-November 2018. It addresses three key themes; relationships, respect, and opportunities.

### Engaging across the organisation

- Welcomed the Uluru Statement from the Heart to our office, with many staff signing the accompanying canvas to show their support for Voice, Treaty, Truth.
- Developed and implemented an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment and retention strategy, in consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders.
- Welcomed another Indigenous Graduate Solicitor, Shantell Bailey, seconded from the Australian Government Solicitor.
- Celebrated Reconciliation and NAIDOC Week with internal and external events for staff.
- Reviewed all internal policies to ensure consistency with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

## ► Board



### **Ralph Pliner, Chair**

Ralph Pliner served as an International Partner of Baker McKenzie from 1983 to 2004. He has extensive experience as a company director in the insurance, technology and energy industries. Previously Ralph worked as a lecturer in law at Melbourne University and a financial journalist with The Financial Mail in Johannesburg.



### **Sarah Ferguson**

Sarah Ferguson is a Walkley Award-winning investigative journalist, writer and presenter. She is currently a reporter and presenter on ABC's Four Corners.



### **Rebecca Gilsenan, Deputy Chair**

Rebecca Gilsenan is a Principal Lawyer in Maurice Blackburn's class actions department. She has extensive experience in running complex and novel litigation, including class actions in the areas of price fixing, failed investment schemes, product liability and securities.



### **Julie Foreman**

Julie is the Executive Officer of the Tenants' Union. Julie has worked in the areas of human rights, community education and community management for over 25 years.



### **Eileen Baldry**

Professor Baldry is one of the country's leading academics in the field of criminology. In 2017 she was appointed Deputy Vice-Chancellor Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, at University of New South Wales. Eileen regularly chairs government committees and working groups, and appears as a witness in commission and government inquiries in relation to social justice issues.



### **Damian Griffis**

Damian Griffis is a Worimi man and a leading advocate for the human rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability. Damian has been a central figure in the establishment of both the Aboriginal Disability Network NSW and First Peoples' Disability Network.



### **Bob Debus AM**

Bob Debus served as a member of NSW Parliament and Federal Parliament for over 22 years. Before becoming a parliamentarian, Bob worked as a solicitor, editor and journalist.



### **Coralie Kenny**

Coralie practised as a senior in-house financial services lawyer for large organisations for more than 20 years. She is a Councillor of the NSW Law Society representing in-house practitioners, and represents the Society on PIAC's board. Coralie sits on a number of significant boards and committees in the legal sector including the NSW Law and Justice Foundation and LegalSuper, the industry superannuation fund for the legal industry.



### **Ian Farmer**

Ian has over 30 years experience as a practising accountant and advisor, including 20 years as a Partner with PwC. Ian is Chairman of Lifeline Northern Beaches, where he is a telephone crisis supporter, and a Director and Treasurer of CRC Ltd and the Sydney Drug Education and Counselling Centre.



### **John Walker**

John Walker is recognised as a leader in the emerging global litigation funding market. He is the Managing Director of Investor Claim Partner Pty Ltd and ICP Capital Pty Ltd. John came to litigation funding more than twenty years ago after working in accounting and economics and practicing as a commercial litigator in Sydney.

Kevin Rozzoli AM Resigned in November 2017.

## ► Staff

Thea Bray	Policy Officer, EWCAP	Julia Mansour	Senior Solicitor, Strategic Litigation
Michelle Cohen	Senior Solicitor, Strategic Litigation	Douglas McCloskey	Policy Officer, EWCAP
Roslyn Cook	Managing Solicitor, HPLS	Craig Memery	Policy Team Leader, EWCAP
Anna Dawson	Senior Solicitor, IJP	Sarah Mitchell	Administrator, HPLS
Miyuru Ediriweera	Senior Policy Officer, EWCAP	Deirdre Moor	Deputy CEO
Mary Flanagan	Senior Solicitor, Strategic Litigation	Timothy Ngui	Solicitor, HPLS
Daniela Gavshon	Project Director, Transitional Justice	Camilla Pandolfini	Senior Solicitor, Strategic Litigation
Alexis Goodstone	Principal Solicitor	Scott Parker	Operations Manager
Brooke Greenwood	Solicitor, ICPP	Gemma Pearce	Media and Communications Manager
Timothy Harrison	Policy Officer, EWCAP	Melissa Pinzuti	Legal Secretary
Jonathon Hunyor	Chief Executive Officer	Olivia Pirie-Griffiths	Fundraising Officer
Julie Kuk	Legal Secretary	Jeremy Rea	Solicitor Advocate, HPLS
Alastair Lawrie	Senior Policy Officer	Louis Schetzer	Senior Policy Officer, HPLS
Jane Leibowitz	Senior Solicitor, ASHRP	Ann Sloan	Relationships and Events Coordinator
Laura Lombardo	Principal Solicitor	Sally Spence	Office Coordinator
Lena Lowe	Administrator, Training and Publications	Ellen Tilbury	Senior Solicitor, Strategic Litigation
Sarah Ludowici	Senior Training Officer	Erin Turner Manners	Solicitor, Strategic Litigation

### Secondees

Shantell Bailey	Australian Government Solicitor
Nicola Bevitt	Clayton Utz
Catherine Blair	Hall & Wilcox
Emily Dale	MinterEllison
Danielle Hobday	Australian Government Solicitor
Rachel Johnston	MinterEllison
Ivan Li	MinterEllison
Adam Murphy	Norton Rose Fulbright
Louisa Yasukawa	MinterEllison
Angelina Yurlova	Allen and Overy
Andrew Abraham	Clayton Utz
Virtual Secondees	Herbert Smith Freehills

### PLT Placements

Narges Attai	Georgia Kaufman
Gabrielle Gutman	Daniel Rice
Arizona Hart	Lauren Satill
Alexandra Lachsz	Dar'ya Steele
Naoko Lambert	Ben Stewart
James Manoharachandran	Stephen Turner
Ashley Quadrio	Ryan Whittard
Rebekah Radic	
Lucy Robeau	

### Volunteer Interns

Emma Bellamy Dodd
Erol Gorur
Anish Bhasin
Rhys Carvosso
Elsie Cheung
Carl Gerstle
Summer Irvin

### StreetCare Members

Adrian 'AJ' Jansson
Amir Bodenstern
Carol Carter
Daryl Smith
Dave Jeffery
Dougie Charnock
Maddy Humphreys
Melissa Wolfshoerndl



# Thank you

The generous support and commitment provided by our partners, sponsors and donors who have worked alongside us has enabled PIAC to drive changes to laws, policies and practices that cause or entrench disadvantage.

We gratefully acknowledge the following organisations and individuals who have made our work possible.

## ▶ Thank you

The generous support provided by our partners, sponsors and donors has enabled PIAC to remove barriers to justice and create systemic change for people who are vulnerable and facing disadvantage.

PIAC is incredibly grateful for your commitment to our work.

### Principal Partners

Allens  
 Australian Communities Foundation  
 B B & A Miller Foundation  
 Commonwealth Government  
 NSW Government  
 The Trustees of the Public Purpose Fund  
 Williams Fund

### Major Partners

Carroll & O’Dea Lawyers  
 Igniting Change  
 John T Reid Charitable Trusts  
 Modara Pines Charitable Foundation  
 Oak Foundation  
 Ray Wilson & Plenary Group  
 Riverbush Pty Limited  
 Spotlight Foundation  
 The Bertha Foundation  
 The Danks Trust  
 The R E Ross Trust

### Social Justice Dinner

#### Major Sponsor

The Law Society of New South Wales

#### Event Sponsors

Allen & Overy  
 Lawcover  
 Macquarie Group Foundation  
 MinterEllison

#### Corporate Tables

Ashurst  
 Carroll & O’Dea Lawyers  
 Colin Biggers & Paisley  
 Forbes Chambers  
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 IMF Bentham  
 Investor Claim Partner Pty Ltd  
 Maurice Blackburn Lawyers  
 Slater and Gordon Lawyers

### Donors

Anonymous (11)	Lisa George & Paul Hunyor	Pitcher Partners
AMP Foundation	Penny Gerstle & Hand Up Foundation	Ralph Pliner
Robin Banks & Michael Small	Rebecca Gilsean & Grant Marjoribanks	David Robb
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Susan & Michael Braham	Shauna Jarrett	John Sheahan QC
Dr Peter Cashman	Alan Kirkland	Maureen Shelley
Tom Clarke	Richard Lancaster SC	Justice Terry Sheahan AO
Therese Cochrane	Sam & Barbara Linz	Robert Thomas
Colin Biggers & Paisley Foundation	Macquarie Group Foundation	Jenny Gage Traill
Phillip Cornwell	Jane Marquard	Bret Walker SC
Malcolm & Heather Crompton	Sir Anthony Mason AC KBE GBM QC	John Walker & Investor Claim Partner Pty Ltd
Philip Durack SC	Colin Neave	Stephen Walmsley SC
The Hon Elizabeth Evatt AC	Olav Nielssen	Sally Zylberberg
Ian Farmer	Nick O’Neill	
Sarah Ferguson	Annette Olle	
Robert & Jennifer Gavshon		

PIAC is driven by partnerships and a commitment to strengthening the community. The passion for social justice shared by our pro bono and community partners is vital to PIAC's success and we gratefully acknowledge your generous support.

## Pro Bono Partners

### Firms

Allen & Overy  
Allens  
Ashurst  
Baker McKenzie  
Burke & Mead Lawyers  
Corrs Chambers Westgarth  
Gilbert + Tobin  
Hall & Wilcox  
Herbert Smith Freehills  
HWL Ebsworth  
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Maddocks  
Maurice Blackburn Lawyers  
MinterEllison  
Moray & Agnew Lawyers  
Norton Rose Fulbright  
Sparke Helmore Lawyers  
Thomson Geer  
Wotton + Kearney

### Barristers

Simeon Beckett  
Anish Bhasin  
Madeleine Bridgett  
Josh Brock  
Justin Brown  
Natasha Case  
Nick Eastman  
Henry El-Hage  
Talia Epstein  
Ben Fogarty  
Kathleen Foley  
Geoffrey Gemmill  
Kieran Ginges  
Charles Gregory  
Patrick Griffin SC  
Min Guo  
Zelie Heger

David Hume  
Andrew Jordan  
Nicholas Kelly  
Nicolas Kirby  
Jeremy Kirk SC  
Sue Kluss  
Craig Lenehan  
David McCallum  
Sian McGee  
Ron Merkel QC  
Rohan de Meyrick  
Nancy Mikhael  
Alissa Moen  
Andrew Naylor  
Kylie Nomchong SC  
Nicholas Owens SC  
James Pearson  
Anna Perigo  
Michelle Rabsch  
Lachlan Robison  
Chris Ronalds SC  
Philip Swaine  
Christina Trahanas  
Christopher Tran  
Brian Walters AM QC  
Celia Winnett  
Andrew Yuile

### Community Partners

Community Partners  
Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT)  
ARPR  
Australian Human Rights Commission  
beyondblue  
Cancer Council NSW  
Combined Pensioners and  
Superannuants' Association  
Edward Eagar Lodge  
Energy and Water Ombudsman NSW  
Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW  
Good Shepherd Microfinance  
Haymarket Centre

Jenny's Place, Newcastle  
Justice Connect  
Legal Aid New South Wales  
Matthew Talbot Hostel, Woolloomooloo  
Mental Health Australia  
Mission Australia Centre, Surry Hills  
NCOSS  
Newtown Mission  
Parramatta Mission  
Physical Disability Council of NSW  
RPR Consulting  
Salvation Army  
Salvos Legal Humanitarian  
Soul Cafe, Newcastle  
St. Vincent de Paul Society of NSW  
Tenants Union of New South Wales  
The Shed, Mt Druitt  
The Station  
The Woolloomooloo Integrated  
Services Hub  
Victoria Legal Aid  
Vincentian House  
Wayside Chapel  
Women's Legal Service

### In-kind Support

**Thank you** to our many friends and family who have provided in-kind support by contributing auction items or sharing your time and expertise for the 2018 Social Justice Dinner and other events throughout the year.

We especially thank Sydney Grammar School for hosting our annual public forum.

To discuss making a donation please contact Ann Sloan, Relationships & Events Coordinator on (02) 8898 6500 or [asloan@piac.asn.au](mailto:asloan@piac.asn.au).

<https://www.piac.asn.au/donate/>

## ▶ Financial Statements

Public Interest Advocacy Centre Ltd  
 ABN 77 002 773 524

### EXTRACT FROM FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

PIAC's full financial statements are available on request, and are also available from the Australian Charities Register, on the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission website, [www.acnc.gov.au](http://www.acnc.gov.au)

### STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2018

	2018	2017
	\$	\$
REVENUE FROM ORDINARY OPERATIONS	3,733,608	3,708,718
	<hr/> 3,733,608	<hr/> 3,708,718
<b>LESS: EXPENSES</b>		
Depreciation and amortisation expense	(63,441)	(61,318)
Employee benefits expense	(2,723,338)	(2,529,099)
Rent	(539,547)	(539,529)
Project and casework expenses	(560,183)	(486,772)
Administration expenses	(228,738)	(229,782)
	<hr/> (4,115,247)	<hr/> (3,846,500)
SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT) BEFORE INCOME TAX EXPENSE	(381,639)	(137,782)
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	-	-
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>	<hr/> (381,639)	<hr/> (137,782)



**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AS AT 30 JUNE 2018**

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	629,170	526,617
Receivables	465,644	452,313
Other financial assets	1,450,000	1,915,925
Other assets	69,899	70,489
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>2,614,713</b>	<b>2,965,344</b>
<b>NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Other financial assets	174,418	174,418
Property, plant and equipment	197,560	242,480
<b>TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>371,978</b>	<b>416,898</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>2,986,691</b>	<b>3,382,242</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Payables	246,219	212,780
Provisions	345,605	309,783
Other liabilities	475,619	577,608
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1,067,443</b>	<b>1,100,171</b>
<b>NON CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Provisions	76,251	88,331
Other liabilities	211,309	180,413
<b>TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>287,560</b>	<b>268,744</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1,355,003</b>	<b>1,368,915</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>1,631,688</b>	<b>2,013,327</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Reserves	265,460	265,460
Retained surplus	1,366,228	1,747,867
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>1,631,688</b>	<b>2,013,327</b>

**DIRECTORS' DECLARATION**

The directors of the company declare that the summary financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2018, as set out on pages 32 - 33

- (a) is an extract from the full financial report for the year ended 30 June 2018 and has been derived from and is consistent with the full financial report of the company.

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

Ralph Pliner, Director  
11 October 2018

**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION  
TO THE DIRECTORS OF PUBIC INTEREST ADVOCACY CENTRE**

In relation to the independent audit for the year ended 30 June 2018, to the best of my knowledge and belief there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct.

Mark Godlewski, Partner  
12 October 2018

PITCHER PARTNERS  
SYDNEY

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

*Auditor's Opinion*

The accompanying summary financial report which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2018, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income and director's declaration, are derived from the audited financial report of the Public Interest Advocacy Centre Limited (the company) for the year ended 30 June 2018.

In our opinion, the summary financial report 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 financial statements.

*Summary Financial Statements*

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 Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. Reading the summary financial report, therefore is not a substitute for reading the audited financial report of the company. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on that financial report in our report dated 12 October 2018.

*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 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.

Mark Godlewski, Partner  
12 October 2018

PITCHER PARTNERS  
SYDNEY



#### EDITED BY

- The Hon Kevin Lindgren AM QC FAAL,  
President of the *Australian Academy of Law*
- The Hon Justice François Kunc,  
General Editor of *The Australian Law Journal*
- Emeritus Professor Michael Coper AO FAAL,  
*ANU College of Law*

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## THE FUTURE OF AUSTRALIAN LEGAL EDUCATION

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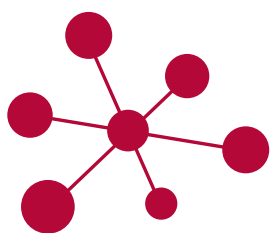
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