

2021-22

ANNUAL REPORT



Connecting social need to legal skill.



Acknowledgement of Country

In the spirit of reconciliation, JusticeNet SA acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their continued connections to land, sea and community.

We pay our respect to their Elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

This report was released at the Annual General Meeting on 8 November 2022, held on the traditional lands of the Kurna people.

Always was, always will be.



People

JusticeNet is staffed by a small group of dedicated part time employees and governed by a generous and skilled volunteer Management Committee. In FY 21/22 we also had the assistance of 12 volunteers.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Tania Sulan (*Chair*)

Carolyn Mitchell (*Secretary*)

Ben Opie (*Treasurer*)

Sue Brebner
(*Legal Services Commission member*)

Scott Foreman
(*Private practice member*)

Natalia Kaspyzyk
(*Community Legal Centre member*)

Stephen McDonald SC
(*Bar member*)

Jasmin Shahin
(*In-House member*)

STAFF

Rebecca Ross
CEO and Principal Solicitor

Angela Hastings
Managing Solicitor, Federal Court Self Representation Service

Phoebe Richards
Managing Solicitor, Pro Bono Connect

Dharani Rana
Co-ordinator and Solicitor, Homeless Legal

Cassandra Altmann
Solicitor, Federal Court Self Representation Service

Tracey Press
Administrator

VOLUNTEERS

Michael Alder, Yasmin Arouri, Claire Benn, Jordan Goudy, Barbara Keke, Cassandra Newsham, Ellysia Oldsen, Sophie Price, Kurt Schenk, Wing Shi (Stanley), Ellysia Oldsen, Matilda Wise



President & CEO Letter

We are pleased to present our fourteenth annual report to our members and stakeholders on JusticeNet's key activities and achievements over the 2021-2022 financial year.

It has been a busy and productive year – with transition and change being a unifying theme across all facets of the organisation. The management committee and staff underwent an in depth strategic review and considered how we futureproof our governance and structure.

Innovation and adaptation has always been at the heart of JusticeNet's DNA. Although times of transition and change can bring challenge, they also bring exciting opportunities to re-envision the status quo and to think differently.



Justice Net CEO Rebecca Ross (RHS) and President Tania Sulan (LHS) presenting awards at the 2022 Walk for Justice.

Transition and change areas:

- **Our Leadership** – new President and CEO as per last Annual Report. Also Carolyn Mitchell, who has been heavily involved in JusticeNet since inception, had her final year on the Management Committee this year.
- **Our Team** – this year we farewelled Zoe Lewis and Jacqui Nuske and welcomed Dharani Rana and Tracey Press.
- **New Services** – addition of SACAT as part of our Homeless Legal service
- **New Premises** - after 14 years JusticeNet now has its own dedicated head office.
- **New Partnerships** - we were delighted to add to our corporate partnerships list this year Gilchrist Connell, JWS, Shaw & Partners and Credit Union.

But not all things are new and different:

- Relaunch of Walk for Justice with record fundraising efforts by over 450 walkers.
- Ongoing stellar levels of service provided by our services.
- Brilliant support from our generous volunteers, donors, sponsors, advocates and pro bono partners etc. The organisation simply could not exist without the collective contributions.

Looking forward to 2023 we will be looking to embed the strategic refresh work done this year by the management committee and staff this year and build on the current platform and capabilities.

It is a privilege to be involved in the leadership of a wonderful organisation and assisting to connect legal skill to social need

Tania Sulan & Rebecca Ross
President CEO

2021-2022 Strategic Focus



Vision & Mission

Return to the core focus of JusticeNet to fill the gaps in the justice system with meaningful pro bono opportunities.
Revised mission statement: Connecting social need to legal skill.



Personnel

Attracting and retaining talented staff, whilst also increasing our profile as a teaching facility by taking on two intakes of students annually.



Expenditure

An extensive audit was done of JusticeNet's financial position. Financial policies and mechanisms put in place in order to streamline costs.



Funding

Diversifying & refining funding streams, with a focus to long term secure funding. Keen attention has been placed on seeking funding to cover the core operations of JusticeNet.



Value Add

Repositioning ourselves as a service for the profession and system more broadly to unlock pro bono capacity and provide the legal profession with relevant opportunities.



Reform Cycle

Embrace our history of innovation in identifying and assisting in the gaps and make it a regular part of our reform cycle.

Services

Pro Bono Connect

Workload and service overview from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022:

397

Matters dealt with by JusticeNet staff in 2021/22 across new applications and files still open from previous years.

231

Of these matters were new applications.

≈60%

Of these applications were found eligible for Pro Bono referral. Remaining matters provided with an assessment and referral to alternative services where applicable.

109

Of the matters found eligible, were successfully referred to a lawyer (in 29 cases we were unable to find a referral partner).

68/47

Of the 109, 68 required a brief to a barrister. They were picked up by 47 different barristers.

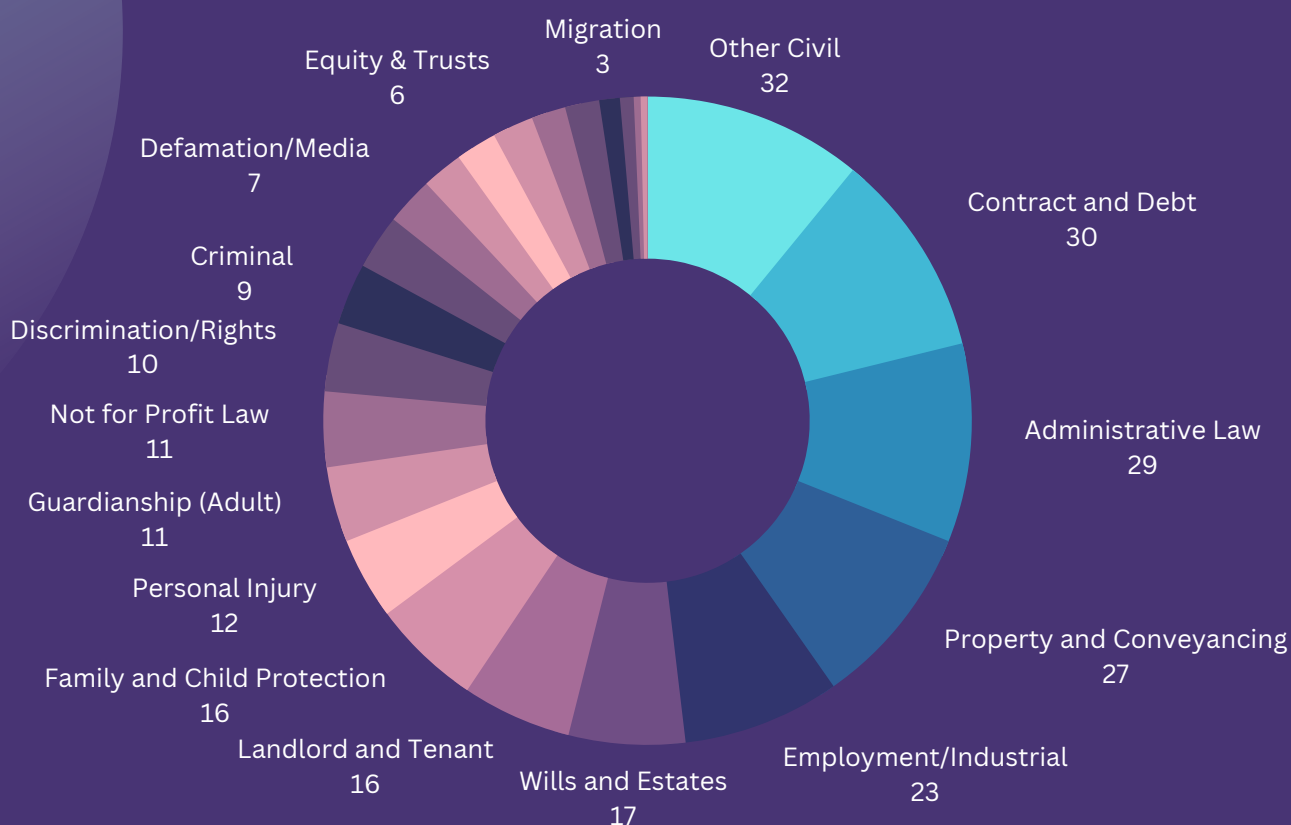
88/72

Of the 109, 88 required a brief to a solicitor. They were picked up by 72 different solicitors.

Pro Bono Connect

By Phoebe Richards

Pro Bono Connect (PBC) operates as the state's pro bono clearing house, referring eligible applicants to member law firms and/or barristers to provide pro bono legal assistance. In determining eligibility for referral, it continues to be guided by the founding eligibility criteria: a lack of means, a case with legal merit and that there are no other avenues available for funded legal assistance (for example, Legal Services Commission or community legal centres). In doing so Pro Bono Connect looks to connect social need to legal skill, in both its general civil stream as well as through its specialist service the Refugee Asylum Seeker Project (RASP).

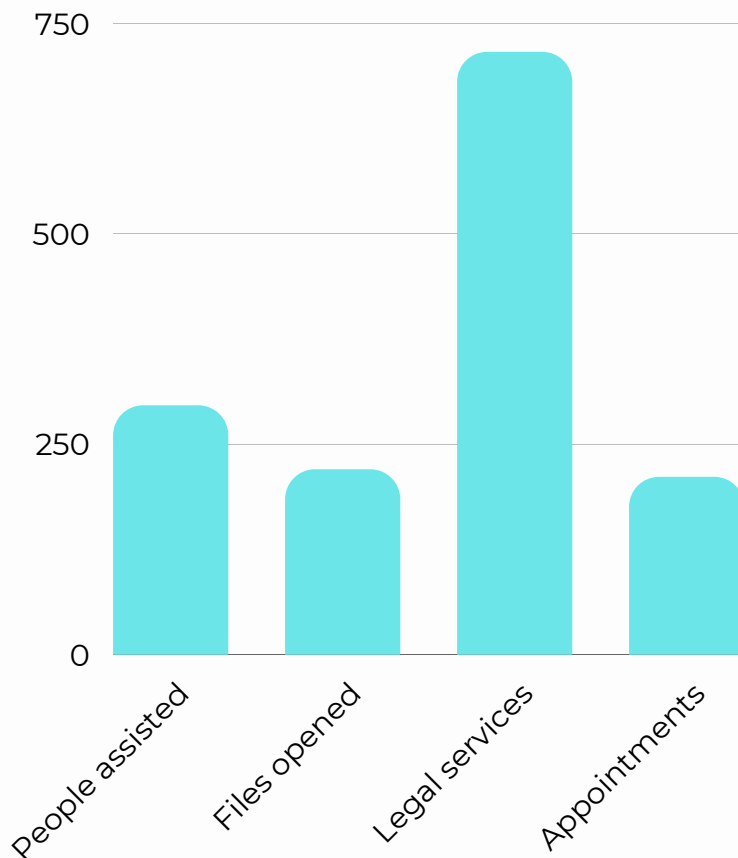


PBC operates with minimal resources, and so over the past two years has moved entirely to an online model which allows it to assess applications and refer them appropriately – whether it be to a community legal service, or to one of our member laws firms - and efficiently. As a service, PBC's greatest challenge remains placing matters assessed as eligible for referral with law firms for assistance. There continues to be more social need than can be met by available legal skill and as such, improving practitioner participation in our clearing house service is and will remain a key focus for PBC.

Federal Court SRS

By Angela Hastings

The Federal Courts Self-Representation Service (FCSRS) assists clients with matters commenced, or to be commenced, in the general federal law jurisdiction including bankruptcy, Fair Work, migration, appeals, judicial review, anti-discrimination, competition and consumer law.



Funding

- The FCSRS is funded by the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department.

Our impact

- The following case study highlights the role of the FCSRS in helping self-represented litigants to present their cases, but also to facilitate the early resolution of matters and to discourage unnecessary litigation. Names have been changed to protect privacy.

The FCSRS is grateful for the support of 10 participating law firms:

- MinterEllison
- Finlaysons
- Dentons
- Cowell Clarke
- DMAW Lawyers
- Piper Alderman
- Sparke Helmore
- Hall & Wilcox
- O'Toole Lawyers
- HWL Ebsworth.

The FCSRS welcomes Barry.Nilsson to its roster during the new financial year.

33 lawyers from the participating law firms provided an estimated 511 hours of pro bono help over the course of the year, with a nominal value of approximately \$186,000.

This was in addition to the hundreds of hours spent by the FCSRS staff lawyers to provide legal advice and task assistance to clients, and to brief the solicitors who volunteered to provide appointments to the FCSRS clients.

The FCSRS has continued to work with the College of Law GDLP students to provide placements with the FCSRS during the financial year.

Federal Court SRS Case Study

Zara* was employed in a factory that was sold to a new employer, and her workplace moved to new premises. The new owner would, from time to time, smoke in the factory premises and would allow other people to smoke in the factory premises. Zara complained about the smoke to the owner of the business, but he continued. Eventually Zara made a complaint about smoking being allowed in the workplace. Inspectors made a surprise visit to the factory on a day when Zara was not working. They spoke to the owner of the business and told him that they were there following an anonymous tip. The owner said to the inspectors "oh I know who that is, don't worry she won't work here for much longer".

Immediately after the inspector's visit ended, Zara received a text message from the owner of the business dismissing her from her employment purportedly because she used her mobile telephone during work time about one month earlier, and that her occasional absences from work due to a work-related injury were "becoming an issue".

Zara decided to make a general protections with dismissal claim in the Fair Work Commission on the basis that the operative reason for her dismissal was because she exercised a workplace right to make a complaint about her workplace. Zara's matter progressed to the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (FCFCOA). JusticeNet's FCSRS assisted Zara step-by-step through the FCFCOA process including helping Zara to draft her pleadings; advising her about service of her court documents; advising her about procedure. With the FCSRS's help, Zara was able to obtain a favourable financial settlement of her claim.

WHAT OUR CLIENTS SAY

"Service was great, everything [the solicitor] did was beyond my expectation, she did so much for helping me in a small amount of time very happy and impressed with Service."

"The service was exceptional. [The solicitor] took extra efforts and took the time to see me many times in her busy schedule. She was very supportive and understanding. Given the terrible experience and trauma I went through, and in a completely helpless situation. I'm very grateful such services exist to help people like me. Pro bono connect were very quick and efficient and helped find two good lawyers at the right time. The whole process went smoothly with no issues."

Homeless Legal

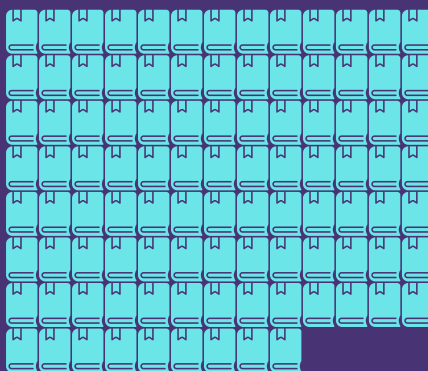
By Dharani Rana

In 2021/22 we received enquiries about a range of matters, including tenancy, eviction, immigration, criminal law, family law, consumer' rights, eligibility for government benefits and more. The assistance provided varied greatly, ranging from giving advice, making referrals to appropriate community and/or other legal services, facilitating communication between parties and drafting correspondence and documents.



110

Clients assisted



119

Different matters

28%

Growth from previous year.

1

New outreach location.

In February 2022, we opened a fourth outreach clinic at Baptist Care SA and continued to operate our Hutt St Centre, Catherine House and South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal ('SACAT') clinics. We thank our volunteer lawyers from MinterEllison, Dentons and Gilchrist Connell for servicing these clinics. We also welcomed JWS as a new partner firm in 2022/23.

Homeless Legal is incredibly grateful for the generous support provided over the last year by our funders:

- The Homeless Legal Donor Circle (supported by LK and the Day Family Foundation);
- LK;
- Impact100 SA; and
- The Law Foundation of South Australia

Homeless Legal Case Study

Sonya* is in her early-60s, receives the Disability Support Pension and lives in community housing. She was experiencing severe bullying from her neighbours, who complained in the hope that she would be evicted.

Sonya contacted JusticeNet's Homeless Legal for assistance with eviction proceedings in SACAT terrified she was facing homelessness. We helped Sonya with the proceedings by drafting a statement explaining her side of the story and collating letters of support. We also helped Sonya negotiate with her landlord so that she could be transferred to a different property, away from her neighbours.

The request for a transfer was successful and the proceedings were withdrawn. Sonya was delighted with this outcome and wrote to us exclaiming, 'NOW IM HAPPY'.

Publications & Events

Bridging community and law: The role of the community lawyer

DHARANI RANA, COORDINATOR AND SOLICITOR, HOMELESS LEGAL AT JUSTICENET SA

Community lawyering is not an instinctive skill¹ acquired by lawyers throughout the course of law school or traditional private practice. Although community lawyering does involve standard lawyering tasks (e.g. providing legal advice, having knowledge of the law and legal processes, research), it also requires *different* types of skills to effectively communicate with and assist people from different communities.

More often than not, a community lawyer will not belong to the community they are attempting to serve, so it would be sensible to humble ourselves, acknowledge our ignorance and limitations and curb the instinct to take the lead as a lawyer in a situation with a client whose circumstances and priorities are likely completely different from our own. I have seen clients who have come to clinics primarily to vent about their experiences within the justice system, appointments which typically end with clients thanking lawyers for just listening to them rather than giving specific information about lodging a formal complaint. In our fee for service profession, we can err in devaluing this type of work as 'non-legal' when it can save society the vast cost of ill-fated proceedings. This also gives community lawyers an early insight into gaps, patterns and injustices within the legal system, all of which are crucial to advocating for policy changes and legislative reform.²

In other instances, clients want affirmation that their plan to handle a particular issue is correct or that self-drafted statements read well rather than wanting a lawyer to take the reins. This ultimately educates and empowers people, assisting them to organise communities and advocate for systemic change rather than relying on lawyers, particularly where funding for community legal services is precarious and lawyers are not always accessible.

Nonetheless, lawyers working in the community need to remain vigilant. Clients have different needs, sometimes non-legal needs. Ultimately, it is important for a community lawyer to build and maintain relationships with other non-



Dharani Rana provides assistance at a Homeless Legal clinic.

legal community organisations using triaging skills to refer clients to relevant and appropriate services. Health Justice partnerships such as JusticeNet's Homeless Legal and many others around the country aim to embed this interdependence in their service delivery design by co-locating with a multitude of services and delivering legal assistance at sites which are already familiar to and trusted by clients.

Community lawyers contribute to community development and empowerment by helping people understand their legal rights, sharing knowledge and information and providing legal assistance where possible.³ Theoretically, in a truly representative and thriving democracy, there would be no need for a bridge between community and the law. But until this is achieved, funding for community lawyers is vital⁴ so that these organisations continue to support clients through traditional legal work and empowering clients to advocate for themselves and their communities with the aim of creating systemic change.

Skills learned in community lawyering are transferrable interpersonal skills which seek to centre humanity and service at the core of our profession. They are useful skills to have at any stage in a career. One of the joys of being a community lawyer is seeing the life-changing impact you

assistance can have on a person who would have otherwise gone without help due to systemic barriers. We love seeing lawyers who volunteer at our clinics feeling a little more connected to the community and a whole lot more motivated about the good you can do by being a lawyer.

Homeless Legal is a discrete task assistance service running weekly clinics out of Hutt Street Centre, Catherine House, Baptist Care and SACAT. JusticeNet's current referral partners in this service are MinterEllison, Dentons, Gilchrist Connell and JWS. To refer a client, get involved with the clinics or attend a Homeless Legal training session, please contact Dharani Rana at hlegal@justicenet.org.au or (08) 8410 2280. B

Endnotes

- 1 Tunmi Wong, 'Race-Conscious Community Lawyering: Practicing Outside the Box' [2008] (July-August) *Clearinghouse Review Journal of Poverty Law and Policy* 165, 166.
- 2 Luz Herrera, 'Community Law Practice' (2019) 1 (Winter) *Daedalus, the Journal of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences* 106, 111.
- 3 Luz Herrera, 'Community Law Practice' (2019) 1 (Winter) *Daedalus, the Journal of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences* 106, 107.
- 4 See, eg, Lauren Croft, 'LCA president: "It's important that justice remains human-centred"', *LawyersWeekly* (Online, 3 February 2022) <<https://www.lawyerweekly.com.au/biglaw/33546-lca-president-it-s-important-that-justice-remains-human-centered>>.

Legal Training

Developing the profession is core part of what we do at JusticeNet. In 2021/22 we have been delighted to offer the following CPDs in order to achieve that aim. Thank you to all the speakers who donated their time to provide these sessions and to our supporters of these sessions, LK, College of Law & Kyton's Bakery. Listed in chronological order:

CPD Summer Intensive

Purpose: Provide an opportunity for the profession to ensure they have all points before the end of the CPD year whilst raising money for JusticeNet programs. Delivered on 10 & 11 March 2022.

The Business Case for Pro Bono: Why Do It, What Works and the Question of Costs.

Presented by Alice Rolls and Mark Giddings

Independence, impartiality and integrity in charged contexts: The perspective of a UN lawyer

Presented by Hannah Tonkin

Living With Cyber Risk. Not If, But When.

Presented by Brooke Hall-Carney

Understanding and Navigating the Power Imbalance Between Associates and Judges.

Presented by the Honorable Justice Chris Bleby

Sustaining Wellbeing: How (and When) to Rest.

Presented by Emily Knowles

What is the Lawyer's Role in Public Education?

Presented by Natalie Wade and Anna Bulman



Lunchtime RASP CPD Series

Purpose: Upskill lawyers assisting with JusticeNet SA's Refugee & Asylum Seeker Program (RASP) caseload. Free of charge for lawyers assisting with RASP briefs. Held on first Thursday of the month from June - October.

Judicial Review: In theory and practice in migration matters.

Presented by the Honorable Richard White

Identifying jurisdictional error in migration decisions, particularly asylum seeker decisions: What works and what doesn't from the perspective of the bench.

Presented by the Honorable Judge Heffernan

The Migration Process: the journey of a client through the system in the context of credibility findings.

Presented by Min Guo

Identifying reviewable error and drafting grounds of appeal.

Presented by Dr Rachael Gray

Practical Guide to being an instructing solicitor in a RASP matter.

Presented by Emily Rutherford

A Conversation about Sexual Harassment and Bullying: Bystanders and Firms

Purpose: Discuss the role we may play as bystanders in the event of witnessing these incidents. Organisations need to be aware of their responsibilities in supporting bystanders.

Panelists:

- South Australian Chief Justice Kourakis,
- Former Legal Profession Conduct Commissioner Greg May,
- Legal Advisor to the CE of Attorney General Department Steph Halliday,
- Barrister and President of South Australian Women Lawyers Marissa Mackie

Facilitator:

JusticeNet CEO Rebecca Ross



Walk for Justice raises more than \$80,000

REBECCA ROSS, CEO & PRINCIPAL SOLICITOR, JUSTICENET SA

The Walk for Justice is a triple pronged event: drawing attention to the importance of access to justice (A2J), signifying the important role *pro bono publico* work done by lawyers plays in A2J, and raising funds for the public interest law clearing houses (PILCH)¹ around the country.

National Pro Bono Day has long been a fixture in the Australian Law Week celebrations and marked by Walks for Justice across the country. This year National Pro Bono Day was held on 17 May 2022 and saw the return of the in-person Walk for Justice in South Australia (SA) after a two-year hiatus. JusticeNet SA has run the SA event since its inception as the state's PILCH in 2008, but in 2020 it went virtual in the face of the pandemic and in 2021 was not held at all.

After coming into this role in late 2021, the question I was asked most was "will the Walk for Justice be coming back?". This is a testament to how unique the event is in the way it involves all facets of the justice system: community lawyers, private lawyers, government lawyers, in-house lawyers, paralegals, politicians, government officials, allied-legal roles, judges and the people we serve.

The record-breaking success of this year's Walk for Justice with over 450 walkers and raising just over \$80,000 reflects the goodwill there is in South Australia to stride forward together for those in need. The result has spurred tremendous confidence in what can be achieved in the justice space in SA given the altruism (and fitness) of those in power.

National Law Week's core purpose is well summarised on the NSW Law Week website as an 'annual festival that is all about creating greater access to justice for Australians' (www.lawweeknsw.org.au). This might seem like an aspirational or noble aim, but its importance has been

enshrined in UN sustainable development goals (SDGs), as Goal 16:

*"Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels"*².

Goal 16 is one of three UN SDGs that form JusticeNet's *raison d'être*, the other two being End Poverty (SDG 1) and Reduce Inequalities (SDG 10).

The goal of the SDGs is to create a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future³. The fact Goal 16 is included is a crucial reminder for those of us working in the justice arena that we are part of a social ecosystem which needs endless tending so as not to be taken for granted.

To underscore how crucial this is at the moment, the central topic of the 2022 World Justice Forum was the decline in the rule of law and how to better support SDG 16. This is an annual event bringing together participants from 116 countries to learn, to collaborate and strategise on how to advance Equal Rights, Anticorruption, Open Government and Access to Justice. They were particularly focussed on glazing new statistic:

*"Almost 85% of the world's population now live in a country where rule of law is declining, according to the World Justice Project 2021 Rule of Law Index. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated these trends, including rising authoritarianism, declining civic space, delayed justice, and other longstanding governance weaknesses."*⁴

The World Justice Forum attendance list is a catalogue of global justice rockstars; Legal Empowerment Fund Director Atieno Odhiambo, The Hague Institute for Innovation of Law (HiiL) CEO Sam Muller, UN High

Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, Praxis Conflict Centre CEO Christine Birabwa-Nsubuga and many more⁵.

It should be noted that in the line-up this year were a number of large technology companies, a truth the justice system does not always welcome but is a modern day reality. It is an interesting barometer for the future to see the projects which were awarded the winners of this year's World Justice Challenge, with three of the five prizes this year awarded to legal technology innovations⁶.

Adequately supported and appropriately directed *pro bono* work is one tried and tested way to address SDG 16⁷. The events of the World Justice Forum this year show us that now more than ever, those of us in the legal profession must do what we can to uphold the rule of law. Whilst we (may) remember the 'warm and fuzzy' feelings from *pro bono*, it is important to remember A2J is vitally important not only for equality but social prosperity⁸.

A most heartfelt thanks to those who either came along or supported from afar, this year's Walk for Justice. The team at JusticeNet are buoyed by the generosity and vibrancy of the A2J community in South Australia. The purple sea of people walking along the banks of the Karrawirra Pari, kept us in-step with the beat of global justice. So, to answer the perennial question, 'Yes, the Walk for Justice is back!'

In 2021, JusticeNet assisted over 570 people through its programs, conservatively generating \$5 million worth of legal work on behalf of disadvantaged South Australian's. 2022 is already on track to exceed this and we are looking for more referral partners. If you are interested in learning more about *pro bono* work or joining the JusticeNet *pro bono* clearing house, please contact JusticeNet at admin@justicenet.org.au or call 0884102280. **B**



Chief Justice Kourakis cutting the ribbon to open the walk



Top student team the AULSS raised \$1892 and won a BBQ Buoy on the Torrens



Top Individual Peta Spyrou (middle) raised \$2823, and won a Sunset Catamaran Cruise.



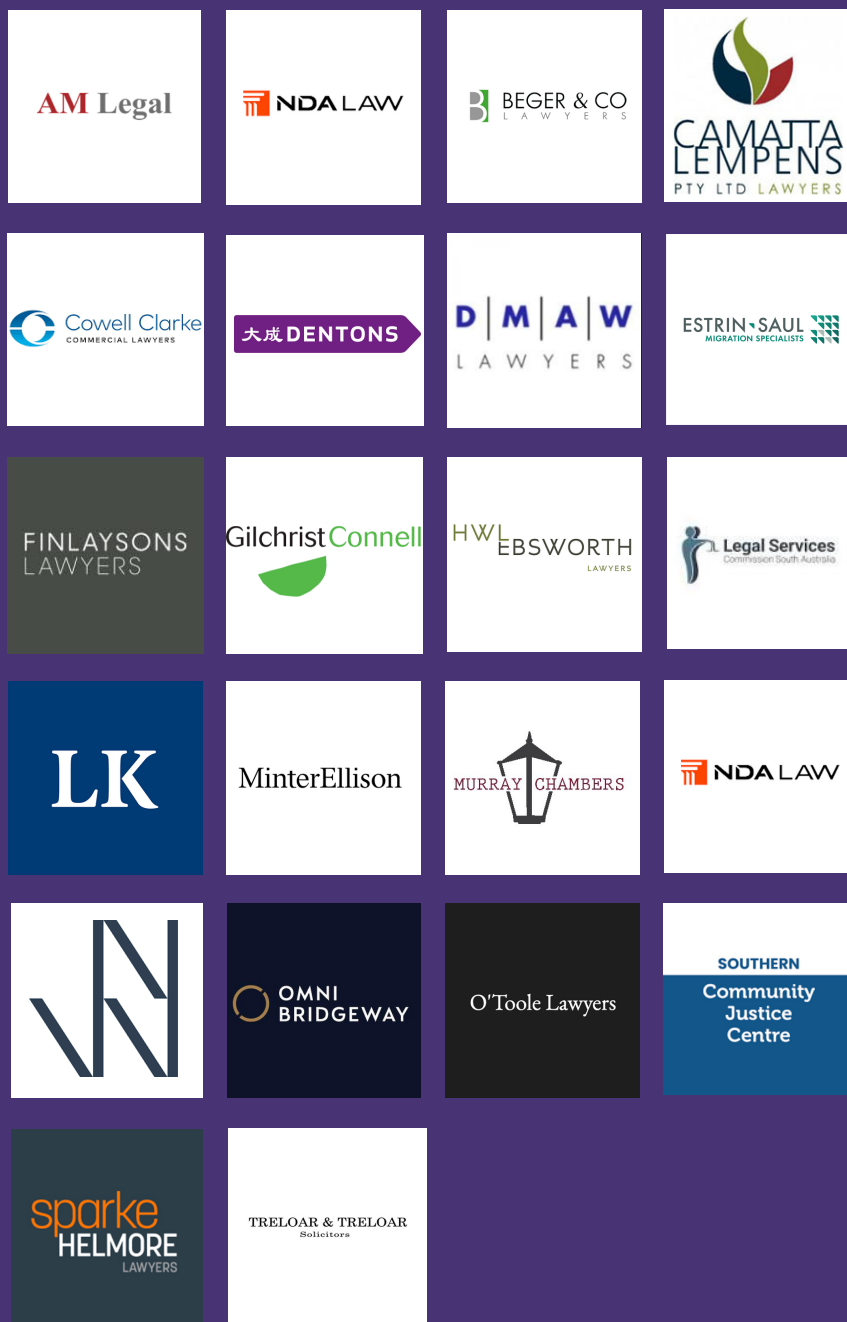
Top team LK Law raised \$8380 and won the after works food and drinks package, donated by Simon Bryant and Lot 100 and served by JusticeNet staff

Endnotes

- 1 For a history of PILCH inception in Australia see: Burchell, Samantha; Hunt, Emma, 'From conservation to activism: the evolution of the Public Interest Law Clearing House' [2003] *AltLawJl* 2; (2003) 28(1) *Alternative Law Journal* 8
- 2 See: 'Goal 16', [UNDP Sustainable Development Goals | United Nations Development Programme \(undp.org\)](#)
- 3 For more information, see: 'The SDG's in Action', UNDP <[Sustainable Development Goals | United Nations Development Programme \(undp.org\)](#)>
- 4 'Leaders to address the global decline of rule of law', *World Justice Forum* <[Leaders to address the global decline of rule of law \(https://worldjusticeproject.org/\)](#)>
- 5 'Leaders to address the global decline of rule of law', *World Justice Forum* <[Leaders to address the global decline of rule of law \(https://worldjusticeproject.org/\)](#)>
- 6 See: 'World Justice Challenge Winners announced in The Hague' *World Justice Forum* <[World Justice Challenge Winners announced in The Hague | World Justice Project](#)>
- 7 Nathan Kennedy, 'Why do pro bono?' *The Lawyers Weekly Show*, Issue 128, May 2018
- 8 For more information see: [Australian Pro Bono Centre](#) <[Australian Pro Bono Centre | Australian Pro Bono Centre](#)>

Members & Financials

Members



Corporate Members

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 Caristia Sanders
 John Santich
 Jasmin Shahin
 Tania Sulan
 Adrian Tisato
 Michael Wait SC
 Gillian Walker SC
 Flor Wambeti
 Jonathan Wells KC
 Penny Wright
 Hongmi Yun

JusticeNet thanks its 2021/2022 financial members for their crucial support.

If you are interested in becoming a member please reach out via our website below.

Homeless Legal Donor Circle

Patron *The Hon. John Sulan KC*

Our Homeless Legal donors are vital to the sustainability of this important service. With their generous support, Homeless Legal helps some of the most vulnerable in our community, where and when they need it.

The HLDC is generously donor matched by LK Law and Day Family Foundation.

We extend a heartfelt thanks to the following for their support in 2021-22.

Champions

Kieran Chester
Tom Cox KC
Julia and Marcus Dreosti
Scott and Caroline Foreman
Chris and Kate Gray
Associate Professor William Griggs AM ASM and Dr Maree White
Skip Lipman
The Hon. Mark Livesey KC
Tom McFarlane
Carolyn Mitchell
Andrew Moffa
Claire O'Connor SC
Prue Reid
Josh Simons
Tania Sulan
James and Tiffany Young

Members

The Hon. David Bleby SC
Ben and Sophie Doyle
Brian Hayes KC
Mark Hoffman KC
Stelios Kontos
Christopher Legoe KC AO
Claire and Stephen McDonald SC
Damian O'Leary
Ian Roberston SC
Jonathan Wells KC



Friends of JusticeNet

Patron *The Hon. Robyn Layton KC AO*

Friends of JusticeNet make a monthly tax-deductible donation to support the work of JusticeNet SA. The contribution made by our Friends of JusticeNet provides us with reliable income that helps us plan effectively and deliver services more efficiently.

Members

Kieran Chester
Janet Cheung
Circle of Friends
Luke Edwards
Shaun Mercer
Claire O'Connor SC
Greg Parker
David Sedorkin
Paula Stirling
Cameron Villarosa

Honorary Members

Honorary Members (in order of appointment)

Patrick North
Cath Lester
Paula Stirling
Tim Graham
Nick Linke

Please join us in recognising two additional life members announced at this year's AGM for their significant service and contributions over many years including the following non-executive appointments:

- Kerry Clark SC - JusticeNet Management Committee member from 8.09.2008 to 19.10.22, Chair from 2019-2021
- Carolyn Mitchell - JusticeNet Management Committee member since 23.09.2009 to 8.11.2022, most recently as Secretary.

Supporters

JusticeNet would not be possible without our generous supporters providing funding, sponsorship and in kind donations.
Thank you for your ongoing support



We are thrilled to be able to add PwC to this list in 2021-22 after JusticeNet was selected as a recipient of the PwC Foundation 4x\$25k Community Grants program awarded nationally to organisations assisting the community.

L-R: Dr Hannah Tonkin, Rebecca Ross, Alice Rolls and Brooke Carney-Hall at the 2022 CPD Intensive.



Treasurer's Report

By Ben Opie

JusticeNet recorded an operating deficit for the year ended 30 June 2022 of \$55,220, which is to be contrasted to an operating surplus for the prior year of \$108,521.

This result was principally income driven, with a significant decline in grant income and the discontinuation of Covid-19 government support, partially offset by increases in donations and fundraising.

JusticeNet remains disciplined in managing costs, with a very modest increase from the prior year. This outcome is to be commended, given the changes and initiatives that were effected by the new CEO during the year.

Grant support was received during the year from the Commonwealth Attorney-General for the Federal Court Self Representation Service, and from the Law Foundation of South Australia.

JusticeNet continues to engage with non-government organisations and other generous supporters to diversify the funding of its services. The financial support provided by our Homeless Legal Donor Circle, the Day Family Foundation and LK Law are ongoing examples of these efforts.

JusticeNet continues to operate in the absence of stable funding for our core operating expenses and flagship Pro Bono Connect service. These costs continue to be funded from various sources including fundraising, memberships and donations. Significant efforts were made by all JusticeNet personnel in these fundraising efforts, with approximately \$80,000 raised (net of fundraising costs) in the annual Walk for Justice event and other donations and fundraising efforts realising a further \$200,000.



I wish to acknowledge on behalf of the Management Committee all of our members, funders and donors for the generosity of their contributions to JusticeNet, in terms of money, time and energy. JusticeNet also wishes to acknowledge the in-kind support of Spot Co for housing the service for 6 months whilst it secured long term accommodation.

Despite a challenging year with grant funding, JusticeNet's cash position remains healthy and provides a useful buffer as the organisation continues its search for funding sources that will put it on a sustainable footing to ensure it can provide its critically important services into the future.

A copy of our audited financial reports can be found at www.justicenet.org.au. Our sincere thanks again to Nexia Edwards Marshall for auditing our financial reports on a pro bono basis.