

# 2018 -2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Artwork by Karen Doolan



**ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER  
WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES NQ INC.**

ABN: 42 109 450 961

# ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES INC.

ABN: 42 109 450 961

Servicing the North Queensland Region

**Phone Advice:** 1800 082 600 or (07) 4721 6007

**Postal Address:** Po Box 1062, Townsville QLD 4810

**Email:** [admin@atsiwlqnq.org.au](mailto:admin@atsiwlqnq.org.au)

**Website:** [www.atsiwlqnq.org.au](http://www.atsiwlqnq.org.au)

## **Office Hours:**

Monday to Friday 8:30am to 5:00pm

## **For Appointments:**

Monday to Friday 9:00am to 4:00pm



## ***About the Artist - Karen Doolan***

Traditional Country: Tugaluka, Gurrang Gurrang, Wakka Wakka.

Born in Townsville, Karen Doolan is a proud aboriginal woman whose artwork depicts women's stories and places of sacred significance. Dreaming stories of her ancestors have been passed down from generation to generation. It is traditional lore and her obligation as an artist to pass down these stories to her children and grandchildren so that they know who they are and where their traditional identity is and what it means.

### **Title of Artworks:** Women's Business

All four works depict traditional dress worn when women dance and also shows traditional tools women use: digging sticks, coolamun and dilly bags.

### **Front Cover:**

A woman of great importance. She holds the lore within her tribe, keeps her people safe and her wisdom is valued and never questioned as her people trust in her judgement when it is needed. She is a woman who holds knowledge that is given by our great creator.



## CONTENTS

---

Chairperson's Report.....	5
Treasurer's Report .....	9
Principal Solicitor's Report.....	11
Management Committee .....	23
Audited Financial Statements .....	24
Stakeholders, Staff and Volunteers .....	44
Final Acknowledgements .....	44



---

## TRADITIONAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ Inc ("ATSIWLSNQ") acknowledges the Bindal and Wulgurakaba people and all Traditional Owners across whose lands we conduct our business. We pay our sincere respects to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander elders past, present and emerging.

---

## WHO WE ARE

The ATSIWLSNQ is a not-for-profit, community based, culturally competent women's legal service, developed and operated by and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. Based in Townsville, we provide free legal services in North Queensland and in an area that extends south to Sarina, north to the Torres Strait, west to the Northern Territory border, and east to Palm Island.

---

## OUR PLEDGE

- ♦ To provide an environment which is safe and culturally competent and friendly
  - ♦ To provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women with information about the law and the services we offer
  - ♦ To treat our clients with respect, courtesy and professionalism and to listen to their concerns
  - ♦ To respond to our clients' enquiries and requests for information in an accurate and timely manner
  - ♦ To provide quality legal advice and representation to the extent of our resources
  - ♦ To provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women with alternative/assisted legal referral if we are unable to assist them
- 

## OUR MISSION

To empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women by providing legal services and raising awareness through Community Legal Education, legal advocacy and law reform.

---

## OUR LOGO

*The woman holding the child is the association. The flower represents the beauty of all Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander women. The vines represent the family and keeping culture alive.*



## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

As the 2018-2019 Chairperson of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ Inc. ("ATSIWLSNQ"), I am pleased to present the Annual Report.

Over the last 13 years, the Legal Service has been helping Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in the North Queensland Region. I believe we should take a moment to reflect on the Staff Members, Management Committee Members, Community Events and Funding that have given us the opportunity to operate.

### STAFF MEMBERS

The ATSIWLSNQ Management Committee values the diligence, skill and integrity of the staff at ATSIWLSNQ, in ensuring that services are professionally delivered to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

On behalf of the Management Committee, I would like to acknowledge the work of the Principal Solicitor, Cathy Pereira, and the ATSIWLSNQ staff:

- ♦ Florence Onus (Community Development Worker, Townsville)
- ♦ Andrea Kyle-Sailor (Community Development Worker, Palm Island)
- ♦ Cathy Pereira (Principal Solicitor/ Co-ordinator)
- ♦ Cherie McLaughlin (Office Manager)
- ♦ Angela Carroll (Solicitor)
- ♦ Carly Baker (Solicitor)
- ♦ Erica Kyle (Admin Assistant)
- ♦ Yuliana Pascoe (Paralegal)

Other staff members who have left over the year:

- ♦ Ada Boland (Community Development Worker, Townsville)
- ♦ Karina Andrew (Outreach Solicitor)
- ♦ Breanne Morrison-Beard (Paralegal)
- ♦ Garry Scott (Solicitor)

Volunteers, including:

- ♦ Amber Gust (JCU Clinical Studies)
- ♦ Chelsea McCook (Clinical Studies)
- ♦ Tyneal Diane Paleso'o (Practical Legal Training Placement)
- ♦ Rachel Wrench (JCU Clinical Studies)
- ♦ Isabelle Wright (JCU Clinical Studies)

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

I would like to acknowledge this year's Management Committee Members who have dedicated their own time to the governance tasks of ATSIWLSNQ. The dedication from these strong and knowledgeable women, is reflected in the service's ongoing success.

Our members for the 2018-2019 period have been Babette Doherty, Tanya Morris, Marilyn Smith, and Topsy Tapim.

## FUNDING

I would like to acknowledge both the Commonwealth and State Government funders for their support for the valuable work undertaken by ATSIWLSNQ.

## DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND ATTORNEY-GENERAL

I would like to thank the Department of Justice and Attorney General (QLD) for its continued support of the organisation. Since the extra funding provided since 2015-16 to support the work undertaken on Palm Island, our service has been able to assist and empower more women on Palm Island through our Duty Lawyer and Casework Service and Community Legal Education.

## DEPARTMENT OF PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

I would like to thank the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet ("DPMC") for its continued financial support through the 2016-2019 funding under the Indigenous Women's Outreach Project ("IWOP"). I would also like to thank the DPMC for recently extending this funding until June 2020.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

During the 2017-2018 year, the Management and Staff of ATSIWLSNQ organised and participated in numerous community events.

## TACKLE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CAMPAIGN

ATSIWLSNQ and the North Queensland Women's Legal Services (NQWLS) joined forces to Tackle Domestic Violence at the Cowboys vs. Titans game on 3 May 2019. Thank you to our staff and volunteers who went to the game to raise awareness.



## EMPOWERING WOMEN AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE MORNING TEA

In February 2019, the ATSIWLSNQ received a grant fund from the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women to host an event to provide practical information and advice, and to continue the conversation surrounding sexual violence in our local community. As an organisation specialising in domestic violence, we had an in depth understanding about how prevalent sexual violence is in the Townsville and Palm Island community, especially against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. Originally the event was to be held in March or April, however due to the devastating floods in February our organisation was granted an extension in order to give the community time to grieve. The event was held in May, which is also domestic violence awareness month.

ATSIWLSNQ invited guest speakers from various organisations in the local community that specifically dealt with sexual violence. Members from the Sexual Assault Response Team ("SART") and Victim Assist Queensland provided in-depth information and discussion at the morning tea about how their organisations assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander survivors and victims of sexual violence.

ATSIWLSNQ also presented a talk to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women about sexual violence in the context of domestic violence. The organisation also developed factsheets about sexual violence that are available on our website and we distributed the factsheets to community organisations in Townsville and Palm Island.

The ATSIWLSNQ want to thank the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women for the opportunity to provide this invaluable education to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in Townsville and Palm Island, to raise awareness in our community around sexual violence.

We would also like to thank the guest speakers from SART and Victim Assist QLD for their insightful presentations. Additional thanks also to Brothers Leagues Club for providing the room and catering for the event.



*ATSIWLSNQ Solicitor, Angela Carroll, presenting at the morning tea*



*The Sexual Assault Response Team ("SART") presenting at the morning tea*

## NAIDOC DAY CELEBRATIONS

Amongst the events attended by ATSIWLSNQ in 2018–2019, one of the highlights was the 2019 NAIDOC Deadly Day Out event. Our organisation participated in the NAIDOC Day March and held a stall at the day out. Our Community Development Worker, Florence Onus, also made an appearance on the local news channel to promote the event.



*ATSIWLSNQ Community Development Worker for Townsville , Florence Onus at the 2019 NAIDOC Day Celebrations*

Well done to the Management Committee and staff for a fantastic 2018-2019 year. Let's continue this hard work in 2019-2020 and continue to provide an outstanding service to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in North Queensland.



**BABETTE DOHERTY**

*ATSIWLSNQ Chairperson, 2018-2019*



# TREASURER'S REPORT

With reference to the 2018-2019 Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2019, the following summary is provided:

This year has seen the continued support of two key funding programs, the Indigenous Women's Program Funding (IWP) as provided by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PMC), and family law and outreach services as provided by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG).

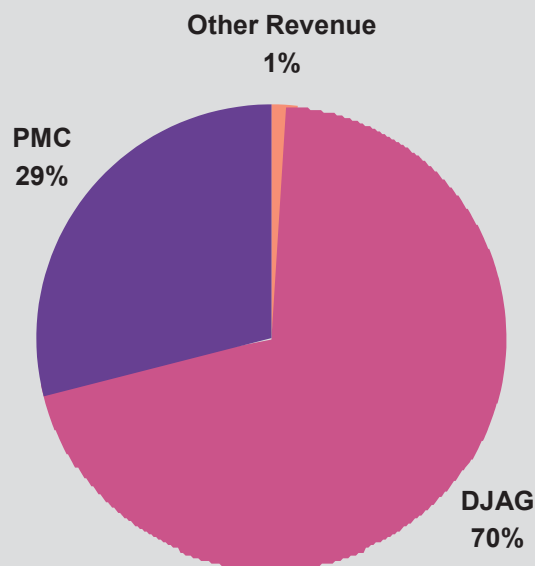
A total of **\$221,831** was received from PMC which represents approximately 29% of total revenue received by the service. Funding under this program is confirmed to 30 June 2020.

The service received a total of \$527,278 in core funding this year from DJAG. \$102,016 of carried forward funding from 2017/18 was also injected into the 2018/19 service program. This funding has enabled the service to provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women with the means for early intervention, reducing the level of personal and family conflict as well as providing access to quality dispute resolution, rather than costly litigation.

DJAG (core) funding has been approved to 30 June 2020. A one-off grant of \$3,500 was received during the year from DJAG in support of the Sexual Violence Prevention Morning Tea. The service also hosts events during Queensland Women's Week. DJAG funding represents 70% of the services revenue. Of the total funding received, a total of **\$78,918** had not been spent within the 2018/19 financial year and has been carried forward for use in 2019/20.

Other revenue of \$5,822 was also received during the year. Other revenue is made up of interest and donations.

## 2019 REVENUE OUTLOOK



## KEY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Revenue has decreased by approximately 2% from 2017/18 which is mostly attributable to a decrease in other revenue.

A total of \$258,474 currently invested in cash and cash equivalents (including term deposits). This has decreased by 32% from the prior year. This is attributable to:

- During the year the service has utilised a significant portion of the carried forward surplus from 2017/18 which was sitting in cash reserves.
- At 30 June 2018 funding of \$92,500 was received from PMC in advance (that is, for use in 2018/19). This was not the case at 30 June 2019. There is a notable decrease in trade and other payables for this same reason.

At 30 June 2019, ATSIWLSNQ has a current position of 1.39 (2018: 1.30), which means that the services has sufficient current assets to be able to pay current liabilities as and when they fall due.

The total provision for employee benefits (annual leave and long service leave) has remained consistent year on year. A portion of long service leave has been reclassified as current due to employees reaching the required years of service to access long service leave.

The auditor, Ian Bolton of First Reserve Financial, has issued an unmodified audit opinion on 26 September 2019.

## BALANCE SHEET COMPARISON



## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

As previously mentioned, PMC and DJAG funding has been confirmed to 30 June 2020.

\$78,918 of unspent funds have been carried forward for use in the 2019/20 financial year.

Additional funding was successfully obtained from DJAG to fund digital upgrades. The value of this grant is \$9,288 (excluding GST).

The service has budgeted for a surplus of \$16,232 for the year ending 30 June 2020. In addition to the continued delivery of core services, key initiatives of the service for the 2019/20 financial year include digital upgrades to improve service delivery and flexibility, and the continued investment in staff to support administration functions and organisational efficiency.



# PRINCIPAL SOLICITOR'S REPORT

The 2019 year has brought hardships for many people living in Townsville, including many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their families, some of whom have suffered flood damage to their homes and property and some have been made homeless when their rental homes have flooded or been damaged. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ ("ATSIWLSNQ") acknowledges the hardships suffered by so many in this year.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ has worked hard to meet its goals during the 2018-19 year and successfully met and exceeded its targets. ATSIWLSNQ has also undertaken outreach services to meet the needs of women in less accessible areas and we have successfully engaged in a number of community events to raise awareness of legal issues affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in North Queensland.

## CULTURAL COMPETENCY

As an identified service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, ATSIWLSNQ values the importance of cultural competence as an accessibility issue for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women seeking legal services. ATSIWLSNQ is managed by a committee of dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and maintains identified indigenous positions within the organisation.

ATSIWLSNQ actively encourages the recruitment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women for positions within the organisation, when available. All staff undertake cultural competency training on at least a biennial basis. ATSIWLSNQ staff actively participate in community events and law reform activities which promote the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

Two of the identified positions within ATSIWLSNQ are the positions of community development workers in Townsville and Palm Island. ATSIWLSNQ has been fortunate to have Florence Onus and Andrea Kyle-Sailor working with the Townsville and Palm Island communities respectively to maintain our connections with community and improve accessibility to legal services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in the community.

Florence Onus has undertaken short cultural awareness training for staff working in the Townsville office to improve cultural competency in 2019. Cultural competency training will continue as part of the organisation's commitment to raising awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural issues and to facilitate clear communication. A further full day of cultural competency training will be hosted by ATSIWLSNQ and available to other community legal services as a shared opportunity in 2020.

Andrea Kyle-Sailor provides cultural competency guidance for solicitors working on Palm Island when interacting with community organisations.



## DELIVERY OF SERVICES

During its 13 years of operation, ATSIWLSNQ has continued to strive to best meet the legal needs of the most vulnerable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in our service areas in North Queensland. We are responsive, we practice holistically and collaboratively with other services in the community. We are proactive in community by delivering “in person” community legal education (“CLE”) directly to women in the community and we undertake complex casework including substantial court representation.

Community Legal Centres have increasingly aimed to provide a range of online services such as webinars and self-help materials including apps and generic information. While ATSIWLSNQ is supportive of all means of enhancing knowledge and accessibility to the law, many of our most vulnerable clients experience practical barriers to online self-help. Palm Island and some other regional areas still experiences difficulties with internet reception. Many clients are on “pre-paid” phone services that limit their access to the internet. Lower literacy levels in the community are also a barrier to downloadable self-help options and generic information for some women. Culturally, many of our clients regard face to face assistance as more authentic and more useful in providing a respectful way for women to participate in and be supported with legal advice and information about legal processes.

During 2018-19, the ATSIWLSNQ explored some video options aimed at young parents. These are yet to be uploaded to the internet, but we are developing online videos to add to the range of community legal information options for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The work of our Community Development Workers, Andrea Kyle-Sailor and Florence Onus, provide links with the community which are irreplaceable and tailored to the communities and organisations that they work with. In Townsville Florence Onus works with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community organisations and non-indigenous organisations. Each week, Florence leads TIDDAS, a cultural healing and mentoring group for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women recovering from domestic and family violence. Activities include raising awareness about domestic violence and providing pathways for women to gain access to legal services.

Andrea Kyle-Sailor engages with community organisations such as the Community Justice Group, and domestic violence network on Palm Island and provides a conduit for women to access legal advice and representation. Andrea provides information to women on Palm Island in relation to legal issue such as domestic violence and a range of other civil issues. She also assists women to access other support services such as those offered by the North Queensland Domestic and Family Violence Resource Service (“NQDVRS”) and the Palm Island Community Corporation. Andrea provides court support and legal referrals at the Palm Island Magistrates Court for women listed in domestic and family violence matters.

## LEGAL SERVICES

### *Domestic Violence Duty Lawyer Service on Palm Island*

ATSIWLSNQ began providing a regular DV duty lawyer service to the Palm Island Magistrates Court in late 2015-2016, on short term funding. In 2017-18 the Department of Justice and Attorney General (Qld) approved ongoing funding to sustain the Palm Island outreach and domestic violence duty lawyer service. Although the duty lawyer service was initially intended to include duty lawyer for child protection services, Palm Island child protection matters are now generally run from Townsville. However, the DV duty lawyer service remains an area of high need with ongoing high numbers of domestic and family violence matters in the Palm Island DV specialist court.

ATSIWLSNQ provides more than a DV duty lawyer service on Palm Island, we also provide casework services and on demand services as well as some community legal education workshops for women. The duty lawyer service is provided fortnightly on Palm Island specialist DV court days.

The Palm Island service exists with the co-operation of many people and organisations. We extend our sincere gratitude to Ms Rachel Atkinson, CEO of Palm Island Community Corporation (PICC). PICC provides an office for ATSIWLSNQ in the Women's Centre on Palm Island.

### ***Other Legal Outreach Services***

In addition to the Palm Island outreach and DV duty lawyer service, ATSIWLSNQ solicitors provide legal outreach services through legal clinics in Townsville, Charters Towers, Townsville Correctional Centre and in regional towns. The purpose of legal outreach is to make legal services more easily accessible to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in outer suburbs, regional towns and for women who are in prison or who are attending other services, who may also need legal advice.

Outreach legal clinics and community engagement are provided on a monthly basis in Charters Towers and in Townsville at the Women's Centre in Aitkenvale, Community Gro (formerly the Upper Ross Community Centre) and at the North Qld Domestic Violence Resource Service ("NQDVRS"). Our solicitors visit women in the Townsville Correctional Centre on an "as needs" basis and also engage in community legal education on issues such as domestic violence, family law and child protection.

### ***Walk-in and On Demand Services and Referrals***

As part of its commitment to the principle of accessibility, ATSIWLSNQ is as responsive as it can be to requests for immediate advice, legal information and/or legal representation. In addition to providing advice and assistance by appointment, solicitors are required to provide phone advice on demand whenever possible and to be available to women who walk in without an appointment. We recognise that many women are in crisis or have poor access to transport or may be experiencing domestic violence and may have a small window of opportunity to obtain legal advice.

ATSIWLSNQ receives referrals from the Qld Police Service (QPS) via the online referral system, for women who require assistance in areas of civil or family law. Referrals usually arise from police attending callouts for domestic violence assistance, where a woman also needs assistance in relation to a family law or ongoing domestic/family violence issues.

## **COMPLEX CASEWORK**

ATSIWLSNQ balances quick response advice, information and domestic violence duty lawyer work, with legal representation casework, including complex casework. At any time, ATSIWLSNQ has upwards of 70+ open files, a number of which are "complex cases".

Complex casework often involves multiple issues and requires intense support and is more than an advice service or a duty lawyer service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. The women we assist with complex casework are often in crisis. Many women are experiencing multiple disadvantage, such as financial disadvantage, homelessness, and unemployment. By way of example, while seeking assistance for a primary legal matter, such as domestic/family violence, there may be multiple other related issues, such as debt acquired due to domestic violence, child protection issues due to domestic violence and homelessness due to family breakdown.

A substantial amount of casework undertaken by ATSIWLSNQ includes court representation up to resolution of the matter by trial or settlement. Casework is subject to assessment under casework guidelines at all stages, taking into consideration the woman's need and capacity, case merit and the service's capacity. The holistic approach to services requires that our clients' legal problems are fully identified and that the support services required for women to achieve the outcome sought are known and accessible. Holistic services are most urgently indicated where women have low literacy levels, feel intimidated by the courts and confused by the legal processes, or where there are cultural barriers or a physical, mental

or intellectual impairment. Where a client needs more services than ATSIWLSNQ is able to provide, “assisted referrals” are made. The solicitor or other worker makes contact with another service to ensure appropriateness and capacity and to confirm that there are no conflicts of interest.

## COLLABORATION

ATSIWLSNQ works in collaboration with numerous other legal and community services in Townsville, Palm Island and regional towns. Women seeking assistance from ATSIWLSNQ often need multiple support services. Nearly 10% of the women that ATSIWLSNQ assisted in the 2018-19 year had a disability. This included physical disabilities which presented barriers to women accessing services, as well as mental health issues, intellectual impairments and women with acquired brain injuries.

ATSIWLSNQ works in collaboration with a number of services to ensure that the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in our areas of practice are assisted. Legal services that we cross-refer to include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (“ATSILS”), Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Service (“QIFVLS”), North Queensland Women’s Legal Service, Legal Aid Qld and private law firms, among others. Legal referrals are made when ATSIWLSNQ does not have the capacity to assist a women, or where there is a conflict of interest, or another legal service provides a specialist service which we do not provide. By the same process, ATSIWLSNQ is the recipient of numerous referrals from the services we cross-refer to.

Non-legal services that we cross-refer to include the Townsville Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Service (“TAIHS”), North Qld Domestic Violence Resource Service (“NQDVRS”), the Women’s Centre, the Sexual Assault Response Team (“SART”), Victim Assist Queensland, rehabilitation services, Queensland Youth Services and the Community Justice Group on Palm Island.

There is substantial collaboration with TAIHS which provides multiple services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women including, for example, Family Wellbeing services, parenting classes, Yamani Meta (a group for mothers and babies), a range of health, medical and dental services and counselling, among others.

ATSIWLSNQ also collaborates substantially with NQDVRS, which can assist with preparation of a domestic/family violence Protection Order application for women if ATSIWLSNQ is not able to provide immediate assistance to a woman. ATSIWLSNQ then provides ongoing legal support in relation to the application.

### CASE STUDY: Complex Casework and Collaboration

ATSIWLSNQ assisted a woman, “Mary”\*, who had had her newborn removed from her care by the Department of Child Safety Youth and Women (“Child Safety”) due to allegations of domestic violence and substance misuse. Mary was homeless, had experienced significant domestic violence and had an intellectual impairment. Mary had a caseworker at TAIHS, who assisted her with a range of services and also provided supervision for Mary’s contact visits with her child and provided transport.

ATSIWLSNQ assisted Mary to oppose an application by Child Safety to keep the baby in out of home care. When the court heard the matter, Mary was able demonstrate that she had housing, had appropriate support services as well as family support and that she was engaged with parenting programs at TAIHS. Reports of Mary’s contact visits with her baby showed that she had a close and loving relationship with the child and that she parented him appropriately. The court declined to grant custody of the child to Child Safety, due to the substantial evidence that the child was not at risk in Mary’s care.

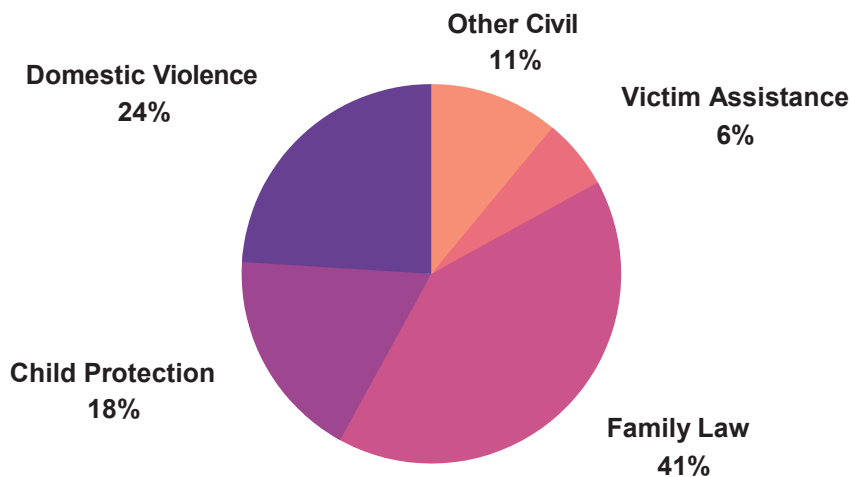
This outcome was only achievable because of the support being offered to Mary by TAIHS and our ability to work constructively with TAIHS.

\*Not her real name

## PROBLEM TYPES

The services provided by ATSIWLSNQ represent our response to client needs. The majority of work has remained consistent during the operation of the service, with some variation in the quantity of service provided in each legal area from year to year. The core areas of practice for ATSIWLSNQ continue to be Family Law, Child Protection and Family/Domestic Violence. These core areas are reflected in legal advice matters and also in our legal representation of clients.

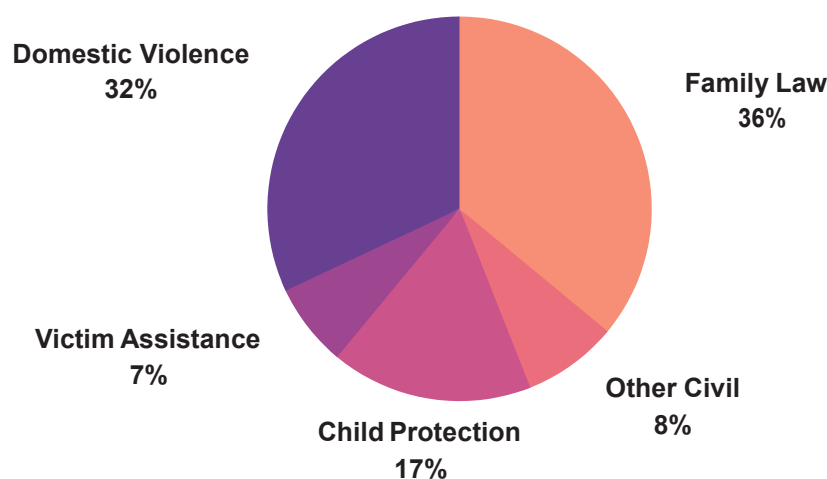
**Table 1: Matter Types for Legal Advices and Tasks 2018-2019**



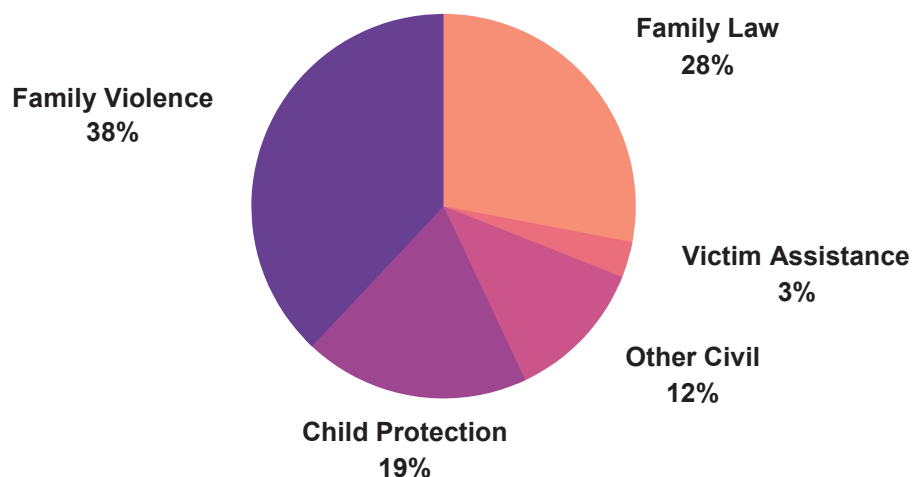
LEGAL ADVICES AND TASKS	NO.	%
Family Law	356	41%
Domestic Violence	202	24%
Child Protection	155	18%
Victim Assistance	49	6%
Other Civil	96	11%

## REPRESENTATION FILES

**Table 2 : Legal Representation Files Opened During 2018 - 2019**



REPRESENTATION FILES (OPENED)	NO.	%
Family Law	43	36%
Child Protection	20	17%
Domestic Violence	38	32%
Victim Assistance	8	7%
Other Civil	9	8%

**Table 3: Legal Representation Files Opened During 2017 - 2018**

REPRESENTATION FILES(OPENED)	%
Family Law	28%
Child Protection	19%
Domestic Violence	38%
Victim Assistance	3%

Matter types between the 2017-2018 year and 2018-2019 year have remained consistent, with slight variations in the quantity of each matter types. In each year, family law matters and domestic and family violence matters dominated the work of the service, constituting 66% of all files opened in both 2017-2018 and 2018-2019.

Taken together with Child Protection matters, our 3 core areas of practice dominated representation files opened during each year with a total of 85% of all representation files opened in 2017-2018 and 83% of all files opened in 2018-2019. This tells us that for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women we serve in North Queensland, family issues, personal and family safety, and the welfare of their children continue to be highly significant issues.

## PUBLIC INTEREST AND COST SAVINGS

ATSIWLSNQ is aware of seeking appropriate early intervention and options for resolutions that best suit the needs of our clients and represent the public interest through cost saving and avoiding unnecessary court action.

Complex casework also represents cost-saving to the community. By way of example, in child protection matters, by engaging support services early and working collaboratively in complex casework for families in crisis, children are more often able to remain safely at home with their parents and build a stronger foundation for their lives. Improved educational attainment by children is more likely to lead to tertiary education or training and represents an investment in children's futures.

### CASE STUDY:

#### Recovery of Children - Collaboration and Early Resolution

ATSIWLSNQ assisted a mother who had allowed her three children to spend time with their father, but instead of returning the children, the father absconded and travelled with the children to a remote town. The mother was able to locate the children through enquiries, but the father refused to return the children. ATSIWLSNQ assisted the mother to make an urgent application to the Federal Circuit Court for parenting orders and return of the children. The father returned the children to the mother after he was served with the court documents. The mother, with the assistance of ATSIWLSNQ and the father, with the assistance of ATSILS, entered into discussions about parenting arrangements. The parents found substantial points of agreement and entered into consent orders on a final basis without the matter proceeding to trial.



**CASE STUDY:****Domestic Violence an Obstacle to co-parenting, multiple issues**

ATSIWLSNQ assisted “Kerry”\* after she came to our service for help after escaping a domestic violence relationship. Kerry was fearful for her safety and fearful for the safety of her young son. ATSIWLSNQ assisted Kerry to obtain a Domestic Violence Protection Order with conditions that included prohibitions on Kerry’s former partner coming to her house, contacting or approaching her (with exceptions relevant to court orders and written agreements). The father of the child filed for family law parenting orders. ATSIWLSNQ assisted Kerry to respond to the father’s application. Because the mother felt protected from domestic violence by the father, she was more confident in asserting parenting arrangements that she believed to be in the best interests of the child. The parties resolved the parenting issues by consent, with the help of their solicitors, without going to trial as they reached an arrangement that they mutually believed to be in the best interests of the child and that would protect Kerry from ongoing domestic violence by the father of the child.

\*Not her real name

**CASE STUDY:****Child Protection Issues Resolved, Complexity and Collaboration**

ATSIWLSNQ assisted “Sally”\* a mother who had a number of children, including one child with high needs. The main issue was the domestic violence between Sally and her partner, Greg\*. Child Safety applied for a Child Protection Order when early intervention failed. Sally was supported by TAIHS and ATSIWLSNQ and she also accessed NDIS support for her high needs child. Sally was assisted with a domestic violence order and also attended DV counselling. Sally and Greg worked out a living arrangement that would protect Sally from domestic violence and allow Sally time away from Greg if his behaviour was escalating. Sally and Greg also attended domestic violence counselling services. They remained jointly committed to co-parenting their family and ATSIWLSNQ assisted Sally to negotiate a reunification plan for her children and to obtain an order that reflected the reunification plan.

\*Not their real names

**COURT ATTENDANCES AND INVOLVEMENT WITH SPECIALIST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE****COURT**

ATSIWLSNQ offers substantial Court representation with limited resources, particularly in relation to Domestic Violence, Child Protection and Family Law. ATSIWLSNQ continues to provide court and tribunal representation locally and remotely. During the 2018-19 financial year we provided representation in the following courts and tribunals:

- The Federal Circuit Court, Townsville (family law matters)
- Specialist DV Courts in Townsville and Palm Island
- Magistrates Court, Children’s Court and QCAT in Townsville
- Ayr Magistrates Court (domestic violence only)
- Mackay Children’s Court (child protection phone attendances)
- Innisfail Children’s Court (child protection phone attendances)

**ACCOUNTABILITY**

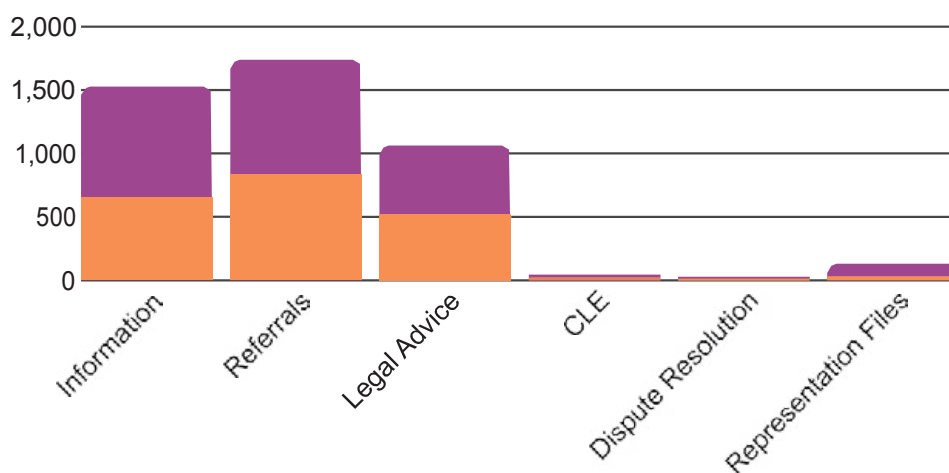
ATSIWLSNQ receives 70% of its core funding from the Queensland Department of Justice and Attorney General (“DJAG”), including its Palm Island service. The remainder of its funding comes from Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (“PM&C”). Each funder has accountability requirements under their respective service agreements.

ATSIWLSNQ has met and exceeded its 2018-2019 annual targets. Our compliance under both funding streams is contained in the following table:

**Table 4: Targets and Compliance**

		Target	Actual No.
Information		650	868
Referrals		830	900
Legal Advice		518	535
Legal Tasks		150	217
Duty Lawyer		30	71
CLE Resources		18	18
CLE Activities		18	18
Dispute Resolution	Opened	-	9
	Closed	8	11
Court/Other Representation	Opened	30	115
	Closed	110	113
Law Reform		2	2

When the “CLASS” database was introduced, there was a learning curve for us. Our targets had to be recalibrated due to new data categories and uncertainty as to how the database would measure data differently. For this reason there are still some anomalies in the setting of targets and this shows up as differences between our targets and the services delivered. This is illustrated in Table 5 which shows the target as the bottom half of the columns and what we actually achieved as sitting above this.

**Table 5: Service Deliverables – Targets and Outcomes**

Service Deliverables	Targets	Actual No.
Information	650	868
Referrals	830	900
Legal Advice	518	535
Legal Tasks	150	217
CLE	18	18
Dispute Resolution	8	11
Representation Files	30	113

## OPEN COMMENTS

*“Thank you for all your hard work, time and effort. It really has made a difference for [my child] and our future. For us to have someone as good as yourself to help us and support us through this we will forever remember you always.”*

*“I didn’t want your help at first but I was glad that I listened to you. You have been a lifesaver. I am happy that you decided to be stubborn with me. I am very thankful for your help.”*

*“Thank you for your help yesterday. I appreciate all the effort and support you’ve given me. You really help keeping me calm.”*

*“Thank you for helping me understand.”*

## COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION

ATSIWLSNQ has provided a number of presentations and resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in the 2018-2019 year and has met its targets with the contributions of all staff. Particular acknowledgement must go to the community development workers and their assistance in securing and establishing opportunities for community legal education ("CLE") and facilitating client access to legal help. Special acknowledgment to Andrea Kyle-Sailor who facilitated workshops at Ferdy's Haven on Palm Island to raise awareness of domestic and family violence.

*Table 6: Summary of CLE Activities and Resources for the 2018 - 2019 Year*

Area of Law/Issue	Resources/Activities
Domestic Violence	Domestic and family violence workshops with women on Palm Island; sexual violence in DV relationships presentation; power point presentation and workshop with Healing Waters.
Child Protection	New factsheets on specific processes within the child protection system; collaboration with Melbourne University to develop a child protection app; Developing video presentations on child protection issues; power point presentation to students on child protection issues.
Family Law	Simple power point presentation to students on the family law.
Financial Literacy	Presentation on financial literacy including rental furniture
Elder Abuse	scams Joint presentation with Townsville CLC on elder abuse
Cultural Competency	Power point presentation to talk to JCU students on working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
Sexual Violence	Workshop/morning tea on sexual violence issues, with guest speakers from the Sexual Assault Response Team, Victim Assist and the police. A series of factsheets on sexual violence including myth busting about sexual violence, legal rights and practical steps in the event of sexual violence.

CLE presentations have been provided in a range of arenas including Ferdy's Haven on Palm Island and community groups and students in Townsville.

A highlight of ATSIWLSNQ's CLE was its presentation on sexual violence to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in Townsville. The presentations included practical steps – what to do in the event of sexual violence and where to get urgent help. ATSIWLSNQ solicitor, Angela Carroll, presented a talk on sexual violence in the context of domestic violence relationships and assisted with some myth-busting tips on sexual violence.

## LAW REFORM

ATSIWLSNQ participates in law reform activities that are relevant to our client base. As an organisation, our Mission Statement reflects our commitment to promote law reform and advocacy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women in North Queensland. ATSIWLSNQ also values the opportunity to provide feedback to legislators on areas of law that may benefit from amendment. During the 2018-19 year, ATSIWLSNQ provided two brief written submissions:

1. Submission to the Qld Sentencing Advisory Council review of Child Homicide sentencing.
2. Written submission to the Child Protection legislation review in September 2018.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

ATSIWLSNQ works collaboratively with the community legal sector, other legal providers, community support services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services in particular. Community partnerships have helped to build strength in promoting the safety of women and their children by improving awareness among other community organisations and increasing collaborative planning and engagement. Collaboration addresses cost efficiency in the community legal sector by sharing resources and avoiding duplication of services. Where there is a specialist or complementary service, clients have the benefit of the best service available. The following case studies are examples of collaborative work from the 2017-18 financial year.

### CASE STUDY:

Paula\* was homeless after the birth of her baby and the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women removed her baby. The main issues were her homelessness, substance abuse, family violence and lack of resources (such as transport). Paula was referred to TAIHS where she was assisted with transport and she received some assistance from Red Cross in relation to homelessness. TAIHS assisted Paula to link with substance abuse counselling. ATSIWLSNQ also referred Paula to NQDVRS for counselling and replacement of her phone that was broken in a family violence incident. With assistance, Paula has been able to attend all contact visits with her baby and the court has increased her contact visits due to the very positive reports of her parenting.

\*Not her real name

On behalf of ATSIWLSNQ, I would to acknowledge and thank our community partners during the 2017-18 year, in particular:

- Palm Island Community Corporation
- Palm Island Community Justice Group (referral pathways) The
- Women's Group, Palm Island (collaboration for CLE) The
- Women's Shelter, Palm Island
- North Queensland Domestic Violence Resource Service ("NQDVRS")
- Townsville Aboriginal and Islander Health Service ("TAIHS") (referral pathways, numerous referrals for support for vulnerable women)
- Women's Centre Aitkenvale (monthly legal clinic)
- Sexual Assault Response Team
- Victim Assist Queensland
- North Queensland Women's Legal Service (cross-referrals)
- Townsville Community Legal Service ("TCLS"), Legal Aid Queensland ("LAQ"), and Qld Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service ("QIFVLS") (cross referrals and collaboration through the North Queensland Legal Aid Forum ("NQLAF"))
- James Cook University's student placement program (3 students placed under Clinical Studies programs during 2017-18)
- Upper Ross Community Centre aka "Community Gro" (outreach legal advice)
- Townsville Community Justice Group
- The Operational Working Group for the specialist DV courts on Palm Island and in Townsville
- Jane Andreassen from the Seniors Legal and Advocacy Support Service (collaboration in relation to seniors on Palm Island)
- Prospect Neighbourhood Centre, Charters Towers (referrals and bookings for legal clinic)
- Police Referral system

This is not a complete list of our community partners, but represents the majority of people and community organisations with whom we have collaborated during the 2018-19.

## NQLAF

ATSIWLSNQ has attended and participated in the North Queensland Legal Assistance Forum (NQLAF) meetings during the 2018-19 year.

## CLINICAL STUDIES MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

ATSIWLSNQ thanks Bill Mitchell of TCLS for providing leadership, collaboration and CLC engagement in forums for student and CLC engagement for Clinical Placement students on issues of Human Rights. A further special acknowledgment to Bill for his proactive work in Human Rights.

## OTHER ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ATSIWLSNQ thanks CLC Qld for the large amount of proactive engagement with the CLC and government sectors, supporting and representing the work undertaken by CLC's in Queensland and assisting CLC's to prepare for the procurement process for DJAG funding.

ATSIWLSNQ is also indebted to Penny Sullivan, accreditation manager at CLC Qld, for providing guidance and support during the ongoing upgrading of accreditation.

### *Funders and Donors*

On behalf of ATSIWLSNQ I thank our funding bodies for their ongoing support for the service. In particular I would like to thank the following.

We thank the Queensland Department of Justice and Attorney General (DJAG) for its ongoing provision of funding to our service and for funding and recognising the need for our Palm Island services.

We thank the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet for its funding under the Indigenous Women's Outreach Project.

We thank to the CLSP team, in particular Sarah Hellen, for their management of the community legal service program.

## STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

### *Staff*

I would like to acknowledge all of the staff during the 2018-19 year, who demonstrated a high level of commitment, skill and dedication. Particular acknowledgements to current staff:

***Erica Kyle*** for providing a culturally competent environment where clients feel welcome and supported, for her ongoing management of the database and her accomplishment in attaining a Justice of the Peace certificate.

***Florence Onus*** who only joined us late in the 2018-19 year but has provided leadership, proactive engagement in the community and has crafted a number of our tributes and public statements.

***Andrea Kyle-Sailor*** for her ongoing dedication to the women of Palm Island, her expertise in providing guidance to the solicitors, the clients and the courts in managing the domestic/family violence court list on Specialist DV Court days. Thank you also for the follow up work provided to women who are our clients on Palm Island, to ensure that their legal matters receive appropriate follow-through.

***Cherie McLaughlin*** for her expertise in management skills, which has contributed much to the streamlining of our services since December 2017.

***Angela Carroll*** for the quality of her legal work and in particular her work in Child Protection. I acknowledge Angela's exceptional work with high needs clients.

*Yuliana Pascoe* who undertook a locum paralegal position with our service in 2018-19. Her support has assisted the solicitors in their work.

*Carly Baker* joined our service late in the 2018-19 year, but I acknowledge her willingness to take on family law matters.

## STUDENT PLACEMENTS AND VOLUNTEERS

In 2018-19, JCU law students undertook their Clinical Studies Placement with ATSIWLSNQ. Yuliana Pascoe was a student placement with us through College of Law, and continues to provide ongoing paralegal support to the service. We thank all of the students for their energy, dedication, insights and contributions to our service.

## MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

I would like to thank our Management Committee and extend our sincere appreciation for their ongoing support. The management committee members are busy women who have taken the time to provide governance to ATSIWLSNQ. I speak for all staff in expressing our appreciation for their dedication and guidance to the service throughout the year.

During the 2018-19 year, the Constitutional sub-committee provided assistance and feedback for amendments to ATSIWLSNQ's Constitution.

## CPD, PII AND CROSS CHECK

CPD, PII training and Cross Check requirements were met during the year. ATSIWLSNQ successfully completed its cross checks of legal files by NQWLS on 22 October 2019.

ATSIWLSNQ encourages staff to upskill and to improving their knowledge and understanding in their areas of expertise.

## ACCREDITATION

ATSIWLSNQ is an accredited community legal centre and holds a current certificate of accreditation to 27 April 2020.



**CATHY PEREIRA**

*ATSIWLSNQ Principal Solicitor/Co-ordinator*

# ATSIWLSNQ MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



## BABETTE DOHERTY

*2018-2019, CHAIRPERSON*

Babette is an Aboriginal woman from the Birri Gubba Nation and has been an active member of the ATSIWLSNQ since 2013. Babette is passionate about social justice. Currently, Babette is the Regional Coordinator for Victim's Assist Queensland ensuring people know about and have access to assistance to recover from violence crimes.



## TOPSY TAPIM

*2018-2019, VICE CHAIRPERSON*

Topsy is a proud Daureb and Waggadagam woman with ties to the Murray Island on her father's side, and the Mabuiag Island on her mother's side. Topsy has been an active member of the ATSIWLSNQ since 2017 and is currently the organisation's Vice Chairperson. Topsy works as the Community Connect Worker at the Upper Ross Community Centre (Community Gro) providing assistance as a cultural advisor, mentor and facilitator.



## TANYA MORRIS

*2018-2019, SECRETARY*

Tanya is an Aboriginal woman from the Bar-Barrum people, West and South-West of Herberton in Far North Queensland. Tania has been an active member of the ATSIWLSNQ since 2014 and is the organisation's Secretary. Tanya currently works as the Outreach Regional Coordinator (North West and Central West Queensland with CheckUp Australia



## MARILYN SMITH

*2018-2019, TREASURER*

Marilyn is a descendant from Murray Island - Mer, and has been an active member of the ATSIWLSNQ since 2006. Currently, Marilyn is the organisation's Treasurer. Previously, Marilyn worked with the Townsville Aboriginal and Islanders Health Services as a Social Wellbeing Unit Counsellor and a Stronger Families Program Case Worker.



# ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES NQ INC.

ABN: 42 109 450 961

## Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2019



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ Inc.

ABN: 42 109 450 961

## CONTENTS

For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

	Page
<b>Financial Statements</b>	
Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income	1
Statement of Financial Position	2
Statement of Changes in Equity	3
Statement of Cash Flows	4
Notes to the Financial Statement	5
Responsible Person's Declaration	14
Independent Audit Report	15
Schedules	16

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ Inc.**

ABN: 42 109 450 961

## STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>Revenue</b>			
Grant Income		775,707	755,242
Interest Received		3,557	3,774
Other Income		2,265	13,001
		<u>781,529</u>	<u>772,017</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Employee benefit expense		(604,874)	(573,529)
Depreciation		(4,412)	(5,688)
Accounting fees		(17,470)	(20,629)
Auditor's remuneration		(1,500)	(5,500)
Client support Services		(18,194)	(14,370)
insurance		(3,962)	(3,475)
Printing and Stationery		(9,469)	(9,949)
Rest		(36,263)	(34,139)
Telephone and fax		(7,623)	(6,364)
Travelling expenses		(14,027)	(24,934)
Other expenses		(36,734)	(73,440)
		<u>(781,529)</u>	<u>(772,017)</u>
<b>Surplus before income tax expense</b>		-	-
Income tax expense		-	-
<b>Surplus after income tax expense</b>		-	-
Other comprehensive income		-	-
<b>total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ Inc.**

ABN: 42 109 450 961

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**
**For the Year Ended 30 June 2019**

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	132,272	255,474
Trade and other receivables	5	5,409	4,841
Other financial assets	6	126,202	123,364
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>263,883</b>	<b>383,679</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	7	14,556	15,687
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>14,556</b>	<b>15,687</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>278,439</b>	<b>399,366</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	8	136,689	257,544
Employee benefits	9	53,741	37,317
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>190,430</b>	<b>294,861</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Employee benefits	9	3,686	20,182
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>3,686</b>	<b>20,182</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>194,116</b>	<b>315,043</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>84,323</b>	<b>84,323</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained surplus		84,323	84,323
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>84,323</b>	<b>84,323</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ Inc.**

ABN: 42 109 450 961

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

<b>2019</b>	<b>Retained Surplus \$</b>	<b>Total \$</b>
<b>Balance at 1 July 2018</b>	84,323	84,323
Surplus for the year	-	-
<b>Balance at 30 June 2019</b>	84,323	874,323

<b>2018</b>	<b>Retained Surplus \$</b>	<b>Total \$</b>
<b>Balance at 1 July 2017</b>	84,323	84,323
Surplus for the year	-	-
<b>Balance at 30 June 2018</b>	84,323	84,323

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ Inc.**

ABN: 42 109 450 961

## STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

	2019	2018
Note	\$	\$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Receipts from customers	777,404	768,083
Payments to suppliers and employees	(898,045)	(781,476)
Interest received	3,557	3,774
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	10(b) <u>(117,084)</u>	<u>(9,619)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	<u>(3,281)</u>	<u>(1,585)</u>
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	<u>(3,281)</u>	<u>(1,585)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	(120,365)	(11,204)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	<u>378,839</u>	<u>390,043</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	10(a) <u><u>258,474</u></u>	<u><u>378,839</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ Inc.**

ABN: 42 109 450 961

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

The financial report covers Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ Inc as an individual entity. Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ Inc is a not-for-profit Association, registered and domiciled in Australia.

The principal activities of the Associate for the year ended 30 June 2019 were to provide legal advice and representation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Women in North Queensland.

The function and presentation currency of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ Inc is Australian dollars.

Comparatives are consistent with prior years, unless otherwise stated.

#### 1 Basis of Preparation

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

The preparation of financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the Association's accounting policies.

#### 2 Significant Accounting Policies

##### (a) Income Tax

The Association is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

##### (b) Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payable are stated inclusive of GST

Cash flows in the statement of cash flows are included on a gross basis and the GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is classified as operating cash flows.

##### (c) Revenue and other income

Revenue is recognised when the amount of the revenue can be measured reliably, it is probable that economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the Association and specific criteria relating to the type of revenue as noted below, has been satisfied.

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is presented net of returns, discounts and rebates.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

### Grant revenue

Grant Revenue is recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income when the Association obtains control of the grant, it is probable that the economic benefits gained from the grant will flow to the entity and the amount of the grant can be measured reliably.

When grant revenue is received whereby the Association incurs an obligation to deliver economic value directly back to the contributor, this is considered a reciprocal transaction and the grant revenue is recognised in the statement of financial position as a liability until the service has been delivered to the contributor, otherwise the grant is recognised as income on receipt.

### Interest revenue

Interest is recognised using the effective interest rate method.

### Other income

Other income is recognised on an accruals basis when the Association is entitled to it.

### (d) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprises cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value. Deposits with maturity dates greater than three months are considered financial assets.

On initial recognition, financial assets are measured at fair value plus transaction costs and subsequently measured at amortised costs in accordance with *AASB 9 Financial Instruments*.

### (e) Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment is depreciated on a straight-line and diminish value basis over the assets useful life to the Association, commencing when the asset is ready for use.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable asset are shown below:

Fixed asset class	Depreciation rate
Plant and Equipment	20-50%
Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings	10-25%
Motor Vehicles	25-33%

at the end of each annual reporting period, the depreciation method, useful life and residual value of each asset is reviewed. Any revisions are accounted for prospectively as a change in estimate.

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

**(f) Employee benefits**

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits that are expected to be wholly settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Employee benefits expected to be settled more than one year after the end of the reporting period have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits. In determining the liability, consideration is given to employee wage increases and the probability that the employee may satisfy vesting requirements. Cashflows are discounted using market yields on high quality corporate bond rates incorporating bonds rated AAA or AA by credit agencies, with terms to maturity that match the expected timing of cashflows. Changes in the measurement of the liability are recognised in profit or loss.

**(g) Property, plant and equipment**

The Association has adopted all standards which became effective for the first time at 30 June 2019, namely *AASB 9 Financial Instruments*. The standard introduces new classification and measurement models for financial assets. For receivables, new impairment requirements used a simplified approach to measuring expected credit loss allowance using the Expected Credit Loss (ECL) Model. The adoption of these standards has not caused any material adjustments to the reported financial position, performance or cash flow of the Association.



**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ Inc.**

ABN: 42 109 450 961

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

**(h) New Accounting Standards and Interpretations**

The AASB has issued new and amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations that have mandatory application dates for future reporting periods. The Association has decided to not early adopt these Standards. The following table summarises those future requirements, and their impact on the Association where the standard is relevant:

<b>Standard Name</b>	<b>Effective date for entity</b>	<b>Requirements</b>	<b>Impact</b>
<b>AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers / AASB 1058 Income for not-for-profit entities</b>	1 July 2019	AASB15 provides a single comprehensive model for revenue recognition. The core principle of the Standard is that an entity shall recognise revenue to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers at an amount that reflect the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchanged for those goods or services. The standard introduced a new contract-based revenue recognition model with a measurement approach that is based on an allocation of the transaction price. AASB 1058 will apply for transactions where the consideration to acquire an asset is significantly less than its fair value, principally to enable a not-for-profit entity to further its objectives. The main impact is that the timing of income recognition will depend on whether there is any performance obligation or other liability and will assist in better matching of income with related expenditure.	The Association's two key funding arrangements with PMC and DJAG will be captured under AASB15 and be required to be accounted for under the new measurement and recognition principles of this standard. However, this does not differ significantly to the current accounting treatment and is not expected to have a significant impact on the financial position or performance of the Association.
<b>AASB 16 Leases</b>	1 July 2019	AASB 16 will cause the majority of leases of an entity to be brought onto the statement of financial position. There are limited exceptions relating to short-term leases and low value assets which may remain off-balance sheet. The calculation of the lease liability will take into account appropriate discount rates, assumptions about lease term and increases in lease payments. A corresponding right to use the asset will be recognised which will be amortised over the term of the lease. Rent expense will no longer be shown, the profit and loss impact of the lease will be through amortisation and interest will be charged.	Management anticipates that the Association will be impacted as they currently hold a lease over their business premises. This will likely result in a right of use asset and a lease liability being recognised upon application of the standard.

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ Inc.**

ABN: 42 109 450 961

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

<b>3 Other expenses</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	\$	\$
Computer expenses	<b>10,716</b>	10,594
Consultancy fees	<b>2,000</b>	2,900
Fees & Permits	-	547
Meeting expenses	<b>1,958</b>	500
Membership fees	<b>6,591</b>	5,878
Motor vehicle expenses	<b>4,952</b>	3,657
Operating expenses	<b>26,471</b>	30,879
Publications & info resources	<b>93</b>	991
Training & development (staff)	<b>5,809</b>	12,346
Utilities	<b>5,144</b>	5,158
<b>Total other expenses</b>	<b>63,734</b>	73,440

<b>4 Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	\$	\$
Cash at bank	<b>132,272</b>	255,474
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>132,272</b>	255,474

<b>5 Trade and Other Receivables</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	\$	\$
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Prepayments	<b>4,118</b>	3,581
Accrued Income	<b>1,291</b>	1,260
<b>Total current trade and other receivables</b>	<b>5,409</b>	4,841

Trade and other receivables are recognised at amortised cost, less any allowance for expected credit losses, in accordance with the *AASB 9 Financial Instruments*.

<b>6 Other Financial Assets</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	\$	\$
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Held to maturity investment	-	123,364
Financial Assets at amortised cost	<b>126,202</b>	-
<b>Total current other financial assets</b>	<b>126,202</b>	123,364

Comparative figures are presented in line with *AASB 139 Financial Instruments* which has been superseded by *AASB 9 Financial Instruments*, effect 1 July 2018. Retrospective application of *AASB 9 Financial Instruments* is not mandated. Adoption of *AASB 9 Financial Instruments* has resulted in a change in measurement principles and classification of financial assets held by the Association.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ Inc.

ABN: 42 109 450 961

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

<b>7 Property, plant and equipment</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>PLANT AND EQUIPMENT</b>		
<i>Furniture, fixtures and fittings</i>		
At cost	9,144	9,144
Accumulated depreciation	(7,193)	(6,989)
<b>Total furniture, fixtures and fittings</b>	<b>1,951</b>	<b>2,155</b>
<i>Motor Vehicles</i>		
At cost	23,023	23,023
Accumulated depreciation	(15,989)	(13,669)
<b>Total motor vehicles</b>	<b>7,034</b>	<b>9,354</b>
<i>Plant and equipment</i>		
At cost	39,400	36,119
Accumulated depreciation	(33,829)	(31,941)
<b>Total plant and equipment</b>	<b>5,571</b>	<b>4,178</b>
<b>Total property, plant and equipment</b>	<b>14,556</b>	<b>15,687</b>

**(a) Movement in Carrying Amounts**

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year:

	Plant and Equipment \$	Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings \$	Motor Vehicles \$	Total \$
<b>Year ended 30 June 2019</b>				
Balance at the beginning of year	4,178	2,155	9,354	15,687
Additions	3,281	-	-	3,281
Depreciation expenses	(1,888)	(204)	(2,320)	(4,412)
<b>Balance at the end of year</b>	<b>5,571</b>	<b>1,951</b>	<b>7,034</b>	<b>14,556</b>

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ Inc.**

ABN: 42 109 450 961

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**
**For the Year Ended 30 June 2019**
**8 Trade and Other Payables**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
CURRENT		
Trade payables	<b>7,309</b>	5,121
GST payable	<b>12,486</b>	20,760
Accrued expenses	<b>17,705</b>	17,444
PAYG payable	<b>8,858</b>	8,395
Superannuation payable	<b>11,414</b>	10,875
Revenue in advance	-	92,933
Unexpected grants	<b>78,918</b>	102,016
<b>Total current trade and other payables</b>	<b>136,690</b>	257,544

Trade and other payables are unsecured, non-interest bearing and are normally settled within 30 days. The carrying value of trade and other payables is considered a reasonable approximation of fair value due to the short-term nature of the balances.

**9 Employee Benefits**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
CURRENT		
Annual leave	<b>34,138</b>	37,317
Long service leave	<b>19,603</b>	-
<b>Total current employee benefits</b>	<b>53,741</b>	37,317
NON-CURRENT		
Long service leave	<b>3,686</b>	20,182
<b>Total non-current employee benefits</b>	<b>3,686</b>	20,182

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ Inc.

ABN: 42 109 450 961

# NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

## 10 Cash Flow Information

### (a) Reconciliation of cash

	2019 \$	2018 \$
<i>Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to items in the statement of financial position as follows:</i>		
Cash and cash equivalents	4 <b>132,272</b>	255,474
Other financial assets	6 <b>126,202</b>	123,364
<b>Total cash per statement of cash flows</b>	<b>258,474</b>	378,838

### (b) Reconciliation of surplus for the year to cashflows from operating activities

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Reconciliation of net surplus to net cash provided by operating activities:		
Surplus for the year		
Cash flows excluded from profit attributed to operating activities		
Non-cash flows in profit		
- depreciation	<b>4,412</b>	5,688
Changes in assets and liabilities		
- (increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	<b>(30)</b>	79
- (increase)/decrease in prepayments	<b>(538)</b>	<b>(232)</b>
- increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	<b>(120,856)</b>	<b>(35,444)</b>
- increase/(decrease) in employee benefits	<b>(72)</b>	<b>20,297</b>
<b>cashflows from operations</b>	<b>(117,084)</b>	<b>(9,619)</b>

## 11 Key Management Personnel Remuneration

The total remuneration paid to key management personnel of the Association is \$ 111,741 (2018: \$ 111,495).

## 12 Related Parties

Key management personnel - refer to Note 11.

There were no transactions with related parties during the current and previous financial year.

## 13 Contingencies & Commitments

In the opinion of those charged with governance, the Association did not have any contingencies or commitments at 30 June 2019 (30 June 2018: None).

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended 30 June 2019

### 14 Events after the end of the Reporting Period

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Association, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Association in future financial years.

### 15 Economic Dependency

The Association is dependent upon grant funding and from the various government funding bodies to continue its current level of activities. Grant revenue represents 98% of total revenue and is received from Legal Aid Queensland and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Legal Aid Queensland have confirmed that funding will continue to the Association until 30 June 2020 and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet have confirmed funding will continue until 30 June 2020.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ Inc.

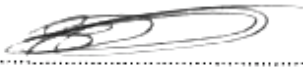
ABN: 42 109 450 961


RESPONSIBLE PERSON'S DECLARATION

The responsible persons declare that in the responsible persons' opinion:

- there are reasonable grounds to believe that the registered entity is able to pay all of its debts as when they become due and payable: and
- the financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Act 2012*.

Signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Regulations 2013*.

Responsible person   
 Babette Doherty  
 Chairperson  
 Dated 24/9/2019

Responsible person   
 Marilyn Smith  
 Treasurer  
 26.9.2019

**AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF  
ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES INC.**

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose of financial report of the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ Inc. (the Association), which comprises, the Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2019, the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income for the year then ended, Statement of Changes in Equity, Statement of Cash Flows, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory information and the certification by members of the committee on the annual statements giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the Association.

***Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report***

The committee of the Association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report, and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981 (Qld)* and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal controls as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

***Auditor's Responsibility***

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

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

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

***Audit opinion:***


In our opinion, the financial report as set out on pages 1 to 14 presents fairly, in all material respects with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981 (Qld)*, the financial position of the Association as at 30 June 2019 and its financial performance for the year then ended.

***Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution***

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the Association to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981 (Qld)*. As a result the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Dated at Townsville, 26th of September 2019

**First Reserve Financial**

  
**I.J. Bolton FCPA**



**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ Inc.**

ABN: 42 109 450 961

**Statement of Income & Expenditure**
**Commonwealth - Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (4-1G19HFC)**
**For the year ended 30 June 2019**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Income</b>	221,831	221,831
Operating grants	-	-
Unexpected grants (B/F)	<u>1,918</u>	<u>5,227</u>
Other income	<u>223,749</u>	<u>227,058</u>
 <b>Expenditure</b>		
Accounting Fees	7,428	7,547
Advertising & Promotion	941	404
Audit Fees	638	1,994
Bank charges	-	44
Bank guarantees	218	93
Cleaning	4,110	3,599
Client support	9,445	4,895
Computer expenses	4,557	3,841
Consultancy fees	850	1,051
Depreciation expenses	1,315	4,638
Equipment hire	297	915
Equipment purchases <\$1000	-	(275)
Fees and Permits	-	195
Insurance	1,626	1,238
Meeting expenses	305	181
Motor vehicle expenses	2,106	1,326
Postage, freight & courier	917	595
Printing & stationery	3,627	3,520
Program resources	-	32
Publications, memberships & subscriptions	3,077	2,476
Rent	15,420	12,404
Repairs & maintenance	376	414
Employee benefits expense	148,140	156,680
Staff amenities	935	646
Sundry expenses	3,673	933
Telephone & fax	3,241	2,307
Training & development (staff)	2,443	4,520
Travel & accommodation	5,874	8,974
Utilities	<u>2,187</u>	<u>1,870</u>
	223,749	227,058
<b>Excess of Income over Expenditure</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ Inc.**

ABN: 42 109 450 961

**Statement of Income & Expenditure**
**Commonwealth - Department of Justice & Attorney-General (LASF001-2017-20) For  
the year ended 30 June 2019**

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Income</b>	527,278	513,602
Commonwealth Funding (AG)	102,016	121,825
Grants brought forward	<u>4,629</u>	<u>11,548</u>
Other income	<u>633,923</u>	<u>646,975</u>
 <b>Expenditure</b>		
Accounting Fees	10,042	13,083
Advertising & Promotion	1,220	603
Audit Fees	862	3,506
Bank charges	-	76
Bank guarantees	294	164
Cleaning	5,556	4,856
Client support	12,772	8,872
Computer expenses	5,810	6,753
Consultancy fees	1,150	1,849
Depreciation expenses	3,097	1,050
Equipment hire	401	1,378
Equipment purchases <\$1000	-	1,279
Fees and Permits	-	343
Insurance	2,336	2,237
Meeting expenses	412	318
Motor vehicle expenses	2,846	2,331
Postage, freight & courier	1,240	1,047
Printing & stationery	4,553	6,428
Program resources	-	57
Publications, memberships & subscriptions	3,605	4,394
Rent	20,844	21,735
Repairs & maintenance	444	721
Employee benefits expense	456,734	427,659
Staff amenities	1,284	1,136
Sundry expenses	646	1,956
Telephone & fax	4,382	4,058
Training & development (staff)	3,367	7,826
Travel & accommodation	8,152	15,959
Utilities	<u>2,957</u>	<u>3,288</u>
	555,005	544,959
 <b>Excess of Income over Expenditure</b>	<u>78,918</u>	<u>102,016</u>
 <b>Unexpended grants</b>	<u>78,918</u>	<u>102,016</u>

**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ Inc.**

ABN: 42 109 450 961

**Statement of Income & Expenditure  
State - Department of Justice & Attorney-General (CS381034) For  
the year ended 30 June 2019**

	<b>2019</b>
	<b>\$</b>
<b>Income</b>	
State Funding (DCSYW)	3,500
	<u>3,500</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>	67
Advertising & Promotion	182
Client Support	318
Equipment hire	1,241
Meeting expenses	938
Printing & stationery	46
Staff amenities	708
Sundry expenses	<u>3,500</u>
<b>Excess of Income over Expenditure</b>	<u>-</u>
<b>Unexpected grants</b>	<u><u>-</u></u>

## STAKEHOLDERS

- Community Legal Centres Queensland
- Legal Aid Queensland
- Townsville Community Legal Service
- North Queensland Women's Legal Service (NQWLS)
- Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service (QIFVLS)
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (ATSILS)
- Relationships Australia
- Victim Assist
- Police Support Link
- The Women's Centre, Aitkenvale
- The Court Network
- North Queensland Domestic Violence Resource Service
- Townsville Aboriginal and Indigenous Health Services (TAIHS)
- Townsville Community Hub
- Garbutt Community Hub
- Upper Ross Community Centre (Community Gro)
- North of Townsville Community Hub
- Prospect Community Centre
- Burdekin Community Centre
- Malanbarra Community Hub
- Flora House
- Red Cross
- Anglicare
- Yumba Meta Dale Parker
- Palm Island Community Council (PICC)
- James Cook University
- Big Eye Theatre

## CURRENT STAFF

- Florence Onus (Community Development Worker, Townsville)
- Andrea Kyle-Sailor (Community Development Worker, Palm Island)
- Cathy Pereira (Principal Solicitor/ Co-ordinator)
- Cherie McLaughlin (Office Manager)
- Angela Carroll (Solicitor)
- Carly Baker (Solicitor)
- Erica Kyle (Admin Assistant)
- Yuliana Pascoe (Paralegal)

## FORMER STAFF

- Ada Boland (Community Development Worker, Townsville)
- Karina Andrew (Outreach Solicitor)
- Breanne Morrison-Beard (Paralegal)
- Garry Scott (Solicitor)

## VOLUNTEERS

- Amber Gust (JCU Clinical Studies Student)
- Chelsea McCook (JCU Clinical Studies Student)
- Tyneal Paleso'o (Practical Legal Training Placement)
- Rachel Wrench (JCU Clinical Studies Student)
- Isabelle Wright (JCU Clinical Studies Student)

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ Inc. Funding Bodies:

- The Department of Justice and Attorney-General (Queensland), and
- The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet



Australian Government  
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet



Australian Government  
Attorney-General's Department



Queensland  
Government



# NOTE

-

# NOTE

-



# ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES NQ INC.

ABN: 42 109 450 961

