

strategy

who

Who we are

Women's Legal Service Victoria (WLSV) is a not for profit organisation which has been providing free legal services to women since 1982.

We work with and for women experiencing particular disadvantage to address legal issues arising from relationship breakdown or violence.

why

Why we exist

We exist to help build a gender equitable country.

Our unique contribution to this vision, as lawyers, advocates and educators, is to work alongside women experiencing disadvantage to promote their rights to live free from violence and make informed choices about their relationships.

what

What we do

We provide legal advice and representation to women experiencing disadvantage.

We advocate for law and policy that respects and promotes the rights of women.

We build the capacity of other professionals and the community to identify and respond appropriately to legal need.

how

How we do our work

We work within a feminist framework, which means that we work:

- Alongside women, promoting 'power with' or 'power for' our clients, rather than being complicit in a legal system that maintains 'power over' our clients
- In a way that is woman-focussed, engaging the whole person, appreciating the complexity of her situation and supporting women to address all of their needs
- As part of a movement for social change to challenge the social, political, economic and legal structures that oppress women. We work as equal partners with everyone with whom we work, recognising their strengths and unique contributions. We take up a leadership role, when we can be most effective by engaging or influencing others.

deciding

How we make decisions about what we do

We continually hone our services to best meet the needs of women experiencing disadvantage and to contribute to our goal of disadvantaged women being able to exercise their rights to live free from violence and make informed choices about their relationships.

In deciding on the activities we will undertake to achieve these goals, we consider:

- Changes in our operating environment, such as the changing legal needs of women, shifts in government policy and developments in the wider community support sector
- The effectiveness of our current services and whether changes or improvements are needed (through monitoring and evaluation)
- Whether we are the organisation best placed to undertake a particular activity, whether we should support another organisation or other organisations to do the work or whether we should do the work in partnership with another organisation.

developing

Learning our way into the future: our developing organisational model

Our strategy requires us to:

- Be an adaptive and integrated organisation
- Support our staff to work effectively with clients experiencing disadvantage
- Deepen our partnerships
- Be financially sustainable

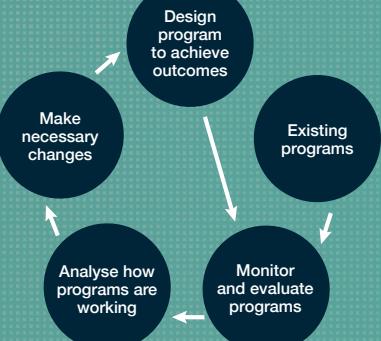
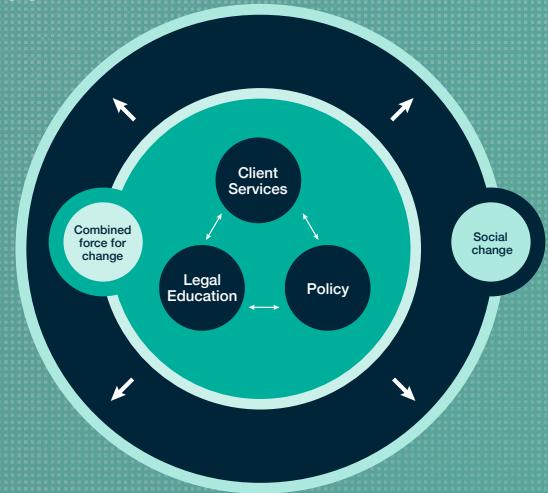
Our organisational model

Our Board provides governance and is responsible for holding the organisation, through the CEO, accountable for delivering on our strategy.

WLSV's three core programs aim to work together in a mutually reinforcing way to maximise social impact.

Continual improvement through monitoring and evaluation

We are committed to outcomes based monitoring and evaluation. This means that we design new programs to create the change we want to see and monitor and evaluate all of our programs (new and existing) to see how they are working, whether we can improve them and to report on the outcomes of our work.



Our impact and what success will look like for us

Over the next ten years, successful implementation of our strategy will contribute to:

- Disadvantaged women exercising their rights to live free from violence and make informed choices about their relationships
- Institutions and service providers that impact women's rights providing women with a consistent and appropriate response
- Courts interpreting the law to promote women's rights
- Decision makers changing law and policy to promote women's rights.