ABN 49 158 531 102

Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

ABN 49 158 531 102

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For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

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Directors' Report

The directors present their report on Women's Legal Service Victoria Inc for the financial year ended 30 June 2021.

Information on directors

The names of each person v	who has been a director during the year and to the date of this report are:
Tina Lavranos	Chair (Member since 2015)
Trish Low	Deputy Chair & Secretary (Member since April 2019)
Kathryn Brown	Treasurer (Member since September 2020)
Monique Adofaci	Member (since October 2018)
Jane Welsh	Member (since April 2019)
Leonie Mayson	Member (since April 2019)
Mia Lloyd	Member (since July 2020)
Adrianne Walters	Member (since October 2020)
Kim Mays	Member until October 2020 (since November 2017)

Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

Why we exist

We exist to help build a gender equitable society.

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.

How principal activities assisted in achieving the objectives

1: We provide legal advice and representation to women experiencing disadvantage.

Our unique cross-jurisdictional approach – where women are helped across three intersecting legal jurisdictions (Family Law, Family Violence & Child Protection) ¬– has been crucial in giving clients the chance to create a better future this year. In addition, our integrated financial counsellors and social workers help women address other issues that arise due to violence, such as debt, homelessness and poor mental health that can arise from family violence.

As in previous years, the demand for our services has grown beyond our current capacity to meet this need. Our service data this year (20/21 FY) demonstrates that:

- Virtual outreach services across the State increased by 67%
- Ongoing complex family law and child protection casework services increased by 24%
- Turn-aways in our family law and family violence casework services increased by 80%

We service 16 regional areas across the state and assisted over 700 women in regional Victoria.

Women accessing our services are experiencing disadvantage at a greater rate than the Victorian population, as demonstrated by this service data snapshot:

- 36% of Family Law and Family Violence law casework clients are culturally and linguistically diverse
- 50% of Health Justice Partnership clients identified as having a disability
- 25% of Health Justice Partnership clients identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- 34% of Child Protection casework clients were experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness

Recent surveys of our clients revealed that more than 85% answered 'very much' or 'mostly' when asked if they felt listened to and understood when accessing our service and if we helped them make informed decisions.

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Directors' Report

30 June 2021

How principal activities assisted in achieving the objectives

2: We advocate for laws and policies that respect and promote the rights of women.

Our advocacy efforts this year to contribute to positive systemic change included:

- Advocating for legislative changes that will enable victims of economic abuse to pursue a fair superannuation split after relationship breakdown;
- Supporting the development of a comprehensive Family Violence Rolling Action Plan in Victoria that includes the integration of legal assistance; and
- Encouraging the Family Violence Reform Implementation Monitor to focus on the misidentification of the primary aggressor in violent relationships, due to the ongoing issue of women being misidentified.

We have also driven change through our innovative prevention project, Starts With Us, which aims to support Victorian legal and justice organisations to take action to prevent violence against women. This ambitious project has secured widespread support from Victoria's legal institutions, who are committed to tackling the outdated, sexist and harmful structures and behaviours that allow the perpetuation of gender inequality and, therefore, violence against women.

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

Our Education and Engagement team has trained 1048 professionals this year – from youth workers to financial counsellors – to identify when a woman experiencing violence has legal issues and refer them for help.

Surveys from our Safer Families training revealed that over 80% of participants felt the training helped them identify and define the nature and dynamics of family violence; and assisted them to apply the knowledge to their area of legal expertise.

Surveys from our Safer Families Masterclass training revealed that 100% of participants felt the training helped them identify the intersection between family violence and other areas of law, including migration, child protection and family law; and assisted them to identify the impact of trauma on their clients.

Members' guarantee

Women's Legal Service Victoria Inc is a company limited by guarantee. In the event of, and for the purpose of winding up of the company, the amount capable of being called up from each member and any person or association who ceased to be a member in the year prior to the winding up, is limited to \$ NIL for members that are corporations and \$ NIL for all other members, subject to the provisions of the company's constitution.

At 30 June 2021 the collective liability of members was \$ NIL (2020: \$ NIL).

Operating results

During the current year, Women's Legal Service Victoria Inc reported a surplus of \$459,316 (2020: \$187,520).

The organisation has received funding in previous years for annual wage increases mandated by Fair Work Australia based on the Equal Remuneration Order 2012. These funds were not fully expended and have now been drawn down during the current year.

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Directors' Report

30 June 2021

Meetings of directors

The number of meetings of the company's Board of Directors and each board committee held during the year ended 30 June 2021, and the number of meetings attended by each director were:

	Directors' Meetings		Audit and Risk Sub-Committee		Human Resources Commitee		Finar Sustair Comr	nability
	Number eligible to attend	Number attended						
Tina Lavranos	6	6	-	-	2	2	-	-
Trish Low	6	6	-	-	2	2	-	-
Kathryn Brown	6	6	3	3	-	-	-	-
Monique Adofaci	6	6	3	3	-	-	-	-
Jane Welsh	5	6	3	3	-	-	-	-
Leonie Mayson	5	6	-	-	1	2	3	3
Mia Lloyd	4	6	-	-	-	-	1	3
Adrianne Walters	4	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kim Mays	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-

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Auditor's Independence Declaration under Section 60-40 of the Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 to the Responsible Persons of Women's Legal Service Victoria Inc

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2021, there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in section 60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

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Andrew Fisher FCA, Partner (auditor registration number 306364) on behalf of Banks Group Assurance Pty Ltd, Chartered Accountants Authorised audit company registration number 294178 (ACN 115 749 598)

21 September 2021

Melbourne, Australia

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Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Income 3		
Grant Income - Operating Funding Commonwealth	1,745,997	1,531,035
Grant Income - Operating Funding State	490,249	483,060
Grant Income - Project Funding CLSP	455,624	371,936
Grant Income - Project Funding Other	2,054,851	1,281,085
Legal education	23,915	68,067
Legal services	15,780	6,936
Philanthropic donations	35,330	48,923
Other income	108,342	111,716
Recoupment from FLLS	418,199	332,808
Finance income	30,615	57,223
	5,378,902	4,292,789
Expenses		
Employee benefits expense	(3,910,411)	(3,150,321)
Depreciation and amortisation expense		
PPE - Depreciation	(46,990)	(47,979)
Occupancy expenses	(198,745)	(176,736)
FLLS costs	(280,488)	(270,492)
Other expenses	(482,952)	(459,741)
	(4,919,586)	(4,105,269)
Surplus for the year	459,316	187,520
Other comprehensive income, net of income tax	-	-
Total comprehensive surplus for the year	459,316	187,520

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

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Statement of Financial Position

As At 30 June 2021

		2021	2020
	Note	\$	\$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	4,743,209	3,426,184
Trade and other receivables	5	251,672	400,532
Other assets	6	6,698	12,545
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	_	5,001,579	3,839,261
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	7	121,850	123,302
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		121,850	123,302
TOTAL ASSETS	_	5,123,429	3,962,563
LIABILITIES		, ,	/
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	8	498,500	327,798
Employee benefits	9	472,950	386,141
Deferred income	10	1,827,456	1,371,548
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	_	2,798,906	2,085,487
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	_	, ,	· · ·
Employee benefits	9	88,061	84,330
Long-term provisions	11	128,083	143,683
TOTAL NON-CURRENT			
LIABILITIES	_	216,144	228,013
TOTAL LIABILITIES		3,015,050	2,313,500
NET ASSETS	_	2,108,379	1,649,063
	_		
EQUITY			
Capital Replacement Reserve		90,000	90,000
Retained Surplus		2,018,379	1,559,063
TOTAL EQUITY	_	2,108,379	1,649,063

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

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Statement of Changes in Equity

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

2021

	Capital Retained Replacement Surplus Reserve		
	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2020	1,559,063	90,000	1,649,063
Surplus attributable to the entity	459,316	-	459,316
Balance at 30 June 2021	2,018,379	90,000	2,108,379

2020

	Capital Retained Replacement Surplus Reserve Tot		
	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2019	1,371,543	90,000	1,461,543
Surplus attributable to the entity	187,520	-	187,520
Balance at 30 June 2020	1,559,063	90,000	1,649,063

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Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

		2021	2020
	Note	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:			
Receipts from grants		5,366,245	4,231,828
Other receipts		1,154,471	590,297
Payments to suppliers and employees		(5,188,768)	(4,310,580)
Interest received	_	30,615	57,223
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	14	1,362,563	568,768
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES: Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(45,538)	(21,319)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	_	(45,538)	(21,319)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:			
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents held		1,317,025	547,449
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	_	3,426,184	2,878,735
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	4	4,743,209	3,426,184

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

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Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

The financial report covers Women's Legal Service Victoria Inc as an individual entity. Women's Legal Service Victoria Inc is a not-for-profit Company, registered and domiciled in Australia.

The functional and presentation currency of Women's Legal Service Victoria Inc is Australian dollars.

Comparatives are consistent with prior years, unless otherwise stated.

1 Basis of Preparation

In the opinion of those charged with Governance the Company is not a reporting entity since there are unlikely to exist users of the financial statements who are not able to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs. These special purpose financial statements have been prepared to meet the reporting requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the recognition and measurement requirements of the Australian Accounting Standards and Accounting Interpretations, and the disclosure requirements of AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements*, AASB 107 *Statement of Cash Flows*, AASB 108 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors* and AASB 1054 *Australian Additional Disclosures*.

2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(a) Income Tax

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

(b) Leases

Lease payments for operating leases, where substantially all of the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are charged as expenses on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease term.

(c) Revenue and other income

Grant revenue

Core funding received from VLA is recognised under AASB 120: Accounting for Government Grants and Disclosure of Government Assistance. Grant revenue is recognised at fair value where there is reasonable assurance that the grant will be received and all grant conditions will be met. Grants relating to expense items are recognised as income over the periods necessary to match the grant to the costs they are compensating. Grants relating to assets are credited to deferred income at fair value and are credited to income over the expected useful life of the asset on a straight-line basis. All other contracts are recognised under AASB 15: Revenue from Contracts with Customers as detailed below.

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Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(c) Revenue and other income

Revenue from contracts with customers

For current year

The core principle of AASB 15 is that revenue is recognised on a basis that reflects the transfer of promised goods or services to customers at an amount that reflects the consideration the Company expects to receive in exchange for those goods or services. Revenue is recognised by applying a five-step model as follows:

- 1. Identify the contract with the customer
- 2. Identify the performance obligations
- 3. Determine the transaction price
- 4. Allocate the transaction price to the performance obligations
- 5. Recognise revenue as and when control of the performance obligations is transferred

Generally the timing of the payment for sale of goods and rendering of services corresponds closely to the timing of satisfaction of the performance obligations, however where there is a difference, it will result in the recognition of a receivable, contract asset or contract liability.

None of the revenue streams of the Company have any significant financing terms as there is less than 12 months between receipt of funds and satisfaction of performance obligations.

Specific revenue streams

Grant and project services income

The Association earns revenue from provision of professional services, incorporating legal and consulting advice. Revenue is recognised over time in the accounting period when services are rendered.

Fee arrangements are generally agreed in advance. This include the payments of each milestone under the grant agreement or project services contract. Contracts recognised using this method have been deemed to have to a commercial substance under AASB 15, and as such are not recognised under AASB 1058 as income where no sufficiently specific performance obligations exist.

The association determines the key performance obligations within each contract and assigns revenue under the contract to each obligation. Revenue is recognised at the completion of these obligations as the benefit under the contract is transferred to the counterparty.

The Association has determined that no significant financing component exists in respect of the professional services revenue streams since the period between when the Association transfers a promised good or service to a customer and when the customer pays for that good or service will be one year or less.

A receivable in relation to these services is recognised when a bill has been invoiced, as this is the point in time that the consideration is unconditional because only the passage of time is required before the payment is due.

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Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(c) Revenue and other income

Statement of financial position balances relating to revenue recognition

Contract assets and liabilities

Where the amounts billed to customers are based on the achievement of various milestones established in the contract, the amounts recognised as revenue in a given period do not necessarily coincide with the amounts billed to or certified by the customer.

When a performance obligation is satisfied by transferring a promised good or service to the customer before the customer pays consideration or before payment is due, the Company presents the contract as a contract asset, unless the Company's rights to that amount of consideration are unconditional, in which case the Company recognises a receivable.

When an amount of consideration is received from a customer prior to the entity transferring a good or service to the customer, the Company presents the contract as a contract liability.

(d) 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.

(e) Property, plant and equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment.

Items of property, plant and equipment acquired for nil or nominal consideration have been recorded at the acquisition date fair value.

Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment are measured using the cost model.

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Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(e) Property, plant and equipment

Depreciation

Property, plant and equipment, excluding freehold land, is depreciated on a reducing balance basis over the assets useful life to the Company, 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
Office Equipment	20-25%
Computer Equipment	40%

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.

(f) Financial instruments

Financial instruments are recognised initially on the date that the Company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

On initial recognition, all financial instruments are measured at fair value plus transaction costs (except for instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss where transaction costs are expensed as incurred).

Financial assets

All recognised financial assets are subsequently measured in their entirety at either amortised cost or fair value, depending on the classification of the financial assets.

Classification

On initial recognition, the Company classifies its financial assets into the following categories, those measured at:

amortised cost

Financial assets are not reclassified subsequent to their initial recognition unless the Company changes its business model for managing financial assets.

Amortised cost

Assets measured at amortised cost are financial assets where:

- the business model is to hold assets to collect contractual cash flows; and
- the contractual terms give rise on specified dates to cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding.

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Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(f) Financial instruments

Financial assets

The Company's financial assets measured at amortised cost comprise trade and other receivables and cash and cash equivalents in the statement of financial position.

Subsequent to initial recognition, these assets are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method less provision for impairment.

Interest income, foreign exchange gains or losses and impairment are recognised in profit or loss. Gain or loss on derecognition is recognised in profit or loss.

Impairment of financial assets

Trade receivables

Impairment of trade receivables have been determined using the simplified approach in AASB 9 which uses an estimation of lifetime expected credit losses. The Company has determined the probability of non-payment of the receivable and multiplied this by the amount of the expected loss arising from default.

The amount of the impairment is recorded in a separate allowance account with the loss being recognised in finance expense. Once the receivable is determined to be uncollectable then the gross carrying amount is written off against the associated allowance.

Financial liabilities

The Company measures all financial liabilities initially at fair value less transaction costs, subsequently financial liabilities are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

The financial liabilities of the Company comprise trade payables, bank and other loans and lease liabilities.

(g) 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.

(h) Employee benefits

Provision is made for the Company'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.

The association employs a number of staff who are covered by the *Long Service Benefits Portability Act 2018*. From 1 July 2019 these employees no longer accrue a long service leave entitlement that is held as a liability within the association. Rather, the association pays directly into the portable long service leave central fund that will pay out any long service leave entitlements that are earned from that point onwards. Any long service leave benefit that the employee had accrued before 1 July 2019 remains a liability of the association.

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Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

(i) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Company has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

(j) Adoption of new and revised accounting standards

The Company continues to not adapt all accounting standards required for general purpose financial statements. The decision on recognition of new accounting standards has been made in line with the basis of preparation of the accounts as described in note 1. As such the information in the accounts has been prepared in line with the requirements of the users of the financial statements. The new accounting standards and the association's treatment of each is provided below.

AASB 15: Revenue from Contracts with customers

AASB 15: Revenue from Contracts with Customers has been recognised on a contract by contract basis by the association. It has not been recognised in full however as a small number of contracts continue to be recognised under AASB 120: Accounting for Government Grants as this standard better reflects the revenue recognition expectation of the grant providers at this time.

AASB 16: Leases

AASB 16: Leases has not been adopted by the association. The operating leases of the association continue to be recognised under the accounting standard AASB 17: Leases. See note 2b for the accounting policy.

3 Revenue and Other Income

Revenue from continuing operations

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Revenue from contracts		
- Grants	4,746,721	3,667,116
- Rendering of services	457,894	407,812
	5,204,615	4,074,928
Other income		
- Interest received	30,615	57,223
- Philanthropic donations	35,330	48,923
- Other income	108,342	111,716
	174,287	217,862
Total Revenue	5,378,902	4,292,790

Grant income includes \$299,559 of ERO funds received in previous years for wage increases. These funds were not fully expended and have been drawn down during FY21

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Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Cash and Cash Equivalents 4 2021 2020 \$ \$ Cash at bank and in hand 2,053,699 491,147 Short-term deposits 2,689,510 2,935,037 4,743,209 3,426,184 5 **Trade and Other Receivables** 2021 2020 \$ \$ CURRENT 246,770 389,620 Trade receivables Other receivables 4,902 10,912 251,672 Total current trade and other receivables 400,532 6 **Other Assets** 2021 2020 \$ \$ CURRENT Prepayments 6,698 12,545 Property, plant and equipment 7 2021 2020 \$ \$ PLANT AND EQUIPMENT Office equipment 350,577 318,008 At cost Accumulated depreciation (246,916) (223,025) Total office equipment 103,661 94,983 Computer equipment At cost 111,852 98,883 Accumulated depreciation (93,663) (70,564) Total computer equipment 18,189 28,319 Total plant and equipment 121,850 123,302 Total property, plant and equipment 121,850 123,302

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Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

Trade and Other Payables 8

		2021	2020
		\$	\$
	CURRENT		
	Trade payables	11,206	17,015
	GST payable	205,938	107,670
	Sundry creditors and accrued expenses	281,356	203,113
		498,500	327,798
9	Employee Benefits		
		2021	2020
		\$	\$
	CURRENT		
	Provision for long service leave	130,689	136,595
	Provision for annual leave	342,261	249,546
		472,950	386,141
	NON-CURRENT		
	Provision for long service leave	88,061	84,330
10	Deferred Income		
		2021	2020
		\$	\$
	CURRENT		
	CLSP Funds	17,547	43,086
	VLA ERO - State	-	248,325
	VLA ERO Extra (a)	-	51,234
	VLA Other	156,716	29,742
	Non CLSP Funds	1,653,193	999,161
	Total	1,827,456	1,371,548

VLA ERO Extra (a)

VLA ERO extra comprises \$21,930 (2015/16), \$15,647 (2014/15), \$10,650 (2013/14) and \$3,007 (2012/13)

11 Provisions

2021	2020
\$	\$
128,083	143,683
	\$

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Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

12 Capital and Leasing Commitments

Operating Leases		
	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Minimum lease payments under non-cancellable operating leases:		
- not later than one year	211,896	201,904
- between one year and five years	421,580	605,103
	633,476	807,007

The Association has a property lease commitment. It is a non-cancellable operating lease with an original six-year term, and rent payable monthly in advance. The board has agreed to exercise the option to extend the lease for a term of a further 4 years extending to May 2024.

13 Contingencies

In the opinion of those charged with governance, the Company did not have any contingencies at 30 June 2021 (30 June 2020:None).

14 Cash Flow Information

Reconciliation of net income to net cash provided by operating activities:

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Surplus for the year	459,316	187,520
Non-cash flows in profit:		
- depreciation	46,990	47,978
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
- (increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	148,860	(295,763)
- decrease in other assets	5,847	2,223
- increase/(decrease) in income in advance	455,908	469,518
- increase in trade and other payables	170,702	95,395
- increase in provisions	74,940	61,897
Cashflows from operations	1,362,563	568,768

15 Events after the end of the Reporting Period

The financial report was authorised for issue on

by those charged with governance.

COVID-19 and its associated economic impacts remain uncertain. The Company continues to closely monitor developments with a focus on potential financial and operational impacts. The Board, on the date of approving these financial statements, are of the view that the effects of COVID-19 do not alter the significant estimates, judgements and assumptions used in the preparation of these financial statements, however note that the situation is continuing to evolve.

Except for the above, no other matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or could significantly affect the operations of the Company, the results of those operations or the

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Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

15 Events after the end of the Reporting Period state of affairs of the Company in future financial years.

16 Statutory Information

The registered office and principal place of business of the company is:

Women's Legal Service Victoria Inc 10/277 William Street Melbourne VIC 3000

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Responsible Persons' 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 and when they become due and payable; and
- the financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

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

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Tina Lavranos

Board Member:

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Kathryn Brown

Dated 21 September 2021

Board Member:

Independent Audit Report to the members of Women's Legal Service Victoria Inc

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Women's Legal Service Victoria Inc, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2021, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the responsible persons' declaration.

In our opinion the financial report of Women's Legal Service Victoria Inc has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the Registered Entity's financial position as at 30 June 2021 and of its financial performance for the year ended; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, and Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Registered Entity in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* (ACNC Act) and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the Registered Entity's financial reporting responsibilities under the ACNC Act. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Responsible Entities for the Financial Report

The responsible entities of the Registered Entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the ACNC Act and the needs of the members. The responsible entities' responsibility also includes such internal control as the responsible entities determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the responsible entities are responsible for assessing the Registered Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the responsible entities either intend to liquidate the Registered Entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

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Independent Audit Report to the members of Women's Legal Service Victoria Inc

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design
 and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to
 provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than
 for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the
 override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Registered Entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the responsible entities.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the responsible entities' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Registered Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Registered Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

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Banks Group Assurance Pty Ltd, Chartered Accountants Authorised audit company number 294178 (ACN 115 749 598)

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Andrew Fisher FCA, Partner Registration number 306364

Melbourne, Australia 21 September 2021

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