

Creating Change: *Growing Access to Justice*



'Bunmabunmarra' 2018
by artist Dan Bundadhaany Clegg
of the Wiradhuri Nation

Acknowledgement of Country:

We acknowledge the traditional custodians and Elders past and present, who have raised children, taught them about the world around them and gave them the gift of culture and language. We recognise our part in bringing fairness to our Indigenous brothers and sisters and creating a community where all children, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, can 'grow up strong'.

Hume Riverina Community Legal Service (HRCLS) is a service of Upper Murray Family Care (UMFC).

UMFC Board

President: Dean Bocquet

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Members

Thomas Crumpton

Paul Robb

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Liz Heta (retired)

Statement of Reconciliation:

The Hume Riverina Community Legal Service acknowledges:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are the first owners of this land. Their cultures and human rights suffered after colonisation.
- The important connection to the land that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples feel and how it flows with deep respect through their distinct cultures, languages, customs, arts and laws, as part of Australia's heritage and identity.
- The right of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to self-determination, to fair participation in the community and just access to resources and services.
- The positive and unique contributions from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples that have been made to Australia and its communities.
- The role our service will play in reconciliation and commitment to engage with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We support diversity and inclusivity and welcome all people to our service, regardless of race, religion, gender, or sexuality.

We acknowledge funding from the Victorian Department of Justice and Community Safety, Victoria Legal Aid, the New South Wales Government, Legal Aid NSW and the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department.

Acknowledgements



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Front cover: Belvior Park Lake Wodonga, photo by Tracey Walker
Back cover: Scar Tree at The Crossing Place Wodonga, photo by Tracey Walker



Anthony and Gabby
at an AWaHS events
RIGHT: Debi and Alison at
Women in Law breakfast



HRCLS shares the mission and values of UMFC:

Mission:

Strengthening families and individuals to build vibrant communities.

Values:

Participation – We work with our clients, our co-workers and other colleagues in a spirit of cooperation and common purpose.

Respect – We value the unique history and character of everybody with whom we have contact and treat them with consideration and care.

Excellence – We strive to attain the highest possible standards in our practice and relationships.

Justice – By demonstrating a commitment to fairness in decision making and conduct.

Honesty – We expect a high level of personal and organisational integrity with words and deeds that are transparent and trustworthy.

Vision:

A society where all people enjoy equality of opportunity and have equal access to the law.

About, Mission, Values & Vision

Hume Riverina Community Legal Service (HRCLS) has been providing free legal services to people experiencing barriers to justice across North East Victoria and the Southern Riverina of New South Wales for over 20 years.

HRCLS provides legal services across 17 local government areas in multiple locations including Wodonga, Wangaratta, Mount Beauty, Myrtleford, Corryong, Albury, Corowa, Finley, and Deniliquin.

Working in partnership with education, health, and social service partners, HRCLS provides legal services to people and communities where they are most needed.

HRCLS is a client-centred service providing legal information, advice and casework, with a focus on family and civil law. Our clients include Aboriginal people, people under 25, people over 65, and Torres Strait Islander peoples experiencing or at risk of family and domestic violence, people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, people with disability

and poor mental health, people from non-English speaking backgrounds, and single parents. HRCLS works to achieve fair and just outcomes for people who are experiencing vulnerabilities and disadvantage.

Community development and legal education are key aspects of HRCLS work. Work in this area enhances community awareness of legal rights and responsibilities, and builds capacity to identify legal matters and seek assistance in communities and partner organisations.

Law reform and advocacy is the third element of HRCLS work. Client cases inform this work and highlight systemic issues that require change. The law must be agile to remain effective and fair and HRCLS is committed to advocating for reform where it is needed.

HRCLS works to provide people with access to justice, and fair legal outcomes.



HRCLS front office, and
Felicity Williams UMFC CEO.



Introduction

Change and growth have been two overarching themes of Hume Riverina Community Legal Service (HRCLS) across the reporting period.

The establishment of a new base for HRCLS at 1/9 Stanley Street, Wodonga has been a great highlight. The completion of this project is significant for client service delivery. The HRCLS Team now have purpose designed offices from which to provide legal services, and the resource available to expand the delivery of outcomes for individuals and communities across North East Victoria and the Southern Riverina of NSW.

This development has taken place alongside success in funding applications to grow the service. This growth is enabling an expansion of the services offered, and greater focus on delivering specific services identified in [HRCLS's Our Strategy 2020-2025](#).

The need to increase capacity to meet community need and expectations was identified in research, demographic analysis, service review and stakeholder consultation, and the steps made in achieving this growth is one of the greatest achievements of the reporting period.

HRCLS has a strong team of lawyers and community engagement professionals working in our communities that are experiencing challenges and disadvantage. Working with people facing barriers to wellbeing is our core business and the capacity of our team has been expanded to directly provide legal services: access to justice.

I look forward to seeing the benefits of new programs, including

Bagaraybang Bagaraybang Mayinygalang, Empowering and Alleviating, A Health Justice Partnership of HRCLS and Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service (AWAHS) offering legal support for social and emotional wellbeing with Aboriginal Peoples in North East Victoria and Southern NSW. The continuation of the successful partnership with Centre Against Violence (CAV) that supports HRCLS to work directly with victim survivors of family violence. And the continued responsiveness to local need through initiatives such as the work of the Bushfire Recovery Team.

The capacity to provide legal assistance and deliver outcomes in key areas of legal need to those in greatest need, to create lasting change, is both a great challenge, and a great reward.

I look forward to seeing the HRCLS program continuing to deliver outcomes for our communities.

Felicity Williams
UMFC CEO



Ashlie Barclay, Alison Maher, Sarah Rodgers and Debi Fisher at Stanley Street, Wodonga



I acknowledge and celebrate our HRCLS Team on the great work undertaken throughout 2022-23.

This work is making a difference to people's lives, particularly in the areas of family violence and disaster recovery where the legal services we deliver in challenging and complex matters, goes beyond achieving fair and just outcomes. We provide a voice to those who otherwise may be unheard, and we work in partnership with local education, health and social services to provide a holistic approach to client wellbeing.

I am privileged to lead a Team who care and respect our clients, and work with empathy and integrity. This commitment would not be clearer than in the skill of the HRCLS Leadership Team, Ashlie Barclay, Alison Maher and Debi Fisher, managing HRCLS until I returned from maternity leave in September 2022. The Leadership Team were successful in receiving significant additional funding across a number of programs to grow the services we offer and improve access to justice in our region. I also thank UMFC CEO Felicity Williams and the UMFC Executive Team for their ongoing support as HRCLS continues to evolve.

In 2022-23 HRCLS launched:

- Bagaraybang Bagaraybang Mayinygalang (BBM) health justice partnership with Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service (AWAHS)
- Outreach, Networking and Empowerment (ONE), NSW Program partnering with Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service (WDVCAS)

HRCLS expanded:

- Holistic Assistance and Legal Outreach (HALO) health justice partnership with Gateway Health with increased mental health funding

And continued the successful:

- Invisible Hurdles Program in partnership with Wodonga Flexible Learning Centre, NESAY and AWAHS
- Family violence program with Centre Against Violence (CAV)
- Bushfire/Disaster Recovery program including BROLI - Bushfire Recovery Outreach - legal issues
- Duty Lawyer services for people with intervention order matters in the Magistrates' Courts in Wodonga, Wangaratta and Myrtleford.

Demand for services continues to grow, and our commitment to community and the HRCLS vision of equality of opportunity and access to justice continues to drive the work of our Team.

I look forward to continuing to create change, and growing access to justice in the border communities of our region.

Sarah Rodgers,
HRCLS Manager
and Principal Lawyer

HRCLS Leadership Team, Ashlie Barclay Manager Operations, Alison Maher Managing Lawyer Family Law Services, Sarah Rodgers Manager and Principal Lawyer and Debi Fisher Managing Lawyer Generalist Services, with a photo of Sarah Rodgers



HRCLS Team

Sarah Rodgers,
Manager and Principal Lawyer

Ashlie Barclay,
Manager Operations

Deborah Fisher,
Managing Lawyer Generalist Services

Alison Maher,
Managing Lawyer Family Law Services

Sara Reid, Senior Lawyer

Jodie Wells, Senior Lawyer

Raissa Butkowski, Lawyer

Sarah Caplice, Lawyer

Liz Collins, Lawyer

Michelle Cowan
Community Engagement Worker

Simon Crase,
Community Development Manager
CLSD Region Coordinator

Emilia Darougheh, Lawyer

Meaghan Frazer, Legal Assistant
and Administration Officer

Gabby Maginness, Lawyer

Karlee Hirt, Paralegal

Rachel Judd, Lawyer

Trinity Lonel,
Community Engagement Worker

Lauren Lorenzo, Lawyer

Jess McCouch,
Community Engagement Worker

Tessa Mead,
Lawyer (maternity leave)

Anthony Nguyen,
Community Engagement Worker

Kristi Pemmelaar, Lawyer

Erin Quilliam, Lawyer

Colette Quin,
Community Development
and CLSD Coordinator

Becky Smith, Lawyer

Taylor Smith-Stephens, Lawyer

Mike Tran, Lawyer

Tracey Walker,
Senior Administration Assistant

Amy Warner, Paralegal

Arlinda Wentworth,
Client Services Officer

David Whitehouse, Lawyer

**HRCLS partnered with
the following services
in 2022-23:**

- Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service (AWAHS)
- Centre Against Violence (CAV)
- Gateway Health
- North East Support and Action for Youth (NESAY)
- Wodonga Flexible Learning Centre
- Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service (WDVCAS)
- Women's Centre for Health and Wellbeing

**HRCLS acknowledges
the support of:**

- Federation of Community Legal Centres
- Community Legal Centres NSW
- Community Legal Centres Australia
- Greater Albury Cooperative Legal Service Delivery Partnership

**HRCLS thanks
pro bono partner:**

- Clayton Utz

Creating Change

The work of HRCLS in providing legal services, community development and education, advocacy and law reform, is shaped by the areas of focus outlined in our 2020-25 Strategy. HRCLS are proud to outline progress made in 2022-23.

The four areas of focus are:

1. Improve our capacity to target our services to those most in need and to create lasting change
2. Invest in legal services for youth and their families
3. Advance a comprehensive response to family violence
4. Grow our service capacity in generalist areas of legal need experienced in our catchment

Progress in creating change:

Our progress in these areas has included creating and shaping programs that most effectively serve our clients and community. Our decisions have been informed by program evaluations undertaken by external parties and the analysis of information from community, stakeholders and through client casework. This work has then guided our funding applications for the continuation, development and expansion of programs.

In 2022-23 an evaluation of the Health Justice Partnership (HJP) with Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service (AWAHS) was

undertaken, and an evaluation of the HJP with Centre Against Violence (CAV) was begun. We are working with Health Justice Australia in the initial stages of an evaluation of our HJP with Gateway Health.

HRCLS has seen partnership work being further embedded across the service and with this, the more effective trauma-informed, holistic approach to providing services to clients. We work to share, learn and grow knowledge with partner organisations so that all of our work is client-centred. Our intake processes have been reviewed with this lens and with knowledge of the intersectionality of vulnerabilities to the law that our clients are experiencing.

HRCLS reach across the region has increased in this time. Needs uncovered in the Southern Riverina and informed by government data and stakeholder information resulted in the development of a HJP with Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service to target family violence, the Outreach, Networking and Empowerment program.

HRCLS HJP with AWAHS, NESAY and Wodonga Flexible Learning Centre, Invisible Hurdles, continues to create positive change and continuation funding has been received. This program is focused on supporting young people through legal matters and providing the knowledge and tools to identify legal issues. Invisible Hurdles runs to provide access to justice and create positive change in young peoples lives.

HRCLS Bushfire Recovery

Program has received funding to undertake work in family violence, and ongoing family violence professional development has been undertaken across the Family Law and Generalist Law Teams. HRCLS Lawyers are active in providing community legal education in this area within partnerships, to targeted community groups, and with organisations such as the Border Domestic Violence Network.

HRCLS works with specialist Community Legal Centres in Victoria and New South Wales including Consumer Action Law Centre, Tenants Victoria and Social Security Rights Victoria. This work has resulted in a range of successful advocacy to remove systemic barriers to justice by creating awareness and reforming laws. Further, HRCLS continues to advocate to remove legal barriers that exist for cross-border residents.

In 2022-23 HRCLS has grown. Our Team is larger, we are covering a greater geographic area more thoroughly, and our work is more strategic to ensure that our limited resources are targeted to those most in need.

HRCLS will continue to advocate for resources to provide legal services to people in our region experiencing barriers to justice.

Growing Access to Justice

Murray River at Talmalmo

HRCLS is unique in its operation as a cross-border, cross-jurisdictional community legal service. We are also the only community legal centre in a region spanning 8.2 million hectares. This presents some challenges in providing access to justice, particularly in terms of administration, funding and reporting.

HRCLS lawyers and community engagement workers travelled over 26,000kms in 2022-23 providing legal assistance and education in:

- family violence
- children's issues
- credit and debt
- consumer complaints
- separation and divorce
- victims of crime
- fines
- housing and tenancy
- government complaints
- insurance disputes
- Centrelink debts and complaints



Local Government Areas HRCLS provides services to:

New South Wales

Albury
Greater Hume
Murray
Edward River
Federation Council
Murrumbidgee
Berrigan
Snowy Valleys Council
Wagga Wagga
Lockhart

Victoria

Wodonga
Wangaratta
Benalla
Mansfield
Alpine
Towong
Indigo

Top 5 client locations





Disaster recovery

Access to legal services is a critical part of disaster preparation, response and recovery.

Managing Lawyer of Generalist Services Debi Fisher described disaster law as an emerging area of law at the National Access to Justice and Pro Bono Conference in June 2023 where she was invited as a panellist alongside civil law managers from Legal Aid Queensland and Legal Aid NSW. Disaster law requires adaptable, flexible approaches to traditional casework and has become part of normal service delivery.

HRCLS' experience is that efforts made in disaster response often draw out unmet legal needs. The HRCLS Bushfire Recovery Team are seeing that their presence in communities is continuing to uncover legal needs of ranging complexities.

Disaster specific issues including disputes over insurance, contracts, land management and loss of documents often present with everyday legal issues such as family law, family violence, consumer, housing and credit and debt matters, which are not as readily identified by communities as something lawyers can help with.

The trauma of living through a disaster like Black Summer continues to impact

people and communities, alongside other vulnerabilities such as living in a regional location with lack of services and isolation, low income, family violence, poor mental health, and even three years after the fires, insecure housing.

It has been critical for HRCLS to partner with local organisations and workers in affected communities, particularly UMFC's financial counsellors, Gateway Health's Community Recovery & Resilience team, and Centre Against Violence, to build and maintain trust and to meet the needs of the communities in a holistic way. A lot of work continues to go into educating people, including community agency workers, about the sorts of things lawyers can assist with, and in building capacity for these workers to identify where legal services are required. In disaster response and recovery, especially legal problems cannot be seen in isolation from the social and emotional needs of people.

*"Rachel helped me [with] a lot of legal advice... [she] also connected me to the bushfire case manager at the Albury – Wodonga Hub and they connected me to adult mental health and carer support counsellor, after years of being rejected."**

The impact of disaster on communities requires legal services to be trauma informed, place-based, holistic and collaborative.

HRCLS recognises that they can't meet all of the legal need on their own and are grateful for the ongoing support of Disaster Legal Help Victoria (a partnership between the Federation of CLCs, the Victorian Bar, Law Institute of Victoria, Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service, Victoria Legal Aid and Justice Connect) as well as specialist CLCs Consumer Action Law Centre, Tenants Victoria, Social Security Rights Victoria, Women's Legal Service Victoria, and Justice Connect.

*"HRCLS educated us on what to look for so we can identify issues earlier and respond or refer. Did legal training service so case managers know what issues are, when to refer etc... Really empowered us and communities."**

* Quotes from community members interviewed by Social Impact hub as part of the consultations for Disaster Legal Help Victoria evaluation.



Outreach, Networking & Empowerment (ONE)

Providing early legal assistance to victim survivors of family and domestic violence is a key priority of HRCLS and comprises a large portion of the work we do across the service. HRCLS has developed significant expertise in working with clients who have or who are experiencing family violence. Our approach is to provide clear trauma informed assistance, in a stepped approach to ensure that our clients are supported at each stage of their legal journey. Our aim is to leave our clients in a better place where they are informed, empowered and able to move forward with their lives.

HRCLS monitors community need across the 17 local government areas of our service, and saw disproportionate domestic violence and women's safety related crime in the Southern Riverina of NSW.

In response to this, HRCLS developed the targeted domestic violence program, Outreach, Networking and Empowering (ONE), a health justice partnership with Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services (WDVCAS).

The partnership with WDVCAS has built on and expanded the existing

relationship between our services that has operated successfully in Albury.

The ONE program commenced in 2022, delivering dedicated legal services to women at risk of or experiencing domestic and family violence in the communities of Corowa, Deniliquin and Finley.

Outreach to these towns includes attendance at Local Court sessions, and with other service providers. Having a designated community legal engagement worker, to work alongside our lawyers has meant that we have been able to broaden our reach into these communities. We have worked closely with the police, the courts and front line services to improve referral pathways. Having a strong presence in these rural and regional areas improves women's access to legal services.

"Thank you so much for being here with me. I was really afraid, but having you here helped and thank you for sorting out my reimbursement as well. I am so grateful."*

HRCLS experience in this program to date is that clients are experiencing multiple disadvantages to justice and, often require assistance for multiple

legal matters. This is compounded by the remoteness of the locations. While the program focus is assisting clients who have experienced domestic and family violence, the impacts go well beyond Apprehended Domestic Violence Orders. They also include everyday legal problems such as consumer complaints, family law issues concerning children and property, credit and debt matters, housing issues, and the need for identity documents.

The ONE program has allowed HRCLS to build on the work of our NSW generalist lawyer in these regions. We know the importance of being present and available, and are excited about the inroads to justice, and real differences that can be made to the legal and health outcomes of clients in these remote areas.

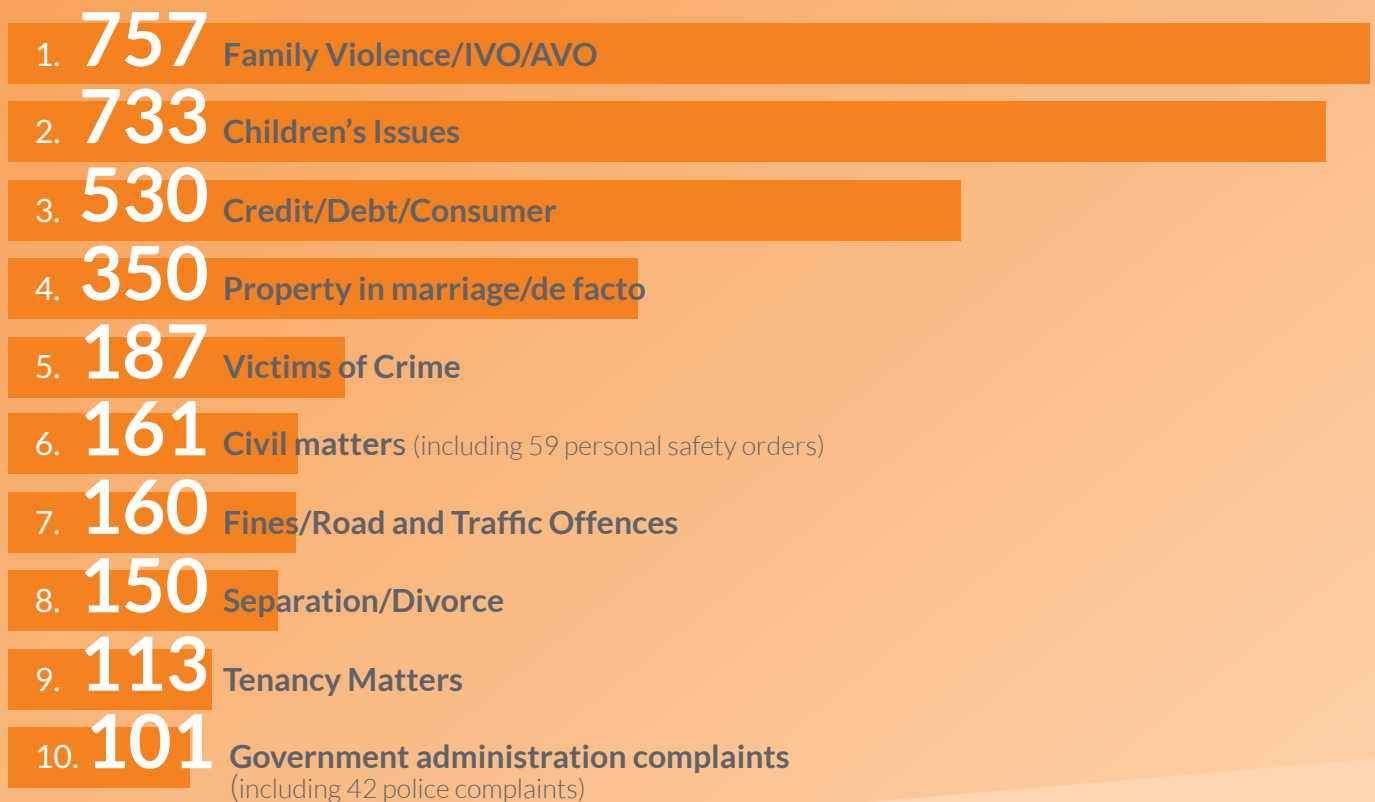
"This is going to make my life and my kids' lives so much easier."**

* Client comment on having HRCLS legal assistance at Finley Local Court.

** Client comment after Free Certificate Day at Deniliquin on 31 May 2023 run in conjunction with CLSD.

Service Statistics

Top 10 problem types



\$342,368
of debt waived

This includes waivers under family violence and financial hardship grounds, as well as waivers due to irresponsible lending or poor selling practices.

\$109,228
in refunds or compensation

for irresponsible lending, scams, and victims compensation.

\$39,453
in fines waived

under the family violence and COVID concession schemes.

1332
clients



2194
services



1166 legal advices
441 duty lawyer services
351 legal tasks
236 cases closed



Our Clients

HRCLS provide people experiencing disadvantage and trauma, with high vulnerability to legal problems, access to justice.

The number of clients receiving legal services at HRCLS has increased very slightly on the previous two financial years, and we are continuing to see an increase in client complexities. This means that more people are experiencing an increasing number of disadvantage and vulnerabilities to legal problems, and are requiring more than one legal service. Our trauma-informed, client-centred and holistic approach is seeing more time being spent with individual clients than ever before.

Of our 1332 clients:

- **100%** are classified as **regional or remote**
- 1142 or **85.7%** are experiencing **financial disadvantage**
- 1023 or **76.8%** of our clients **identify as female**
- 876 or **65.8%** are experiencing or **at risk of family violence**
- 804 or **60.4%** have a **disability or mental illness**
- 658 or **49.4%** are **single parents**
- 388 or **29.1%** are experiencing or at risk of **homelessness**
- 186 or **14%** are **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples**
- 169 or **12.7%** are young people **under 25**
- 144 or **10.8%** are older people **over 65**
- 65 or **4.9%** are **culturally and linguistically diverse**

This data illustrates the multiple vulnerabilities being experienced by our clients.

The intersectionality, or overlapping of these experiences and vulnerabilities coupled with aspects of a persons identity, increases a persons barriers to accessing a fair and just outcome in our legal system.

The intersectionality of client complexities and inequality are changing our legal practice. We build relationships with partner organisations to ensure clients receive holistic support. The health justice partnerships in which we work are a critical response to the changing needs of our community.



Health Justice Partnership with Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service

*"We want a legal service that knows that we should have the authority and power to do what's right for our people and to work with us to advocate for this."**

Aboriginal peoples in our region continue to experience many barriers to justice. Systems imposed by colonisation have continued historical traumas which have resulted in wide ranging disadvantage. A lack of access to, and knowledge of legal services can have a significant impact on people's mental health.

To overcome these barriers and improve the physical and mental health and wellbeing of Aboriginal peoples in a culturally safe manner, HRCLS has entered a health justice partnership with Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service (AWAHS). This project is known as 'Bagaraybang bagaraybang mayinygalang' (BBM): Empowering & Alleviating: A Health Justice Partnership (HJP) offering legal support for everyday legal problems to improve social and emotional wellbeing.

The partnership is in its first year of a three-year-program, and HRCLS has a dedicated lawyer and community engagement worker building trust and relationships through AWAHS. The project is new, however it benefited from the trust built in the existing long-

term relationship between HRCLS and AWAHS through the Invisible Hurdles youth program.

The Invisible Hurdles program saw growing demand for legal services and the need for a dedicated partnership between HRCLS and AWAHS to work beyond young people and to focus on those impacted by poor mental health. The BBM partnership was then developed to service this need.

BBM has been co-designed with Aboriginal peoples to ensure cultural safety and increase community buy-in. Co-design continues in each element of the project rollout with reflective practice an inbuilt component, showing that HRCLS is responsive and flexible to the needs of community.

*"This is the first time anyone has come to talk to us about justice meaningfully."**

HRCLS lawyer Gabby Maginness described the operation of the partnership:

"We are doing the groundwork to grow trust in community. We need long term engagement to establish meaningful relationships. Addressing one legal issue is only the beginning, we are working in partnership with AWAHS to build knowledge, resilience, and a support

network that will continue to help people and community into the future."

HRCLS community engagement worker Anthony Nguyen described the outcomes sought:

"We are working in partnership to achieve long term impact. Our work aims to change lives, and break the cycle of transgenerational trauma. Each step we take makes a difference. Like taking a stone out of a river to enable it to flow, though there may be many stones our work helps on small step at a time."

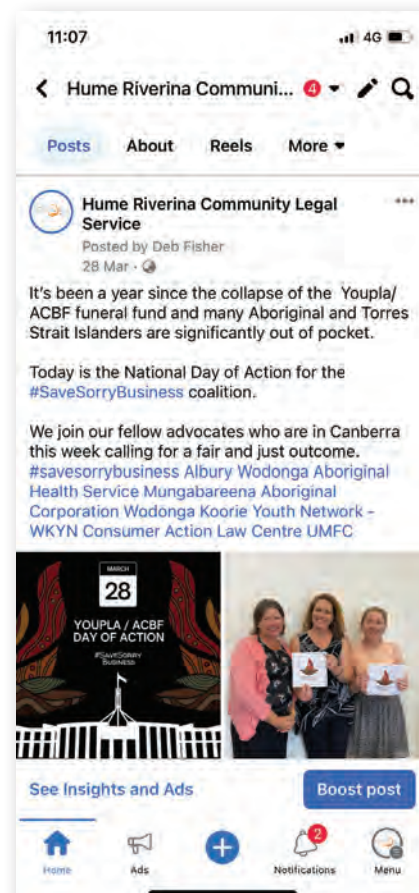
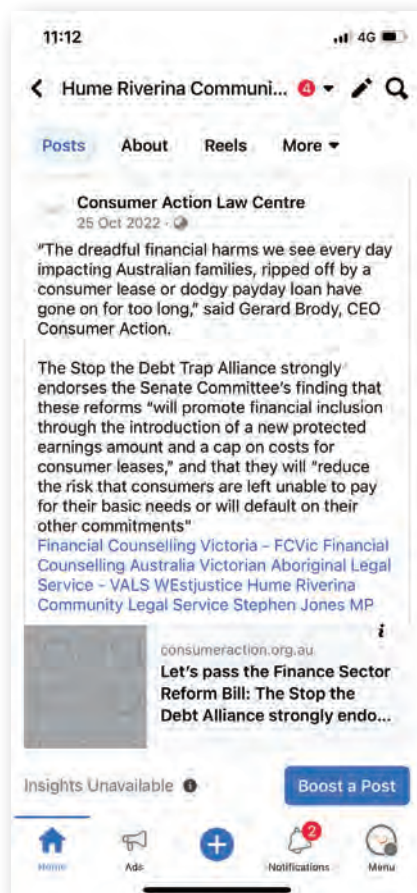
*"A lot of what is happening is tokenistic and visual and its not real. You can put up the pretty pictures of Aboriginal art you can say it's safe but its not real. There needs to be real genuine changing in how you interact with us and how the systems interact with us. There needs to be a real effort to understand who we are and what we are and to give us a voice."**

* Quotes from community members who participated in a yarnning circle as they appear in the evaluation report, 2023 First Research and Impact Evaluation Report of the Health Justice Partnership on Mental Health and Wellbeing (BBM)- Addressing the Torment of Powerlessness, conducted by Dr Liz Curren, Associate Professor Clinical Legal Education & School Research Lead, Nottingham Law School, Nottingham Trent University.

Advocacy



(https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-09-21/specialist-family-violence-court-push-north-east-victoria/101463198?utm_campaign=abc_news_web&utm_content=link&utm_medium=content_shared&utm_source=abc_news_web) Specialist family violence court and legal aid needed in north-east Victoria, advocates say ABC Goulburn Murray / By Katherine Smyrk Posted Wed 21 Sep 2022 at 6:25pm



HRCLS' work to seek legal reform, uphold consumer protections and hold businesses and governments to account is driven by the case work done by our Team.

HRCLS has been actively involved in advocacy for a Specialist Family Violence Court for North East Victoria throughout the 2022-23 year.

This campaign was launched because Benalla, Wangaratta and Wodonga record high rates of family violence, and following a Royal Commission recommendation that

all family violence matters be heard in a specialist court. The campaign received significant local support from state and federal members of parliament, local Councils, community leaders, social service providers and the media.

HRCLS worked with the Consumer Action Law Centre on the successful Stop the Debt Trap campaign

HRCLS have been actively working with young people and their support workers to identify and overcome the barriers that exist for young people to obtain their own birth

certificates, including the impact of having insufficient ID and both the time and cost involved in the process. This advocacy, including an expansion of the fee waiver policy, is continuing.

HRCLS joined a coalition of over 120 organisations to advocate for urgent action to prevent more than ten thousand Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families from being denied the dignity of a culturally appropriate funeral and grieving period due to the collapse of funeral insurance provider Youpla.

Financial Statement

HRCLS is grateful for the funding received in 2022-23. These contributions have enabled us to provide legal services to people in our community experiencing disadvantages.

This funding has provided people with access to justice.

Administrator		Purpose	Breakdown	Total
Victoria Legal Aid	Attorney-General's Department (Commonwealth)	Generalist	\$545,803	\$1,576,907
		Family Law and/or Family Violence	\$103,654	
		NLAP Mental Health	\$234,521	
	Victorian State Government	Generalist	\$237,020	
		Family Violence	\$ 70,461	
		Community Legal Centres Family Violence & Assistance	\$155,616	
		Bushfire Recovery Victoria	\$150,000	
		SACS ERO - State	\$79,832	
Legal Aid NSW	Attorney-General's Department (Commonwealth)	Family Law/Family Violence (NSW)	\$194,353	\$1,052,106
		NLAP Women's	\$311,000	
		NLAP Mental Health	\$319,777	
	NSW State Government	Cooperative Legal Service Delivery	\$30,209	
	NSW State Government & Public Purpose Fund (PPF)	NSW Outreach (Pool 1)	\$196,767	
Department of Justice & Community Safety		ISF/HJP – Invisible Hurdles	\$305,125	\$305,125
Black Summer Bushfire Recovery (Cth – Dept of Industry, Science, Energy & Resources)		Bushfire Support	\$223,677	\$223,677
TOTAL FUNDING				\$3,157,815

This financial statement is a summary statement of income consistent with externally audited financial statements that are available by contacting UMFC on 02 6055 8000



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 www.hrcls.org.au | cls@umfc.com.au

Monday – Friday: 9am-5pm

We provide free legal assistance across North East Victoria and the Southern Riverina of New South Wales.



ABN 99 081 624 768 Reg No: A5357 ARBN 081 624 768

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