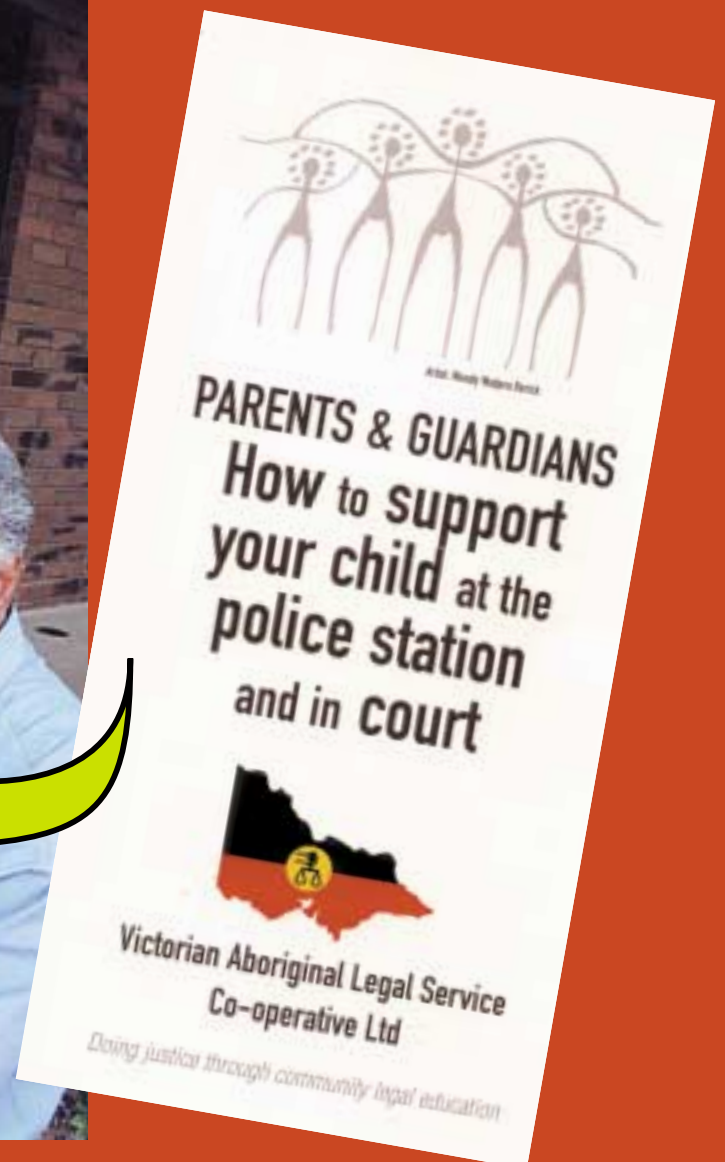


# Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service Co-operative Limited

## Annual Report 2000-2001



### **Cover photograph**

The launch of a pamphlet prepared by VALS community legal education section for parents and guardians providing information about how to support children at the police station or in court.

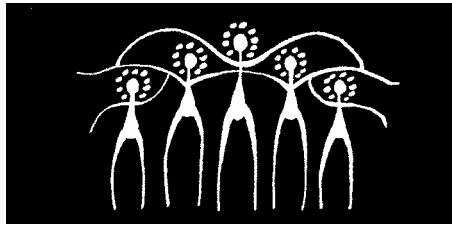
The launch took place at the Shepparton Community Development Employment Program offices. Her Honour Judge Jennifer Coate the President of the Children's Court of Victoria launched the pamphlet.

Pictured standing from left to right are local community member Geraldine Atkinson and VALS board member Terry Stewart. Seated from left to right are VALS CEO Antoinette Gentile, Judge Jennifer Coate and VALS Client Service Officer Loretta O'Neill. At the front is David Atkinson VALS Shepparton Client Service Officer.

Cover photo: Courtesy of the Shepparton Advisor  
Artwork on the pamphlet: Wendy Watjera Berwick

*Layout and printing: Metro Printing.*  
*Artwork by Wendy Watjera Berwick*

**Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service Cooperative Limited**  
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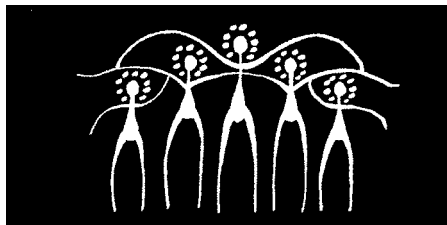
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Some of VALS Client Service Officers  
Mathew Holmes, Bradley Boon,  
Ray Clarke and John Bell L-R at the  
back Wayne Bell, David Atkinson and  
Loretta O'Neill



## ANNUAL REPORT 2000-2001

### Chairperson's Report

Chairperson - Mr Phil Egan

The Annual Report provides an opportunity to both reflect on our past achievements and to focus forward on the challenges that lay ahead.

Like other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services, VALS continues to suffer from the perennial pressures of attempting to provide a high quality legal service in the face of an ever increasing need for the community to obtain culturally sensitive legal representation. To meaningfully address these issues in the future requires substantial additional resource allocation. Unfortunately, VALS funding base has been static to all intents and purposes in recent years, and this has led to real pressures being placed both on the delivery of services and the attraction and retention of suitable staff to provide those services.

In that sense, one of the larger challenges for the organisation in the next financial year is to attract sufficient additional funding in order to be able to provide both the level and the range of legal services that we would like to continue to provide to the community.

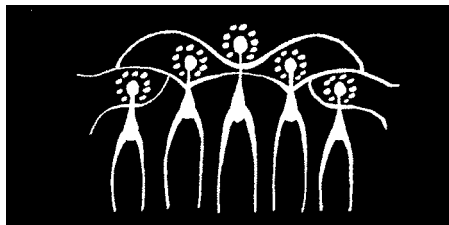
Nevertheless, if those attempts to secure new funding are not successful, then these financial pressures may eventually lead to a reduction in the quality and range of legal services provided to the community if the issues are not addressed in the foreseeable future.

VALS has contributed to the broader law debate with its ongoing involvement in the Aboriginal Justice Agreement Initiatives, and by contributions to a range of Government reviews including reviews and inquiries on public drunkenness, chronicling and legal representation in rural and remote regions.

I look forward to leading the organisation through the challenging year ahead.

Although not strictly part of the terms of reference for this report, I would also like to take this opportunity to pay special thanks to Mr Ivan Couzens, who will be retiring as a Director. Uncle Ivan has been a great contributor to VALS during his time as Director and his manner, compassion and thoughtfulness will be sorely missed.

On behalf of the Board and staff of VALS I wish Uncle Ivan all the very best for the future.



## ANNUAL REPORT 2000-2001

### VALS Board of Directors

#### **Phillip Egan: Chairperson**

Phil is a former VFL/AFL footballer. He has an interest in global indigenous issues, Koori youth and the environment, including a strong involvement with young prisoners and associated prison programs. Phil also owns and operates his own consultancy service.

#### **Lorraine (Bunta) Patten: Secretary**

Lorraine is a Gunditjmara woman. She has been involved in Koori affairs for many years. She has been a VALS Board member in the past and has recently retired from the position of manager of the Gladys Nicholls Hostel in Northcote. She was also an ATSIC Regional Councillor for 5 years.

#### **Raymond Ahmat: Director**

Originally from Queensland, Ray has been involved in Aboriginal Affairs since coming to Victoria. He has worked with Ngwala Willumbong in the Drug and Rehabilitation program and VALS where he spent a year as the Client Service Officer for the Shepparton area. He is employed by Rumbalara Aboriginal Co-operative where he manages the youth and community programs.

#### **Ivan Couzens: Director**

Has been involved with VALS since 1976 as a Board member. He was recently re-elected as a Tumbukka Regional Councillor. He has represented the Gunditjmara Aboriginal Co-operative on the South-West Cultural Heritage Program. He was the Aboriginal Development Commissioner for Victoria. He has been the Chairperson of a number of Koori organisations in the South-West area.

#### **Frank Guivarra: Director**

Frank has been involved with VALS for a number of years. Currently employed by the Victorian Aboriginal Community Services Association Limited (VACSAL)

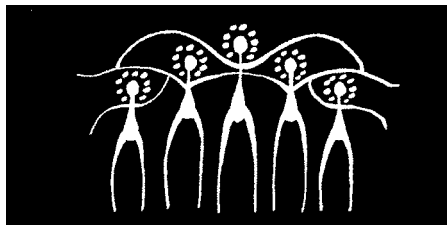
he is an experienced industrial advocate, having worked in the field of Industrial Relations and Human Resource Management in excess of twenty five years. He holds an executive position with the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services Secretariat (NAILLS) and represented NAILSS at meetings of various UN Commission on Human Rights working groups and other UN agencies at the United Nations in Geneva. He has an involvement with Human Rights issues and has attended national and international forums including the World Conference Against Racism (WCAR) in Durban South Africa.

#### **Peter Hood: Director**

Peter Hood was born at Yallourn and is a direct descendant of the Kurnai people. Peter is a youth worker for the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Association.

#### **Terrie Stewart:**

Terrie has been involved with VALS for a number of years. She has held positions within VALS such as Financial Counsellor, Officer Manager, Client Service Officer and Team Leader. Terrie is currently working at Human Services Department as a Juvenile Justice worker. Prior to this Terrie worked for Bert Williams Aboriginal Youth Support Unit and ATSIC for two years as an Administrative Support Officer.



## ANNUAL REPORT 2000-2001

### CEO's Report

*Peter McDougall, Deputy Chief Executive Officer*

Antoinette Gentile, was the acting VALS' Chief Executive Officer from July to May and the CEO from May to November when she resigned to take up a position in the Department of Justice.

Antoinette was widely respected and liked by both staff and external agencies, and her presence at VALS will be sorely missed.

I have since been appointed Acting Chief Executive Officer until a permanent appointment can be made.

#### **Meeting with the Chief Magistrate**

Ian Gray, an ex VALS employee, was recently appointed as Victoria's Chief Magistrate. VALS had a very positive meeting with the Chief Magistrate. Mr Gray said he would be happy to receive a submission about clustering of court appearances in the metropolitan region to reduce how many days a week VALS lawyers have to attend different courts. (This was done 20 years ago for rural areas). VALS was invited to attend court users group meetings and it was agreed that future meetings with the Chief Magistrate would be valuable and should occur.

#### **Victorian Aboriginal Justice Agreement**

VALS has remained involved in initiatives arising from the Victorian Aboriginal Justice Agreement, including representation on the regional Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committees, and continued representation on the Aboriginal Justice Working Group, the Indigenous Issues Steering committee.

#### **ATSIC Effectiveness Review**

Ms Chris Macqueen (Macqueen Management Services Pty Ltd) was commissioned by ATSIC to conduct an Effectiveness Review of VALS. This was completed early in the 2000-2001 financial year.

The result of the review was a generally very positive assessment of the service.

The consultants report highlighted the commitment of staff and the importance of the Community Legal Education work which was being done. The report also stated that VALS salary levels were low compared to some other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services.

One of the recommendations of the consultant was "that VALS explore options for the relocation of the Fitzroy office, to more suitable premises that are more accessible for clients; this cannot be achieved within existing levels of funding..."

The consultant identified Occupational Health and Safety issues for VALS employees in addition to the lack of accessibility for the elderly, disabled or women with young children.

VALS is still seeking funds to address these issues.

#### **Service Standards**

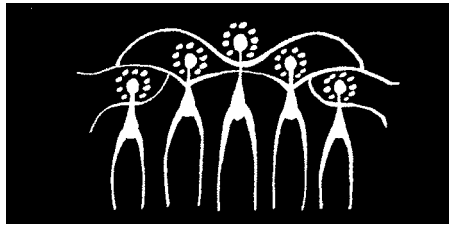
ATSIC have decided that VALS is to have a Service Standards consultant work on developing standards for the service. A similar process has occurred in Northern Territory and New South Wales. This project has been deferred pending the development of a new strategic plan.

#### **Strategic Plan**

VALS received funds from ATSIC to develop a new strategic plan. A tender was developed, publicised and a number of expressions of interest have been received.

#### **Memorandum of Understanding with Victoria Legal Aid**

VALS has continued to maintain and enhance its relationship with Victoria Legal Aid. Within this framework of cooperation and assistance, both agencies are committed to preserving the independence of VALS.



## ANNUAL REPORT 2000-2001

VALS have obtained support from Victoria Legal Aid for a proposal to the Commonwealth for Commonwealth Legal Aid funds to assist VALS in meeting demand for Family Law.

VALS have been seeing an increasing number of family law and child protection clients in the last two years. Commonwealth Legal Aid funds would help VALS meet this need. It is positive that Victoria Legal Aid have supported this initiative which we understand has not occurred in any other state.

Other initiatives being discussed are access to Legal Aid facilities such as video conferencing and the possible provision of regional office accommodation at little or no cost to VALS.

It is hoped the already excellent links between VALS and VLA can be maintained and even further enhanced in the years ahead.

### **Indigenous Womens' Issues**

Antoinette Gentile, in association with other VALS staff and Board members was pivotal in establishing the Indigenous Women's Justice forum in April 2000. This has continued to grow in strength and effectiveness as a forum to improve links between Koori women, Koori services and mainstream service providers who work with Koori women.

### **Client Service Officers**

Until Peter McDougall started as deputy chief executive officer in May, Antoinette Gentile was also responsible for management of the Client Service Unit. The unit is staffed by ten client service officers six of whom are based in non metro offices and the other four staff at the Fitzroy office.

The Metropolitan Client Service Officers are required to participate in an on-call roster and respond to notifications from Victoria Police (via Criminal Records Unit) of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people being detained in custody. During the year VALS continued to provide inmates located at the Melbourne Assessment Prison, Port Phillip Prison,

Metropolitan Women's Correctional Centre and Juvenile Justice with regular visits.

Current staff as of July 2001 in the Metropolitan area were: Mr Patrick Farrant, Mr John Bell, Mr Matthew Holmes and Ms Loretta O'Neill.

VALS employs regional Client Service Officers in the following areas:

**Bairnsdale:** Ms Lyn Morgan has responsibility for the Sale, Bairnsdale, Lakes Entrance and Orbost Courts. She has been employed by VALS for 8 years.

**Heywood:** Mr Wayne Bell has responsibility for the Portland, Horsham, Ballarat, Geelong, Warrnambool, Ararat and Stawell Courts. Wayne has also been employed by VALS for a number of years. He is also the local Community Justice Panel representative for that area.

**Mildura:** Mr Ray Clarke is responsible for the Mildura and Robinvale areas. However, over the past year he has had the additional responsibility for Swan Hill and surrounding areas.

**Morwell:** Mr Willie Pepper is responsible for Moe, Morwell and Korumburra Courts and, until recently, visited inmates at Fulham Prison. Willie has been with VALS for 4 years.

**Shepparton:** Mr David Atkinson has occupied the position since March 1999. David is responsible for the Shepparton, Echuca, Wodonga, Bendigo, Wangaratta and Castlemaine Courts. David also visits inmates at Loddon Prison.

**Swan Hill:** Iris Wise has been recruited to this position. Ray Clarke has been covering this area in the absence of a Client Service Officer for the region.

Finally I would like to thank the administration staff and the legal secretaries for their continued support and professionalism.



## ANNUAL REPORT 2000-2001

### Staff

Staff as of June 2001

Chief Executive Officer Antoinette Gentile

Deputy Chief Executive Officer Peter McDougall

Corporate and Financial Services Unit Chris Dodds, Executive Officer

#### **Legal Practice Unit**

##### *Criminal Section*

Executive Officer Tom Munro

Deputy Executive Officer Jenny Clark

Ann-Maree Baring

Justin Wheelahan

Richard Edney

Graeme Davis

Shaun Ginsbourg

Solicitor Vacant

##### *Civil Section*

Michele Zaccarro

Family Law Section

Paul Haskett

Paula King

Elisa Whittacker

Kerry Wylde

#### **Research, Planning and Development Unit**

Executive Officer Robin Inglis

Filing and Data Entry Clerk Teresa Hofilena

Research Officer Vacant

##### *Community Legal Education*

Project Officer Vacant

Catie Pitman

#### **Client Service Officer**

##### *Metropolitan*

Patrick Farrant

John Bell

Matthew Holmes

Loretta O'Neill

##### *Regional*

David Atkinson (Shepparton)

Wayne Bell (Heywood)

Ray Clarke (Mildura)

Lyn Morgan (Bairnsdale)

Willie Pepper (Morwell)

Iris Wise (Swan Hill)

#### **Administration**

Administration Officer Lance Zampaglione

Receptionist Shirley Reynolds

Legal Secretaries

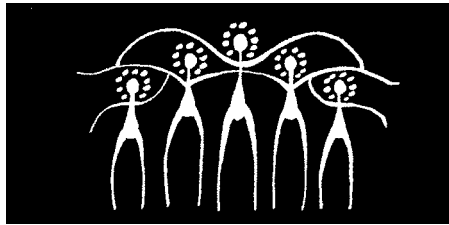
Julie Mason

Sheree Alberts-Pevitt

Raeleen Hibbins (Regional)

Vernise Solomon





## ANNUAL REPORT 2000-2001

### Report for the Legal Practice year ending 30th of June

The year up to the 30th of June 2001 went well for the service. The criminal practice had been able to recruit a mix of reasonably experienced staff. The civil section had been able to win some cases and we had a very experienced family law solicitor Paul Haskett. The Family Law section had also trained Paula King as an articulated clerk and she had been kept on as a solicitor in the area.

This is despite a reasonably static funding base (the only increase had been to fund additional Federal Super requirements).

The service has had problems in the past filling the Bairnsdale position. We were able to employ Graham Davis in the position for this period and he is a person who is not only highly competent but is also very popular with our clients.

The service as most members would be aware allocates the state into a number of regions and has a solicitor responsible for each region. During the time period of this report Pat Bourke was responsible for the Goulbourn area, Shaun Ginsberg for the Western Area, Richard Edney for the Mallee and Anne Maree Baring for West Gippsland. The Mallee also is used as a area in which to train solicitors so that newer solicitors alternate on that circuit. During the relevant year Justin Wheelahan worked in that capacity.

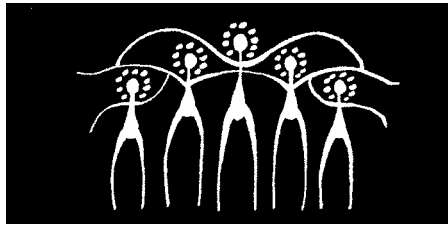
The service has also had Jenny Clarke, the Deputy Executive Officer Legal Practice handle most of the more serious criminal cases, those which are heard in the County and the Supreme Court. The service has a policy in those cases of seeking grants of aid and having barristers represent clients because of the seriousness of the matters.

The service has found that the provision of family law services has been very popular, although this has led to an increase in the cost of brief outs for interim appearances.

With regard to criminal law matters, one of the issues that has been raised over the years is that the service puts pressure on clients to plead guilty. This is not the case, if it ever was. In fact, over the past few years the service has adopted a policy of pushing as many matters as possible to contest mention and then to eventual hearing if there is a reasonable chance of defeating the charges. The service has adopted a policy of briefing contested matters so that sufficient time can be properly devoted to such cases in order to bring about a better quality outcome for our clients.

The solicitors of the service have also been active in Law Reform activities. Jenny Clark of the service has attended meetings in regard to proposed changes to committal rules. Other solicitors have given evidence at Parliamentary Committees and prepared related material in the area.

One of the strengths of the service during the year of this report is the high quality of the Client Service Officers in regional areas. All are experienced and bring a huge amount to their jobs. They are the key to providing a level of professionalism to these areas. Needless to say it would be difficult to represent large court lists without them being present.



## ANNUAL REPORT 2000-2001

### Finance & Corporate Services Unit

The Corporate & Financial Services Unit is responsible for maintaining the financial framework and structure which supports all operational areas of the organisation. This involves ensuring that VALS meets its statutory obligations and maintains a reliable system of internal controls which is designed to reasonably ensure that all transactions are authorised in accordance with approved management procedures, that all transactions are properly recorded and that the assets of the Co-operative are safeguarded.

VALS principal cost is staff salaries, with other major expenses being outside briefs, motor vehicle running, telephone, and travel. Taken together these expenses account for 96% of the recurrent funding provided to VALS by ATSIC in 2000/01. A full analysis of Income and Expenditure is provided in the Annual Financial Statements.

Reports are provided by means of monthly Financial Reports to the Board of Directors, half yearly reports to ATSIC and Annual Reports to Members. Each is provided with varying analyses according to their needs and statutory obligations.

The Service is primarily funded by ATSIC by means of quarterly grant payments in advance. Payments are made only if satisfactory Financial Reports have been submitted to ATSIC in accordance with VALS contractual agreement with ATSIC. Tied to ATSIC grants are additional terms and conditions that require VALS to undertake a range of accountability procedures. During the past financial year ATSIC provided VALS with additional funds for specific projects, and these are accounted for separately.

The Commonwealth Government provides funding to VALS for Emergency Relief to those in need of

financial or food assistance. Assistance is only provided after an assessment of each applicant.

There has been no change in accounting procedures during the year

The Co-operative achieved a surplus after abnormal items of \$116,111 for the year compared with \$13,680 in 1999/2000. Of the surplus in 2000/01 only \$5,716 was on the Recurrent account. \$110,373 of the total came from one off events due to fixed asset purchases. \$77,185 resulted from a transfer from General account to purchase three motor vehicles, and \$33,188 was separately granted to VALS by ATSIC so that VALS could buy a new telephone system.

Expenditure increased by 1.2% while income increased by 6.6%. The main increases in expenditure were \$36,223 in employee costs, and \$17,312 in Motor Vehicle expenses. The main increases in income were \$119,684 in ATSIC grants, and Outside Brief costs reimbursed by Legal Aid of \$86,680.

VALS budgets for break-even and endeavours to end the year just under budget in order to protect the capital base of the organisation and to ensure that we have sufficient funds to meet the needs of unplanned events. The result was 4.3% of Total Revenue and 7.8% of Members Funds.

The Balance Sheet shows that the liquidity position at 30 June 2001 is strong with an increase in net current assets of \$90,556 on last year. Capital expenditure was modest during the year, and it is anticipated that this will remain so during 2001/02.



## ANNUAL REPORT 2000-2001

### **Research, Planning and Development Unit (and Education)**

The Research Planning and Development Unit provides information, advice, referral and support and advocates for improved laws, legal system operation, diversion and prevention strategies. Additionally the Unit has a number of organisational support roles in relation to preparation of funding submissions, library, information technology and file management.

The Unit has continued to work with Koori Communities via its community legal education work; established an Indigenous Women's Justice Forum and developed funding and policy submissions.

#### **Key Tasks of the Unit**

- Provide information to the CEO and Board about government policy and programs
- Provide information to the public, including media and human service organisations about VALS and issues affecting Kooris
- Provide Community Legal Education to Koori community members
- Do research about policy changes and issues affecting the Koori community
- Record details of all client matters; create files and maintain and improve the VALS data base
- Coordinate information technology planning and maintenance
- Library maintenance including updating all legal loose leaf systems

- Contribute to the services ongoing activities and development via assistance with funding submissions and training issues
- Provide quarterly reports to ATSIC on the service's activities

#### **Highlights of the 2000-2001 year**

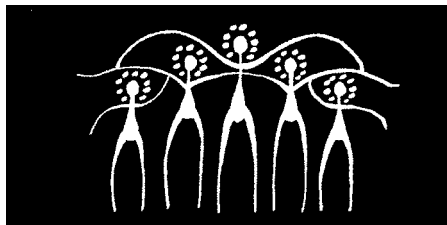
##### **Community Legal Education**

Pressure from the casework side of the Legal Service has seen funding for Community Legal Education reduce over the last two years from three staff to 0.8 of a position.

Catie Pitman has been the sole worker for the last year. She has been ably assisted by many of the Client Service Officers when working with the community. Work has been concentrated in Shepparton and Dandenong. Apart from community meetings which have raised many justice issues including dealing with police, there have been talks to Koori students and women's groups and continued work with Victoria Legal Aid's education unit and their regional seminars.

One of the highlights of the year was the launch of a new Community Legal Education pamphlet encouraging parents to provide support to young people who are in trouble with the police or going to court. President of the Children's Court Judge Jennifer Coate launched the pamphlet. Judge Coate emphasised how much the Court wants to hear from parents or guardians if the children have come to the attention of police.

Community members at the launch encouraged the Judge to involve the Elders in dealing with young people.



## ANNUAL REPORT 2000-2001

The Judge said she would be very keen to look at doing this.

Considerable work has been done on the development of a Local Agreement between police in Shepparton and Koori justice workers. This agreement seeks to clarify the day to day working relationship between police, VALS and the Community Justice Panel members. It also clarifies how complaints against police should be dealt with and seeks to improve communication and orientation between Koori justice workers and newly arrived police.

Work has also been done with community people in Echuca about the operation of the Community Justice Panel.

In 2001 VALS staff together with the then CEO Antoinette Gentile welcomed women to the first Indigenous Women's Justice Forum. This Forum also included some mainstream service providers who are involved in Koori women's services or issues. The Forum agreed on some objectives and decided to continue to meet on a quarterly basis.

We were proud to discover that our funding submission to the State Government Department of Justice had been successful and the Community Legal Education section received funds under the Victorian Aboriginal Justice Agreement. It has not been possible to fill the position at this stage and further advertising will occur.

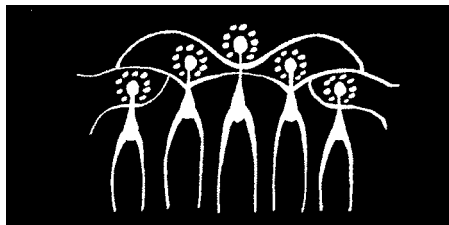
### Policy and Legal Issues

Many thanks to our Research Officer Chris Dunk for his contribution to the unit. Chris resigned in March 2001 and as of July 2001 the position was still vacant. Apart from dealing with inquiries from the

public Chris monitored delays in police notifications to VALS and assisted with other research analysis and information gathering.

### Activities in 2000-2001 included:

- Analysis of ATSIC Policy proposals concerned with tendering Aboriginal Legal Services
- Completion and distribution of research about Koori women who have used intervention orders. Thanks to Stephanie D'Abreo for her work on this
- Submissions, written and verbal, to the Victorian Parliamentary Drugs and Crime Prevention Committee Inquiry into Public Drunkenness
- Written submission to the Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee of the Victorian Parliament Review of Summary Offences Act.
- Report about Home detention including some NSW data and reports
- Contributed to the VALS submission and provided follow up information to the State Government Parliamentary Review of Rural Access to Legal Service
- Assisting with the conference examining the impact of the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child ten years after the Government ratified it
- Report and media release about ten years after the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody
- Reports and meetings about pro bono (free solicitor) schemes
- Proposals about diversion(alternatives to imprisonment) policy
- Proposals re Reviews of the Police Aboriginal Strategic Plan and the Community Justice Panel
- Submission to the Victorian Government Review of the Management of Private Prisons



## ANNUAL REPORT 2000-2001

- Presented a paper at the Victorian Homelessness Conference
- Commenced research on different models of Indigenous Courts and Sentencing panels

### Information Technology

The Service has continued to develop and improve its data base and information technology system. It has done this inspite of ATSIC being unable to provide funds at any stage of this process. Some other states have received considerable support to develop and improve their data base.

VALS has strongly advocated for the importance of having its own system of data collection and maintaining its own system. ATSIC have over the last couple of years alternated between a centralist and a decentralist policy in these matters. The cost of a centralised data base system and the inflexibility it causes would be significant. Wisely ATSIC have now opted for separate systems with common outputs.

VALS has managed to achieve improvements slowly with the assistance of a highly skilled I.T. consultant who has provided assistance to the Service at below market rates.

VALS now has e-mail access for all staff in the metro office and software which enables internal e-mail and shared access to contact lists and useful data.

The unit developed an internet policy for the Board to cover appropriate use of the Internet and e-mail.

Teresa Hofilena continues to provide excellent support to VALS in her work on data entry, file management and reception.

### Statistics

The number of civil, family and criminal files opened in 2000-2001 dropped slightly compared with the previous year. The reduction was 4% from 5574 to 5346.

The expenditure on outside lawyers to do cases reduced by 15% compared with the previous year. This was partly a consequence of the Service recruiting some additional family law staff.

Type of Legal Matter	Female %	Male %
Civil Law	57%	43%
Criminal law	22%	78%
Family Law	60%	40%

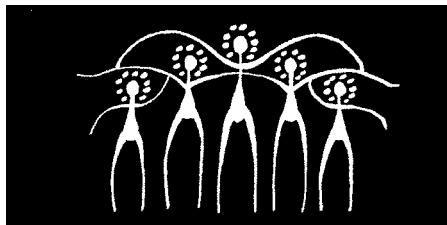
(Active matters in the year, not matters opened)



ANNUAL REPORT 2000-2001

VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL LEGAL SERVICE CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED  
 CONSOLIDATED  
 TRADING PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2001

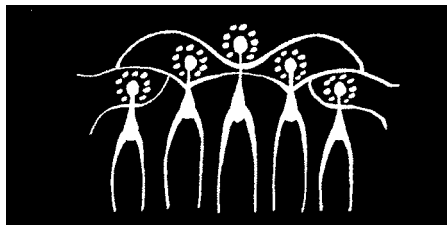
	2001 \$	2000 \$
<b>INCOME</b>		
<b>Grants</b>		
ATSIC	2,299,664.00	2,179,980.00
Other	105,395.96	17,180.95
Transfer from 2000 Current Liability	254,935.84	149,788.91
Transfer from Retained Profits		-
	<u>2,659,995.80</u>	<u>2,346,949.86</u>
<b>Other Income</b>		
Members Subscriptions	21.82	38.00
Bank Interest	45,536.80	27,954.78
General	-	127,598.82
Reimbursements Received	9,737.14	10,630.99
Sale of Publications	-	954.05
Legal Costs Recovered	29,006.01	46,724.25
Legal Aid Reimbursed	149,785.45	63,105.04
Workers Comp Recovered	-	-
Donations	5,350.00	4,104.00
Profit/-Loss on sale: Non-current Assets	3,126.36	3,510.00
	<u>242,563.58</u>	<u>284,619.93</u>



ANNUAL REPORT 2000-2001

VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL LEGAL SERVICE CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED  
 CONSOLIDATED  
 TRADING PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2001

EXPENDITURE	2001 \$	2000 \$
Salaries	1,278,249.20	1,276,080.16
Superannuation	114,501.13	97,119.59
Workcover	17,198.45	11,493.85
Annual Leave Accrual Expense	7,584.51	2,259.82
Long Service Leave Accrual Expense	11,059.83	5,417.44
Motor Vehicles - Fuel	38,166.37	34,991.90
Motor Vehicles - Leases & Repairs	95,316.70	81,178.89
Repairs & Maintenance - Buildings	4,664.47	3,749.20
Repairs & Maintenance - Plant	740.77	4,363.45
Repairs & Maintenance - Computers	11,114.90	10,857.37
Depreciation - Furn Fittings & Equip	31,389.35	40,172.74
Depreciation - Motor Vehicles	13,782.00	16,300.00
Depreciation - Buildings	18,628.00	16,897.00
Audit Fees	6,300.00	10,000.00
Equipment Hire	29,457.45	40,500.67
Outside Briefs	359,552.78	367,936.47
Bank Charges	3,145.99	5,661.57
Cleaning	22,679.96	20,955.14
Insurance	15,749.35	13,798.74
Annual General Meeting Expenses	5,860.32	840.60
Directors Meeting Expenses	1,380.31	1,144.10
Other Meeting Expenses	677.45	3,249.53
Postage	11,207.77	11,352.78
Rates	10,722.61	9,376.02
Rent	33,910.02	32,740.04
Telephone	63,859.12	74,632.69
Staff Training	847.45	3,212.80
Library Expense	16,519.84	12,723.87
Security	6,363.50	6,675.94
Storage	3,141.08	3,128.00
Staff Amenities	1,978.72	1,619.34
Advertising	9,165.30	9,379.58
Practicing Certificates	5,072.00	5,366.50
Subscriptions	2,376.11	1,988.00
Food Vouchers	2,000.00	1,000.00

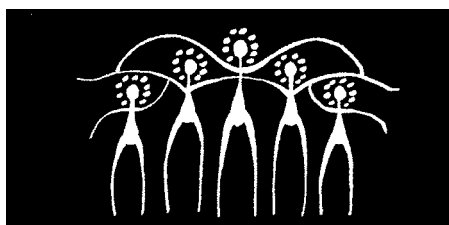


ANNUAL REPORT 2000-2001

VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL LEGAL SERVICE CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED  
CONSOLIDATED  
TRADING PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2001

	2001	2000
	\$	\$
Legal Fees	1,303.10	5,491.96
Sundries	4,629.52	3,080.95
Electricity & Gas	14,760.31	16,035.60
Printing & Stationery	22,276.00	24,321.23
Travel	88,596.20	75,859.56
Telephone Installation	1,980.00	-
Computer Upgrades	3,150.00	-
Current Liability Carried Forward	395,390.21	254,935.84
	<u>2,786,448.15</u>	<u>2,617,888.93</u>
<b>OPERATING PROFIT/-LOSS BEFORE INCOME TAX</b>	<u><u>116,111.23</u></u>	<u><u>13,680.86</u></u>





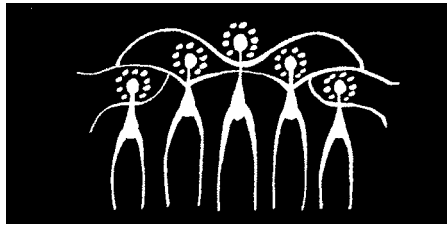
ANNUAL REPORT 2000-2001

VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL LEGAL SERVICE CO-OPERATIVE LTD

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT 30 JUNE 2001

	Note	2001 \$	2000 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash	15	1,041,907.67	778,176.75
Receivables	4	14,218.00	4,636.00
Prepayments		<u>29,524.10</u>	<u>24,774.00</u>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>1,085,649.77</u>	<u>807,586.75</u>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, Plant & Equipment	5	<u>1,145,093.51</u>	<u>607,273.00</u>
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>1,145,093.51</u>	<u>607,273.00</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u>2,230,743.28</u>	<u>1,414,859.75</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Payables & Accruals		160,148.26	131,740.67
Provisions	6	185,929.69	167,285.35
Unspent Grant Funds	7	<u>395,390.21</u>	<u>254,935.84</u>
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>741,468.16</u>	<u>553,961.86</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<u>741,468.16</u>	<u>553,961.86</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>1,489,275.12</u>	<u>860,897.89</u>
<b>MEMBERS FUNDS</b>			
Members Share Capital	8	272.60	268.60
Reserves	9	6.00	6.00
Retained Surplus		<u>1,488,996.52</u>	<u>860,623.29</u>
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS FUNDS</b>		<u>1,489,275.12</u>	<u>860,897.89</u>



ANNUAL REPORT 2000-2001

VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL LEGAL SERVICE CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED

DECLARATION OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service Co-operative Limited declares that the financial statements and notes:

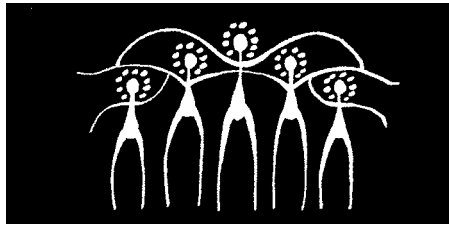
- (a) accord with the Co-operatives Act 1996
- (b) comply with Australian Accounting Standards, and
- (c) present fairly the financial position of the Co-operative as at 30 June 2001 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year ended on that date.

In the Directors opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Co-operative will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Signed on behalf of the Board at Fitzroy this <sup>18</sup>12th day of December 2001

  
.....  
DIRECTOR

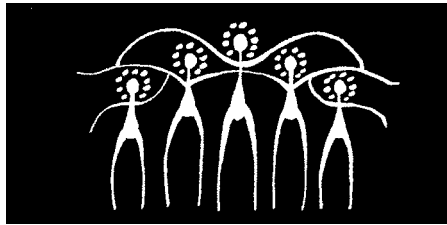
  
.....  
DIRECTOR



ANNUAL REPORT 2000-2001

VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL LEGAL SERVICE CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED  
ATSIC TREATY CONSULTATION  
TRADING PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2001

	2001	2000
	\$	\$
INCOME		
<b>Grants</b>		
Grant Received	20,000.00	-
	<u>20,000.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Current Liability Carried Forward	20,000.00	-
	<u>20,000.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
OPERATING PROFIT BEFORE INCOME TAX	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>



ANNUAL REPORT 2000-2001

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT**

**TO THE MEMBERS OF THE VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL LEGAL  
SERVICE CO-OPERATIVE LTD**

**SCOPE**

I have audited the financial report of the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service Co-operative Limited for the financial year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2001 included as pages 1 to 44 consisting of the statement of financial position, statement of financial performance, statement of cash flows, accompanying notes to the financial report and Directors' declaration. The co-operative's Directors are responsible for the financial report. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members of the co-operative.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements and statutory requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with my understanding of the co-operative's financial position, and performance as represented by the results of its operations and its cash flows.

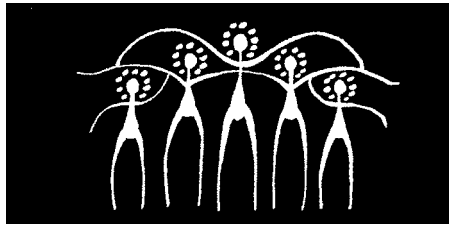
The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

**AUDIT OPINION**

In my opinion, the financial report of the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service Co-operative Limited is in accordance with:

- (a) the Co-operative's Act 1996 including:
  - (i) giving a true and fair view of the co-operative's financial position as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2001 and of its performance for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2001
  - (ii) complying with Accounting Standards and the Co-operative's Act; and
- (b) other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

.../2



ANNUAL REPORT 2000-2001

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL LEGAL  
SERVICE CO-OPERATIVE LTD



(cont'd)

- (c) (i) I have received all necessary information, explanation and assistance necessary for the conduct of the audit; and
- (ii) the co-operative has kept financial records sufficient to enable a financial report to be prepared and audited; and
- (iii) the co-operative has kept other records as required by the Co-operatives Act 1996 and registers as required by section 244 of the Act.

**ERIC TOWNSEND**  
**E TOWNSEND & CO**  
**CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT**


Suite 2  
83 Hartnett Dr  
SEAFORD VIC 3198

18<sup>th</sup> day of December 2001




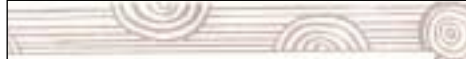

Artist: Wendy Wilson Smith

# Your Rights when dealing with Centrelink




**Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service  
Co-operative Ltd**

*Doing justice through community legal education*





Artist: Wendy Wilson Smith

# Young People and Police




**Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service  
Co-operative Ltd**

*Doing justice through community legal education*

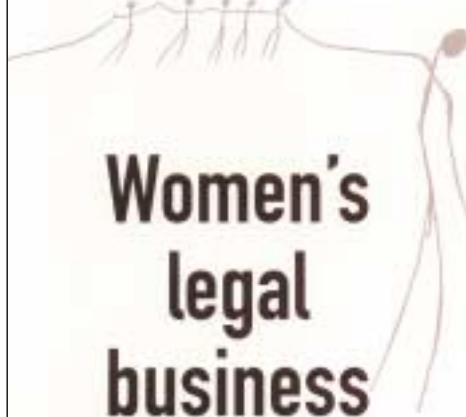



# Family violence




**Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service  
Co-operative Ltd**

*Doing justice through community legal education*



# Women's legal business



**Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service  
Co-operative Ltd**

*Doing justice through community legal education*

