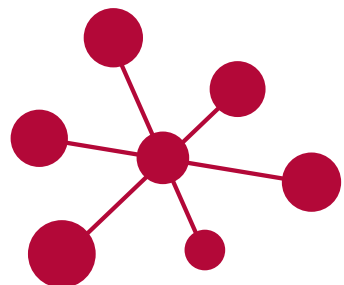
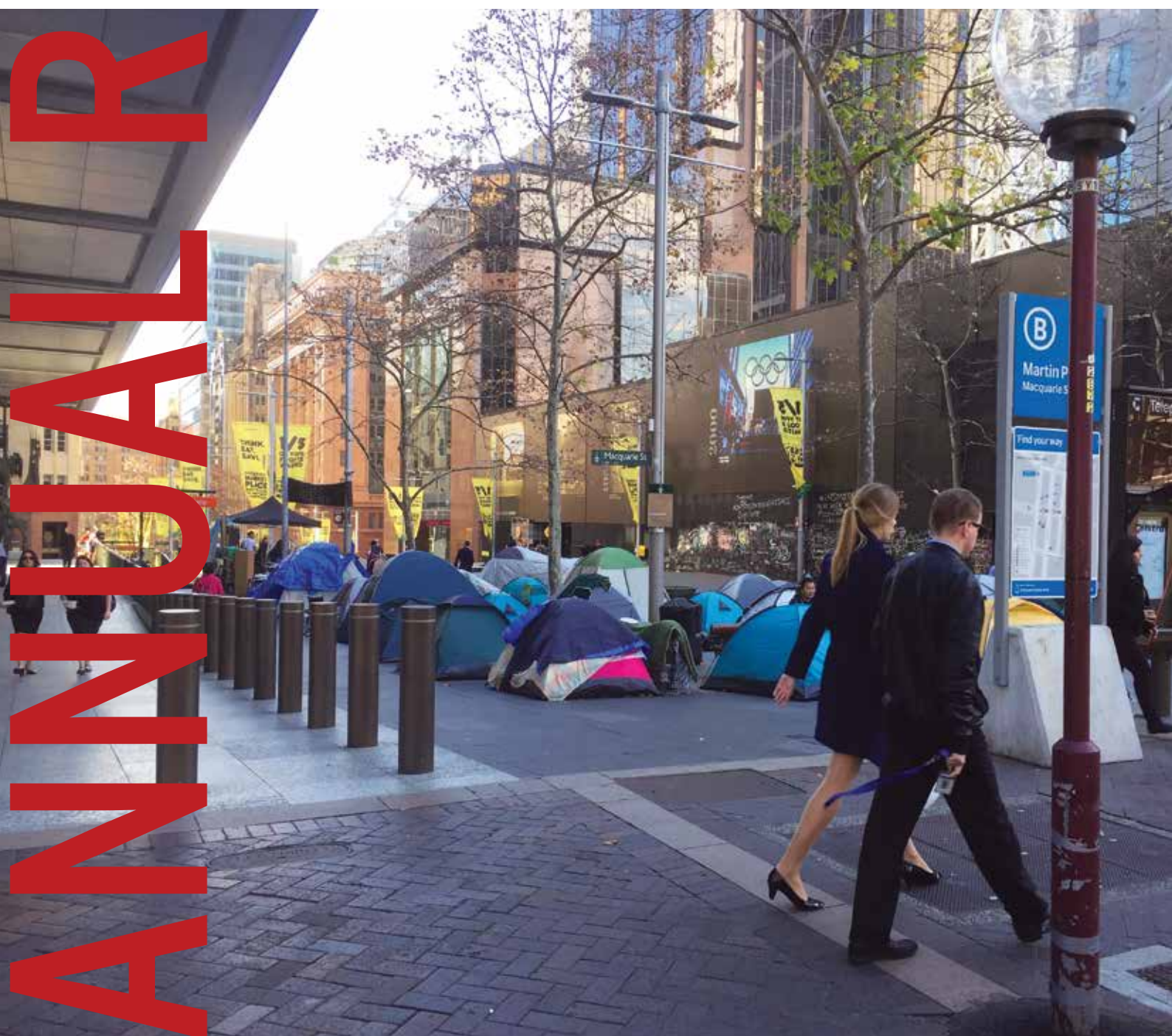


# REPORT

2016-2017



public interest  
ADVOCACY CENTRE



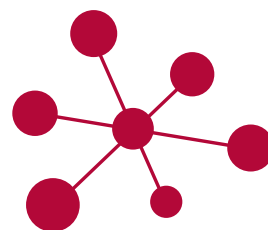
# CONTENTS

About PIAC	3
Chair's report	4
CEO's report	5
2016-17 snapshot	6
Homelessness	8
Equality & accessibility	12
Asylum seekers	13
Indigenous Justice	14
Justice in Sri Lanka	16
Police accountability	17
Energy & water	18
Reconciliation	20
Training & communications	22
Staff & Board	24
Thankyou	26
Financial statements	28

Generous support from individuals, foundations, law firms and others is vital for PIAC's ongoing success. Your contribution helps PIAC address emerging public interest issues and achieve practical outcomes that protect individual dignity and the basic rights of vulnerable people.

Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible.

Donate online at [www.piac.asn.au](http://www.piac.asn.au)



**public interest**  
ADVOCACY CENTRE

Level 5, 175 Liverpool St  
Sydney NSW 2000  
Australia  
Phone: 61 2 8898 6500  
Fax: 61 2 8898 6555  
[www.piac.asn.au](http://www.piac.asn.au)

ISSN 1324-5376

working for a

**fair & just**  
**democratic society**

empowering

**citizens & consumers**  
**communities**

Editor: Gemma Pearce  
Design: Lena Lowe  
Photos: Gemma Pearce, Lena Lowe,  
Scott Parker, Deirdre Moor,  
Alex Craig.

Cover photo: Deirdre Moor



### **The Public Interest Advocacy**

**Centre** (PIAC) is an independent, non-profit organisation, committed to social justice and addressing disadvantage. We provide legal assistance, policy advice and training to help people who have least access to economic, social and legal resources and opportunities.

PIAC uses the law to achieve practical outcomes that protect the dignity and basic rights of vulnerable people. We promote equal access to justice by providing legal assistance free of charge through our in-house legal team and extensive network of pro-bono lawyers.

PIAC also draws on our specialised knowledge of particular client communities, gained through our legal assistance work, to recognise trends or patterns that indicate systemic problems or issues. We work with government, business, the community sector and other partners to achieve lasting change.

Since our establishment in 1982, PIAC has grown from a staff of four to a staff of 32 as well as secondees, professional placements, and interns who all make an essential contribution.

PIAC's office is on the land of the Gadigal of the Eora nation. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander elders past and present and stand with them in their fight for justice for their people.



## Chair's introduction



After 35 years, PIAC remains at the forefront of critical public interest issues, such as police accountability, homelessness, the energy needs of vulnerable consumers, Indigenous justice, equality and accessibility for people with a disability and the health needs of asylum seekers in our detention centres.

During the past year PIAC faced a challenging environment of increasing homelessness and the crippling impact of soaring energy prices on struggling families. These problems are likely to escalate this year.

Also during the past year, proposed funding cuts threatened the sustainability of PIAC's operations. Community Legal Centres across Australia faced deep cuts as a result of a planned reduction in Commonwealth funding. A combination of factors saw PIAC facing a cut of over 50% to core legal assistance funding.

Fortunately, the cuts were avoided and PIAC's funding remains steady for the coming financial year. This is in large part due to the 'rescue package' for CLCs announced by the NSW Attorney General, the Hon Mark Speakman SC MP. We thank the Attorney General for his leadership and support of the community legal sector. We also thank the Commonwealth Attorney-General, Senator the Hon George Brandis QC, for maintaining funding for Community Legal Centres. PIAC is particularly grateful to have the ongoing support of the Public Purpose Fund, which has provided the bedrock of PIAC's funding since 1987.

I take this opportunity to express PIAC's appreciation for the strong advocacy for the sector undertaken by the National Association of Community Legal Centres, the Law Council of Australia and the Law Society of NSW. We also very much appreciated the direct support for PIAC shown by CLC NSW, major law firms, university law schools, NGOs and individuals.

The key role played by our CEO, Jonathon Hunyor, in dealing with this funding crisis cannot be overstated. In his first year as CEO, Jonathon has shown great leadership.

PIAC is very fortunate to have an engaged Board that brings a diverse set of skills, ensuring the highest standard of governance. This year we farewelled directors Peter Cashman, Alan Kirkland and Matthew Quinn and were delighted to welcome Bob Debus, Sarah Ferguson, Damian Griffis and Ian Farmer. Thank you to all directors for their contribution to PIAC.

To PIAC's staff and volunteers, thank you for your exceptional commitment and hard work. This report covers just some of the things you have achieved for our clients and the broader community in the last year. And to our partner organisations and generous funders and donors, thank you for making our work possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ralph Pliner'. The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

RALPH PLINER  
CHAIR

## CEO report

PIAC is delivering on its commitment to achieving social justice and leading change to ensure basic rights are enjoyed across the community.



As set out in this report, our achievements in 2016-17 included

- Securing breakthrough changes to travel insurance policies for people with mental health conditions
- Intervening on behalf of consumers in Full Federal Court proceedings concerning electricity pricing (a first for any consumer group)
- Launching the Asylum Seeker Health Rights Project and commencing proceedings in our first case to secure humane standards of medical and mental health care for people in immigration detention
- Tackling the legal problems that can lead to and entrench homelessness, through the network of 500 pro bono lawyers involved with our Homeless Persons Legal Service
- Supporting people with lived experience of homelessness to have a direct influence on government policy regarding homelessness and housing
- Highlighting the needs of young Aboriginal people with disabilities before NT Royal Commission into youth detention and child protection, working with the First Peoples Disability Network
- Holding police accountable for unlawful conduct, including assaults and false arrests
- Developing the Sri Lanka Conflict Map and Archive Project to support transitional justice
- Building community capacity for public interest advocacy through training for almost 500 people across 21 events
- Launching our Reconciliation Action Plan to affirm and deepen our commitment to a reconciliation and take practical steps to advance the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Our Annual Report contains not just the facts and figures of the past year, but also shares some of our clients' stories. PIAC's work seeks broad, systemic impact, but at the heart of every case is a person whose life we seek to change. Our clients often take significant personal risks to pursue cases in the public interest and we acknowledge their courage.

I am enormously grateful for the support of PIAC's Board, staff, volunteers and our many supporters in the legal profession and community who have contributed to PIAC's success. I look forward to continuing our work with you all, in the public interest.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Hunyor', written in a cursive style.

JONATHON HUNYOR  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

## ▶ PIAC at a glance

### Strategic litigation

Changing the system through public interest test cases

- Indigenous Justice
- Mental Health and Insurance
- Police accountability
- Asylum Seeker Health Rights
- Discrimination and human rights
- Government and the rule of law

### Homeless Persons' Legal Service

Breaking the cycle of disadvantage for people experiencing homelessness

- Legal help at 15 outreach clinics, staffed by over 500 pro bono lawyers
- StreetCare: advocacy and practical advice to government and service providers

### Energy and Water Consumers' Advocacy Program

A voice for energy and water consumers in NSW

- Research and policy development to promote affordability and sustainability
- Representing consumer interests in regulatory processes

### Policy and law reform

Working with government, business and the community in the public interest

- An influential and authoritative voice in the media
- A respected stakeholder, making submissions of substance

### Training for social justice

Developing community capacity for effective public interest advocacy

- Social Justice and Practising in the Public Interest courses for University students
- Training for individuals, government and NGOs on advocacy, media skills and best-practice service delivery to vulnerable communities

### International projects

Supporting transitional justice: the Conflict Map and Archive Project (Sri Lanka)

- Collecting, preserving and analysing evidence of potential human rights and international humanitarian law abuses to promote truth, justice and accountability.

## ► 2016-7 snapshot



- **26.5** full time equivalent staff
- **6** secondees
- **17** interns
- **12** PLT placements
- **27** students

**176**  
public interest  
cases run on behalf  
of **165**  
individuals and  
organisations

Leveraged  
over **\$3 million**  
in pro bono  
legal assistance

**30,843**  
visits to the website  
**2175**  
subscribers to eBulletin  
Published **18** media releases  
reaching thousands of people  
via major media outlets.  
Facebook up **21%**  
Twitter up **10%**

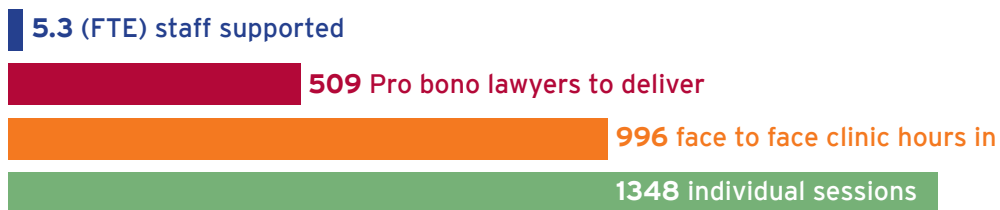
HPLS helped  
**722** clients at  
**1348**  
advice sessions

Published  
**39** submissions,  
reports, papers &  
newsletters

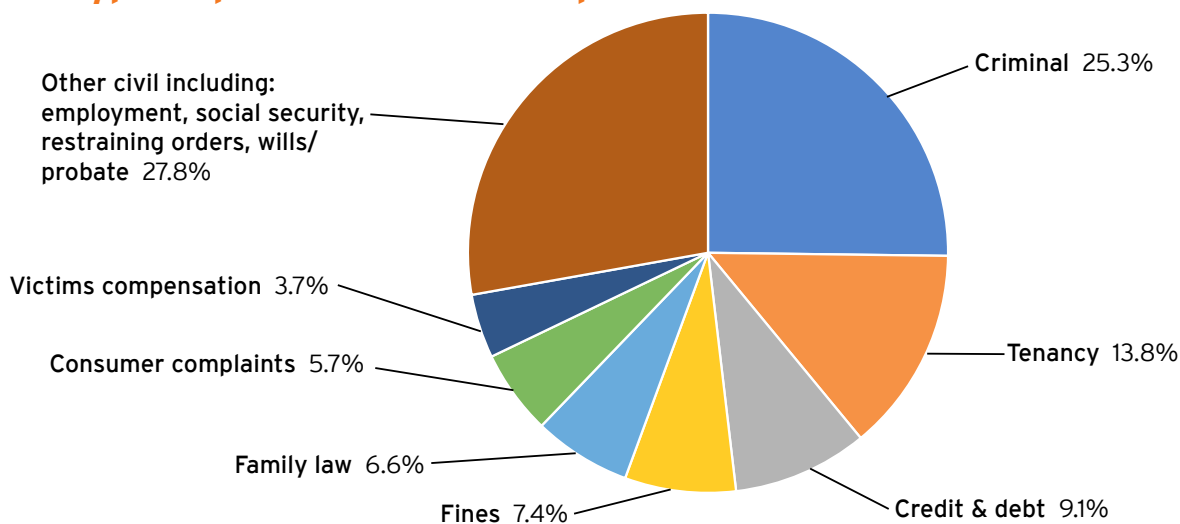
Trained  
**496** people  
in public interest  
advocacy at  
**21** events



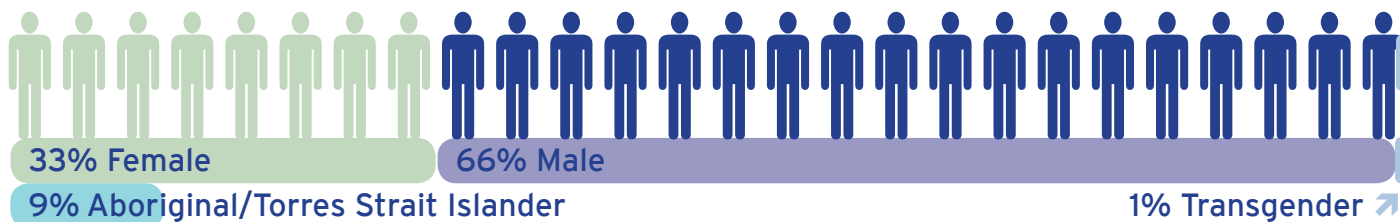
# Homeless Persons' Legal Service 2016-7



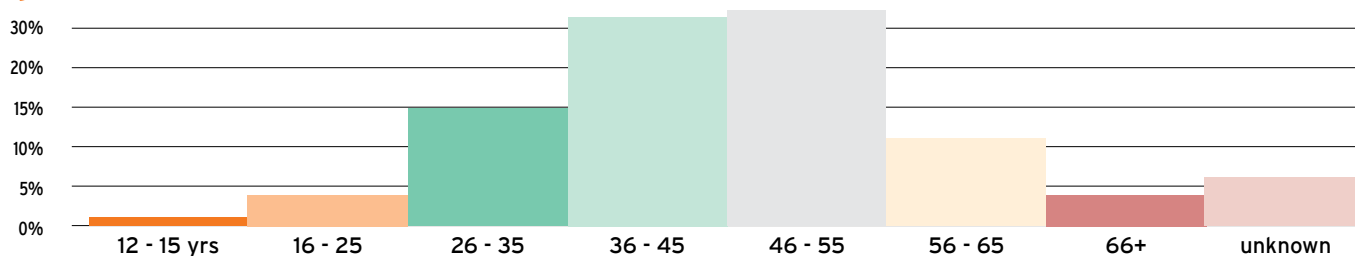
## What type of problems did we help with?



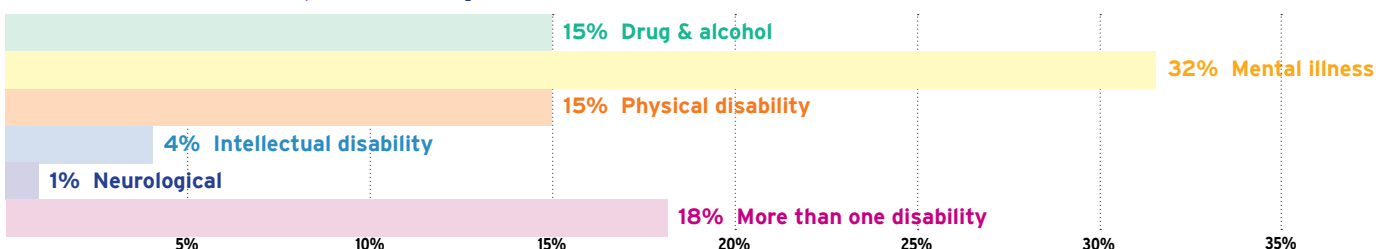
## Our clients



## Age



## Health issues reported by our clients





▶ The Homeless Persons' Legal Service (HPLS) tackles the growing problem of homelessness by providing people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness with legal support to break the cycle of entrenched disadvantage.

With the help of pro bono lawyers from some of Australia's leading law firms and in-house legal teams, we run free legal clinics for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. Our in-house lawyers provide legal representation in criminal and civil law matters.

Informed by our casework and consumer feedback, we also address the causes of homelessness through strategic engagement and policy advocacy with government and service providers.

# Homeless Persons' Legal Service

## Highlights 2016-17

- Successfully operated 15 regular, free legal clinics at welfare agencies in Sydney and Newcastle.
- Assisted 722 clients across 1348 visits to our clinics, with issues including credit, debt, tenancy, family law, fines and consumer complaints.
- Established two new clinics in areas of high need, including one based at Bondi Beach and another at Wayside Chapel's Mob Lunch.
- Represented clients in 340 new cases, including criminal and civil matters.
- Provided support and training to over 500 pro bono solicitors.
- Supported the members of StreetCare, PIAC's consumer advisory committee on homelessness, to meet regularly and make a submission to the NSW Homelessness Strategy.

### Helping Cheryl get back into housing

Cheryl (not her real name) was the victim of a number of serious domestic violence incidents committed by her ex-partner. In one assault in 2013, she was set alight suffered extensive burns. She spent two months in intensive care recovering from her injuries.

Following this incident, she developed post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety and major depression which meant that she was unable to return to her job. This led to Cheryl being evicted from her public housing tenancy for not paying rent, leaving her homeless and reliant on crisis accommodation.

Cheryl has also been a victim of cybercrime. Her ex-partner hacked her laptop and phone to commit identity fraud and photo-shopped images of her into pornographic advertisements and distributed them on the internet.

During 2016-2017 the Homeless Persons' Legal Service (HPLS) lodged an insurance claim on Cheryl's behalf which resulted in a payout of over \$70,000. This has allowed Cheryl to pay the rent she owed and become eligible to apply for public housing again. We also helped her secure a work and development order to reduce fines she has accumulated.

Importantly, HPLS also assisted Cheryl to change her name in order to escape the cybercrime activities and domestic violence.

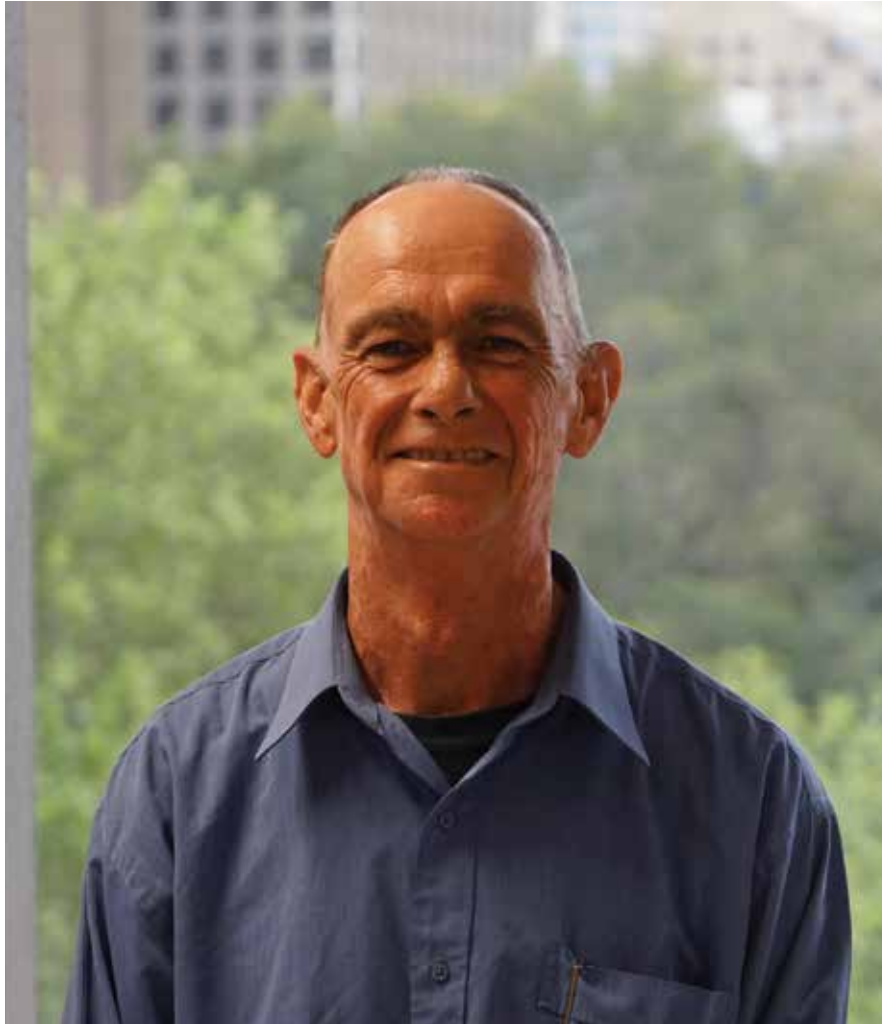


Solicitor Advocate, Jeremy Rea



PIAC @PIACnews

More crisis accommodation & clear targets are key to addressing homelessness. Our sub re the NSW Govt's Strategy: <http://bit.ly/2fgAbcC>



*'When I was given the opportunity to join StreetCare I didn't know how much group advocacy could advance the conditions of homeless and disadvantaged groups.*

*The training, support and direction I have received through PIAC, HPLS and StreetCare has enabled me to advocate at the highest level of government.*

*This has resulted in significant changes in policy and laid the foundations for more positive change. StreetCare is now the go to group for social policy development and will continue to advance the cause of a fair and just society.'*

Dave, StreetCare



# Homelessness policy and StreetCare – consumer advocacy in action

## Highlights 2016-17

- Released the report 'They Spit at You with their Eyes - Experiences of homelessness in NSW', authored by StreetCare member Melissa Wolfshoerndl, highlighting how the stigma associated with homelessness can present significant barriers to employment and housing.
- Gave voice to women who have recently experienced homelessness, through the report 'Home in a Storm', highlighting the need for legal help with issues such as family violence, housing and financial pressure.
- Supported homeless people to influence NSW government policy on homelessness and housing through active membership of the NSW Premier's Advisory Council on Homelessness.
- Provided advice to the Minister for Family and Community Services on consultation for the NSW Government strategy on homelessness.
- Gave homeless consumers a say in the NSW Government draft homelessness strategy through over 70 targeted consultation interviews.
- Participated in the Department of Family and Community Services Housing Connect Reference Group, and the Monitoring and Evaluation Group, assessing the reforms of specialist homelessness services.

▶ HPLS works to address the causes of homelessness through evidence-based policy development and strategic advocacy. Central to this work is the StreetCare homeless consumer advisory group, established in 2009.

StreetCare brings together a diverse group of people with experiences of homelessness and supports them to be active advocates and advisors to government and other key services on law reform, decision-making and training relating to homelessness and housing. The group includes men, women, young people, Aboriginal people, people with disability and representatives from inner Sydney, outer suburbs and rural/regional areas.

In addition, StreetCare members:

- Assisted the NSW Department of Health in developing homelessness awareness training materials for NSW health workers.
- Assisted in the organisation and conduct of the City of Sydney and City of Parramatta Street Counts in August 2016 and February 2017.
- Participated on the organising committees for the Sydney Homeless Connect and the Western Sydney Homeless Connect service hubs.
- Assisted the City of Sydney with organising and managing the monthly Woolloomooloo Integrated Service Hubs.
- Assisted in the delivery of training in consumer participation to over 100 staff of specialist homelessness services in Sydney, Western Sydney and Newcastle.



City of Sydney street count 2017 with Minister for Family and Community Services, Pru Goward



▶ PIAC maintains one of Australia's leading practices in discrimination law, with a history of successful test cases.

PIAC has had particular success working with people with a disability to achieve accessible services, such as public transport, education, insurance, media and online services.

PIAC's mental health and insurance project has been at the forefront of major changes to industry practices to ensure fairer treatment of people with mental health conditions seeking insurance.

## Equality and accessibility

### Highlights 2016-17

- Helped people denied coverage on the basis of mental illness to obtain insurance and have unfair mental health exclusion clauses removed from life and total and permanent disability policies through negotiation, litigation and complaints with the Financial Ombudsman Service.
- Achieved major changes to practices by insurers for clients with mental illness, through negotiation, litigation and advocacy with *beyondblue*, Mental Health Australia and Victoria Legal Aid:
  - Insurers CoverMore and QBE changed their travel insurance policies to give people with mental illness a fairer deal;
  - More insurers have moved to a proper case-by-case assessment of risk, ending blanket policies for mental health issues.
- Successfully challenged a private hospital's refusal of Auslan interpreter services to the partner of a profoundly deaf man who required an interpreter to enable him to communicate with medical staff during the birth of the couple's first child. The media coverage of the case highlighted the obligation on service providers to meet the needs of deaf clients.
- Improved access for girls to gender-neutral standard uniform options. PIAC helped Sydney mother Melissa Mibus to successfully challenge John Palmer Public School's failure to offer school pants or shorts as standard uniform options. The complaint to the Anti-Discrimination Board has resulted in changed practice at the school.
- Continued advocacy with groups including Blind Citizens Australia, Vision Australia and Blind Citizens NSW for audio description on free-to-air television, to provide better access to media for people who are blind or have low vision.

*'The situation you've just helped me with came as such a shock to me. I've never felt like such a second-class citizen before and I'm so grateful you were there to help me do something about it, rather than just sit with the shame and anger.'*

Client  
Mental Health and Insurance Project



In 2016-17 PIAC worked with Blind Citizens Australia, Vision Australia and Blind Citizens NSW to advocate for audio description on television.



PIAC @PIACnews

Since @Graemeinnes case in 2013, Sydney Trains has made great progress in improving service for people with low vision:

//bit.ly/2eibxKq



▶ The Asylum Seeker Health Rights Project aims to secure humane standards of medical and mental health care for asylum seekers in Australian immigration detention centres.

Despite the high levels of trauma suffered by asylum seekers and the damage to mental health caused by long-term, indefinite detention, conditions in immigration detention centres – including rights of access to essential health care – are unprotected in legislation. The Federal Court has described this as a ‘legislative vacuum’.

Through test cases and policy advocacy, PIAC is working to change the system.



PIAC @PIACnews

On #RefugeeDay we call for basic, humane stds of medical and mental health care for asylum seekers.

# Asylum Seeker Health Rights Project

## Highlights 2016-17

- Launched the project in late 2016 with support of the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation and private donors.
- Triaged close to fifty referrals and retained 20 clients for potential litigation.
- Filed proceedings in the Federal Court to secure urgent medical care for our clients.
- Welcomed the release of ten clients into the community.
- Identified systemic issues for advocacy including:
  - Lack of access to antiviral therapy for persons suffering from hepatitis C
  - Inadequate obstetric support for women
  - Excessive use of force on mentally ill persons
- Secured law firm pro bono support to resource litigation.
- Made submissions on the importance of monitoring and oversight in immigration detention centres following Australia’s ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture



Senior solicitor, Jane Leibowitz meeting with clients.

### Getting Evan the health care he needs

Evan\* has been in immigration detention for four years. He has been moved repeatedly between remote facilities and, as this report goes to print, is detained on Christmas Island where he is extremely isolated and unable to access specialist doctors that have offered to provide him with care. Evan has hepatitis C, a respiratory illness, chronic pain and has been diagnosed with various psychiatric conditions, including Complex Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Prolonged Detention Syndrome. Although well-known, his health needs are not being met.

Evan is the survivor of a violent childhood and the detention environment is a major trigger for retraumatisation. He has been continually handcuffed when transferred from detention facilities for medical treatment, against repeated recommendations from health professionals.

PIAC will commence litigation for Evan to urgently get him the health care he requires. His case also highlights the systemic issue of lack of access of antiviral therapy for asylum seekers with hepatitis C and the routine overuse of handcuffing in immigration detention centres.

\*We have changed Evan’s name and used his story with permission.





▶ With generous support from law firm Allens, our Indigenous Justice Program addresses unmet legal needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We work closely with Indigenous organisations to identify gaps in access to justice and bring about systemic change.

A recent focus of our work has been police accountability. Through a referral partnership with the Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT and Allens lawyers, we advise and represent Indigenous clients, especially children and young people, in claims of unlawful conduct against the police.

## Indigenous Justice Program

### Highlights 2016-17

- Commenced proceedings in two major cases to test the lawfulness of intensive policing strategies that bear heavily on Aboriginal young people and their families.
- Represented the First Peoples Disability Network at the Royal Commission into the protection and detention of children in the Northern Territory, assisting in the presentation of oral evidence and submissions about the needs of Aboriginal young people with a disability.
- Welcomed the NSW Government's reparations scheme for members of the Stolen Generations. PIAC has advocated for such a scheme for many years, working with members of the Stolen Generations and Aboriginal community groups.
- Achieved successful outcomes for clients with complaints of police misconduct, including serious allegations of assault.
- Successfully resolved complaints of racial vilification and race discrimination in the provision of accommodation.
- In partnership with the Australian Government Solicitor, established an Indigenous Graduate secondment. In March 2017, we welcomed our first Graduate, Danielle Hobday, to work with both the IJP and Homeless Person's Legal Service.



PIAC @PIACnews

Proud to work with @FPDNAus to highlight this issue in the NT Royal Commission. Young people w/ disabilities need support, not punishment.

### Introducing the Indigenous Child Protection Project

Throughout 2017 PIAC has been developing an important new project in collaboration with the Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.

Indigenous children in NSW are over 10 times more likely than non-Indigenous children to be in out-of-home care. On current trends, the population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in care nationally will almost triple in size by 2035.

The Indigenous Child Protection Project will seek to drive practical and tangible changes to the child protection system, through test cases, research and law reform.

The project will be delivered through an innovative model, placing a PIAC lawyer in the child protection team at the ALS for 3 days per week to provide a practical evidence base for systemic advocacy. In close consultation with the ALS and other stakeholders, the other two days will be spent developing and implementing a broader strategy for systemic change.

PIAC is actively seeking funding to launch the project in 2018.



*The impact of having a disability upon your likelihood of coming face to face with the justice system is enormous, more so if you are also Aboriginal, but it is rarely a factor that is even acknowledged let alone responded to.*

*Working day to day for First Peoples disability rights, one of the more rewarding experiences is when you come across bright, clever people who show respect and work for the cause. This has been the case with the PIAC team who helped shape our submission to the Royal Commission into the Protection and Detention of Children in the Northern Territory, and supported us through the process. We ended up appearing and having our issues heard early, which is a remarkable achievement that would not have been possible without the support of PIAC.*

Scott Avery  
Policy and Research Director  
First Peoples Disability Network (Australia)



▶ **The Sri Lanka Conflict Mapping and Archive Project (CMAP) collects, analyses and preserves open source documentation in relation to the Sri Lankan civil war and uses it to develop tools that will support transitional justice. This includes the development of a conflict map report and a shared database.**

**CMAP builds on PIAC's experience and strong reputation in documentation collection and analysis concerning the Sri Lankan civil war.**

**We are working closely with Sri Lankan civil society groups and have an advisory panel of global experts in international investigations, transitional justice, international law and conflict mapping. We are especially grateful to our team of dedicated and talented interns.**

## Supporting Transitional Justice in Sri Lanka

### Highlights 2016-17

- Consultation trip to Sri Lanka, meeting with key stakeholders and designing next phase of PIAC's contribution to the transitional justice process.
- Presented on diaspora engagement in transitional justice processes at the University of Melbourne 'Disaporas in Action' Conference.
- Regular meetings with visiting Sri Lankan Members of Parliament and government officials to promote a robust, transparent, and credible transitional justice process.
- Designed and developed a database specifically for mapping the Sri Lankan civil war.
- Began populating the database with incidents from major news wires and reports from the United Nations and non-government organisations.

### What is a conflict map?

A conflict map is an overview of the incidents that occurred during a conflict, often organised by geography and chronology. It provides a detailed inventory and analysis of the types of violations, the scale of alleged violations, potential patterns of abuses, potential victims and perpetrators, and identifies possible evidentiary leads or sources relating to a conflict.

A conflict map is the first step for creating an informed approach to research and investigations for a truth commission and judicial mechanism.

*'For me, the truth has to come out first. I really want the world to know how much I suffered during the war, caused by both sides [the Sri Lankan Security Forces and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. What happened to me should be known by the whole world and should not die with my generation. The future generations should know what happened to me and others in the war. Punishment alone by a court will not stop it happening again. What I want to see is the truth come out and for the Government to accept and acknowledge it - to acknowledge our suffering.'*

Participant in PIAC submission to the Sri Lankan consultation task force



Senior solicitor, Daniela Gavshon on ABC Lateline



PIAC @PIACnews

PIAC's @DGavshon discussing benefits & complexities of including conflict-generated diaspora in transitional justice mechanisms #DIAconf2016

- ▶ Government accountability is a core public interest issue for PIAC. The exercise of police power has been a focus of our work, particularly in relation to vulnerable people such as children, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.



PIAC holds police accountable, including through litigation, to challenge inappropriate, unlawful or unjust treatment. Supported by an innovative pro bono partnership with Allens, PIAC represents clients in claims of false imprisonment, assault, battery, malicious prosecution and trespass against the NSW Police Force arising from:

- unlawful arrests including unlawful arrest for breach of bail;
- unlawful stop and searches, including strip searches;
- unlawful entry by police onto property for bail compliance checks;
- unlawful searches or home visits under Suspect Target Management Plans.

## Police accountability

### Highlights 2016-17

PIAC had 76 active police accountability files during 2016-17. PIAC obtained successful outcomes in a range of cases, including:

- the assault of a young man at a train station who was tasered by police officers while handcuffed, semi conscious, unarmed and lying on the ground;
- an Aboriginal woman who suffered physical and psychological injuries after being given an unlawful move on direction and then assaulted by police;
- the unnecessary arrest of an Aboriginal young man who had attended a police station voluntarily, had an address known to police, no criminal record and therefore should have been issued a court attendance notice;
- a young Aboriginal boy who was arrested for breach of bail in circumstances where he had a reasonable excuse and police should have exercised their discretion not to arrest him.

PIAC also met with NSW Police to discuss changes to the police database following our successful class action for young people unlawfully arrested because of inaccurate information. That case settled in early 2016 and has resulted in system-wide changes.

### Holding police accountable for unlawful searches

Sascha\* was arrested for breach of an Apprehended Violence Order one day at her home. She was strip searched in the back of a paddy wagon in humiliating circumstances and then conveyed to a police station, charged and released.

PIAC helped Sascha successfully challenge the conduct of police. We argued that Sascha's arrest was unlawful, as a court attendance notice was more appropriate. We also argued that the strip search was unlawful because it could not have been reasonably suspected that she was carrying dangerous items and was unnecessarily degrading and humiliating. The matter settled confidentially.

\*We have changed Sascha's name



Flickr Rusty Stewart



PIAC @PIACnews

Prison is an expensive revolving door. We need therapeutic sentencing options to move people away from re-offending.





▶ **The Energy + Water Consumers' Advocacy Program (EWCAP) works to ensure all New South Wales households have access to affordable and sustainable energy and water services.**

**The team engages with community organisations, consumer advocates, state and federal governments, rule-makers, regulators, ombudsmen and industry stakeholders, and receives policy input from a community-based reference group.**



PIAC @PIACnews Feb 8  
Competitive market alone won't cut bills unless all consumers well equipped to participate. #electricity

## Energy + Water Consumers' Advocacy Program

Many of the energy issues that touch NSW households are common to energy users across the country; and to a large extent the rules, regulations and markets for energy in NSW are enshrined in national frameworks. EWCAP plays a key role within the community of consumer advocates throughout the National Energy Market (NEM), which includes the ACT, Queensland, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania.

EWCAP regularly engages policy makers and energy market institutions on issues with direct and indirect implications for residential energy consumers. These decision makers and institutions have affirmed the value of PIAC's contributions to their processes and committed to working proactively with PIAC on emerging issues of mutual interest.

EWCAP is funded by the NSW Government Department of Planning and Environment.

### Highlights 2016-17

- Broke new ground by representing consumers in the Federal Court as part of a Judicial Review of the Australian Energy Regulator's price determination for NSW, making the case for lower electricity prices.
- Ensured the voices of consumers were represented at:
  - Almost 70 public forums, workshops and conferences.
  - Almost 150 other meetings with energy market institutions, consumer organisations, government, companies, independent energy market experts and other influential energy stakeholders.
  - Over 20 meetings of the customer councils of energy businesses and the Australian Energy Regulator (AER).
  - Four meetings of the EWCAP Reference Group and two meetings of the NSW Consumer Roundtable.
- Providing a strong consumer perspective in public debate through:
  - 36 submissions and other publications.
  - Coverage by major media outlets on 27 different occasions, with 7 media releases on energy issues.
- Major research on battery warranties and tariffs undertaken.
- 'Cut Off IV' project and consumer engagement review commenced.
- Joint training on energy and water consumer issues for community welfare workers delivered with the Energy and Water Ombudsman NSW.
- In May 2017 we began a strategic planning process to ensure that EWCAP's research, projects and activities deliver positive outcomes for all consumers, particularly NSW households.



## Legal challenge to reduce electricity bills

Since 2015, NSW electricity networks (Ausgrid, Endeavour Energy and Essential Energy) have been locked in a legal battle with the AER in relation to the amount that electricity networks can charge for their services. PIAC has represented NSW consumers in these proceedings, arguing for lower prices.

On 17 October 2016, PIAC was granted leave to intervene in the judicial review hearings commenced by the AER before the Full Federal Court. PIAC was supported by a grant from Energy Consumers Australia (ECA). In a decision announced on 24 May 2017 the Federal Court upheld most of the network businesses' arguments, in favour of higher prices. However, it also upheld one of the AER's grounds of appeal in relation to corporate income tax.

PIAC's intervention in this case was the first time a consumer group has been heard in an electricity price dispute before the Full Federal Court and set a precedent for consumer involvement in judicial review proceedings in relation to the AER's determinations.

In addition to the NSW proceedings, PIAC has assisted consumer organisations in other jurisdictions, supported by an ECA grant. This work - including the publication of a plain-English consumer guide and a legal article documenting consumer experiences of the review process - has built the capacity of consumer organisations to participate in the AER's determination process and any subsequent reviews.



EWCAP team from left: Miyuru Ediriweera, Thea Bray, Timothy Harrison and Craig Memery

## Reducing disconnections: Cut Off IV

PIAC has begun work to deliver the fourth in its series of projects researching the social impact of utility disconnection. Working with a project steering committee, the research includes an online survey and case studies of NSW households who have experienced the disconnection of electricity, gas and/or water services. This report will also explore what measures have been effective in avoiding disconnection for consumers in hardship. The report will be released in early 2018.

## Promoting better consumer engagement

To ensure the voices of consumers are strongly represented in the NSW Network revenue proposals for the 2019-24 period, PIAC has been engaging closely with energy networks, and has commenced an evaluation of the network businesses' customer engagement programs. This project will also be used to gather information about the approach of each network business to revenue determination. The AER has expressed strong support for PIAC undertaking this project, as a useful input to their own assessment.

## Consumer protections for battery-owners

PIAC has commissioned research into consumer protections for purchasers of residential battery storage systems. With the end of the solar bonus schemes in NSW, QLD and Victoria, falling battery costs and rising electricity costs, increasing numbers of residential customers are investing in the installation of battery storage systems to complement their existing or new photovoltaic solar systems. The report, released in late 2017, investigates the role and coverage of contractual warranties and statutory consumer guarantees for residential battery storage systems within the Australian market. Findings indicate that warranties for many household batteries may be in breach of Australian Consumer Law.

## Fairer tariffs

PIAC commissioned an analysis of the three NSW distribution networks' tariff structure statements and the AER's decision making in relation to them. The research will be used by PIAC to develop our policy in this area.



## PIAC's Reconciliation Action Plan

**In June 2017 we were proud to launch our Reconciliation Action Plan. Our RAP brings together existing initiatives as well as making new commitments to enhancing relationships with, and creating opportunities for, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It outlines a practical vision for reconciliation and empowers every staff member to play a role.**

Our RAP was launched by Carol Carter, a proud Kamilaroi woman and member of PIAC's Consumer Advisory Committee on homelessness, StreetCare. Guests at the launch enjoyed a moving Welcome to Country by Aunty Ali Golding.

We thank Reconciliation Australia and external members of our RAP Working Group for their assistance and support in the development of our RAP, especially Monique Wiseman, the Senior Aboriginal Program Manager at Wayside Chapel, Rick Welch, Manager at The Shed, Uncle Manuel Ebsworth, and Tiffany McComsey from Kinsella Boys' Home and Katie Kiss, who served on PIAC's Board from 2014-2015.

PIAC has committed to:

- developing and implementing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment and retention strategy, including professional development;
- creating secondment opportunities within PIAC for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander lawyers employed by law firms, community legal centres, and Aboriginal Legal Services;
- ensuring Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander representation on our Board;
- ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander membership of StreetCare;
- acknowledging country at important internal meetings and inviting a Traditional Owner to provide a Welcome to Country at all significant PIAC events;
- reviewing policies and procedures to ensure they are culturally appropriate, inclusive of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and sensitive to their values, traditions and customs;
- developing a cultural awareness training to and ensuring staff and Directors have access appropriate training.



PIAC @PIACnews Jun 21

PIAC is proud to support #1voiceuluru. Show your support at <http://www.1voiceuluru.org>





*'I congratulate PIAC for the work they have put in for this Reconciliation Action Plan - it shows that they are committed to working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at the grass roots. It shows that they are about action, not just words.'*

*'I feel so proud to be here to share this with you, because you acknowledge and respect our hurt, and you want to work to change that. My involvement with StreetCare is evidence of that.'*

*'I feel so touched, so humbled and so proud to launch PIAC's Reconciliation Action Plan.'*

Carol Carter  
Kamilaroi woman and StreetCare member



Launching PIAC's RAP. From left: Phillip Cornwell, Coralie Kenny, Rebecca Gilsenen, Carol Carter, Jonathon Hunyor.



▶ PIAC's training develops capacity for effective advocacy in the community on public interest issues.

Our public training workshops are presented to individuals, government and non-government organisations in areas including advocacy strategies and media skills. Courses are designed primarily for community workers and consumer representatives who want to:

- promote an issue, community or group;
- contribute to making public policy and reforming laws; and/or
- improve service delivery to vulnerable communities or sections of the community.

We also deliver courses for law students in public interest and social justice lawyering, partnering with the University of Sydney, Macquarie University, Western Sydney University and the University of Wollongong. PIAC's workshops are rigorously evaluated and are consistently rated highly for 'achieving course aims' aims and 'positive experience for participants'.

## Training for social justice

### Highlights 2016-17

- Trained 496 people at 21 training events.
- Successfully delivered:
  - The Social Justice Clinical Summer School in partnership with the University of Sydney, including hands-on and theoretical training for final year law students.
  - Practising in the Public Interest Summer and Winter Law School with Macquarie University, Western Sydney University and the University of Wollongong.
  - Three sold-out workshops on Tenancy Law for Non-Lawyers.
  - Advocacy workshops to emerging leaders and their mentors in the Fairfield Community.
  - A new workshop, 'Human Rights Law in Practice'.
  - Training on how to increase consumer participation, building capacity for marginalised consumers to engage in advocacy.
  - Training sessions for specialist homeless service providers, co-facilitated by members of StreetCare.



*'Most brilliant way to blend the practical and theoretical aspects of social justice. This is the first time in my degree I feel like I have had a holistic understanding of the real work of lawyers within not just a social justice context, but a broader legal aspect.'*

Participant 2017



PIAC @PIACnews

Great to have @Sydney\_Uni law students at PIAC for the Social Justice Clinical Summer Course. Thanks for your help and interest in our work!

► **Community engagement** is an important way of amplifying the impact of our legal and policy work. PIAC is an active contributor to public debates, including through submissions, media comment and interactive social media.



PIAC @PIACnews

Recognition not underpinned by justice would be a travesty. We must listen to the message from our Indigenous leaders. #Ulurustatement

## Communications

### New website

In December 2016 we launched a new website, to provide up-to-date information about PIAC's cases and projects in an easy-to-navigate format. It also includes ecommerce facilities that allow courses to be booked online. The site was designed to be accessible to people who use screen readers and conforms to W3C's Web Content Accessibility Guidelines WCAG 2.0 at Level AAA.

### Communications review

At the beginning of 2017 we reviewed our external communications, including exploring ways to increase our engagement on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. One outcome of the review is a shift in focus to online publishing via our website and social media, rather than print, and greater staff engagement with social media.



## Publication highlights 2016-17

PIAC published 39 submissions, reports, papers and newsletters during 2016-2017, including:

Statutory review of the Victims Rights and Support Act 2013 (NSW), July 2016

*They spit at you with their eyes*, Experiences of homelessness in New South Wales, July 2016

Submission to the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) in its statutory review of Part 9D of the Broadcasting Services Act 1992 (Cth), July 2016

*We need more than just foundations*, PIAC's submission to the NSW Government's Homelessness Strategy consultation, October 2016

Submission to The COAG Energy Council's consultation paper on behind the meter systems, October 2016

*Regulation of the energy wild west: stand-alone systems in the electricity market*, October 2016

Submission to the COAG Energy Council's review of the limited merits review regime in the National Electricity Law and the National Gas Law, October 2016

*Foundations for Change: Homeless Consumers Perspectives on the NSW government's Proposed Homelessness Strategy*, November 2016

Submission to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services: Inquiry into the Life Insurance Industry, December 2016

*Reasonable limitations on the right to freedom of expression*, Submission to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights, Inquiry into Freedom of Speech, December 2016

Submission to the NSW Government Draft Plan to Save NSW Energy and Money, December 2016

*NEM 2.0: balancing the energy trilemma*, Response to the Independent Review into the Future Security of the National Electricity Market, March 2017

*A competitive market to benefit all*, Submission to IPART Review of the performance and competitiveness of the retail electricity market in NSW, October 2016

*Facing the Outside World: The Voices of Those Who Exit Prison into Homelessness*, March 2017

*Home in a storm, The legal and housing needs of women facing homelessness*, March 2017

*A guide to consumer participation in electricity pricing and revenue determinations*, May 2017



## ► Staff

Thea Bray	Policy Officer, EWCAP	Lena Lowe	Administrator, Training and Publications
Kristal Burry	Policy Officer, EWCAP	Sarah Ludowici	Senior Training Officer
Michelle Cohen	Senior Solicitor, Strategic Litigation	Julia Mansour	Senior Solicitor, Strategic Litigation
Roslyn Cook	Managing Solicitor, HPLS	Craig Memery	Policy Team Leader, EWCAP
Anna Dawson	Senior Solicitor, IJP	Emily Mitchell	Senior Policy Officer
Miyuru Ediriweera	Policy Officer, EWCAP	Sarah Mitchell	Administrator, HPLS
Mary Flanagan	Senior Solicitor, Strategic Litigation	Deirdre Moor	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Daniela Gavshon	Senior Legal Officer	Jessica Mutton	Policy Officer, EWCAP
Alexis Goodstone	Principal Solicitor	Timothy Ngui	Solicitor, HPLS
Brooke Greenwood	Solicitor, Strategic Litigation	Alexandra Owens	Senior Legal Officer
Timothy Harrison	Policy Officer, EWCAP	Camilla Pandolfini	Senior Solicitor, Strategic Litigation
Jonathon Hunyor	Chief Executive Officer	Scott Parker	Administrator, Systems and Technology
Zoey Irvin	Strategic Development Manager	Gemma Pearce	Media and Communications Manager
Tina Jelenic	Senior Policy Officer, EWCAP	Melissa Pinzuti	Legal Secretary
Julie Kuk	Legal Secretary	Olivia Pirie-Griffiths	Fundraising Officer
Alastair Lawrie	Senior Policy Officer	Jeremy Rea	Solicitor Advocate, HPLS
Jane Leibowitz	Senior Solicitor, ASHRP	Louis Schetzer	Senior Policy Officer, HPLS
Jane Leung	Senior Policy Officer, EWCAP	Sally Spence	Office Co-ordinator
Laura Lombardo	Senior Solicitor, Strategic Litigation		

### Secondees

Danielle Hobday	Australian Gov't Solicitor
Ivan Li	Minter Ellison
Louie Liu	Norton Rose Fullbright
Martina Pasqualino	Minter Ellison
Angelina Yurlova	Allen & Overy

Emma Nichelsen

Alison Reglar

Lucy Robeau

Sarah Shin

Ellen Southwood

Daniel Sparks

Lisa Springer

Lucy Tran

Ryan Whittard

Abbey Wightley

### CMAP Volunteers

Erol Gorur

Ruby Lew

Ashley Quadrio

### Practical Legal Training Placements

Narges Attai
Riana Head-Toussaint
Mary Kozlovski
James Manoharachandran

### Volunteer Interns

Georgia Kaufman

Sohini Mehta

Daniel Rice

Ben Stewart

## ► Board

Ralph Pliner	Chair, Company director
Rebecca Gilsenan	Deputy Chair, Principal, Maurice Blackburn
Eileen Baldry	Deputy Vice Chancellor, Inclusion & Diversity, University of NSW
Bob Debus AM	Member of Parliament 1981-2007
Ian Farmer	Company director
Sarah Ferguson	Journalist, writer, television presenter
Damian Griffis	CEO, First Peoples Disability Network
Julian Leeser	Director Government, Policy and Strategy at the Australian Catholic University (resigned February 2016)
Coralie Kenny	Company director
Katherine McKernan	Chief Executive Officer, Homelessness NSW
Kevin Rozzoli AM	Member of the NSW Parliament 1973-2003
John Walker	Company director

### New Board Members 2016-2017



**Sarah Ferguson. Board member since November 2016**

Sarah Ferguson is a Walkley award-winning investigative journalist, writer and presenter. She is currently a reporter and presenter on ABC's Four Corners.



**Damian Griffis. Board member since February 2017**

Damian Griffis is a Worimi man and a leading advocate for the human rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability. Damian has been a central figure in the establishment of both the Aboriginal Disability Network NSW and First Peoples' Disability Network.



**Ian Farmer. Board member since May 2017**

Ian Farmer has over 30 years' experience as a practicing accountant and business adviser, including 20 years as a Partner with Pricewaterhouse-Coopers.

Ian is active in the not for profit sector, is Chairman of Lifeline Northern Beaches, where he is an active telephone crisis supporter, and a Director of the Community Restorative Centre and the Sydney Drug Education and Counselling Service.



**The Hon Bob Debus AM. Board member since November 2016**

Bob Debus served as a member of NSW Parliament and Federal Parliament for over 22 years. In the NSW Parliament, Bob held the portfolios of Corrective Services, Emergency Services, Environment, Arts and Attorney General. In the Commonwealth Parliament he held the position of Minister for Home Affairs. Before becoming a parliamentarian, Bob worked as a solicitor, editor and journalist.

## ▶ Thank you

PIAC thanks its many supporters and donors who give so generously to make our success possible.

We particularly acknowledge the funding provided by the Trustees of the Public Purpose Fund, the NSW Government, the Commonwealth Government and the support of the Law Society of NSW and CLC NSW.

We also thank the many volunteers and interns who make an enormous contribution to our work.

### Major Project Partners

- Allens - Indigenous Justice Project
- Australian Government Solicitor - Indigenous Graduate Secondment
- beyondblue* - Mental Health and Insurance Project
- Energy Consumers Australia - Energy and Water Consumers' Advocacy Program
- Herbert Smith Freehills - Impact Measurement Project
- MinterEllison - Homeless Persons Legal Service
- Oak Foundation - Conflict Mapping and Archive Project (Sri Lanka)
- Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation - Asylum Seeker Health Rights Project

### Sponsors & Major Donors

- Allen + Overy
- AMP Services
- Baker McKenzie
- Carroll & O'Dea
- Corrs Chambers Westgarth
- Henry Davis York
- Igniting Change
- Investor Claim Partner
- LawCover Insurance
- Law Society of NSW
- Macquarie Group
- Maurice Blackburn Lawyers
- MinterEllison
- Moray & Agnew
- Riverbush Pty Ltd
- Spotlight Foundation
- Sydney Grammar School

### Pro bono support & HPLS partner firms

- Allens - Nicky Friedman, Tarsha Gavin, Alicia Lyons, Heydon Wardell-Burrus, Kaelah Ford
- Burke & Mead - Emma Mead, James Bartley
- Carroll & O'Dea - Rob Algie, Nada Njjar
- Corrs Chambers Westgarth - Andrew Korbel, Michael Do Rozario, Mary Phillips, Sophie Morton, Amy Williams, Hannah Cooper
- Gilbert + Tobin - Michelle Hannon, Anne Cregan, Tamara Sims
- Stephen Etkind
- Henry Davis York - Jillian Mitford-Burgess
- Hicksons - Jennifer Parkes, John Kell
- HWL Ebsworth - Meghan Carruthers, Jason Symons
- Legal Aid - David Hofierka, Susie Breuer, John Moratelli
- Macquarie Bank - Michael Herring, Lucille Hughes, Rebekah Hunter
- Maddocks - Lisa Chung, Melinda Norquay, Jessica Wallace, Jade Bond, Elizabeth Abbey and Charlotte Egan
- MinterEllison - Anton Hermann, Keith Roveri, Martina Pasqualino, Libby Mulcahy, Carina Jarman
- Moray & Agnew, Sydney - Alex Bolton
- Moray & Agnew, Newcastle - Tom Lyons, Sarah Hammond
- Norton Rose Fulbright - Mitchell Mathas, Gemma Livingston, David Frew, Lucinda Browne, Hannah Wade
- Thomson Geer - Adam Pope, Ian Fernandes and Alexandra Adams

### HPLS host agencies and community partners

- Edward Eager Lodge
- Haymarket Centre
- Jenny's Place, Newcastle
- Matthew Talbot Hostel, Woolloomooloo
- Mission Australia Centre, Surry Hills

- Newtown Mission
- Norman Andrews House
- Ozanam Learning Centre
- Parramatta Mission
- The Shed, Mt Druitt
- Salvation Army Streetlevel
- Soul Cafe, Newcastle
- The Station
- Vincentian House
- Wayside Chapel

### Streetcare members

- Karla Anzoletti
- Amir Bodenstien
- Carol Carter
- Peter Chester
- Penny Graham
- Ken Hamilton
- Maddy Humphreys
- Adrian 'AJ' Jansson
- Dave Jeffery
- Bianca Miller
- Daryl Smith
- Mary Sullivan
- Melissa Wolfshoerndl

### Barristers

- Larissa Andelman
- Damian Beaufiles
- Simeon Beckett
- Vanessa Bosnjak
- Josh Brock
- Justin Brown
- Jane Buncle
- Sophie Callan
- Natasha Case
- Tom Clarke
- David D'Souza
- Rohan de Meyrick
- Kellie Edwards
- Henry El-Hage
- Ben Fogarty

Geoffrey Gemmell  
Kieran Ginges  
Stella Gold  
Felicity Graham  
Charles Gregory  
Zelie Heger  
Sam Horgan QC  
Dr Anton Hughes  
David Hume  
Timothy Kane  
Bora Kaplan,  
AJ Karim  
Nicholas Kelly  
James King  
Jeremy Kirk SC  
Su Kluss  
Craig Lenehan  
Nancy Mikhaeil  
Andrew Naylor  
Kylie Nomchong  
Norman O'Bryan SC  
Nicholas Owens  
James Pearson  
Anna Perigo  
Dr Vicky Priskich  
Elizabeth Raper  
Kate Richardson SC  
Eugene Romaniuk SC  
Chris Ronalds SC  
Brian Royce  
Aruna Sathanapally  
Phil Swaine  
Elisa Tringali  
Mary Walker  
Celia Winnett  
Andrew Yuile

## **EWCAP**

Mark Byrne, Total Environment Centre  
Catherine Cleary  
Penny Crossley, Sydney University

Julia Davis and Drew Macrae, Financial Rights Legal Centre  
Jo De Silva, SACOSS  
Gavin Dufty, St Vincent De Paul Society  
Fiona Hawthorne, Rose McGrath, Carly Hyde, QCOSS  
Katherine Hole and staff, NSW Department of Industry, Resources and Energy  
Bev Hughson, Darach Energy Consulting  
Gabrielle Kuiper  
Douglas McCloskey and Mike Bailey, NCOSS  
Iain Maitland and Helen Scott, Ethnic Communities' Council  
Gary Martin, Affiliated Residential Park Residents Association  
Bruce Mountain, CME  
Vaughn Olliffe, Salvation Army  
Simon Orme, Sapere  
Serena Ovens, Physical Disability Council of NSW  
Leo Patterson Ross, Tenants Union of New South Wales  
Marc Rerceretnam, St. Vincent De Paul Society  
Paul Versteeg and Ellis Blaikie, Combined Pensioners and Superannuants' Association  
Joy Webster, Good Shepherd Microfinance  
Janine Young and staff, Energy and Water Ombudsman NSW

## **Training**

City of Sydney Homelessness Unit  
StreetSmart Australia  
NSW Department of Family & Community Services  
Grant Arbutnot, Patrycja Arvidssen, New South Wales Tenants Union  
Sharon Ohnesorge, NSW Legislative Council  
Jonathan Elliott, Rohan Tyler NSW Legislative Assembly  
Don Palmer, Malpa

Gemma Livingston, Norton Rose Fulbright  
Myfanwy Henry-Jones, Gilbert + Tobin  
Helen Campbell, Women's Legal Service  
Rebecca McMahon, Tori Edwards, Justice Connect  
Angela McCall, Laura Bereicua Allens  
Heidi Nash-Smith, Wotton Kearney  
Sheri Misaghi, Aboriginal Legal Service  
Julie O'Brien, Australian Human Rights Commission  
Christine Hall, Legal Aid Children's Service  
Sophie McCrindle, Salvos Legal Humanitarian  
Nicola Clayton, MinterEllison  
Emma Lutwyche, Lander & Rogers  
Olivia Wright, Corrs Chambers Westgarth  
Dave, Darryl, Penny, Maddy StreetCare  
Lauren Draffen, CLCNSW  
Jane Kenny, June McGowan, Law Foundation

## **IJP**

Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT - Jacob Tate, Sasha Da Silva, Nadine Miles, Gemma Slack-Smith  
Legal Aid NSW - Children's Civil Legal Service - Andrea Hadaway, Katrina Wong  
NSW Anti-Discrimination Board - Felicity Huntington  
First Peoples' Disability Network - Scott Avery, Damian Griffis

## **CMAP Advisory committee**

John Ralston (Chair)  
Brenda Hollis  
Luc Côté  
Howard Varney



## ► Financial Statements

Public Interest Advocacy Centre Ltd  
 ABN 77 002 773 524

### EXTRACT FROM FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

PIAC's full financial statements are available on request, and are also available from the Australian Charities Register, on the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission website, [www.acnc.gov.au](http://www.acnc.gov.au)

### STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
REVENUE FROM ORDINARY OPERATIONS	3,708,718	4,712,574
REVENUE FROM ABNORMAL ITEMS	-	575,000
	<hr/> 3,708,718	<hr/> 5,287,574
<b>LESS: EXPENSES</b>		
Depreciation and amortisation expense	(61,318)	(111,926)
Employee benefits expense	(2,529,099)	(2,567,673)
Rent	(539,529)	(494,568)
Project and casework expenses	(486,772)	(820,167)
Administration expenses	(229,782)	(240,086)
	<hr/> (3,846,500)	<hr/> (4,234,420)
SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT) BEFORE INCOME TAX EXPENSE	(137,782)	1,053,154
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	-	-
<b>TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME</b>	<hr/> (137,782)	<hr/> 1,053,154

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AS AT 30 JUNE 2017**

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	526,617	739,186
Receivables	452,313	722,893
Other financial assets	1,915,925	1,650,000
Other assets	70,489	44,571
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>2,965,344</b>	<b>3,156,650</b>
<b>NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Other financial assets	174,418	174,418
Property, plant and equipment	242,480	271,492
<b>TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>416,898</b>	<b>445,910</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>3,382,242</b>	<b>3,602,560</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Payables	212,780	239,229
Provisions	309,783	247,138
Other liabilities	577,608	750,771
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1,100,171</b>	<b>1,237,138</b>
<b>NON CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Provisions	88,331	93,520
Other liabilities	180,413	120,793
<b>TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>268,744</b>	<b>214,313</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>1,368,915</b>	<b>1,451,451</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>2,013,327</b>	<b>2,151,109</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Reserves	265,460	265,460
Retained surplus	1,747,867	1,885,64
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>2,013,327</b>	<b>2,151,109</b>

**DIRECTORS' DECLARATION**

The directors of the company declare that the summary financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2017, as set out on pages 28 - 29

- (a) is an extract from the full financial report for the year ended 30 June 2017 and has been derived from and is consistent with the full financial report of the company.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.



Ralph Pliner, Director  
12 October 2017

**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION  
TO THE DIRECTORS OF PUBIC INTEREST ADVOCACY CENTRE**

In relation to the independent audit for the year ended 30 June 2017, to the best of my knowledge and belief there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct.



Mark Godlewski, Partner  
13 October 2017



PITCHER PARTNERS  
SYDNEY

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT  
TO THE MEMBERS OF PUBIC INTEREST ADVOCACY CENTRE**

*Auditor's Opinion*

The accompanying summary financial report which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2017, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income and director's declaration, are derived from the audited financial report of the Public Interest Advocacy Centre Limited (the company) for the year ended 30 June 2017.

In our opinion, the summary financial report is consistent, in all material respects, with (or a fair summary of) that audited financial report, in accordance with the basis of preparation as described in note 1 to the financial statements.

*Summary Financial Statements*

The summary financial report does not contain all the disclosures required by the Australian Accounting Standards Reduced Disclosure Requirements, Interpretations and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. Reading the summary financial report, therefore is not a substitute for reading the audited financial report of the company. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on that financial report in our report dated 13 October 2017.

*Directors' Responsibility for the Summary Financial Report*

The directors are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the summary financial report in accordance with the basis of preparation as described in note 1 to the financial statements. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation of the concise financial report, selecting and applying the appropriate accounting policies, and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

*Auditor's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial report based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Auditing Standard ASA 810 Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.



Mark Godlewski, Partner  
13 October 2017



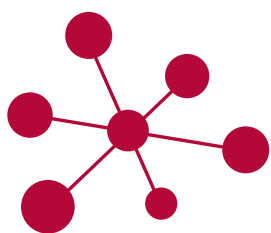
PITCHER PARTNERS  
SYDNEY

The PIAC Annual Report is printed and distributed  
by Thomson Reuters



For further information visit  
[legal.thomsonreuters.com.au](http://legal.thomsonreuters.com.au)





**public interest**  
ADVOCACY CENTRE

Level 5, 175 Liverpool St  
Sydney NSW 2000  
Australia  
Phone: 61 2 8898 6500  
Fax: 61 2 8898 6555  
Monday - Friday  
9:00am - 5:00pm  
[www.piac.asn.au](http://www.piac.asn.au)

ISSN 1324-5376