

# Annual Report 2019

## Access to Justice through Pro Bono: a snapshot of FY19

<b>1300</b>	People and organisations assisted
<b>6000+</b>	Pro bono hours generated
<b>\$1.8M+</b>	Pro bono value donated
<b>224</b>	Referral partners*

Approximately 25% of South Australians experience serious legal problems each year that require the assistance of a lawyer. Many do not get the help they need to resolve civil law problems because they cannot afford it or because help is simply unavailable.

JusticeNet aims to close this justice gap by developing and coordinating strategic pro bono partnerships to facilitate free legal advice and representation. Celebrating 10 years of operation in 2019, JusticeNet is the primary gateway for coordinated pro bono legal help in South Australia. During the year, our four legal services leveraged the skills of hundreds of lawyers from public and private practice to help vulnerable clients, including those experiencing poverty, risk of homelessness, asylum seekers and those representing themselves in court.

Our work would not be possible without the support of our members, donors and funders. Please help us to continue to make an impact: [www.justicenet.org.au/get-involved](http://www.justicenet.org.au/get-involved)

\*Referral partners include both individuals and organisations

## Acknowledgement of Country

JusticeNet SA acknowledges the Aboriginal people of the many traditional lands of South Australia. We acknowledge them as traditional custodians of their lands and pay respects to their cultural and heritage beliefs.

## Report from the President and Executive Director

Thanks to the support of our members and referrals partners, funders, donors, sponsors and volunteers, JusticeNet has had a successful year providing a civil justice safety net for South Australians in need. This was a gratifying result considering that the year was otherwise characterised by grave funding challenges brought about by a combination of adverse funding decisions and other circumstances. But let us first consider our achievements for 2019 before reviewing the trials of the year past.

2019 was a milestone year for JusticeNet, marking 10 years of facilitating pro bono referrals in South Australia. We are humbled by the commitment and support that the legal profession has shown JusticeNet over that time. On a wet winters evening on 3 July 2009, the Honourable Justice John Mansfield launched a nascent JusticeNet at a modest event at the University of Adelaide Law School Moot Court. Fast forward 10 years and JusticeNet has firmly established itself as an important part of the legal services landscape in South Australia that helps hundreds of South Australians annually. A fair return for a modest seed grant from Law Foundation.

Over the course of 2019 JusticeNet continued to provide four pro bono legal services for clients. An overview of the activities and achievements of the services are detailed in the service reports below.

Despite the challenges we faced this year, we have made progress on our mission to develop strategic pro bono relationships and to deliver quality pro bono legal services. After lengthy consultations with the Fair Work Commission during the latter half of the year, JusticeNet reached an agreement with the Commission to support the rollout of its Workplace Advice Service (WAS) in South Australia. The Commission has established the WAS nationally to provide one-off advice appointments to self-represented litigants with matters before the Commission. Nationally, the advice appointments are delivered by pro bono lawyers and / or legal assistance services. JusticeNet's involvement played a significant role in facilitating the expansion of the WAS into South Australia. Given the synergy with the JusticeNet's Self-Representation Service in the Federal Courts, the Federal Courts Self-Representation Service oversees JusticeNet's participation in the WAS. From late June 2019, the Self-Representation Service coordinated the first few appointments for WAS clients. We are confident that this collaboration will increase access to justice for self-represented litigants in the Fair Work space.

Meanwhile, the State Courts Self-Representation Service led JusticeNet's collaboration with the University of Adelaide Law School to develop an interactive interview to assist self-represented litigants who are seeking a review of a Minor Civil Action. Called "*On My Own Feet: Reviewing a Minor Civil Decision in South Australia*", the project aimed to demonstrate how information technology can improve access and deliver efficiencies in the provision of legal assistance to self-represented litigants. Following successful testing, JusticeNet has made *On My Own Feet*, available to the public from a link on our website:

[www.justicenet.org.au](http://www.justicenet.org.au). The only downside is that the closure of our State Courts Self-Representation Service puts a cloud over the future of the project. Nonetheless, we will

continue to support this project going forward as best we can. Our thanks to MinterEllison for their generous assistance with the drafting and design of this project.

JusticeNet also completed a comprehensive evaluation of our Federal Courts Self-Representation Service requested by the Commonwealth Attorney General Department. The evaluation was based on two years of service data as well as feedback from clients and key stakeholders (volunteer lawyers, courts staff and judicial officers). The evaluation clearly demonstrated that the service was meeting its objectives and expected outcomes. Client and stakeholder satisfaction with and support for the service was extremely high. To accurately measure the true impact of the service in facilitating early dispute resolution, all client's proceedings were tracked to their conclusion. The results were revealing: self-represented litigants who sought ongoing help from the FCSRS were twice as likely (68%) to settle their matter during the evaluation period as compared with those who cut short the assistance from the service (34%). Moreover, the evaluation confirmed that clients who received help from the service also had their matters resolve more quickly, were less likely to go to trial and, if they did go to trial, had better outcomes.

During the year our Pro Bono Referral Service (**PBRS**) came under intense pressure from the record number of individuals and organisations contacting us seeking legal help. The PBRS received 640 enquiries over the course of the year. Each of those enquiries typically involves multiple contacts whether over the telephone, by email and a modest number of face-to-face. Toward the end of the year it became clear that this was unsustainable for a service coordinated by a single employee. Substantial effort was required to assess those enquiries and JusticeNet was coordinating an increasing number of law student and other volunteers just to assist with that task - let alone the work of making pro bono referrals and the essential work involved in improving referral pathways and sustaining referrals networks.

At the same time, funding certainty - a topic never far from our concern - was a major issue in 2019. The coincidence of several adverse decisions impacted on our revenue. So grave were these challenges that by the final quarter of the year it was clear that fundamental change was needed if JusticeNet were to continue as a going concern.

Readers following the history of this issue would know that in early 2018 JusticeNet secured State Government funding towards our core operating expenses. This investment represented a significant shift in government policy, as never before had State Government committed funding for organisational costs. However, a new State Government was elected only several months later. JusticeNet made a concerted effort to obtain a continuation of that funding but to no avail. Moreover, State Government disinterest was not the only funding concern that JusticeNet faced. The prospect of proposed legislative reduction to the Law Foundation of South Australia's income from interest on solicitor's trust accounts was a key factor leading to a much reduced grant from the Law Foundation. (Ironically, six months later and shortly before the time of writing, parliament has ensured that the proposed changes will not come to pass.) To make matters worse, JusticeNet's long running efforts to secure a funding partner for the SCSRS failed to bear fruit. Despite its success, the service had been underfunded for 12 months and was draining limited organisational reserves.

JusticeNet had explored the prospects of a merger with an interstate counterpart but that was considered to be too risky and unworkable. Accordingly, the funding and other challenges we faced became the catalyst for two major changes. First, the difficult decision was made to close the SCSRS (it eventually closed its doors for the last time in August 2019). With only two part-time staff the SCSRS had delivered amazing service since it began as pilot in 2014. We express our sincere thanks to Samara Bell, Senior Solicitor and Coordinator, and Josh Schultz, Solicitor, for their years of service.

We also radically restructured the way our referral services operated, culminating in the launch of Pro Bono Connect (**PBC**). The introduction of the PBC meant that we rolled the existing referral services, the PBRs and the Refugee and Asylum Seeker Project (RASP), into one service. Sadly, with the creation of PBC came the departure of our wonderful RASP Coordinator Debrah Mercurio. We wish Debrah all the very best.

Other short-term changes included closing our telephone enquiries line and accepting applications by email only. We are cognisant of the impact of these changes on our clients. For a decade JusticeNet has strived to provide legal help when no one else could. We have been a service of last resort for many clients with civil law issues and so we are keenly aware that the new intake procedures for Pro Bono Connect diminish the accessibility of the service to the very vulnerable people that we are trying to help. Unfortunately, we saw no other way. We are now working hard to make the Pro Bono Connect more accessible by developing stronger relationships with referral agencies and developing a user-friendly online application form.

After a decade of service, JusticeNet has established itself as the primary clearinghouse for coordinated pro bono legal help in South Australia. We have not been the only organisation offering pro bono legal services for South Australians over that time. In late 2006, the Welfare Rights Centre of South Australia (**WRCSA**) commenced an outreach legal service for people experiencing homelessness known as the Housing Legal Clinic (**HLC**). The concept was adopted from the successful Homeless Persons Legal Service run by the Public Interest Law Clearing House (now Justice Connect) in Melbourne. The WRCSA ran the Housing Legal Clinic until this year, when it was abruptly defunded by State Government and closed its doors for the last time in June.

We were dismayed to witness the closure of this important service. JusticeNet had worked alongside the HLC for many years and provided pro bono referrals for many HLC clients. Its closure left a critical lack of accessible legal help for people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness. The outreach legal clinic model is supported by the research as providing many of the key elements of legal services for the homeless. Therefore, despite the funding uncertainty and other issues facing JusticeNet, the decision was made to consult stakeholders and referral partners to see what could be done to continue the work of the HLC. Those consultations have quickly gathered pace and taken an exciting direction - but the outcome must wait for next year's report.

We take this opportunity to pay our respects to Amanda Tsoundarou, the Principal Solicitor of the HLC until 2018. Amanda passed away in June of this year. We hope that JusticeNet can continue the important legacy that Amanda and her colleagues left for those struggling with homelessness in Adelaide.

Readers will find a comprehensive list of acknowledgments at the end of this report. However, it is appropriate to thank in particular the hundreds of lawyers who donate their time and expertise to the cause of access to justice. We would also like to acknowledge our volunteer Management Committee and staff who have stuck with us through a challenging and uncertain year. We are pleased to present the 2019 Annual Report to our members.



Kerry Clark  
**President**



Tim Graham  
**Executive Director**

## Pro Bono Referral Services (now Pro Bono Connect)

JusticeNet commenced the year with two referral services: the Pro Bono Referral Service (**PBRS**), which matches clients with volunteer lawyers across a wide range of civil law areas, and our Refugee and Asylum Seeker Project (**RASP**), which makes pro bono migration referrals principally to assist for asylum seekers with the judicial review of decisions made with respect to their claim for protection.

At the very end of the year JusticeNet merged the two services into a single service renamed Pro Bono Connect (**PBC**). The process of rationalising the two services involved substantial changes to internal processes and intake procedures. PBC placed a temporary hold on accepting applications for asylum seekers in June (applications reopened in July). PBC also permanently closed its telephone enquiry line. The decision to close the telephone enquiry line was made to allow JusticeNet staff to focus on facilitating pro bono referrals rather than screening large numbers of telephone enquiries – work best left to other frontline legal assistance services.

### Pro Bono Referral Service

Pro Bono Referrals	<b>53</b>
People Assisted	<b>489</b>
Pro Bono Hours	<b>2200</b>
Pro Bono Value	<b>\$650,000</b>

JusticeNet's PBRS connects low-income and disadvantaged clients with lawyers who provide advice or representation on a pro bono basis. JusticeNet's referral partners accepted 53 referrals from the PBRS, providing assistance to clients in a wide range of civil law areas, including:

- employment law
- property issues
- administrative law
- credit and debt
- human rights and discrimination.

The total number of referrals made by the PBRS is down on the previous two years. The drop in referrals can be attributed to a range of factors, including: the record level of enquiries received by JusticeNet which diverted limited resources, a smaller number of complex matters including several in which the PBRS Coordinator was instructing solicitor; and a drop in the capacity of referral partners and their capacity to accept referrals.

JusticeNet's pro bono referrals will deliver approximately 2200 hours of free legal help for clients with an estimated value of \$650,000. The value of pro bono legal services is based on the estimated lawyer time that will be spent on pro bono referrals that were accepted during the year. The figure does not include the lawyer time spent on pro bono referrals which were accepted during previous year/s but are still active. It also does not reflect the

social and economic value of the pro bono legal services delivered to individuals and organisation in South Australia.

The PBRS received a record 640 enquiries. Most people who made enquiries were provided with information, one-off advice and / or referral to other services. However, only a modest proportion received a pro bono referral. The ever-increasing number of enquiries to the PBRS was a key factor in JusticeNet's decision to rationalise our intake procedures at the end of the year. It is hoped that these changes will enable to JusticeNet to refocus on nurturing our pro bono partnerships and increasing the uptake of pro bono referrals.

## **Our Impact**

*Meredith came to JusticeNet for help to stop defamatory and racially abusive comments being made about her on social media and elsewhere. The abusive behaviour was leaving Meredith feeling distressed, intimidated and concerned for her safety. Sadly, the abuse came from the estranged daughter of Meredith's elderly neighbour, Roger. After 23 years as neighbours, Meredith had formed a caring relationship with Roger and his wife. One day, Roger's wife informed Meredith that he was experiencing breathing difficulty. Meredith called an ambulance but Roger died in hospital a few days later. Following his death, Roger's estranged daughter commenced a vitriolic campaign against Meredith, The abuse included a large banner displayed in a public area with Meredith's name and address and alleging that Meredith was responsible for Roger's death. JusticeNet referred the matter to Bourne Lawyers and Jeff Powell of Counsel who helped Meredith obtain a Final Intervention order against the daughter.*

\*Name changed to protect privacy

*Jess and Michael\* sought assistance from JusticeNet after running into significant financial difficulties and facing the repossession of their modest home in Adelaide's northern suburbs. They were struggling to run a small repair business from home after terminating a franchise agreement years earlier. Duly complying with a lengthy non-compete clause under the franchise agreement meant that their business was suffering. They were experiencing significant financial hardship and were behind in their mortgage repayments. JusticeNet's Self-Representation Service provided Jess and Michael with advice regarding the repossession proceedings and the scope of the restraint clause and the enforceability generally of restraint clauses. JusticeNet's Pro Bono Referral Service arranged for them to get further legal advice on the franchise agreement from a barrister with significant commercial expertise. The advice they received gave Jess and Michael confidence to start operating their business to its full capacity, allowing them to regain control over their financial future.*

\*Names changed to protect privacy

*George\* and Helen\*, aged pensioners and migrants, approached JusticeNet for assistance after their adult son Chris\* sought to exploit their limited English for financial gain. Years prior, when borrowing money from a bank to support another of their children through a difficult financial period, they arranged for Chris to act as guarantor, when in fact they entered into a complex loan security arrangement orchestrated by Chris. Due to their limited English and trust in Chris, George and Helen signed off on documents he presented to them without understanding they were transferring over a third of the title to the property to him. The loan was paid off without issue, however, years later Chris sought to prevent the sale of George and Helen's house by asserting his rights as title holder and claiming his share sale proceeds. JusticeNet referred George and Helen to a barrister for pro bono representation and advice in the Supreme Court on this complex equitable claim. As a result of JusticeNet's intervention, George and Helen were successful and orders were entered naming them as*

*the beneficial owners of the whole property. George and Helen have been able to sell their home, move into a smaller, more manageable unit and are now able to plan their future.*

\*Names changed to protect privacy

### **What our lawyers say**

*Working with JusticeNet has given our firm a unique ability to step away from the day to day work and remind us why we are lawyers and how fundamentally important legal assistance is to those most vulnerable. It is refreshing to experience the comradery amongst the profession and between instructors and counsel when working towards facilitating much needed access to justice and using our specialist skills to promote that end.*

**James Mahoney**  
Legal Practice Director, Mahoney's Lawyers

## **Refugee and Asylum Seeker Project**

Pro Bono Referrals	<b>65</b>
People Assisted	<b>213</b>
Pro Bono Hours	<b>2000</b>
Pro Bono Value	<b>\$600,000</b>

JusticeNet's Refugee and Asylum Seeker Project (**RASP**) provides pro bono advice and representation for asylum seekers living in South Australia. The majority of referrals were for asylum seekers who are having their claim for protection assessed under the Australian Government's 'Fast Track Assessment' process. This is the so-called 'Legacy Caseload' - asylum seekers who arrived in Australia without a valid visa between 13 August 2012 and 1 January 2014. Other referrals related to other migration decisions made by the Department of Home Affairs and the Migration & Refugee Division of the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

RASP made 65 pro bono referrals to referral partners. JusticeNet estimates that the referrals will generate 2000 hours of free legal assistance with an approximate value of \$600,000. The value of pro bono legal services is based on the estimated lawyer time that will be spent on pro bono referrals accepted during the year. The figure does not include the lawyer time spent on pro bono referrals which were accepted during previous year/s, but are still active. Neither does it reflect the social and economic value of the pro bono legal services delivered to individuals and organisation in South Australia.

The RASP is supported by a network of referral partners including barristers and solicitors and the following public and private legal organisations: the Crown Solicitors Office, The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and Lipman Karas Ltd. Following the creation of PBC, the RASP Coordinator, Debrah Mercurio left JusticeNet to accept another position. Molly Scanlon, JusticeNet's PBRs Coordinator, took over responsibility for coordinating the newly created Pro Bono Connect.

JusticeNet also extends its gratitude to Lipman Karas as key funder of the RASP.

### **What our lawyers say**

*Lipman Karas continues to enjoy a successful partnership with JusticeNet by providing pro bono legal assistance in refugee and asylum seeker matters. Each referral is a rewarding experience for our lawyers and we are privileged to be able to apply our legal skills to assist some of the most vulnerable members of our community. This is a meaningful and worthy project that provides our firm with the opportunity to make a direct impact in two of our key areas of focus: Access to Justice and Migrant and Refugee Support.*

**Alice Rolls**  
Principal, Lipman Karas

## **Self-Representation Services**

JusticeNet's Self-Representation Services help litigants-in-person who are experiencing disadvantage and who are representing themselves in court. They are conveniently located in the court buildings. As at 30 June JusticeNet operated two Self-Representation Services: one in the Federal Court and the Federal Circuit Court and one in the Supreme and District Court of South Australia. The latter, the State Courts Self-Representation Service, closed due to lack of funding in August 2019.

The Self-Representation Services assist clients using limited scope retainers. Volunteer and staff lawyers provide clients with advice and practical legal task assistance throughout their dispute, but clients remain responsible for their own case. They aim to help litigants-in-person understand their rights and responsibilities, to present their case in the best possible manner and to resolve their dispute.

## **State Courts Self-Representation Service**

People assisted                      **366**

Legal services provided            **1281**

The SCSRS assisted 366 litigants-in-person in a range of matters falling within the civil jurisdiction of the higher State Courts, including:

- appeals
- property disputes
- debt and mortgagee repossession matters
- equal opportunity tribunal matters
- defamation proceedings
- estate matters including family inheritance provision claims.

The SCSRS provided an increased number of legal services this year (including legal advices and drafting court documents and correspondence) despite a drop in overall client numbers compared with the previous year. The SCSRS could not deliver this level of legal



assistance without the support of volunteer lawyers from our participating law firms. JusticeNet acknowledges the support of the following law firms:

- Minter Ellison
- HWL Ebsworth
- Fisher Jeffries
- Finlaysons
- DMAW Lawyers
- Cowell Clarke
- PGC Legal
- Ericson Legal

The SCSRS led JusticeNet’s collaboration with Adelaide Law School to develop an online interview to guide litigants-in-person through the process of seeking a District Court review of the outcome of a Minor Civil Action. The project is called “*On My Own Feet: Reviewing a Minor Civil Decision in South Australia.*” JusticeNet tested a beta version of the interview late in the year and feedback from testing was positive:

- 90% of participants said that the interview was easy or fairly easy to use;
- 96% of participants said that it helped them (a lot or a little) to understand the process of appealing.

The interview was made available for public use in June and the interview is currently accessible from [www.justicenet.org.au](http://www.justicenet.org.au). JusticeNet is currently assessing options continue support for the project in light of the subsequent closure of the SCSRS in August 2019. JusticeNet acknowledges the generous support from the following individuals and organisations for the project:

- Kershlin Krishna, law student volunteer
- Minter Ellison
- The Law Foundation of South Australia

JusticeNet also extends its gratitude to the Wyatt Trust as principal funder of the SCSRS and the Courts Administration Authority for its support.

## **Federal Courts Self-Representation Service (SA/NT)**

People assisted                      **335**

Legal services provided            **949**

The Federal Courts Self-Representation Service (FCSRS) assists clients with matters commenced, or to be commenced, in the general federal law jurisdiction including: bankruptcy, Fair Work, migration (excluding refugees and asylum seekers who are assisted by JusticeNet’s Refugee and Asylum Seeker Project), appeals, judicial review, anti-discrimination, competition and consumer law.

The FCSRS provided 949 legal services to 362 service users, and opened 115 files for new clients. The FCSRS was supported by the following participating law firms:

- Minter Ellison
- Finlaysons,
- Fisher Jeffries
- Cowell Clarke
- Clayton Utz (Sydney office)
- DMAW Lawyers
- O'Toole Lawyers
- MSM Legal
- Piper Alderman

The FCSRS led JusticeNet's collaboration with the Fair Work Commission to support its Workplace Assistance Service (WAS). The Commission has established the WAS nationally to provide one-off advice appointments to self-represented litigants with matters before the Commission. Commencing June 2019, the FCSRS coordinated the first few appointments for WAS clients.

The FCSRS also completed a major Evaluation Report of the service for the funder, the Federal Attorney-General's Department. Based on two years of data up to 30 June 2019, the evaluation demonstrated that the FCSRS was strongly meeting its objectives and expected outcomes. For example, the evaluation revealed a high level of satisfaction with the service among client and stakeholder respondents:

- 91% of clients said that they received exactly the help they needed
- 100% of volunteer solicitors who participated in the service were of the view that it was helpful and should be continued
- courts' staff were also unanimous in their support of the service.

An analysis of FCSRS files closed during the evaluation period confirmed the service's effectiveness at facilitating the diversion and settlement of matters (a key service objective). Self-represented litigants who sought help from the FCSRS were twice as likely (68%) to settle their matter during the evaluation period as compared with self-represented litigants who did not seek assistance from the service (34%). Moreover, the evaluation confirmed that clients who received help from the FCSRS also had their matters resolve more quickly, were less likely to go to trial and, if they did go to trial, had better outcomes.

## **Our Impact**

*Chea\* was born in Cambodia and migrated to Australia with his parents where they set up a market garden north of Adelaide. When Chea's father passed away, Chea and his wife and children moved in with Chea's elderly mother in a house on the market garden land and helped her to continue the family business. Shortly thereafter, the family was shocked to be served with Bankruptcy Notices in relation to a sizeable judgment debt. As a result, Chea discovered that the market garden had exceeded its water allocation for many years. Chea and his mother were unaware of the debt because Chea's father had handled all financial matters. Chea and his family facing losing not only their market garden and only source of income, but also their home. The creditor initially refused settlement offers from Chea and his wife. The FCSRS helped Chea to prepare a detailed letter to the creditor setting out Chea and his family's circumstances and make further settlement offers. A settlement was eventually reached which avoided further litigation and bankruptcy and enabled the family to continue their livelihood.*

\*Name changed to protect privacy

*Eberhard was born in 1940 in Jaffa, Palestine (in what is now Israel) and became an Australian citizen in the 1950s. Eberhard's recorded place of birth with the Australian Government has always been "Jaffa, Palestine". However, some time before March 2018 the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) changed the client's recorded country of birth on its database to "Unspecified". This had flow on effects for all Australian Government agencies. For some time, the client passionately advocated for recognition of his country of birth. However, DFAT and other Government departments refused to change their position. JusticeNet's FCSRS helped Eberhard prepare his anti-discrimination claim in the Federal Circuit Court, alleging that the unilateral change breached the Racial Discrimination Act. At mediation, DFAT conceded and agreed to list "British Mandate Palestine" for all persons born on or before 14 May 1948 (the end of the British Mandate for Palestine) who state their country of birth as Palestine. This decision will flow on to all other Australian Government departments. You can read more about Eberhard's story here:*

*<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/exclusive-australian-man-wins-court-battle-to-reinstate-place-of-birth-on-his-passport>*

### **What our lawyers say**

*The Federal Courts Self-Representation Service empowers members of our community to participate in the legal system with guidance, support and clear advice. The Service provides an opportunity for lawyers to contribute to society in a meaningful way whilst also developing their own skills through their interactions with clients.*

**Shelini Hillier**  
Solicitor, MinterEllison

### **What our clients say**

- *"My case was addressed thoroughly leaving me with total peace of mind during the whole process"*
- *"The welcome and support I received is most uplifting and confidence enhancing. I could not expect any more than what was provided"*
- *"I was very satisfied with the way I, and my matter, have received attention"*
- *"I'm very grateful to all the lawyers that provided advise, support and prepared me throughout my court matter....I really appreciated how SRS was on top of my case, from the start to end...SRS cared deep for me as a paid lawyer would their client"*
- *"Great service and very helpful"*
- *"As stated the staff have all been excellent and polite. I am very thankful, it has been a very stressful thing and the SRS have helped me a lot".*

## **JusticeNet people**

### **Management Committee**

Paula Stirling, Senior Solicitor, Crown Solicitors Office (President to 21/11/2018), resigned 21/11/2018

Kerry Clark, Barrister, Murray Chambers (President from 21/11/2018 and Public Officer)

Carolyn Mitchell, Consultant, Cowell Clarke (Secretary)

Nick Anderson, Director, Capital Family Office (Treasurer)

Julia Dreosti, Principal, Lipman Karas

Sarah Dunn, Solicitor, DMAW Lawyers

Alice Graham, Legal and Compliance Advisor to the Director, Legal Services Commission

Catherine McMorrine, CEO, Community Justice Centres SA

Anna Wells, Barrister, Hanson Chambers

### **Staff**

Tim Graham, Executive Director

Elizabeth Boxall, Referral Solicitor (resigned 13/07/2018)

Debrah Mercurio, Migration Solicitor (resigned 28/06/2019)

Molly Scanlon, Referrals Solicitor & PBRs Coordinator

Samara Bell, Senior Solicitor & Coordinator, State Courts SRS

Angie Hastings, Senior Solicitor & Coordinator, Federal Courts SRS

Joshua Schultz, Solicitor, Federal Courts SRS

Carly Thomson, Office Coordinator (resigned 13/07/2018)

Jacqui Nuske, Office Coordinator (commenced 6 August 2018)

Cheryl Williss (commenced 23/08/2018)

## Thank you

*...to our members and referral partners, who accepted our pro bono referrals and participated in our Self-Representation Services.*

### Corporate Members

am legal, Anagnostou Business and Commercial Lawyers, Ashurst Australia, Barry Nilsson, Beach Energy Limited, Beger and Co, Bourne Lawyers, Camatta Lempens, Campbell Law, Cowell Clarke, DMAW Lawyers, Finlaysons, Fisher Jeffries, Gilchrist Connell, Hanson Chambers, Lipman Karas, Mahonys Lawyers, Minter Ellison, Murray Chambers, NDA Law, O'Toole Lawyers, Sparke Helmore, Thomson and Associates, Treloar and Treloar

### Individual Members

Ms Alison Adair, Mr John Paul Bartley, Ms Ruth Beach, The Hon David Bleby QC, Mr Simon Bourne, Ms Gabrielle Canny, Ms Kerry Clark, Ms Jessica Connell, Ms Jane Cox, Ms Christina Flourentzou, Mr Phillip Foreman, Assunta Fuda, Ms Alice Graham, Mrs Dianne Gray, Ms Rebecca Gray, Ms Margaret Kelly, Mr Tom Kidman, Ms Leanne Larosa, The Honourable Christopher Legoe, Mr Nicholas Linke, Ms Melanie Little, Mr Mark Livesey QC, Ms Leah Marrone, Mr Stephen McDonald, Mr Michael Mills, Ms Carolyn Mitchell, Mr Neville Morcombe QC, Mr Geoff Muecke, The Hon Margaret Nyland, The Hon Mark Parnell, Mr Raffaele Piccolo, Mr Ian Robertson SC, Mr Michael Saies, Mr Nicholas Salagaras, Mr Rick Sarre, Ms Carolyn Scholefield, Mr Nadeem Shaki, Ms Cabrini Shepherd, Ms Anne Sibree, Mr George Stathopoulos, Ms Paula Stirling, The Hon John Sulan, Ms Tania Sulan, Mr Adrian Tisanto, Mr Michael Wait, Ms Gillian Walker, Mr Tony Waters, Ms Belinda Wells, Ms Kimberley Wilkin, Ms Penny Wright

*...to our law student volunteers and interns, and secondees, placement and volunteer lawyers, including:*

Australian Government Solicitor secondees

Sparke Helmore secondees

Volunteer lawyers: Ceilia Divakaran, Wilma Geyer, Tom Kelly, Jaeger Man, Jason Meyer, Shameni Nitchingham, Neeru Shrestha, James Swanson, Lidia Ursache

### Funders

Australian Government Attorney-General's Department

South Australian Department of Premier and Cabinet

Law Foundation of South Australia

The Wyatt Trust

Broadley Trust

South Australian Department of Human Services

Lipman Karas

Courts Administration Authority

## **Principal Corporate Partner**

The University of Adelaide Law School

## **Major Donors**

South Australian Bar Association

## **Donors**

*...to all those who generously donated to JusticeNet, including but not limited to, our Friends of JusticeNet, those who donated to the Walk for Justice and our GiveNow appeal, and the barristers and solicitors who donated their costs received in successful matters, and the Circle of Friends.*

## **Event Partners**

Walk for Justice Principal Event Partner: Law Society of South Australia.

Walk for Justice Event Partners: College of Law, Ferrier Hodgson, Simon Bryant and dirt(y) Inc., Published Arthouse.

Walk for Justice Breakfast suppliers: Rohde's Free Range Eggs, Merchant St Wholesalers, Nocelle Foods, Fleurieu Milk Company, Something Wild, Woodside Cheese Wrights, Mise en Place, Besa Juice, Absorb

CPD Event Partner: Flinders University

## **Other Supporters**

Australian Government Solicitor

Federal Courts (Adelaide and Darwin Registries)

Nexia Edwards Marshall

District and Supreme Court

MinterEllison

Fair Work Commission

SA Community Legal Services, Legal Services Commission and other stakeholders who assisted us

## Report from the Treasurer

JusticeNet recorded a small operating profit for the year ended 30 June 2019 of \$11,156, largely from a more challenging fund raising environment than 2018, a change of government and requirements to record liabilities for long serving staff.

The support of the non-government institutions, Wyatt Trust and Broadley Trust, combined with the Law Foundation will play a key role in the ongoing ability of JusticeNet to serve those most in need of its pro bono coordination services.

The Management Committee has discussed at length the need to continue to engage with non-government organisations and private and public ancillary funds to continue to fund services such as the State Courts Self-Representation Service and our Refugee and Asylum Seeker Project.

JusticeNet also received generous in-kind support from members and project partners, through the provision of accommodation, meeting rooms, lawyers on secondment, printing and mailing costs, seminar rooms, audit services, IT services and support. Particular thanks must go to the University of Adelaide Law School which provides accommodation for JusticeNet in the Ligertwood Building, Cowell Clarke and Lipman Karas.

The organisation's greatest financial risk remains the same: the absence of stable funding for our core operating expenses and Pro Bono Referral Service. As in previous years, those essential costs were funded from diverse sources including our fundraising events (in particular, the popular Walk for Justice and our Continuing Professional Development Intensive), member contributions and donations. For this reason, the Management Committee remains cognisant of the real financial challenges that lay ahead.

It is gratifying to note that the support of our members and supporters remains strong. On behalf of the Management Committee, I acknowledge the generosity of all of our members, funders and donors who have invested so much into the organisation over the past year.

A copy of our audited financial reports can be found at [www.justicenet.org.au](http://www.justicenet.org.au). Our sincere thanks to Nexia Edwards Marshall for auditing our financial reports on a pro bono basis.

Nick Anderson  
**Treasurer**