



Eastern
Community
Legal
Centre
Inc.

Annual
Report
2005 - 2006



***For over 30 years,
Eastern Community Legal Centre
has been working with the community
to address issues of inequality and
injustice in the legal system***

Mission

The Eastern Community Legal Centre is committed to reform that achieves equality and social justice within the legal system for disadvantaged members of the community.

Aim

To work with our community to identify and address issues of inequality and injustice in the legal system.

Objectives

To provide free and accessible legal services that empower clients to meet their legal needs, within a community development framework.

To identify the legal needs of disadvantaged people in the Eastern Community Legal Centre region through conducting research.

To provide an organisational structure and policies and procedures to support the above objectives, that specifically includes processes for strategic planning and evaluation of the Centre's activities.

To engage in collaborative partnerships and networks of agencies to assist in meeting the objectives of the Centre.

To promote awareness of the Centre and its activities within the community.

To encourage the community's involvement in the Centre's activities with a particular emphasis on a proactive membership.



Eastern Community Legal Centre

Reg No. A4904N
ABN 89 833 124 364

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First Floor, 20c Blackburn Road
(P.O. Box 466)
Blackburn 3130

P: (03) 9877 5777
F: (03) 9894 2133
E: eclc@eclc.org.au
W: www.eclc.org.au

Hours of Operation
Monday to Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm

Boronia Office
Suite 2, 6 Floriston Road
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Boronia 3155

P: (03) 9762 6235
F: (03) 9762 9751
E: outereast@clc.org.au

Hours of Operation
Monday to Thursday 9:00am – 5:00pm



Acknowledgments

Eastern Community Legal Centre would like to sincerely thank the following people and organisations for their contributions to our Centre over the past year:

Our Volunteers

Donations to ECLC

Our thanks to the many individuals and groups that have made a donation to the Centre.

Funding Partners

Victoria Legal Aid
Victorian Government
Commonwealth Government
Knox City Council
City of Whitehorse
City of Boroondara
Rotary Club of Balwyn

Legal Firms

Jones Hepworth Johns
Mercader
Moores Legal
Robinson Gill
Roman Lawyers

Project Partners

Anchor
Eastern Access Community Health
Eastern Domestic Violence Outreach Service
Family Access Network
GordonCare
Inner East Community Health Service
Knox Infolink
Migrant Information Centre
Regional Extended Family Services
Ringwood Magistrates' Court
Victoria Legal Aid Ringwood
Women's Legal Service Victoria

Outer East CLC Reference Group

Barbara Younger Eastern Family Violence Network
Carolyn Bolton, Knox Community Health Service
Debbie Seddon City of Maroondah
Dee Locke, Knox Infolink
James Merlino MP, Member for Monbulk
Kate Hamond, Legal Ombudsman
Kim McCarthy, UnitingCare Harrison
Mark Doubleday, Shire of Yarra Ranges
Maryanne Day, Knox City Council
Sharon Wolstenhome, UnitingCare Harrison

Board / Committee Membership 2005/06

Karen Jones	Oct 05 -
Tom Munro	Mar 06 -
Helen Killmier	Mar 06 -
Sue Carlile	May 06 -
Lance Wilson	Jun 06 -
John Sheehan	Oct 05 - Aug 06
Dennis Ho	Oct 05 - Jul 06
Simon Gauci	Oct 05 - Apr 06
Angela Cranenburgh	Jan 06 - Apr 06
Dina Winterburn	Oct 05 - Apr 06
Maria Tucker	Oct 05 - Mar 06
Natalie Warren-Smith	Oct 05 - Mar 06
Natalie Joffe	Oct 05 - Nov 05
Donna Donht	Oct 05 - Nov 05
David Tong	Oct 05 - Nov 06



*Karen Jones, Chairperson of the
ECLC Board, at the Launch of the
Outer East Office*

Staff Team 2005/06

Manager

Michael Smith

Outer East Co-ordinator

Deborah Handley

Co-ordinator of Volunteers

Leonie Burnham

Lawyers

Julie Mouy (Principal)

Eve Bodsworth

Kristen Armstrong

Louisa van Nugteren

Community Development

Kate Johnson

Administration

Denise Budge

Janerose Okello

Kate Bennett

Katrina Szetey

Lucinda Murdoch

Noel Stubbs

Community Legal Education/Law Reform

Richard Duffy

Locum staff

Anthony Stewart (VLA secondment)

Amanda Wynne

Danni Baylis

Petru Roman

Tanja Kovac

Claire Lindsay-Johns

Craig Rossi

Hui Wendy Wan

Jessica Rowe

Liam O'Connor

Board report

The past 12 months have been a period of significant growth and change at ECLC, both operationally and from a governance perspective.

One of our most significant achievements in the past 12 months has been the commencement of services at our Outer Eastern branch office at Boronia. The funding and establishment of the outer Eastern site was announced in May 2005 and, in the subsequent months a lot of effort went into staffing and furnishing the office. More importantly the outer Eastern office provides a much needed resource for those who might not otherwise be able to access our justice system. A magnificent achievement by all concerned culminated in opening its doors on October 31, 2005.

A formal celebration and opening of the Centre took place on August 29, 2006 when the ribbon was cut by Attorney-General, The Hon Rob Hulls. It was gratifying to see how many people attended this function, and certainly those numbers validate the support we have had in this endeavour.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Michael Smith for his leadership of the organisation during this time of significant change. Michael has ensured that the team at ECLC has remained cohesive and continued to provide high level, responsive services to our community. I would also like to acknowledge the contribution made by our dedicated team of staff.

The efforts of the following must be acknowledged, all of whom worked tirelessly to ensure that the Boronia branch office became a reality:

- Outer Eastern CLC Reference Group
- Outer east Members of Parliament, in particular Mr James Merlino
- Victoria Legal Aid for funding the service
- The Manager, staff and volunteers of ECLC.

The opening of our Boronia office provided me with the very pleasant task of announcing that our invitation to Chief Magistrate Ian Gray to become our inaugural patron had been accepted. I know that Mr. Gray's patronage of our service will assist in bestowing on the Centre the endorsement as a vital community resource which it so deserves.

To those retired Board members who did not see out their full term, the Centre thanks you for your time and dedication. In particular, to those recently arrived Board members, called upon to fill positions on fairly short notice, I sincerely thank you for your support and look forward to that support continuing.

One of the most onerous tasks the Board was charged with in the last 12 months was the review and implementation of new Rules for the Centre. These new Rules have resulted in a clearer definition of membership eligibility and have meant that we have been able to implement a number of changes such as two year terms for Board members and a more streamlined process for meetings. The Board believes that the new Rules, formally endorsed at the Special General Meeting on July 25, will better meet the Centre's needs for effective governance and development of the organisation in years to come.

I would also like to thank our dedicated volunteers, and I count myself amongst them. Without the support of volunteers, the services we provide to the community would not be possible. A collective and heartfelt thank you to all staff and volunteers and we look forward to your ongoing support in the coming year.

Looking to the future, we have another memorable milestone approaching, that being the imminent relocation of the Blackburn office to very impressive and much more spacious premises at Box Hill Town Hall. We anticipate moving into these premises in mid-November, and wish to acknowledge the assistance and support we have received from the City of Whitehorse.

In addition, we appreciate our partnerships with the Cities of Boroondara and Knox that provide financial and a range of other assistance that is of great benefit to our clients.

Lastly I would like to thank Michael Smith for his dedication and hard work throughout the year. With much anticipation that the next twelve months will be a little less eventful than the last, I take this opportunity to thank my fellow Board members, and look forward to the continued success of ECLC's provision of legal services and education in Melbourne's eastern suburbs to an ever increasing demographic.

Karen Jones
Chairperson

Patron

It is with great delight that the ECLC Board announces the appointment of Mr Ian Gray, Chief Magistrate, Magistrates' Court of Victoria as the Patron for the Centre.

Mr Gray has held many positions of influence throughout his career. Early in his career, Mr Gray was ECLC's Community Solicitor. He also was a solicitor with the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service.

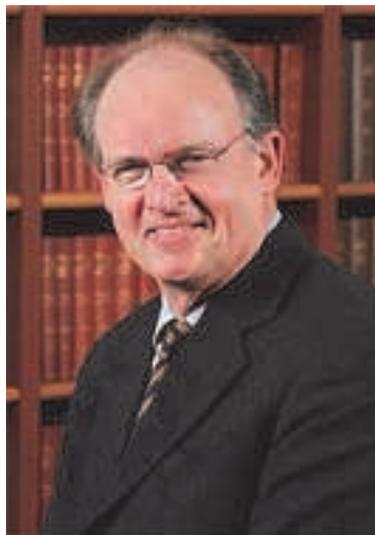
During the 1980's and 1990's, Mr Gray specialised in criminal defence work, was the Principal Legal Advisor for the Northern Land Council in Darwin, was appointed as a Northern Territory Magistrate, and then two years later, was appointed Chief Magistrate for the Northern Territory. In the late 1990's, Mr Gray returned to Victoria where he practiced criminal law, administrative law and employment law and was also a mediator in Native Title.

In the year 2000, Mr Gray was the head of the Land & Property Unit of the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor. Over the past few years, Mr Gray has also been the Vice President of the Victorian branch of the International Commission of Jurists.

Mr Gray was appointed the Chief Magistrate of Victoria in March 2001. In the past few years, there has been significant change within the Magistrates' Court of Victoria including the creation of a Drug Court, Koori Court and Family Violence Court.

The Centre is delighted to welcome Mr Gray as our Patron. He has had a long association with ECLC, including as an early volunteer, Community Solicitor and Committee member. More recently, he has supported ECLC's campaign for services in the Outer East.

Mr Gray brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position of Patron and ECLC is excited and grateful for the opportunity to work together. In 2007, there will be opportunities for volunteers members and supporters of ECLC to share with the Chief Magistrate at key events.



Mr. Ian Gray, Chief Magistrate of Victoria and Patron of ECLC

ECLC Patron, Mr Ian Gray, sent this message to the Outer East Launch:

First, can I say it gives me great pleasure to accept the invitation to be Patron of the Eastern Community Legal Centre.

I would very much have liked to be at the launch today but can't be there. I am a strong believer in CLC's and have great faith in their future. They are a vital and vibrant part of the spectrum of legal service provision to all Victorians.

Although we are opening a new office today, I have very fond memories of my time at the centre, both as a volunteer and community lawyer. I should acknowledge the wonderful pioneering work done by Erskine Rodan, Geoff Eames and many other hard workers in the first foundational years.

Any celebration has to reflect that past history.

For the future, I look forward to active participation and meeting as many of you as possible at ECLC events. I wish everybody well and congratulate you on the opening of the new Centre.

Best wishes,

Ian Gray

Manager's Report

Two years ago, the then (new) Manager undertook a short but significant review of the Centre with the Committee and other key stakeholders. A number of key issues and challenges were identified that would be critical to the Centre's future. These included the need to define and improve the Centre's governance and management systems, manage any growth in the agency well, develop our specialties and ensure that all parts of the Centre's work are well integrated with the other components rather than separate individual efforts. Indeed two years on, the strengths and issues identified then – indeed the opportunities and warnings - have continued to resonate through the organisation's life over the last year in ways both large and small.

The five strategic directions then adopted were:

1. Partnership development
2. Improving volunteer & staff collaboration
3. Strategic & intentional approach to the Outer East
4. Quality, targeted & integrated casework, community legal education & law reform
5. Strategic focus (being well-positioned & ready to seize opportunities)

Amidst a challenging year, these five themes have continued to strongly guide our work.

Partnerships

ECLC sees itself as a vibrant community organisation with a legal focus, in the context of an ever-changing and evolving community sector. The Centre has utilised an active partnership approach to both its organisational development and specific projects.

Early in the year, our partnership with Knox Infolink was formalised and we worked very closely in the establishment of the Outer East CLC. While most of Knox Infolink's volunteer lawyers are now part of the combined service, the co-operation extends far beyond this, at many levels.

Private law firms, through the Intervention Order Support Service and other projects are key partners in our assistance to clients. At the Ringwood Magistrate's Court, this service is delivered in partnership with Victoria Legal Aid, the Eastern Domestic Violence Outreach Service and the Court itself.

Late in the year, GordonCare approached the Centre seeking some office space for its Contact Orders program.

This resulted in a new partnership providing not only space for this service at our Boronia site, but further opportunities for co-operation.

A new partnership was developed with REFS (Regional Extended Family Services) and Women's Legal Services Victoria. This innovative project has brought together REFS's work in mediation training and with indigenous communities' people with the need for specific training in family law issues, developed by WLSV and ECLC.

With the establishment of the Outer East office, partnerships were further developed with many organisations, particularly EACH and Anchor.

Volunteer and staff collaboration

Not before time, the Centre introduced a Co-ordinator of Volunteers staff role across the service. While it is easy to speak words of gratitude to appreciated volunteers, it is more complex to support and develop many diverse volunteers in a range of programs and roles.

The focus of this area has been the establishment of day and night volunteer programs at Boronia, as well as reviewing and expanding existing programs. Looking forward, the focus is shifting to increasing the diversity of the volunteer base and new volunteer projects.

The Outer East

When this strategy was identified in late 2004, it was beyond hope that an Outer East CLC would be open within a year. A huge collaborative effort of partners, supporters staff and volunteers not only gained funding but ensured a quick transition to an operational service for the outer east communities.

The early part of the year involved significant consultation, the development of a full service model and full funding proposal. Recruitment and a search for suitable premises followed, alongside a community consultation process.

The team quickly established a consistent and effective service to the community that continues to develop its understanding of its community and respond accordingly.

Quality, targeted & integrated casework, community legal education & law reform

Difficulties in filling key staffing roles limited the Centre's casework capacity over periods of the year, but volunteers and staff provided a most extensive and capable legal advice service throughout.

Family Law and in particular family violence remains a key component of the Centre's work and a number of community development activities and projects have seen staff and other agencies collaborate in these areas.

ECLC has been a keen observer of the changes to the Family Law Act and is working with the Ringwood Family Relationship Centre and others in monitoring their impact.

Community legal education has focused on building links and knowledge in the Outer east while developing education packages that may be used in different contexts.

In the year ahead, improved integration between all these aspects of the work will be further emphasised.

Strategic focus

The Committee/Board continued to highlight the need to improve its governance understanding and systems and made significant improvements in this area.

As well as the constitutional improvements referred to in the Chairperson's report a range of key policies and strategic decisions have been put in place that position the organisation in a much stronger position to move forward with confidence.



Staff team survived the launch!

Michael Smith, Stephanie Ng, Janerose Okello, Danni Baylis, Leonie Burnham, Denise Budge, Deborah Handley, Kate Bennett, Eve Bodsworth

Overall

The Centre has faced many challenges over the last year – both internal and external.

I would like to thank all of the staff - both paid and volunteer - who have had the best interests of the clients and their community at heart and have seen off these challenges with hard work, commitment, professionalism and integrity. In addition, the Board have performed beyond what could reasonably be expected to ensure the Centre's ongoing health and viability.

I would also like to thank our funding partners, particularly Victoria Legal Aid, who have been most active partners and supporters over the last year. Also, the Cities of Whitehorse, Boroondara and Knox have provided ongoing support that is most appreciated.

At the recent launch of our Outer East CLC, I said that CLCs, as volunteer-based organisations have often been idealistic. Sometimes people believe that because CLCs involve volunteers, that it is a hobby, a spare time activity and that view can permeate how the services are perceived – that near enough is good enough.

As I said then, say that is not our view. The people at this Centre - Board, staff and volunteers - are not interested in being amateurs. The people of the east (and especially the Outer East that have been missing out for far too long) deserve the best legal advice and casework services and the best integrated community development work we can deliver, from the best staff and volunteers in a timely, professional and highly ethical manner. It should not matter whether you live on the Yarra in the inner city or at Yarra Junction or what your background is when you need to access a legal service.

We will continue to develop highly professional, ethical and innovative services for our communities in the best way we can, honoring the trust placed in us by our members, clients, partners and funders. We will work hard, professionally yet passionately to improve access to and understanding of the law for all of the communities we serve.

We welcome your collaboration in this quest.

Michael B. Smith
Manager

Volunteers

As a result of the increase in services with the opening of the Outer East office, the ECLC Committee acknowledged the importance and value of volunteers within the Centre and supported the creation of a staff role of Coordinator of Volunteers. The new role is focused on supporting existing volunteers and volunteer programs, increasing the number and diversity of volunteers and long-term planning for varied and engaging volunteer programs.

As in past years, the volunteers at ECLC have continued to be the backbone of the organisation as we offer a high quality and accessible legal and referral service to people across the East. Over the past twelve months ECLC has benefited from 140 volunteers and their generous donation of time and support in many varied ways.

As we reflect on the figures in this annual report it is clear that all of the volunteer programs offered by ECLC contribute to a service that is convenient and effective for our clients. Many of our clients would not receive any help without the volunteer-based free legal advice sessions. Whether it be through the Intervention Order program at Ringwood Magistrates' Court or the night service at Boronia or Blackburn, people of the east, both inner and outer are able to access relevant and timely legal advice at no cost to support them through difficult situations.

As you may note from the list of volunteers, some of the volunteers are involved in two or more programs which helps to not only diversify the experience for the volunteers but contributes to the holistic approach to client services as reflected in the Centre's philosophy.

The team approach taken by ECLC with volunteers and staff marries together the depth of experience and knowledge of our long-standing lawyers with the enthusiasm and energetic approach of our younger students and overall creates an environment that is both beneficial to our clients but hopefully very rewarding for all volunteers as well.

The benefits are many and one of the exciting aspects of my role is to watch the transition as some of our experienced law students have now earned their practicing certificate and are now ready and willing to continue their involvement with the centre. They are now seeing clients independently and supporting new paralegal volunteers and the cycle continues.

ECLC is fortunate to have some volunteers who are also involved in other community agencies and these volunteers bring great knowledge and resources from their local community to further enhance the services we can offer.

At a recent local forum the guest speaker was Sha Cordingley who is the CEO of Volunteering Australia. During her address there were some amazing statistics regarding volunteers in Australia - especially with regard to the financial importance that volunteers play in the wider economy.

Extensive research has shown that 97% of nonprofit agencies utilizing volunteers state that one of their biggest challenges is recruiting new volunteers. As I sat in a room with fellow volunteer Co-ordinators who shared this sentiment, I felt privileged and proud of the riches we have at ECLC with our volunteer programs and to be in the lucky 3% of organisations where volunteers are plentiful.

We are inundated with requests for new paralegal volunteers weekly. More important is that we have such a strong and established team of volunteers where many continue their involvement with the centre for many years and do so happily and with little formal encouragement. The volume of volunteers, not to mention the quality of time that is so generously given, cannot be truly valued or fully appreciated.

So next time it is cold, dark and miserable and you are enjoying an evening with friends or a quiet night in, think of our loyal volunteers heading off to Blackburn or Boronia to face a waiting room filled with interesting and challenging clients as they fulfill their night service commitment. A similar commitment is shown by Ringwood Court or day volunteers.

Volunteers, please know that your time and effort is greatly appreciated not only by all at ECLC but also by all our clients and our funding bodies as we continue to provide such an extensive and quality service for those who reside in the east. Many thanks to you all and keep up the great work - especially as we move into a new era with the relocation to Box Hill and expanding services at Boronia.

Leonie Burnham
Co-ordinator of Volunteers

Our Volunteers

Blackburn Night Services

Adele Katzew
Amy Somers
Andrew Minahan
Andrew Wilcock
Astrid Di Carlo
Bradley Tutt
Brian Hamond
Carol Barton
Carolyn Cheng
Chiara Auteri
Chris Grosseck
Claire Lindsay-Johns
Clare Parsons
Clementina Galati
Craig Halfpenny
Craig Rossi
Cristina Rivero
Dallas Mischkuling
David Thompson
Dennis Ho
Dina Winterburn
Emily Shafto
Erin Varker
Helen Evenden
Helen Gay
James Beeston
Jenny Finn
Joshua Morris
Karin Constenoble
Kate Dluzniak
Keleigh Robinson
Kun Jiang
Lariss Oana
Liam O'Connor
Lilia Chalfin
Lisa Chesswal
Liz Hamilton
Lucinda Murdoch
Malcolm Bennett
Mark Fitzgerald
Mark Strong
Melissa Rizzo-Magee
Michael Flynn
Michael Ma
Nina Leo
Paul Lewis
Peter Milford
Petru Roman
Philip Duffy
Rhonda Goodall
Richard Antill
Sanaz Naimi
Santina DellaRossa
Seung-Hoon Baek
Simone Fitzgerald
Sue Yen We
Sylvia Young

Tanja Kovac
Tara Kenny
Thomas Mah
Tony Daquino
William Ho

Boronia Night Services

Anthony Raso
Barbara Osafo-Kwaako
Bill Boucher
Carol Grimshaw
Chris Shelley
Fe Mercader
Frank Clarebrough
Hubert Fong
Jarrod McAvoy
Kate Devenish
Kelvin Legg

Blackburn Day Service

Amber O'Brien
Amruta Bapat
Armita Yaresh
Cameron Grant
Carol Barton
Craig Rossi
Denise O'Shannassy
Dheepna Benoit
Emily Shafto
Jessica Rowe
John Sheehan
Joyi Li
Liam O'Connor
Loredana Gibson
Melissa Rizzo-Magee
Richard Edmonds
Ricki Strauch
Sara Atrill
Stephanie Ng
Tanya Kovac
Vicky Doufa
Wendy Wan
William Chew

Boronia Day Services

Andrew Wilcock
Anna Smit
Bree Solomon
Cherry Fuller
Danni Bailey
Edwina Olver
Jackie Haslem
Judy Stephens
Karen Jones
Louise Page
Nadine Kilpatrick
Rebecca Thomson
Tarnya Grey
Wilma Whitelaw

Intervention Order Program

Paralegals

Allison Jones
Armita Yaresh
Claire Lindsay-Johns
Coralee Elsum
Edwina Olver
Emily Strothers
Jackie Haslem
Joyi Li
Natasha Andrews
Sally James
Sarah Atrill
Tanya Murugan
Thomas McLaughlin

Lawyers and Firms

Adele Katzew
Ellie Delafield
Fe Mercader
Jenny Finn
Michael Patton
Moores Legal
Petru Roman
Rachael Templeton
Richard Bartram
Robinson Gill
Sheryl Barker



A snapshot of some of our wonderful volunteers at the Outer East office

Legal Service

Advice

ECLC provides legal information, advice and referral to the residents of our catchment area (Cities and Shires of Whitehorse, Boroondara, Knox, Manningham, Maroondah and Yarra Ranges).

We provide advice in many different areas of law including Family Law, Intervention Orders, Crime and Traffic Offences, Neighbourhood Disputes, Consumer, Debt and Wills. We prioritise our work and aim to assist the most disadvantaged members of our community.

Night Service

ECLC's Night Service continues to be an important service for the community. Experienced and capable volunteers assist many clients who cannot attend during the day or have legal matters requiring urgent, efficient advice. We are extremely grateful and appreciative of the teams of volunteer lawyers and paralegals who offer their services on a fortnightly or monthly basis.

Over the past year, we have continued to provide free advice sessions on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings at the Blackburn office.

In May 2006 the Centre commenced a new Night Service operating at our Boronia office. A partnership with Knox Infolink offered not only additional lawyers, but also invaluable local knowledge and expertise.

While a small number of volunteers have resigned this year we have been pleased that a number of new volunteers from various backgrounds have enthusiastically taken up these roles in the night teams. We thank those who have generously offered their time and services and wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

Day Service

Advice sessions have been offered at both offices through the week mainly by staff lawyers.

Richard Edmonds has continued his key role providing Wills advice and assistance, Specialist, along with Denise O'Shannassy focusing on family law. They have been joined this year by Carol Barton offering advice on Consumer and Debt matters weekly.

Outreach

This year we have offered outreach from both the Inner East and Outer East offices.

The Boroondara outreach service, was held fortnightly at the Inner East Community Health Service in Hawthorn. Thank you to the Health Centre staff for your support of the outreach this year.

The Whitehorse outreach continued to operate from the Migrant Information Centre in Mitcham. We were pleased to be able to assist residents from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and look forward to continuing our partnership with the MIC. With the imminent move to Box Hill ECLC will be literally next door to the MIC offering the opportunity to review this outreach and partnership. Thank you to the MIC staff for your referrals and assistance.

With the establishment of the Outer East office, the Knox outreach to Wantirna was no longer required. However, the monthly outreach to Rowville (Stud Park Shopping Centre) was continued. Thanks to Karen Jones for providing high quality family law advice at this Rowville outreach service. We also wish to thank Knox Council staff for their co-operation with this outreach.

At the start of 2006, the Outer East team established two new outreach services in the Shire of Yarra Ranges. Our outreach locations are in Lilydale at Anchor Inc. and in Yarra Junction at Eastern Access Community Health. These services enable those who live in more remote areas of the Yarra Ranges to access our services. Thank you to the staff at Anchor and also Eastern Access Community Health for your assistance and for use of your offices.

Casework

The Centre continues to be busy, with the demand for legal assistance outweighing the available resources. Therefore, we have to ensure that we offer assistance to those who have the greatest needs. Family law and family/domestic violence continues to be the most sought after advice for the Centre.

Statistics

We advocate and negotiate on behalf of clients in relation to family law matters, debts, criminal law, intervention orders and motor vehicle accidents. We also arrange for Barristers to represent our clients in Court.

Thank you to all of the Barristers that have assisted our clients by working on a pro bono or reduced fee basis. Your support and contribution is very much appreciated

Intervention Order Service

In partnership with EDVOS, Victoria Legal Aid and the Court, ECLC has continued to offer the Intervention Order Service at Ringwood Court on Tuesday and Friday mornings. This service is co-ordinated by the Principal Lawyer and Co-ordinator of Volunteers, with the generous assistance of volunteer lawyers from private firms and paralegal volunteers.

This service provides sensitive and timely advice to clients seeking or defending Intervention Orders. Court can be a very distressing and intimidating place. We find clients are grateful for the assistance and support they receive through the Court process.

This valuable service could not be offered without the support of the volunteer lawyers and paralegals, who often go above and beyond the call of duty to assist clients and keep this service running smoothly. We appreciate your effort and thank you for your contribution and time.

Centre Activity Summary

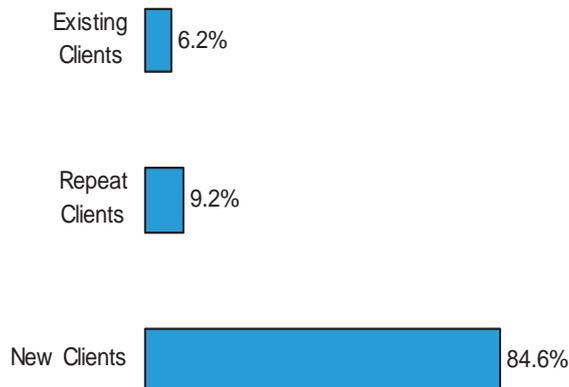
For the period 1 July 2005—30 June 2006

Activities

Advice	1914
Cases	317

Clients

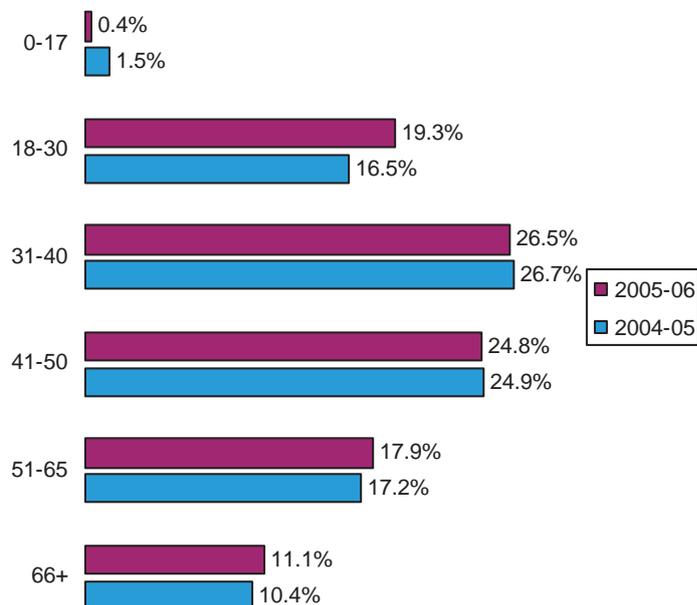
Total Number of Clients	1875
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Client Profile

Age

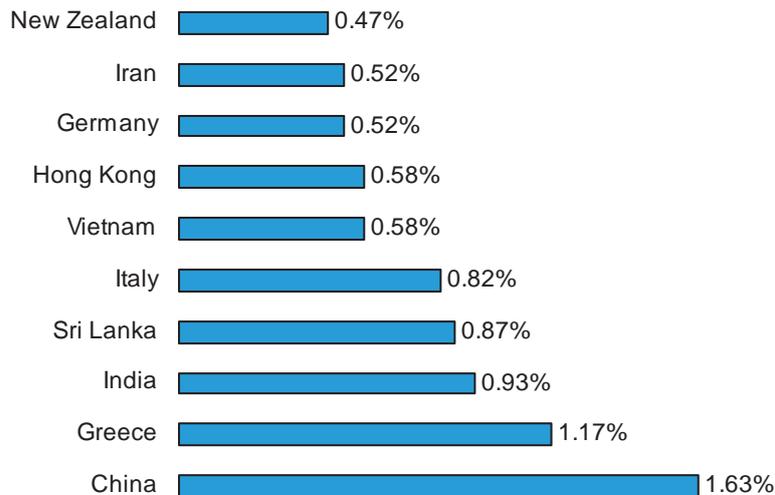
In the last 12 months, there has been an increase in clients aged from 18-30 years. This change can be largely attributed to a generally younger client group at the Outer East Centre, although still with a large percentage of family law issues.



Country of Birth

The Centre sees a large number of CALD clients. Approximately 18.9% of our clients were born in other countries. The top ten countries (other than Australia) where our clients originated from are China, Greece, India, Sri Lanka, Italy, Hong Kong, Vietnam, Germany, Iran and New Zealand.

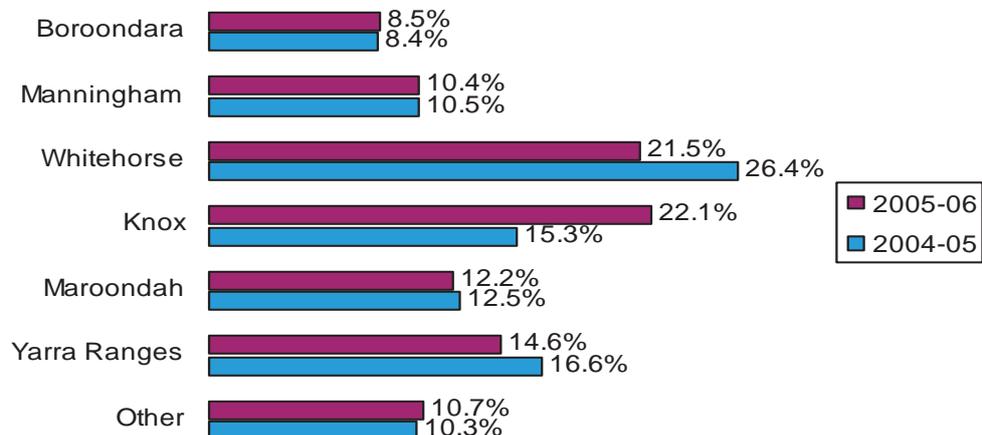
Given that over 18% of clients were born in other countries, we have continued to rely heavily on the Victorian Interpreting Service and Telephone Interpreting Service.



Location

ECLC has a large catchment area that includes six municipalities and a population of over 800,000. In late 2005, the Outer East Centre in Boronia opened and this has provided more appointments and enabled easier access for clients living in the Cities of Knox, Maroondah and the Shire of Yarra Ranges.

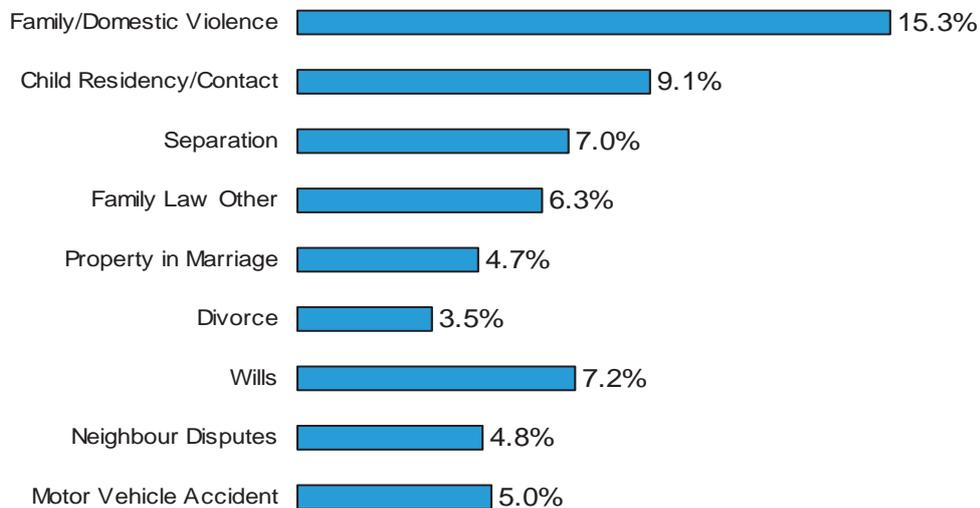
The Centre is receiving many requests for legal advice and assistance at Boronia, with 22.1% of clients living in the City of Knox, 14.6% of clients living in the Yarra Ranges and 12.2% of clients living in the City of Maroondah. As the service becomes more widely known, including the outreach services in Lilydale and Yarra Junction, more clients are expected.



Problem Types

The main issues that ECLC's clients seek assistance with include family and domestic violence, separation, child residency/custody, divorce, property in marriage and other family law issues, wills, motor vehicle accidents and neighbourhood disputes.

Family law and family violence in particular have remained a dominant theme with this year's clients.



Tony Daquino (VLA senior family lawyer and ECLC volunteer) and Lance Martin, Regional Co-ordinating Magistrate at the Outer East launch

Outer East

The Outer East - Boronia office opened in October 2005.

With funding from Victoria Legal Aid, we offer a free legal service to the residents of the Cities of Knox, Maroondah and the Shire of Yarra Ranges.

This Service would never have eventuated if not for the dedication and hard work from the members of the Outer East Reference Group. A special thanks to the members, in particular, Dee Locke, Kate Hamond, Sharon Wolstenholme, James Merlino, Maryanne Day, Carolyn Bolton, Barbara Younger, Bradley Tutt, Helen Buckingham, Kim McCarthy, Mark Doubleday and Debbie Seddon.

Knowledge of our existence has spread amongst the community. We are currently able to offer on average 24 appointments per week, covering day and evenings. By far, the majority of our clients are approaching us with family law issues, including separation/divorce, property settlement, child disputes and family violence. Other legal matters that we are asked to give advice on include neighbourhood disputes, intervention orders, motor vehicle accidents, drink driving and Victims of Crime Assistance applications.

Wherever possible we are responding to requests from community services to offer community education sessions. To date, we have provided sessions covering wills, power of attorney, young people and their rights and family law issues.

We are currently running monthly outreach services at Yarra Junction, Lilydale, and Rowville. A special thanks to Peter Gartlan and Bernadette Douglas at EACH in Yarra Junction, Anchor in Lilydale and the City of Knox for supporting our lawyers and providing space for us to see clients. ECLC is committed to providing a legal service to as many locations in the outer east as is possible.

We have had to farewell some highly valued staff members through the year. These include, Kristen Armstrong - Community Lawyer, Janerose Okello - Administration and Amanda Wynne, Petru Roman and Anthony Stewart - locum lawyers. We are eternally grateful for their hard work, commitment to clients and sense of enjoyment around the office.

We have recently welcomed to the team Eve Bodsworth as Community Lawyer and Stephanie Ng and Craig Rossi, who are handling administration .

I would also like to thank Kate Johnson, Project Worker, who was instrumental in establishing the office and undertaking a community development project to both inform and seek advice from local services.

I would also like to acknowledge the dedication of both our legal and paralegal volunteers. In particular, Karen Jones who has provided the monthly Rowville outreach service for many years and our Boronia night service lawyers, Frank Clarebrough, Kelvin Legg, Petra McHugh, Fe Mercader, Anthony Raso, Victoria Roberts, Hubert Fong and Nigel Ross.

Without the endless skills and knowledge of our paralegal volunteers we would find it difficult to provide such a thorough service. A special mention to Wilma Whitelaw, Judy Stephens, Cherry Fuller, Bree Solomon, Allison Jones, Jackie Haslem, Tarnya Grey Edwina Olver, Louise Page, Nadine Kilpatrick, Danielle Bailey, Rebecca Thomson, Richard Grossi, Anna Smit, Wendy Wan, Bill Boucher, Barbara Osafo-Rowaard, Carol Grimshaw, Jarrod McAvoy, Chris Shelley, Nadine Daniels, Kate Devenish and Natasha Andrews.

The other services in the area have been most welcoming and invaluable in their support.

Gordon Care's "Stand By Me" program has recently begun operating from our premises, two days a week. The program worker, Bronwyn Clarkson offers a program for parents and children who have Contact Orders from the Family Court or Federal Magistrates Court. We welcome her and her clients.

I am looking forward to the coming year and the challenges and developments that lie ahead.

Thank you to all the staff at ECLC, in particular Michael Smith and Leonie Burnham for helping get through some busy and interesting times.

Deborah Handley
Outer East Co-ordinator

History

A group of concerned residents, legal and community workers in the vicinity of Nunawading started the centre in 1974. It was established to provide free and professional legal advice to the community, and added momentum to the progressive social justice movement that was prevalent at the time. Its aim was to alleviate the social injustices experienced by people of Nunawading and to assist them to overcome difficulties in accessing the legal system.

From the time it opened its doors it was staffed by a dedicated core of volunteers. The centre received its first Federal funding in 1981, which saw the employment of staff – one lawyer and a part time secretary to coordinate a night service operated by volunteers, as well as a day service.

At this time the centre changed its name to Nunawading & Eastern Suburbs Legal Service Inc, in recognition of the fact that the centre's clients come from well beyond the suburb of Nunawading.

In 1993 the Nunawading Council advised that they were selling the property at 26 Blackburn Road where the centre was housed and as a result the service moved into a property in Railway Road, Blackburn.

The demand for the services of the centre has continued to grow and the legal centre now has a vast 'catchment' area that includes the Cities of Boroondara, Knox, Manningham, Maroondah, Whitehorse and the Shire of Yarra Ranges.

A further name change occurred in 1995 with the centre becoming the Eastern Community Legal Centre Inc. 2001 has seen the centre return to Blackburn Road, a couple of doors up from where it was originally.

In 2005 a concerted community campaign led to funding for a new CLC in the Outer East. Eastern CLC secured the new service and in October 2005 opened in Boronia to service the communities in Knox, Yarra Ranges and Maroondah. The services both use employed and staff and many volunteers and offer outreach in various locations.

The Centre also has a proud and living history of community development, including partnership projects, publications, legal education and campaigns to change the law.

The centre still has a committed team of volunteers who make the work of the agency possible and has assisted many thousands of people over thirty years to understand and access the legal system.

Life Members

Erskine Rodan
Gwen Williams
Peter Jacobs
Bonnie Bedwell
Eunice Chesterfield
Clive Weston
Shirley Sak



Attorney-General, Hon Rob Hulls enjoys the Outer East launch with parliamentary colleagues Anne Eckstein, Kirstie Marshall and Dymphna Beard.

Treasurer's Report

ECLC's figures for the 2005-2006 financial year again demonstrate the strength of the Centre, and reflect the professional and responsible way that the Centre has operated.

With the opening of the new Boronia office, the Centre has undergone a massive expansion, and such growth is not without its challenges. Other challenges over the past 12 months have also tested the financial strength of the organisation.

Full credit must go to the outstanding efforts of the staff and management, whose efforts go beyond all expectation.

Thanks must also go to Victorian Legal Aid and the Victorian Government, who have demonstrated their confidence in our organisation with successive increases in funding. We have also greatly appreciated the funded support of the Cities of Whitehorse, Knox and Boroondara.

The robust financial position of the Centre has allowed the Board to look at further strategies for future expansion and growth. The 2006-2007 financial year will include the move of the Blackburn office to the new location at Box Hill, and further expansion of outreach services.

That means seeing more clients, delivering more services and delivering better services. Thankyou to all of ECLC's funders and supporters for making this possible.

Lance Wilson
Treasurer

Financial Statements

Auditors Notes

NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30th JUNE 2006

NOTE 1 BASIS AND STANDARDS OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

In accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, the accrual basis of accounting has been adopted in the preparation of the financial statements of the Service for the Year Ended 30th June 2006.

To maintain accounting procedures, the balance sheet includes all known liabilities, including Provisions and Creditors.

NOTE 2 DEPRECIATION

In accordance with generally accepted accounting principles adopted for this Service, depreciation on assets has been calculated and incorporated into the financial statements.

NOTE 3 EMPLOYEES ENTITLEMENTS

During the year, the Service provided for Annual Leave entitlements and Sick Leave entitlements.

It should be noted that no provision for Long Service Leave has been included in the financial statements this year. However, as employees' length of service grows, a provision will be implemented. It is envisaged that a provision for long service leave will be accrued in the next financial report.



Profit and Loss Statement for Year ended 30 June 2006

Income	2006	2005
Assessable Government industry payment	2,000	
CLC Recurrent-Commonwealth	120,907	118,304
CLC Recurrent-State	333,690	136,010
Local government	71,343	77,607
Fundraising/Donations	188	2,048
Donations	4,800	4,500
Consumer & Tenancy	(3,600)	36,496
Publication sales	123	631
Interest received	5,810	2,306
Other Income	249	273
Grant-Victorian Government	5,000	
Rebates-Workcover	11,406	
Total income	551,915	378,174
Expenses		
Accountancy	150	
Advertising and promotion	2,159	
Audit fees	3,070	4,010
Bank Fees And Charges	340	517
Cleaning	4,630	2,025
Client Services Costs	1,015	
Committee expenses	518	125
Computer Expenses	7,703	301
Delivery	814	441
Depreciation plant	12,160	5,472
Filing Fees	37	36
Insurance	3,265	2,012
Interest-Taxation Office	1,781	
Legal Expenses	11,632	4,214
Library	2,212	1,454
Light & power	3,352	2,606
Postage	1,854	2,447
Printing & stationery	14,457	7,621
Project & Volunteer Costs	618	234
Provision Annual leave	2,292	3,784
Provision Sick Leave	522	4,744
Rates & outgoings	3,579	1,703
Rent on land & buildings	54,613	35,750
Repairs & maintenance	1,656	244
Replacements	1,696	
Salaries & Benefit Payments	315,937	252,702
30th birthday net costs		567
Staff amenities	3,962	1,783
Staff training	1,517	1,704
Staff recruitment	2,473	
Subscriptions & memberships	3,899	3,404
Superannuation	27,567	22,159
Telephone & Internet Fees	9,130	4,375
Travel, accom & conference	9,558	6,191
Workcover	3,238	1,302
Total expenses	513,406	373,929
Net Profit from Ordinary Activities	38,509	4,245

Detailed Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2006

Services' Funds

	2006	2005
Opening Balance	80,151	75,906
Net profit	38,509	4,245
Total Services' Funds	118,660	80,151
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank – Maroondah Credit Union	48,565	9,528
Cash at Bank – Maroondah Credit Union	5	5
Cash at Bank – Screen Saver Invest. S25	30,244	7,748
Cash on hand - Blackburn	45	337
Cash on hand - Boronia	15	
	78,874	17,619
Receivables		
Trade debtors	836	13,421
	836	13,421
Other financial assets		
Shares – Maroondah Credit Union	10	10
	10	10
Other		
Short term deposits	148	8,135
Term deposit	51,974	41,219
Security Deposit	5,275	2,775
	57,397	52,129
Total Current Assets	137,118	83,179
Non-Current Assets - Property, Plant and Equipment		
Plant & equipment – at cost	97,772	97,772
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(80,818)	(75,467)
Office Equipment – Boronia	50,603	
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(6,809)	
Total Non-Current Assets	60,748	22,305
Total Assets	197,866	105,484
Current Liabilities		
Payables Unsecured:		
- Trade creditors		277
- Other creditors – PAYG June	24,038	2,910
- Superannuation payable	5,092	2,300
- Other creditors - GST Owing	24,956	
- Creditors - Union dues	120	
	54,207	5,487
Current Tax Liabilities		
GST payable control account	2,347	8
	2,347	8
Total Current Liabilities	56,554	5,496
Non-Current Liabilities		
Provision for Annual leave	13,030	10,738
Provision for Sick Leave	9,622	9,100
Total Non-Current Liabilities	22,652	19,838
Total Liabilities	79,206	25,333
Net Assets	118,660	80,151

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2005

	2006 \$	2005 \$
Cash Flow from Operating Activities		
Receipts from customers	558,691	362,586
Payments to Suppliers and employees	(448,092)	(359,561)
Interest Received	5,810	2,306
Interest and other costs of finance	(1,782)	
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities (note 2)	<u>114,627</u>	<u>5,331</u>
Cash Flow from Investing Activities		
Payment for:		
Payments for property, plant and equipment	(50,603)	(5,456)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	<u>(50,603)</u>	<u>(5,456)</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash held	64,024	(125)
Cash at the beginning of the year	66,973	67,098
Cash at the end of the year (note 1)	<u>130,997</u>	<u>66,973</u>

Note 1. Reconciliation of Cash

For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash includes cash on hand and in banks and investment in money market instruments, net of outstanding bank overdrafts.

Cash at the end of the year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the balance sheet as follows:

Cash at Bank - Maroondah Credit Union	48,565	9,528
Cash at Bank - Maroondah Credit Union	5	5
Cash at Bank - Screen Saver Invest 25	30,244	7,748
Cash on hand-Blackburn	45	337
Cash on hand-Boronia	15	
Short term deposits	148	8,135
Term deposit	51,974	41,219
	<u>130,997</u>	<u>66,793</u>

Note 2. Reconciliation of Net Cash Provided By/Used In Operating Activities to Net Profit (Loss)

Net profit (loss)	38,509	4,245
Depreciation	12,160	5,472
Changes in assets and liabilities net of effects of purchases and disposals of controlled entities:		
(Increase) decrease in trade and term debtors	12,585	(13,282)
(Increase) decrease in prepayments	(2,500)	(275)
Increase (decrease) in trade creditors and accruals	(277)	(5,480)
Increase (decrease) in other creditors	48,997	3,924
Increase (decrease) in employee entitlements	2,814	8,528
Increase (decrease) in sundry provisions	2,339	2,200
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>114,627</u>	<u>5,331</u>

**GRAEME F DELANY PTY LTD
CERTIFIED PRACTICING ACCOUNTANT
(A.B.N. 42 007 268 073)**

Governing Director G F Delany
Director K M Delany

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AUDITORS REPORT

To the President and Committee Members,
Eastern Community Legal Centre Inc.

We have audited the financial records of the Eastern Community Legal Centre Inc. for the Year ended 30th June 2006, which have been prepared in conjunction with the Notes to Financial Statements contained herein. The members of the committee are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial statements and the information they contain. We have conducted an independent audit of these financial statements in order to express an opinion on them to the members of this service.

The audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatements. Our procedures included examination on a test basis of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion as to whether, in all material respects, the financial statements were presented fairly and in accordance the Australian Accounting Standards and statutory requirements so as to present a view which is consistent with our understanding of the Service financial position.

As the service is in receipt of cash income from various sources, it is not possible to report that all income has been brought to account.

In our opinion, the financial statements present a true and fair view of the financial position of Eastern Community Legal Centre Inc. as at 30th June 2006 and in accordance with the applicable accounting standards.

**GRAEME F DELANY PTY LTD
CPA**



Dated at ELTHAM NORTH this 6th day of October 2006

Annual Report

2005—2006



eastern **community legal** centre