LAW AND JUSTICE FOUNDATION OF NEW SOUTH WALES

Annual Report 2008

November 2008

The Hon John Hatzistergos MLC
Attorney General of NSW
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Attorney

I have pleasure in presenting a copy of the Annual Report of the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW for the financial year 2007–2008.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the *Law and Justice Foundation Act 2000* (NSW) and approved by the Foundation's Board of Governors.

I would be grateful if you could arrange for tabling of the report in both Houses of Parliament as soon as practicable.

Yours sincerely

Paul Stein
Chairman, Board of Governors

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OUR ORGANISATION

About the Law and Justice Foundation

Who we are

The Law and Justice Foundation of NSW is an independent, statutory, not-for-profit organisation established in 1967 to improve access to justice for the people of NSW. It is incorporated in New South Wales by the *Law and Justice Foundation Act 2000 (NSW)*.

Our purpose

Our purpose is to advance the fairness and equity of the justice system, and to improve access to justice, especially for socially and economically disadvantaged people.

What we believe

The Foundation's purpose is underpinned by the belief that:

- a fair and equitable justice system is essential for a democratic, civil society
- reform should, where possible, be based on sound research
- people need accurate, understandable information to have equitable access to justice
- community support agencies and non-government organisations play a critical role in improving access to justice for disadvantaged people.

What we do

- Identify legal and access to justice needs, particularly of socially and economically disadvantaged people
- Identify effective legal system reforms and access to justice initiatives through evaluation and research
- Improve access to justice through:
  - supporting projects and organisations that improve access to justice
  - conducting projects that improve access to justice
  - contributing to the availability of understandable legal information
  - disseminating information about access to justice and effective reforms and initiatives.

Our Goals and Objectives

Identify legal and access to justice needs

Identify legal and access to justice needs through rigorous, evidence-based research, and the analysis of information from internal and external sources.

1.1 Develop, through a multi-component research program, a sustained assessment of the particular legal and access to justice needs of socially and economically disadvantaged people.

1.2 Collect, maintain and analyse information from internal and external sources.

Identify what works

Identify effective reforms, initiatives and programs to address legal need through research, evaluation and consultation.

2.1 Identify and conduct priority research tasks, evaluations and other activities, focused on priority areas identified in Goal 1 and through ongoing stakeholder engagement.

2.2 Complete current ARC-linked research identifying and evaluating reforms and initiatives.

Improve access to justice

Improve access to justice through the support and conduct of selected projects, legal information and community legal education, and the dissemination of knowledge about legal and access to justice needs and effective programs.

3.1 Support projects that improve access to justice – the Foundation's Grants program.

3.2 Conduct projects to improve access to justice.

3.3 Support high quality, plain language legal information and education.

3.4 Disseminate information about access to justice and effective reforms and initiatives.

Cost effective operations support

Optimise the capacity and capabilities of the Foundation through cost-effective resource and information management.

4.1 Maintain effective information management.

4.2 Manage resources efficiently and cost-effectively.

The Board of Governors

The Board consists of eight members who are appointed for a term of three years. The Board determines policies for the implementation of the objects of the Foundation. The Director conducts and manages the affairs of the Foundation in accordance with the directions of the Board.

Board members at 30 June 2008 were as follows:

The Hon Paul Stein QC AM became a Judge in 1983, was appointed to the Land and Environment Court in 1985 and subsequently served seven years in the Supreme Court. He has been appointed by the NSW Minister for the Environment and Climate Change to review the Borders River Gwydir Catchment Management Authority (CMA) and has recently completed a report of the Inquiry which reviewed the NSW Occupational Health and Safety Act.

He has chaired committees and associations, in particular the Council of the Community Justice Centres and the National Consumer Affairs Advisory Council, and contributed articles and papers on environmental, administrative and consumer law as well as human rights and discrimination.

Jason Behrendt is an Aboriginal solicitor at Chalk and Fitzgerald Lawyers and Consultants specialising in advising Aboriginal corporations and land councils in relation to Native Title and Commonwealth and State environmental legislation. Prior to this he worked with the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, reporting on the operation of the *Native Title Act 1993 (Cwth)*.

Geraldine Daley is a Partner at Colin Daley Quinn, a Law Society Councillor, and member of the Society's Injury Compensation Committee. She chairs the Specialist Accreditation Board, Disclosures Committee, Dispute Resolution Committee, and the Costs Working Group.

Betty Hounslow was the Foundation's 2003 Justice Medalist for her long-term commitment to improving access to justice for socially and economically disadvantaged people, particularly for her seven years as Director of the Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) and her success in lobbying for changes to legislation regarding gay and lesbian immigration. She worked in community legal centres in NSW for 10 years and is currently the Deputy Chief Executive of The Fred Hollows Foundation.

Geoff Mulherin CSC has been Director of the Foundation since November 2000.

The Hon Kevin Rozzoli was the member for the NSW electorate of Hawkesbury from 1973 until his retirement from politics in 2003. From 1988–1995 he was the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. He is chairman of The Haymarket Foundation and of the National Drug and Alcohol Research Centre. Kevin was admitted to the NSW Bar in 1985.

The Hon Frank Terenzini MP was elected to the NSW Parliament in March 2007 as member for Maitland. A former TAFE teacher, he worked in private legal practice in the Kurri Kurri and Maitland areas, before joining the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Newcastle Regional Office in 1996 where he worked before entering Parliament.

Nye Perram SC was appointed to the Board in February 2008 but resigned following his appointment as a Justice of the Federal Court in July 2008.

Bret Walker SC is a Senior Counsel at the NSW Bar and a former president of the New South Wales Bar Association and chair of the National Criminal Law Liaison Committee of the Law Council of Australia. He was president of the Law Council of Australia from 1997 to 1998. A member of the Board of Governors since 1993, Bret retired in February 2008.

Pauline Wright is a solicitor with the law firm PJ Donnellan and Co. Pauline is currently Vice President of the NSW Council for Civil Liberties and has a special interest in civil liberties. Pauline retired from the Board in February 2008.

YEAR IN REVIEW

Message from the Chairman

In this report last year I emphasised two key characteristics of the Foundation. The first was the mature approach the Foundation takes to its unique status and independence, seeking to be a credible and trusted organisation sitting between government and community, using our particular expertise to contribute to a fair, equitable and accessible justice system. The second was our mandate for quality research in particular, and how the Foundation takes an evidence-based approach to all its research and other work in order to make a difference.

I am pleased to report that with these two principles still underpinning what we do, the Foundation has in 2007–2008 continued to make a substantial contribution to improving access to justice in NSW, particularly for social and economically disadvantaged people. Indeed, this year has been busier than ever, perhaps reflecting the growing local, national and even international recognition of the work the Foundation is doing.

Impact of our work

The question we must continually ask ourselves is whether our work is having a positive and valuable impact? While there will always be prevailing circumstances that limit the uptake of even the best quality research, it is pleasing that I can report that the work of the Foundation is increasingly having the impact that it should. The support and cooperation we are receiving for our major research effort - the Access to Justice and Legal Need Research program (A2JLN) — is a good example.

Recognising the quality and value of our legal needs survey in six regions of NSW (*Justice made to measure*) the Legal Aid Commissions from all states and territories in Australia approached the Foundation to expand to a national survey. This presented an enormous opportunity, and the sheer scale of the survey — over 20,000 people interviewed — will yield unprecedented insight into the legal needs of the community, and how to meet those needs.

Further, the willingness of the major not-for-profit legal service providers in NSW to provide their legal inquiries data for incorporation into the Data Digest Online project recognises both the potential value of this tool, and also the role the Foundation is playing in making the data and analysis accessible for those who make policy and plan service delivery to benefit disadvantaged people.

And through our qualitative — but still rigorous — research in the A2JLN program, such as that into the legal needs of prisoners, the Foundation has this year demonstrated again that key agencies (such as the Legal Aid Commission (LAC), the Department of Corrective Services) are keen to engage with our research to identify legal needs and to cooperative in the effective development of solutions to meet these needs.

It is pleasing, also, that leading law firms engage with our research output as they develop plans for their pro bono assistance programs.

Of course, while at the heart of what we do, research is not all we do, and our other key operational areas are having important impacts as well. For example:

- The rigour with which we approach our Grants program has meant that, in a number of cases, even though the Foundation has been unable to fully fund certain worthwhile projects, other funders — valuing the rigorous assessment process of the Foundation — have seen fit to provide the remaining funding for these projects to occur.
- Our work in facilitating the availability of understandable legal information for the community through a range of support and capacity building activities, including those such as the plain language toolkit, is highly regarded and heavily relied upon by many organisations across the sector.
- Our range of free, online e-bulletins and search tools allows ready access to information such as recent plain language law publications,

community legal education packages, research into access to justice issues gathered by other agencies, and new access to justice programs and initiatives that might be worth further investigation.

Relationships, capacity and communications

Apart from maintaining quality in our basic research and other 'core' work, an ongoing challenge for the Foundation is how we can best communicate our results and work with those who can use our services.

Perhaps the greatest challenge comes in communicating our research results. There is not much point conducting good research and analysis if the results are not readily accessible. As an evidence-based organisation, the Foundation will always produce detailed reports to justify and articulate our methods and findings. But equally, we always seek the best ways to communicate our findings to where they can have most use. Summaries, key issues papers (*Justice Issues*), e-bulletins and our own *Just Search* search engine are important examples.

But beyond communicating our research findings, the Foundation seeks to play a role in contributing to better cooperation and coordination among the various organisations which work towards improving access to justice in NSW. The Foundation's independent, evidence-based role has been instrumental in the establishment and support of cooperative initiatives to improve service delivery to disadvantaged people of NSW, such as the NSW Legal Assistance Forum and the NSW Legal Information and Referral Forum in particular.

Moving forward

The Foundation's principal funding source is the Public Purpose Fund, and as such our funding is driven by its three-year funding cycle. With the current three-year funding period concluding in June 2009, it was time to begin our next strategic planning cycle in early 2008.

That process is not yet complete — it won't conclude until early 2009 — but over a number of months the staff and Board of the Foundation undertook a strategic planning process for the 2009–2012 period.

Like many not-for-profit organisations the Foundation relies on income from investments to supplement its core funding. The recent financial crisis has impacted severely on the returns from investments, resulting in a large deficit for the year. While much of this deficit is 'unrealised', and the financial position of the Foundation remains healthy, nevertheless a more cautious approach to planned spending for the upcoming three-year cycle is appropriate. The Board, with the help of independent investment consultants, is currently reviewing the Foundation's investment objectives and strategy and carefully monitoring the investment portfolio performance.

The Foundation remains committed to our strategic intent — to be a knowledge-based leader in the field of access to justice, especially for disadvantaged people — and the direction we set ourselves a few years ago in response to new strategic direction from parliament. But to put this into effect in the next three or four years a couple of points need to be made.

Firstly, the work of the A2JLN program will continue, and, in fact, with the arrival of the national legal needs survey data and the completion of the Data Digest Online, we will be heavily committed to this program for the coming period in order to make the most of the valuable data we have amassed. It is important to note that the survey data will not just give unprecedented insight into legal needs in NSW and Australia, particularly for disadvantaged people, but it has the potential to yield new insight into what might be the most effective strategies to address those needs.

Probably the most significant enhancement to the Foundation's work we would like, income permitting, to achieve over the next four years is to more effectively build on the legal needs work and integrate that knowledge more directly into identifying what programs, initiatives, reforms and service delivery models are proven to be most effective in addressing those needs. We hope that, if provided with sufficient resources to increase the capacity of our Grants program, we will also be able to integrate the Grants program more fully into this endeavour by supporting targeted pilots or trials of initiatives aimed at addressing the key needs identified through our research program.

Conclusion

We are proud of what the Foundation has achieved in the last few years, and we have much to build on and much to offer over the next three to four years. The 2007–2008 year has, in particular, been a demanding and thought-provoking one for the Foundation. Foundation staff continue to face new challenges with dedication, and I thank the Director and staff for their ongoing commitment to the goals of the Foundation.

I would also like to thank most sincerely all of the other organisations and individuals who have worked together with the Foundation on the wide range of projects we have undertaken during the year. Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues on the Board of Governors for each bringing their experience and expertise to what is a challenging but rewarding task.

Paul Stein
Chair, Board of Governors
November 2008

Director's Overview

2007–2008 has been another extremely busy year, and the staff and Board have continued to work across a range of demanding activities to achieve our objects.

As the Chair outlines in his message, the Foundation strives to be an independent, knowledge-based leader in the field of access to justice, especially for disadvantaged people. To do this, we must know, on the most reliable information, the legal and access to justice needs of the community, and what programs are effective in addressing these needs; and must seek ways to encourage and facilitate innovative solutions through specific programs.

All of our work remains directed towards this intent, and in doing so, is underpinned by a number of key characteristics. Our independence, our evidence-based approach in our research and other activities, our desire to be a trusted player that works collaboratively with others in the sector without compromising our independence, and our cost-effectiveness are all characteristics that we take seriously and which guide what work we do and how we do it.

But there is perhaps one further quality that has been evident over this year and recent years — persistence and commitment to goals over the long term.

The Foundation is becoming increasingly well-regarded locally, nationally and even internationally for the quality of the work we produce. Some of this recognition is briefly touched on by the Chair and elsewhere in the report, but it must be acknowledged that the value of what we have produced has come through a persistent commitment over the last few years to our goals, our strategic intent, to our Access to Justice and Legal Needs (A2JLN) program, and most importantly, to our rigorous, evidence-based approach to all we do.

Quality empirical research projects that will reveal valuable insights into key issues of legal need and ways to address that need take time and resources. The development of the Data Digest Online, involving legal needs inquiries data from the major not-for-profit legal service providers in NSW, the conduct of the largest ever legal needs survey, involving over 20,000 interviews across Australia, the establishment of an effective legal information program, and the operation of a rigorous grants program, all take time and enormous effort. Yet, it is most rewarding that there is a growing recognition of our work. The uptake of our recent research output, the advice and assistance we have provided in the area of plain language legal information, and the impact of our grants program on target audiences and other funders are all testament to the value of our longer term perspective and focus on achieving quality results.

Looking back at the reports published and progress made, it is easy to see the coherent plan for what we have achieved and what we need to achieve into the future. But when we first embarked upon the current strategy it was harder to comprehend the overarching plan, and so I thank most sincerely those who have supported the Foundation and worked with the Foundation over this period for their commitment to our work.

Of course the journey has not ended. We have an enormous opportunity — and workload — ahead of us with the A2JLN program, and with the Data Digest Online and the analysis of the national legal needs survey data in particular. It will take time and effort to complete these projects, but through them we will gain unprecedented new insights and will be able to more effectively contribute to a fair, equitable and accessible justice system that meets the legal needs of the community.

Moving forward, we hope to be able to build on this legal needs work and devote greater effort in the coming period to identifying what works most effectively to address the major needs, and to better integrate our grants program into this objective.

I sincerely thank all the staff of the Foundation for their commitment to our long term goals. For many staff, rewards come infrequently, such as at the conclusion of a major project. Few get short-term rewards, and so thank you for your persistence!

I also thank the funders of the Foundation, the Public Purpose Fund Trustees, for their support over the mid to long-term to see these projects through to the point we are today, where the value is much more clearly evident.

Thank you also to the many individuals and organisations external to the Foundation who worked with us throughout this year. It has been a demanding year and we have established new relationships through various projects. Significant among these is the developing relationship with the Department of Corrective Services through our research on prisoners, and, importantly, the ever-strengthening relationships between the Foundation and Legal Aid NSW, LawAccess NSW and the Combined Community Legal Centre Group, across a range of initiatives.

Finally I would also like to thank the Chair and the Board of the Foundation for their support, guidance and persistence throughout the year.

Geoff Mulherin
Director
November 2008

Performance against Goals

The Foundation has established four key goals against which it develops activities and measures its performance. The following section describes how in 2007–2008 we delivered against these goals.

GOAL 1

IDENTIFY LEGAL AND ACCESS TO JUSTICE NEEDS

Identify legal and access to justice needs through rigorous, evidence-based research, and the analysis of information from internal and external sources

STRATEGIES

1.1 Develop, through a multi-component research program, a sustained assessment of the particular legal and access to justice needs of socially and economically disadvantaged people.

1.2 Collect, maintain and analyse information from internal and external sources.

STRATEGY 1.1

Develop, through a multi-component research program, a sustained assessment of the particular legal and access to justice needs of socially and economically disadvantaged people

Access to Justice and Legal Needs Program (A2JLN)

The Foundation is undertaking a major research program to identify the particular legal and access to justice needs of disadvantaged people in NSW. The program comprises a series of projects involving consultations and submissions, literature analysis, original survey work and qualitative and quantitative analyses to provide significant information regarding the legal and access to justice needs of socially and economically disadvantaged people. The results are providing a rigorous and sustained assessment of legal and access to justice needs in NSW, especially of disadvantaged people, that assists government, community and other organisations to develop policy and plan service delivery.

The program's objectives are to examine the ability of disadvantaged people to:

- obtain legal assistance, including information, basic legal advice, initial legal assistance and legal representation
- participate effectively in the legal system, including access to courts, tribunals and formal alternative dispute resolution mechanisms
- obtain assistance from non-legal early intervention and preventative mechanisms, non-legal forms of redress and community-based justice
- participate effectively in law reform processes.

Importantly, the program adopts three research methodology 'streams', approaching the issue of legal need from three different intersecting directions.

- ***Expressed* legal need — data from legal service providers**.

  The data collected every day by not-for-profit legal service providers such as the Legal Aid Commission, LawAccess NSW, Community Legal Centres and other services, provides a valuable source of information about those in the community who seek legal assistance for their legal problems. Through the Foundation's Data Digest series of hard-copy and now interactive, online reports,

this important information is increasingly available for analysis. In particular, the Data Digest series helps describe the type of legal matters about which inquiries are made, the demographic characteristics of those who seek legal assistance, and the pathways that service users take to resolve their legal problems. Compiling the data in this way also makes it possible to identify similarities and differences in the pattern of inquiries across legal services and, importantly, to be able to map the data and contrast legal inquiry data to other relevant data, such as ABS indices of disadvantage.

- ***Unexpressed (Unmet)* legal need — original legal needs survey**.

  A question often asked by policy-makers and service providers is whether those that seek legal assistance represent the majority of those with legal need. Modelled on leading recent international research, the Foundation's legal needs surveys are providing the first empirical insight into both expressed and unexpressed need in the community. Following a pilot study in the Bega Valley, in early 2006 the Attorney-General launched the Foundation's *Justice made to measure* report, which reported on legal needs in six disadvantaged local government areas (LGAs) in NSW.

  This report gave important and in some cases surprising insight into the legal issues experienced by the community and by different groups within the community, the action respondents took when confronted with legal problems, and the outcomes of action taken. This research has the potential to add a new dimension to the planning and delivery of legal services for disadvantaged people. In recognition of this, all eight state and territory Legal Aid Commissions decided to fund the Foundation to expand the planned state-wide survey into a national legal needs survey, the fieldwork for which commenced during the first half of this financial year will be completed in December 2008.

- **Qualitative Reports / Particular disadvantaged groups**.

  Of course, both the legal needs survey and the Data Digest methodologies are unlikely to adequately cover some particular disadvantaged groups. Therefore, as a third methodological stream, the A2JLN program includes qualitative analyses of the legal needs of selected groups. Reports have already been published into the legal needs of older people (2004), homeless people (2005), and people with mental illness (2006). The report into the legal needs of prisoners, our most recent major publication, was completed during this financial year, but published in July 2008 (just after the period of this report).

A2JLN Reports to date

- Access to justice background paper (2003)
- Access to justice roundtable (2003)
- Public consultations report (2003)

Service provider analysis

- Data digest: a compendium of service usage data from NSW legal assistance and dispute resolution services, 1999–2002 (2004)
- Online service provider reports (2003)

Quantitative surveys

- Bega Valley pilot (2003)
- Justice made to measure: NSW legal needs survey in disadvantaged areas (2006)

Qualitative research

- The legal needs of older people (2004)
- No home, no justice? The legal needs of homeless people (2005)
- On the edge of justice: the legal needs of people with a mental illness in NSW (2006)
- Taking justice into custody: the legal needs of prisoners (July 2008)

Data Digest Online (DDO) – online data cube and mapping system

The design and architecture for a production version of the Data Digest Online (DDO) was completed during the year. This tool will provide the integration of data on legal inquiries to the major public legal assistance services in NSW in the form of an interactive, user-friendly data cube and mapping package. The tool will provide an invaluable resource for identifying legal need, revealing gaps in legal services, and assisting in the planning and delivery of legal services in NSW.

The initial report in this project series, *Data Digest – A Compendium of Service Usage Data from NSW Legal Assistance and Dispute Resolution Services, 1999–2002*, was published in 2004. This report stimulated interest in making legal inquiries data more accessible through interactive and user-friendly computer technologies. Stage II of the project (DD2), the Data Digest Prototype, provided users with an integrated data cube and spatial mapping application and allowed members of the public legal sector to examine and interrogate legal inquiries data. The Prototype was developed, piloted and evaluated in 2005 and 2006.

Legal service agencies identified a strong need for a production version of such a tool to identify legal need, to reveal gaps in services, to improve the quality of collected

information, and to aid in the modelling, planning and delivery of legal assistance in NSW. In 2007, the Foundation obtained funding from the Public Purpose Fund to develop a three-year production version of the application.

During the first half of the 2007–08 financial year the Foundation conducted a tender and evaluation process to select the contractor to develop the DDO. A contract was signed with e.bi Pty Ltd in March 2008. Work commenced in March 2008 and it is anticipated that the application will be built by late 2008.

A lengthy process of developing access protocols, permissions and agreements will be required before access by nominated agencies to specific data is provided. This is planned for 2009.

Legal Needs Survey

The Foundation's A2JLN research plan intended for a survey of legal need across all of NSW to follow the *Justice made to measure* survey. Work on this survey was to commence in early 2007. However, following the enthusiastic response from the legal sector to the *Justice made to measure* report, the Legal Aid Commissions from each state and territory in Australia requested that the Foundation expand our plans and undertake a national survey. This national legal needs survey is possible through the funding of the Legal Aid Commissions, and builds and improves on the six-region NSW survey reported in *Justice made to measure*. It measures both legal need that is 'expressed' through the use of services and 'unmet' legal need, and has the potential to provide a wealth of empirical data to inform policy and legal service delivery in each Australian jurisdiction.

This will be the largest legal needs survey ever conducted worldwide and involves telephone interviews with more than 20,000 residents across Australia. The survey will provide information for each Australian state and territory, and for Australia as a whole, on issues such as:

- which demographic groups are more vulnerable to experiencing legal problems?
- to what extent do people take action to try to resolve their legal problems?
- what barriers do people face in resolving their legal problems?
- which demographic groups are less successful in resolving their legal issues?
- what types of legal problems are least likely to be resolved?
- what pathways do people follow when grappling with legal problems?

Telephone interviews began in 2008; initial reports on the survey are anticipated to be completed in 2010.

Qualitative reports / particular disadvantaged groups

The legal needs of prisoners and people recently released from prison

This qualitative study examines the access to justice and legal needs of prison inmates and people recently released from prison. Data has identified a number of key underlying factors that govern inmates' ability to utilise opportunities to address their legal needs. These include: the personal capacity of the inmate, the broader environment of the justice system, people who mediate inmates' pathways to legal assistance and the culture operating within prison. The report was completed this financial year, but was published in July 2008.

Law reform

This research project examines the participation of disadvantaged people in law reform processes in NSW.

The project aims to describe key law reform processes and the opportunities and challenges for both the public and disadvantaged groups to participate in them. It includes detailed exploration of the following recent instances of law reform:

- *Residential Tenancies Amendment (Public Housing) Act 2004* (NSW)
- Reforms sought by the NSW Boarders and Lodgers Action Group
- *Bail Amendment (Repeat) Offenders Act* 2002 (NSW)
- *Review of the Mental Health Act* 1990 (NSW)
- *Civil Procedure Act* 2005 (NSW)

Fieldwork and analysis is complete. The report will be published in 2009.

Communicating results

The published output of this research program is freely available on the Foundation website, and fully searchable with the Foundation's unique search tool, *Just Search*.

Our results are communicated through a number of media, including:

- publishing and disseminating full research reports (in hard copy and on our website)
- making all of the information readily accessible via our cutting edge search engine *Just Search*, which allows searchers to browse all reports, browse by disadvantaged group or search all information using key word searches
- conducting targeted presentations to key stakeholders and organisations

- presenting results at conferences
- conducting fresh analysis and using this data to answer 'ad hoc' questions from key organisations.

Justice Issues papers

A number of legal and access to justice issues have arisen in different contexts and across several of the A2JLN research projects. To consolidate the data around these issues, and to provide the most accessible and useful information to policy makers, the Foundation is identifying common themes emerging from the A2JLN reports.

These themes will be detailed in a series of papers under the *Justice Issues* imprint. This series will include further analyses of A2JLN data. Future papers will examine legal needs and access to justice issues:

- related to fines
- in each of the six regions surveyed for the 2006 *Justice made to measure* report
- related to disability
- related more specifically to cognitive impairment.

STRATEGY 1.2

Collect, maintain and analyse information from internal and external sources

Information Analysis: External Consultation and Information Sources

In addition to our formal program of identifying access to justice and legal needs, the Foundation continually monitors activity across the sector. We do this by:

- tracking relevant literature
- regular stakeholder consultation
- attending conferences and workshops, and
- maintaining relationships with frontline practitioners from government and non-government organisations.

Information gathered is coded using our taxonomies for disadvantaged groups and areas of law, and analysed with NVivo, a qualitative analysis research tool. Monitoring enables us to adjust ongoing research and make better informed decisions about grants and legal information dissemination.

GOAL 2

IDENTIFY WHAT WORKS

Identify effective reforms, initiatives and programs to address legal need through research, evaluation and consultation

STRATEGIES

2.1 Identify and conduct priority research tasks identified in Goal 1 and through ongoing stakeholder engagement.

2.2 Complete current research identifying and evaluating reforms and initiatives.

Goal 2 follows from the knowledge gained in Goal 1 and seeks to contribute to improving access to justice by identifying 'what works' to address the legal needs identified. While the projects currently nearing completion are evaluating key processes, changes and reforms to the justice system, they all commenced before the flow of data from the A2JLN program began.

STRATEGY 2.1

Identify and conduct priority research tasks identified in Goal 1 and through ongoing stakeholder engagement

What Works

In 2007–2008, work commenced on the design of the Foundation's newest research program, the *What Works? Research Program*. This program aims to identify reforms, initiatives or models of legal service delivery that effectively address key legal and access to justice needs that have been identified through the A2JLN research program. Systematic

reviews of existing studies and evaluation reports will be a key part of this program.

The Foundation is due to commence a pilot project as part of the *What Works Research Program* in late 2008.

Mental Health Tribunal project

The Foundation is committed to a major three-year study on the operation of mental health tribunals in NSW, the ACT and Victoria. We are contributing to the study as an industry partner in an Australian Research Council (ARC) linkage grant with Professor Terry Carney of the University of Sydney and Dr David Tait of the University of Canberra. The three tribunals are also industry partners.

Mental health tribunals have the power to determine whether involuntary detention or other forms of treatment are appropriate for mentally ill people. In making determinations, the tribunals must balance the mentally ill person's right to treatment against their rights to freedom from coercion, protection from danger and fair legal processes.

The project aims to identify best practice reforms that enhance the procedural fairness of tribunal hearings as well as the therapeutic outcomes for mentally ill people. This aim is being addressed both within a theoretical framework and empirically. At the empirical level, research involving quantitative and qualitative analysis.

The literature review for the project has been completed, field work is underway and drafting of the report has begun. Publication of the final report is anticipated in 2010.

STRATEGY 2.2
Complete current research identifying and evaluating reforms and initiatives

The Foundation is currently involved in partnerships with various Australian universities on a number of projects where part funding is also provided by the Australian Research Council (ARC).

Australian and German Civil Litigation – a comparative and empirical analysis

Following a range of positive reviews of recent reforms to civil litigation processes in Germany, this study compares civil litigation processes in Germany and Australia and identifies factors contributing to differences in cost and delay. It draws on data from the Supreme and District courts of NSW and from the Regional Court of Stuttgart. A collaborative project, the study is being conducted with the universities of NSW and Newcastle.

A major finding of the study is that court processing times in NSW were substantially longer than those in Germany for all three types of civil matters examined — medical negligence, building disputes and public liability cases. Significant differences in processing times were also observed for the different types of civil cases. The report will discuss the implications of the results for improving the efficiency of NSW courts.

Community-based Mediation in Family Law

This project with Monash University examines community-based mediation in the family law system, tracing the 'shadow' or impact of the law in the decision to mediate, the mediation process and in the outcomes of family and child mediation. Given recent changes to family law processes, this report will have particular currency. The research involved observation of mediation sessions and in-depth interviews with parties to the mediation and mediators.

Enforcing Human Rights in Australia

Conducted in partnership with Griffith and Monash universities, this project examines the effect of the transfer of race, sex and disability discrimination disputes from the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) to the Federal Magistrates Service or Federal Court. The research involves interviews with complainants, respondents, lawyers and HREOC staff plus an examination of available case data.

Norm Forms

This study compares the effect of fixed rules and discretionary principles on negotiation in legal disputes. The research entails a categorisation of rules in terms of the degree of discretion — developed following an extensive literature review — to create simulation experiments for solicitors.

GOAL 3

IMPROVE ACCESS TO JUSTICE

Improve access to justice through the support and conduct of selected projects, legal information, community legal education, and the dissemination of knowledge about legal and access to justice needs and effective programs

STRATEGIES

3.1 Support projects to improve access to justice — the Foundation's Grants program.

3.2 Conduct projects to improve access to justice.

3.3 Support high quality, plain language legal information and education.

3.4 Disseminate information about access to justice and effective reforms and initiatives.

STRATEGY 3.1

Support projects to improve access to justice – the Foundation's Grants program

The Foundation's Grants Program is a mechanism by which we can tap into and support innovative ideas developed at grass roots level about how to improve access to justice in NSW.

Increasing effectiveness

We continue to work to increase the effectiveness of our Grants program. New initiatives/key activities during the year included:

- working with a project development/evaluation consultant to develop practical tools to assist potential grant applicants to better plan and evaluate their projects
- conducting in-house training for Foundation staff to develop our skills in assisting grant applicants to develop sound project and evaluation plans
- continuing to provide limited research and other staff advice to potential applicants
- participating in a Grants Expo in Wollongong organised by the Illawarra Area Consultative Committee
- developing and distributing a new Grants brochure.

Approved grants

Over the past year, the grants program attracted applications seeking funding to address issues concerning a wide range of disadvantaged groups. Awarded grants in 2007–08 resulted in community legal education and other support being provided to a wide range of target groups, including:

- young people
- people with a disability
- victims of domestic violence and sexual assault
- non-government and community sector workers
- prisoners
- emerging communities and new migrants
- Aboriginal Australians and Torres Strait Islanders and
- people living in rural, regional and remote areas.

In 2007–08 the Foundation approved cash grants totalling $291 486.40 for projects that address a wide range of identified need.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Youth justice cards

Macquarie Legal Centre (MLC)

Amount: $5 000.00

Project need: Research by MLC in conjunction with the University of Western Sydney and the National Crime Prevention Programme showed a lack of awareness by young people of the potential illegality of some aspects of their behaviour and activities, and that this can be addressed by illustrating the consequences of an individual's actions. For example, the research showed that 'helping a friend out in a fight' is viewed as a minor offence by many, but in reality, this offence can have very serious legal consequences.

Intended Outcome: A deck of playing cards will be produced, each bearing a message which aims to inform young people between the ages of 14–21 about their legal rights and responsibilities. This focus on responsibilities as well as rights is directed at reducing the rate of criminal behaviour and ultimately the prevention of criminal offences being committed by young people.

DISABILITY

Disability rights awareness training for ethnic workers/communities

Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association of NSW (MDAA)

Amount: $15 500.00

Project need: MDAA research identified that ethnic community workers have low awareness/knowledge of the legal rights of people with disability. There is little or no understanding, for example, about the scope of anti-discrimination laws or about the avenues for seeking a review of, or appealing against, discriminatory actions or decisions relating to people from CALD backgrounds with a disability.

Intended Outcome: A free two-day training course on disability rights awareness developed and delivered to over 100 workers from different ethnic groups in five locations across NSW. Participants will be encouraged to examine their own cultural and linguistic understanding and experience of disability and how this influences their use of legal processes. The course will also help participants to develop contacts with specialist and generalist legal rights services including community legal centres, Legal Aid NSW and disability advocacy groups.

Carers' week forum – securing the future

Blue Mountains Disability Services Ltd (BMDS)

Amount: $2 500.00

Project need: BMDS has significant numbers of service users with an intellectual disability, and ageing carers concerned about issues such as disability trusts, wills and decision-making. Many carers and people with an intellectual disability in the area are also not aware of their options and rights or of the legal resources available to them.

Intended Outcome: A free half day forum during Carers Week 2008 for people with disabilities and their carers. It will focus on legal issues that impact on their future, such as disability trusts, wills and decision-making. The aim of the forum is to provide service users and carers with an overview of their options and their rights as well as the resources available to them.

Removing the obstacles

Accessible Arts

Amount: $5 000.00

Project need: Accessible Arts works with arts organisations across NSW to increase access to venues and events for audiences with a disability. Many arts organisations are based in heritage venues; Accessible Arts identified a common mis-perception by arts administrators about heritage status and the ability to make contemporary physical changes. Initial research found that current heritage, disability discrimination and related legislation is complicated and requires legal skill to be cross-referenced and navigated. Many arts organisations are under-resourced to do this.

Intended Outcome: A report for the arts industry, disability, legal and government organisations on changes required in law so that heritage laws do not limit arts organisations' ability to provide access for people with disabilities.

DISABILITY INTELLECTUAL

Court support program Albury

Disability Advocacy & Information Service Inc. (DAIS)

Amount: $12 000.00

Project need: People with intellectual disability are over represented in the justice system and experience difficulty in understanding their rights and responsibilities during interviews by police and in attendance for court matters. Although DAIS already coordinates the Albury Justice Support Network (AJSN) to assist people with an intellectual disability attending Albury Police Station, there is a need to expand this to include a court support program.

Intended Outcome: To extend the service for people with intellectual disabilities to include the court support program and develop links to disability service providers to promote and encourage access to this service.

DISABILITY SENSORY

Legal information in Auslan

The Deaf Society of NSW

Amount: $32 400.00

Project need: A Deaf Society demographic study provided a comprehensive profile of the deaf community in NSW. A major recommendation was the need for improved access to public services, including the justice system, by the 6500 deaf people in NSW who use Australian Sign Language (Auslan) as their first or preferred means of communication.

Intended Outcome: Basic information in Auslan about legal processes and services for deaf people will be available on the Deaf Society's website. This will also promote the use of legal services and legal interpreting services and give the deaf community greater awareness of the benefits of professional legal advice.

GAY AND LESBIAN

Same sex super community education campaign

ACON – AIDS Council of NSW

Amount: $12 400.00

Project need: There is a significant lack of understanding about the entitlements of same-sex couples to their partner's superannuation. This is due in part to differences in State and Commonwealth legislation relating to same-sex de facto relationships, which means that some couples may have access to their partner's superannuation death benefits, while others may not, depending on what fund they are covered under.

Intended Outcome: Online information via a dedicated website will provide up-to-date information regarding the current superannuation entitlements for people in same-sex relationships.

GOVERNMENT BENEFITS

Independent social security handbook 6th edition

Welfare Rights Centre (WRC)

Amount: $21 000.00

Project need: There are over two million NSW residents receiving Social Security and thousands of adverse decisions by Centrelink occur each year. Approximately 35 per cent of these decisions are overturned on appeal. The primary source of independent plain language legal information for community workers assisting clients with Social Security and Family Assistance problems is the handbook, which needs to be updated.

Intended Outcome: A hard copy of the 6th edition of the handbook will be produced as a substantial, independent resource for community, welfare and legal aid workers as well as relevant government employees.

Independent Social Security Handbook (ISSH) online edition

Welfare Rights Centre (WRC)

Amount: $25 000.00

Project need: The online version of the ISSH was developed as a comprehensive easily searchable and accessible resource for community workers and legal assistance staff working with peple receiving Commonwealth benefits. The ISSH (O) was initially developed on a subscription-access basis, but became free to the community with funding through the State government's HSNet. However, due to the withdrawal of HSNet funding, the WRC needs to be able to rebuild the subscription base or source alternative funding.

Intended Outcome: To enable the production, publication, and free access by community organisations to continue, while the WRC sources on-going funding or re-establishes its previous subscription base.

INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS

Evaluation of the Guide to legal services for Aboriginal people in NSW and the ACT

Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) Limited (ALS)

Amount: $2 200.00

Project need: The Guide to Legal Services for Aboriginal People in NSW and ACT was developed to improve knowledge of, and increase referrals for, Aboriginal people to the broad range of legal services (especially civil law) available in NSW and the ACT, and thereby improve access to justice for Aboriginal people. It was launched and distributed in 2006, and needed to be evaluated before embarking on a new edition.

Intended Outcome: An evaluation of the Guide, identifying any strengths and/or shortcomings in terms of its accessibility, use and value as a resource for Aboriginal people seeking legal information, support and assistance to inform production of further editions.

LOW INCOME

Working the system

Vincentian Social Action Centre

Amount: $4 170.00

Project need: Community workers and volunteers in the Campbelltown public housing estates need training to ensure that they can understand, and are able to assist in, the processes and decisions that fundamentally affect the lives of their clients.

Intended Outcome: This project will provide and assess the effectiveness of training to community workers and volunteers involved in the Campbelltown public housing estates in raising community awareness of government systems and how to influence decision making within them.

PRISONERS

The justice maze: a guide to arrest, courts and sentencing in NSW

Community Restorative Centre (CRC) Justice Support

Amount: $40 570.00

Project need: Many people facing court and imprisonment, and their families and support people, lack basic knowledge of the relevant law and legal processes. People from disadvantaged backgrounds who are unable to pay for legal

services, non-English speakers unfamiliar with Australian laws and our legal system, Indigenous Australians and people with mental health issues have particular problems accessing legal information and advice.

Intended Outcome: To produce a DVD which describes the criminal justice system in NSW and associated issues relating to arrest, trial, imprisonment and release into the community. This will be made available to people facing court to better help them understand the processes they may encounter.

RURAL REGIONAL AND REMOTE

Improving access to support services for victims of sexual assault in regional and rural NSW

NSW Rape Crisis Centre Inc.

Amount: $39 420.00

Project need: 60 per cent of the calls to the NSW Rape Crisis Centre are from women in regional and rural areas. Current links between the Centre and rural and regional services are informal and variable and can result in inconsistent responses to disclosures of sexual assault, poor referral from regional and rural organisations to the Centre, changeable responses to complainants by front line police, and referral by Centre counsellors to under-resourced local face-to-face services with limited capacity to respond. Rural and regional organisations dealing with victims of sexual assault lack knowledge of the appropriate assistance available and the services provided by the NSW Rape Crisis Centre

Intended Outcome: To improve access to support services for victims of sexual assault in regional and rural NSW by providing four rural and regional tours to the Northern, North Western, Western and Southern NSW regions which will attempt to:

- increase the capacity of regional and rural workers to respond to disclosure of sexual assault
- enhance interagency networks and referral pathways for sexual assault victims between the NSW Rape Crisis Centre and regional and rural counselling and support services
- liaise with Police to improve systemic understanding and support options
- promote the services of the NSW Rape Crisis Centre to regional and rural women
- liaise with Indigenous women's organisations to increase the capacity of the NSW Rape Crisis Centre to support them in their work to reduce sexual violence in their communities and recover from the trauma of sexual assault.

Rural solicitor shortage research project

Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre

Amount: $5 000.00

Project need: The NSW Legal Assistance Forum (NLAF) identified the difficulties experienced by private, government and non-government organisations to recruit and retain lawyers (especially experienced lawyers) in rural, regional and remote (RRR) areas of NSW which seriously restricts access to justice by rural and regional communities. Research is required to determine the extent of this lack of lawyers.

Intended Outcome: To research and report on the extent of the problem, including a literature review and preliminary study of strategies already implemented. Increasing understanding of the current situation can help to determine areas of improvement in the delivery of legal services in rural and remote areas of NSW and identify possible strategies to improve the availability of lawyers in these areas.

NSW CLC State Conference – rural, regional and remote centres

Combined Community Legal Centres' Group NSW (CCLCG)

Amount: $5 000.00

Project need: The annual NSW CLCCG State Conference supports and develops a positive environment for community legal centre (CLC) staff and volunteers to advance the work of NSW CLCs. The Conference is a key capacity building opportunity for rural, regional and remote CLCs as substantial training and professional development is offered.

Intended Outcome: Attendance at the 2008 conference by RRR staff will provide training opportunities, contribute to discussion, build peer networks and strengthen the capacity of CLCs in regional NSW to serve their clients.

NACLC Conference 2008 – Rural, Regional and Remote (RRR) Centres

National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLC)

Amount: $5 000.00

Project need: The NACLC Conference attracts approximately 350 delegates from over 200 community legal centres throughout Australia and New Zealand. The conference provides an important opportunity for training and capacity building. Without assistance, many regional and rural CLCs would be unable to send staff to Darwin for the 2008 conference.

Intended Outcome: Attendance by staff from RRR New South Wales CLCs at the NACLC conference to participate in workshops, build peer networks and strengthen the capacity of CLCs in regional and rural NSW.

GENERAL

Promotional poster for Hawkesbury Nepean Community Legal Centre

Hawkesbury Nepean Community Legal Centre (CLC)

Amount: $5 000.00

Project need: The Centre identified that key disadvantaged groups in their area with high level of unment legal needs lacked knowledge of available local services, and of the services provided by the Centre in particular.

Intended Outcome: To create a poster promoting the resources available at this CLC including legal advice, the Aboriginal legal access service and the women's domestic violence court assistance scheme. It is to be distributed and displayed at local community organisations and events and activities.

Tenants' advice factsheets

Redfern Legal Centre (RLC)

Amount: $15 212.00

Project need: Tenants and tenancy advisors lacked sufficient knowledge of the complex areas of tenancy law and this inhibited access to justice for tentants.

Intended Outcome: Comprehensice plain language written legal information made available for public and private tenants in NSW regarding their rights and options under residential tenancy law. Four specific guides will be developed including applying for a re-hearing at the CTTT; internal appeals within the Department of Housing and Housing Appeals Committee; tenants' termination; and compensation and rent reduction claims.

Judicial directions and juror sleuthing: a case study approach

University of New South Wales Faculty of Law

Amount: $20 114.40

Project need: A UNSW study identified why jurors might be tempted to engage in extra-curial investigations and showed 50 per cent of juror respondents had serious misunderstandings about their role in the trial process, and suggested that judicial instructions to jurors appeared to be deficient in significant respects.

Intended Outcome: A pilot jury study will enable a response to these findings and develop proposals to enhance jurors' compliance with the criminal trial process. In collaboration with judges, researchers will propose revised guideline judicial instructions and directions to jurors and, in a 10 trial jury study, will evaluate the practical effectiveness of the revised approaches on jurors.

Activist rights guide – writing and publication

Redfern Legal Centre (RLC)

Amount: $5 000.00

Project need: RLC identified a growing number of arrests and legal problems of clients who had been involved in recent political protests.

Intended Outcome: To improve the provision of legal and referral information to people in NSW attending and organising political protests. The Guide will outline the law in relation to public protests, the legal obligations and responsibilities of participants, the likely offences which result from breaches of the law, and advice on how to comply with the law.

Mid North Coast Community Legal Needs Research Project

Disability Advocacy NSW Inc

Amount: $5 000.00

Project need: Recent ABS statistics indicate that the mid-north coast (MNC) is one of the fastest growing regions in NSW and one with high levels of economic and social disadvantage. There are, however, few not-for-profit legal services available in the region, and many agencies argue there is substantial unmet need.

Intended Outcome: A Legal Needs Analysis Report of the MNC will provide a systematic assessment of the legal needs of local disadvantaged groups through the collection and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data from across the region. The Report will attempt to test anecdotal evidence, make a detailed assessment of how to provide continued access to legal and related information through the establishment of best practice legal programs, and how to ensure that such programs are carefully managed to achieve their goals and objectives and the engagement of local communities to identify and meet needs.

To assist young people in understanding their rights and responsibilities, NSW Fair Trading Minister, Linda Burney, today announced that Redfern Legal Centre will receive $9,856 in funding to promote their Share Housing Survival Guide for tenants....to produce 30,000 free promotional postcards for tenants living in shared housing, who are mainly young people and students.

http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/corporate/aboutus/2008/20080219_redfern_legal_centre_helping_young_tenants

— 19 February 2008

Grants Products July 2007–June 2008

GENERAL

An employee's guide to unfair dismissal

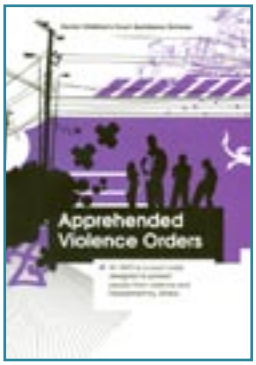
Inner City Legal Centre

Project need: Many New South Wales employees are unaware of their rights in relation to unfair dismissal and unlawful dismissal laws.

Outcome: *An Employee's Guide to Unfair Dismissal* was produced and made available online by the Inner City Legal Centre, and linked to the Kingsford Legal Centre website. The publication covers law and procedure for unfair dismissal and unlawful termination claims in both the NSW and Federal jurisdictions. It is intended for use by self represented claimants, union representatives, and lawyers who may be unfamiliar with this area of law.

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Youth law fact sheets



Hunter Community Legal Centre

Project need: Young people aged 12–25 who are engaged in the legal system often lack knowledge of their rights and responsibilities.

Outcome: Seven individual youth-friendly legal fact sheets dealing with police powers, bail, convictions and criminal records, drug and alcohol laws, AVOs and sentencing were produced and distributed. They were distributed through regional libraries, children's courts, government departments, youth interagencies, drop in centres, police stations and the legal community.

CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE

Talking money in today's language: an Arabic radio project about credit and debt

Consumer Credit Legal Centre NSW (CCLC)

Project need: There is a lack of knowledge in the Arabic-speaking community in Australia of credit, debt and banking issues. This was originally addressed in 2003 by the Ethnic Radio Credit and Debt Information Project (funded by the Foundation) which produced a series of eight Arabic audio segments for radio broadcast. There was a need for further promotion of this material, workshops and publishing to the website to extend its coverage.

Outcome: This project has resulted in greater promotion of the audio resource, repeat broadcasting of the material, community legal information sessions with community workers and members of the Arabic-speaking community and the availability for free download of the information on the CCLC website.

Your legal rights – Tigrinya

Ethnic Communities' Council of NSW Inc

Project need: The Council identified the limitations of information on law and justice available for young people recently arrived from Eritrea, restricting their opportunities to learn about relevant laws and the NSW legal system. Lack of knowledge of their legal rights can be attributed in part to low English literacy levels, and low access to information in their first language.

Outcome: A CD Rom was produced for young people (16-24) recently arrived from Eritrea. It contains information about dealing with police and security guards, rights in a public place, being searched, how to make a complaint and contacts for youth legal aid and support agencies.

HIV POSITIVE

Disclosing your HIV status

HIV AIDS Legal Centre (NSW)

Project need: HIV infection rates have increased and there is a growing group of people living with HIV who are not aware of their rights and responsibilities in relation to disclosure of their HIV status. Involuntary and voluntary disclosure of HIV status can have serious impacts on an individual's life and capacity to manage issues such as employment, psycho-social health and access to goods and services such as housing and travel.

Outcome: A plain English resource was produced and delivered as a booklet and as online factsheets on the major areas that relate to HIV disclosure for HIV positive people. The fact sheets explain the law in NSW as it relates to disclosure of HIV status in a wide variety of situations.

INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS

Caring for country: a guide to Environmental Law for Aboriginal communities

Environmental Defender's Office NSW (EDO)

Project need: There is a clear, and largely unmet, need for legal advice and assistance for Aboriginal clients seeking to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage in New South Wales.

Outcome: This guide, written specifically for Aboriginal communities living in NSW, aims to assist them understand their legal rights and obligations under environmental and natural resource management law. It covers accessing and managing land and country, development and protecting cultural heritage.

WOMEN

Relationships: Expect Respect

Ballina/Byron Family Centre

Project need: Statistics indicated that young women (under 17 years) had very little local contact with legal and support services offering assistance and support relating to domestic violence.

Outcome: Information was produced to improve the knowledge of, and access to, legal services in the Northern Rivers area for women aged 14–24. through a television advertisement, posters, stickers, pamphlets and high school events covering healthy relationships and where to go for assistance.

STRATEGY 3.2
Conduct projects to improve access to justice

NSW Legal Assistance Forum (NLAF)

The Foundation continues to participate in and support the work of the NSW Legal Assistance Forum (NLAF), which promotes collaboration and co-ordination in the provision of legal services in New South Wales to socially and economically disadvantaged people.

Key areas of activity for NLAF during 2007–2008 included:

- examining alternatives to existing conflict of interest rules to reduce barriers to accessing public legal assistance agencies
- working collaboratively to improve access to training for legal assistance workers, particularly in rural, remote and regional areas
- reducing barriers to clients of non-English speaking background

Geoff Mulherin, the Director of the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW, became chair of NLAF in January 2008, following the departure of the previous Chair, Bill Grant, CEO, Legal Aid NSW.

The Foundation supported NLAF in the following ways:

- participation in a number of NLAF working groups, including mental illness, training, and legal needs of Aboriginal people, contributing our knowledge of existing strategies and legal needs identified through our research.
- convening the interpreter service working group, which considered the barriers faced by people of non-English speaking background in accessing interpreter services for a legal issue
- development of a web based resource to assist legal services with accessing guidelines and training resources in using interpreters — www.nlaf.org.au/wg_intrepreter_services.html.
- funding for two NLAF related activities — the evaluation of the *Guide to Legal Services for Aboriginal People in NSW/ACT,* and stage one of research into the decline in lawyer numbers in RRR NSW.

The NLAF project manager, funded by Legal Aid NSW, is based at the Foundation's office, and the Foundation provides support for the NLAF website.

NSW Legal Information and Referral Forum

The Foundation convenes the NSW Legal Information and Referral Forum which continues to provide a valuable avenue for agencies to work together to improve the provision of information and referral to people with legal problems in NSW.

Forum participants include Legal Aid NSW, the Law Society of New South Wales, NSW community legal centres, the Legal Information Access Centre, LawAccess NSW, the National Pro Bono Resource Centre, the Family Court, NSW Local Courts, the New South Wales Bar Association, Public Interest Law Clearing House, NSW community justice centres, the NSW Attorney General's Department

and Aboriginal legal services.

There was a continued focus on improving referral from non-legal to legal agencies, in particular Migrant Resource Centres, MPs and general practioners.

Reaching CALD communities

The focus for the Forum this year was on improving referral for people from a non-English speaking background. Forum members shared information about initiatives in this area and discussed ways to work together.

The Forum is working on the recommendations from the Women's Legal Services (WLS) report, *A long way to equal.* The report identified a lack of knowledge about legal rights, lack of awareness of legal services, and the need for better case management and referral practice.

The Forum will investigate the possibility of a more coordinated approach to engaging with migrant organisations as a key pathway to the legal system for newly arrived migrants.

Reaching MPs

As part of the forum's focus on improving referrals from non-legal to legal agencies, the Foundation participated in a training session for NSW MP electoral office staff on free sources of legal assistance in NSW. LawAccess NSW and the Legal Information Access Centre outlined their services, and information about key legal resources was distributed. The invitation to participate in this training came as a result of a presentation by the Foundation to a group of NSW MPs which outlined our research showing the high proportion of people who go to a non-legal agency with their legal problem.

Improving referral to General Practitioners

Following Foundation and other research showing that health professionals are an important first point of contact for people with legal problems, the forum is carrying out a collaborative project to improve referrals from general practitioners to free legal assistance services. The project involves working with Divisions of General Practice at a local and state wide level. LawAccess has provided information to GPs in selected regions. This was followed by articles on specific legal issues in GP newsletters. LawAccess NSW and the Foundation also presented on access to free legal services to the Royal Australian College of GPs conference.

The forum is also working with Cooperative Legal Service Delivery (CLSD) regions to explore ways to raise GP awareness of legal services at a regional level. Elizabeth Evatt Community Legal Centre has been working with the Blue Mountains and Central West Divisions of GPs on mental health issues and has provided training to GPs in a range of areas including powers of attorney, guardianship, wills and advance directives.

Referrals from general practitioners to LawAccess have more than doubled since the pilot program began.

First Class Law

The Foundation continued to support First Class Law, the national communications network for community legal centres, through the provision of hosting services. First Class Law was established by the Foundation in 1994, and continues to provide an important communications tool for community legal centres around Australia.

Our plain language legal information program works collaboratively with the legal assistance sector to improve the development of, and access to, understandable legal information.

STRATEGY 3.3
Support high quality, plain language legal information and education

A Plain Language Law brochure has been published which outlines how the Foundation supports the production and dissemination of plain language legal information

Advice

Advice was provided on request to organisations on issues such as publishing and distribution, web development and the legal information needs of specific groups.

Organisation-specific assistance included:

- sourcing designers for the Combined Community Legal Centres Group
- the development of the North and North West Community Legal Centre website, including how to undertake user testing
- sourcing designers for a series of tenancy fact sheets for Redfern Legal Centre
- assisting with an employment law information project for the Korean Resource Centre
- publications for CALD communities for Young Lawyers, Fairfield Council and the Community Broadcasting Association, including relevant languages, applying best practice publishing guidelines, and providing distribution lists
- advising Macquarie Legal Centre on the evaluation of a legal information project for young people
- advising the National Children's and Youth Law Centre on online publishing for young people

- providing research on legal information pathways of Indigenous communities to Redfern Legal Centre and Broken Hill Family Violence Centre
- giving information on power of attorney resources and referral directories to NSW Local Courts
- advising the Refugee Advice and Casework Service on project managing a publication
- sourcing plain language legal resources that are available in DVD format for the Deaf Society
- advice on website development and user testing to the Combined Community Legal Centres Group and NSW Tenants' Union
- applying best practice publishing guidelines for the HIV/AIDS Legal Centre's *HIV Disclosure* fact sheets and UTS Legal Centre's Terror Laws publication.

Workshops

Sue Scott and Abigail Gray presented a workshop on referral directories to members of the Hunter Cooperative Legal Service Delivery network in Newcastle on 13 March. The workshop was to assist with the development of a referral directory for the Hunter region. Participants examined questions such as need, aim, audience, what already exists and appropriate formats for a directory.

Publishing resources

The Foundation has developed a number of fact sheets on different aspects of the publishing process to assist the community sector with publishing plain language resources.

In April this year we launched the *Publishing Toolkit* at the NSW Community Legal Centre's conference. This toolkit aims to assist grant applicants and the community sector with the publishing process and has been prepared with assistance from the Victoria Law Foundation.

The first six information sheets are:

- *Project managing your publication in 10 steps*
- *Choosing a publisher*
- *Publishing checklist*
- *How to promote your resource*
- *Distributing your resource*
- *Creating an accessible website for visually impaired users*.

The Foundation also maintains an in-house database of suppliers of various publishing services such as plain language writing, editing and translating, which is used to advise organisations about publishing.

Our website continued to serve as a central resource on key issues such as writing in plain language, publishing and strategies for reaching specific disadvantaged groups.

Plain Language Law Newsletter (PLL)

Organisations delivering legal services to socially and economically disadvantaged people can experience difficulty in keeping up with recent plain language legal information and education initiatives. The Foundation's *Plain Language Law* email newsletter continues to offer a popular solution to the problem, as indicated by the growth in subscriber numbers. More than 2000 people currently receive the free bi-monthly newsletter, compared to 1700 in 2006–2007. Subscribers work in a variety of organisations including legal assistance agencies, community groups and government departments. The Legal Information Access Centre assists the Foundation with identifying resources to include in the newsletter.

Plain language law search

All resources listed in the *Plain Language Law* newsletter since it began in 2003 can be searched using *Plain language law search*. This powerful search tool, with over 800 records, allows the user to browse resources by area of law, as well as limit searches by:

- the format of the resource (e.g. DVD, factsheet)
- the disadvantaged group
- the language of the resource.

Research

Literature reviews on the legal information needs and pathways of Aboriginal people, CALD people and children and young people were undertaken by student placements. The results will be added to *Just Search*, and also be used to assist legal information grant applicants.

Seminar Series

As part of the capacity building program to support the production of plain language legal information, the Foundation runs a seminar series covering different aspects of the publishing process. Two seminars were conducted in 2007–08: project managing a publication, and reaching CALD communities.

Project managing a publication

Presented by Jane Farago, Publications Manager, Victoria Law Foundation, this one day seminar covered important steps in developing a publication. Topics included planning the right product, using reference groups, planning budgets and schedules, writing, marketing and distribution and user testing.

30 people attended from a range of organisations including Women's Legal Resources Centre, Tenants' Union, Inner City Legal Centre and the Mental Health Coordinating Council. Legal Aid NSW provided the venue for the seminar.

The Foundation has developed a resource based on the seminar which is part of the publishing toolkit.

Networking with and promoting your services to CALD communities

The Foundation organised a workshop in April on networking with and promoting services to CALD communities, run by Maria Katrivesis. This included how to use demographic data to inform CALD strategies and how to effectively engage with, and reach, particular CALD communities.

The seminar was fully booked and attended by representatives from community legal centres, NSW Attorney General's Department, NSW Legal Aid and community organisations. As well as providing useful skills in reaching CALD communities, the workshop also provided an opportunity for agencies to share information about their activities in this area.

Following the seminar the Foundation has published a list of useful resources for sourcing contact details for CALD organisations and statistical and other research data: http://www.lawfoundation.net.au/information/target/CALD.

STRATEGY 3.4

Disseminate information about access to justice and effective reforms and initiatives

Collecting, assessing and disseminating information about the justice system is a key component of Foundation activities and is achieved in a variety of ways including reports, newsletters, submissions, conference papers, our web site, journal articles and the annual Justice Awards.

JARA – Justice Access Research Alert

The Foundation's JARA e-newsletter continues to keep subscribers up-to-date with the latest research in the area of access to justice. It is distributed bi-monthly to over 720 subscribers from government, universities and community organisations. All resources listed in JARA since its inception in 2004 can be searched using our online search tool, *Just Search*.

JAPA – Justice Access Program Alert

Our latest free electronic newsletter, Justice Access Program Alert, was launched in February 2008 and is being distributed to 220 subscribers

JAPA is a current awareness service describing innovative programs for improving access to justice for socially and economically disadvantaged people in NSW. Evaluations of programs are included where they are available.

2007 Justice Awards

The ninth annual Justice Awards, presented on 31 October 2007, continued to reach new heights in terms of support within the justice community and in media exposure.

32 nominations were received in the four Award categories open for public nominations: the Justice Medal, the Aboriginal Justice Award, the Law and Justice Volunteer Award and the Pro Bono Partnership Award.

400 people attended the Awards dinner at Parliament House which celebrated the achievements of individuals who have improved access to justice in NSW.

In his Law and Justice Address, former Chief Justice of Australia, Sir Gerard Brennan AC KBE, criticised both major federal political parties for their stance on the death penalty for the Bali Bombers and delivered his opinion on the federal anti-terrorism laws and preventative detention orders, highlighting the controversial Haneef case and how it had "eroded public confidence in the agencies entrusted to safeguard public security".

His speech was widely reported in the mainstream media the following day and his comments formed the basis of an active and opinionated blog on the website of the ABC, which linked from it's website to the LJF website where the address, *Law for all; justice for each* is available in text and audio.

The 2007 Justice Award winners were:

The Justice Medal

Sponsored by the Foundation and presented to an individual for outstanding achievement in improving access to justice in NSW, especially for socially and economically disadvantaged people.

The Justice Medal was presented by Sir Anthony Mason AC KBE to:

Mr Michael Raper, Welfare Rights Centre of NSW for his passionate yet balanced campaigning and advocacy for reductions in levels of poverty, inequality and hardship. Director since 1990 of the Welfare Rights Centre, he leads a community legal centre specialising in Social Security and Family Tax Benefit law, helping the most disadvantaged people access their entitlements.

The Aboriginal Justice Award

Sponsored by the NSW Attorney General's Department and presented to an Aboriginal person, or a group of Aboriginal people, demonstrating outstanding commitment to improving access to justice for Aboriginal people in NSW.

Mr Barry Collier MP presented this Award on behalf of the Attorney General of NSW to:

Mr Paul Teerman, Aboriginal Client Service Officer, Penrith Local Court, for helping young people to better understand the legal system and avoid the criminal justice system. He is currently establishing a mentoring program with community groups and schools, identifying opportunities for young people to either pursue further education or trades.

Highly Commended: **Ms Terri Janke**

The Pro Bono Partnership Award

Sponsored by the National Pro Bono Resource Centre and presented to a partnership of private law firms, community organisations and/or community legal centres in NSW which has developed an outstanding pro bono legal assistance relationship, resulting in improved access to justice for disadvantaged people in the community.

Mr John Corker, Executive Director of the National Pro Bono Resource Centre, presented the Award to the partnership of the:

Homicide Victim's Support Group and Henry Davis York which assists the families and friends of homicide victims deal with the array of legal issues they face at a terribly distressing time. This includes preparing for coronial inquests, wills, estate and property issues and investigating compensation for family members.

The Law and Justice Volunteer Award

Sponsored by the New South Wales Bar Association and presented to an individual, or a group of individuals, who, in a voluntary capacity, demonstrate outstanding commitment to improving access to justice in NSW.

Mr Michael Slattery QC, President of the New South Wales Bar Association, presented the Award to:

Ms Brenda McKinnon, Albury Wodonga Community Information Referral Centre for her contribution as

The 2007 Justice Awards winners

volunteer Centre manager for nine years before it closed in 2008. She established its Community Legal Aid Assistance Scheme, assisting disadvantaged clients to complete legal aid forms, find lawyers, appeal decisions, make court appointments and attend court.

The Law Society President's Award

Sponsored by The Law Society of New South Wales and presented to an individual solicitor for participation in The Law Society's Pro Bono Scheme.

Mr Joe Catanzariti, Treasurer, The Law Society of New South Wales, presented the Award to:

Mr David Roth, **Mulley Roth Solicitors** who has taken on 14 cases referred to him from the Scheme, as well as undertaking pro bono work for his own law firm.

The Combined Community Legal Centres Group (CCLCG) Award

Sponsored by the Combined Community Legal Centres Group NSW and presented to an individual who, in a voluntary capacity in a NSW community legal centre, has demonstrated outstanding commitment to improving access to justice in NSW.

Ms Michelle Jones, Chair of the CCLCG, presented the Award to:

Ms Linda Wright, Illawarra Community Legal Centre for her 22 years of commitment to the Centre, beginning as a volunteer solicitor when it first opened, and further involvement on the Centre's Management Committee, including three years as Chair, and 13 as Deputy Chair.

Highly Commended: **Ms Susan Mordaunt**

LIAC Centre of Excellence Awards

Sponsored by the Legal Information Access Centre (LIAC) and presented for innovative achievement by Legal Information Access Centres in NSW public libraries in providing plain language legal information to the community.

Two public libraries received Centre of Excellence Awards:

Richmond-Upper Clarence Regional Library for extending its successful *Law@your library* education initiative throughout the region, targeting local government staff in ten local councils.

Maitland City Library for its *Opening the doors to law* project which created a number of activities aimed at engaging all members of the community to increase their understanding of aspects of the law.

The Awards were presented by Ms Regina Sutton, State Librarian of NSW.

Memorandum of understanding with the State Library of NSW

Under the memorandum, the Foundation and the Library's Legal Information Access Centre (LIAC) work together across a range of areas, including consulting on legal information needs and jointly promoting legal information resources.

Cooperation resulted in:

- provision by LIAC of items for the Foundation's *Plain Language Law* newsletter
- cooperation by both parties in keeping web-based legal research links for case law and legislation up-to-date
- provision by LIAC of expert referee reports for Foundation legal information grants
- participation by LIAC in the NSW Legal Information and Referral Forum convened by the Foundation
- participation by LIAC in the 2007 Justice Awards through the LIAC Centre of Excellence Awards.

The Foundation's Chair, The Hon Paul Stein QC AM, and Director, Geoff Mulherin, are members of the LIAC Board.

Communicating Foundation work

Conferences and presentations

- Law Reform and Business Efficiency Forum (China and Indonesia), University of Sydney, Session chaired by Geoff Mulherin, July 2007
- *Researching legal need at a centre level – Preparing for your 3-year strategic plan*, Suzie Forrell, Combined Community Legal Centres Group NSW Conference August 2007 and National Community Legal Centres Conference September 2007
- *Navigating the maze: assisting your patients to access free legal help*, Sue Scott, Royal Australian College of GPs Conference, November 2007
- *Project managing a publication*, Sue Scott, Combined Community Legal Centres Group NSW State Conference, May 2008
- *Online access to data and research to plan legal services*, Michael Cain, Stephanie d'Apice, Sue Scott, Australian Institute of Judicial Administration Law and Technology Conference, June 2008
- Alberta Law Foundation, Edmonton, Canada, Geoff Mulherin, June 2008
- Canadian Forum on Civil Justice, Edmonton, Canada, Geoff Mulherin, June 2008
- The Law Foundation of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, Geoff Mulherin, June 2008
- *Making sense of legal needs data,* Geoff Mulherin, Legal Services Research Centre International Conference, London, UK June 2008

Presentations of the Data Digest prototype were made to:

- Commonwealth Attorney General's Dept, Geoff Mulherin and Michael Cain, December 2007
- Disability Advisory Council, Geoff Mulherin and Michael Cain, March 2008

Participation on Boards/Trusts/Committees

Staff from the Foundation provided input to a range of projects through their participation in the following boards and committees:

- Legal Information Access Centre Board, Geoff Mulherin and The Hon Paul Stein
- Trustee, NSW Pro Bono Disbursements Trust Fund, Geoff Mulherin
- New South Wales Legal Assistance Forum (NLAF), Geoff Mulherin and Sue Scott
- University of Sydney, Socio-legal Referee Group, Geoff Mulherin
- Criminal Justice Research Network, Mental Health Links for Lawyers Web Site Steering Committee, Sue Scott.
- Legal Aid NSW, Cooperative Legal Service Delivery Steering Committee, Sue Scott
- Law Society of New South Wales, Online Services Committee, Sue Scott
- NLAF Training Reference Group, Sue Scott
- NLAF Aboriginal Legal Services Working Group, Suzie Forell
- NLAF Mental Illness Working Group, Abigail Gray
- NLAF CALD Working Group, Grainne Murphy
- NLAF Older Persons Working Group, Sue Scott

GOAL 4

COST-EFFECTIVE OPERATIONS SUPPORT

Optimise the capacity and capabilities of the Foundation through cost-effective resource and information management

STRATEGIES

4.1 Maintain effective information management.

4.2 Manage resources efficiently and cost-effectively.

STRATEGY 4.1
Maintain effective information management

The Foundation continues to implement cost effective knowledge and information management systems to ensure that we make optimum use of corporate intelligence.

Our approach involves:

- prompt reporting by staff of relevant information gathered from attendance at conferences and seminars
- use of consistent filing systems and taxonomies to ensure that knowledge is easily accessed
- use of integrated databases which allow the Foundation to keep track of expertise in the justice sector and inform relevant people and organisations of our activities
- maintaining a professional library function to support our research, plain language and grant activities.

In 2007–2008 we completed the 'Data Digest Wizard', a tool to automate the process of cleaning and mapping inquiry data received from legal assistance agencies. This data is then analysed and reported on via the Data Digest report series. This will streamline this process and allow us to regularly process data feeds from agencies.

We implemented an online bookings form for the Justice Awards dinner. As well as providing a convenient way for people to book for the dinner, this has improved our efficiency, as information is directly imported into our events database.

Information technology

The Foundation:

- identified the need for a more coordinated approach to IT management support and engaged a consultant to assist achieve this
- met with new IT support providers to plan on-going support of the network
- purchased a new server and associated software for the Data Digest project. The software was procured via Donor-Tec, a service supported by Microsoft that allows not-for-profit organisations to receive MS software at no cost.
- investigated options for hosting the new Data Digest server and determined new back-up and recovery plans for it and the main file server.

STRATEGY 4.2
Manage resources efficiently and cost-effectively

Responsible and prudent strategic and business planning is central to the Foundation's performance management system.

All operations during the 2007–2008 year conformed to the 2007–2008 Business Plan, which put into operation the middle year of the 2006–2009 Strategic Plan.

The most significant planning activity conducted centred on the development of the Foundation's 2009–2012 Strategic Plan, and the preparation of the parallel funding submission for the same period.

The Business Plan for 2008–2009 was devised with the aim of achieving organisational objectives and in alignment with the current strategic plan. Planning entailed a review of the achievements and outstanding activities at the end of the previous period and the allocation of realistic timelines and resources for undertaking projects and other work necessary.

The Foundation's planning at both the strategic and business level is accompanied by realistic budgets and an approach to organisational development based on ongoing research, review, flexibility and continuous improvement to encourage a high performance culture.

Business management

The Board of Governors met regularly over the year, monitoring the Foundation's performance through monthly and quarterly reports against the Business Plan. Concerned at the current investment climate, the Board commissioned an independent review of the Foundation's investment strategy and performance to ensure that our investment objectives were being met.

Human resource management

Our human resource management is governed by two principles: recruitment, development and retention of high quality staff, and continuous improvement in systems and procedures. We take a flexible approach to the organisational structure to manage changing business imperatives.

Staff training

The Foundation has an active staff learning and development program.

The structured training undertaken by Foundation staff consisted of courses, visits to other organisations and attendance at seminars.

Staff attended a range of courses, some specifically tailored to the Foundation's requirements, including for *Microsoft Office* products (Outlook, Excel and Word) and *Writing in Plain English*.

Staff visited various organisations including LawAccess and Macquarie Legal Centre, to improve their knowledge and understanding of the services provided within the sector.

Seminars attended included *Housing Law*, *Aboriginal Cultural Awareness* and *Law for Non-Lawyers*.

Work placements

Nicola Cannon and Renee Fallah, two students from the University of Technology Sydney (UTS), undertook a work placement with the Foundation for six weeks in September-October 2007, working on legal information pathways papers.

Sarah Henon undertook a work placement in October 2007 on a literature review of CALD communities' legal needs.

As part of our commitment to assisting people with disabilities return to the workforce, the Foundation also hosted a placement through the Commonwealth Rehabilitation Service (CRS).

Governors' Report

The Governors of the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales ("the Foundation") submit herewith the annual financial report for the financial year ended 30 June 2008. In order to comply with the provisions of the *Law and Justice Foundation Act 2000*, the Governors report as follows:

The names of the Governors of the Foundation during or since the financial year are:

- P. Stein
- J. Behrendt
- G. Daley (appointed 18 December 2007)
- B. Hounslow
- G. Mulherin
- N. Perram (appointed 10 January 2008; resigned July 2008)
- K. Rozzoli
- F. Terenzini (appointed 6 August 2007)
- B. Walker (to 5 December 2007)
- P. Wright (to 5 December 2007)

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales was established under the *Law and Justice Foundation Act 2000* ("Act") as a reconstitution of the Law Foundation of New South Wales.

Pursuant to Section 5 (1) of the Act, the objects of the Foundation are to contribute to the development of a fair and equitable justice system which addresses the legal needs of the community and to improve access to justice by the community (in particular, by economically and socially disadvantaged people).

Pursuant to Section 5 (2) of the Act, the Foundation may do any one or more of the following:

(a) conduct and sponsor research (including inter-disciplinary research) into the law, the justice system, alternative dispute resolution and the legal profession,

(b) collect, assess and disseminate information about the justice system,

(c) conduct and sponsor projects aimed at facilitating access to justice and access to information about the justice system,

(d) promote education about the justice system.

The Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales operates predominantly in the geographical area of New South Wales.

REVIEW OF OPERATIONS

The net deficit for the year ended June 2008 was $1,505,475. For the year ended June 2007 there was a net surplus of $78,246. The downturn in result is mainly attributable to the current volatile market conditions resulting in investment returns changing from a positive return of $656,365 in 2007 to a negative return of $863,495 in the year ended 30 June 2008.

CHANGE IN STATE OF AFFAIRS

During the financial year there was no other significant change in the state of affairs of the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales other than any referred to in the financial statements or notes thereto.

SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

There has not been any matter or circumstance, other than that referred to in the financial report or notes thereto, that has arisen since the end of the financial year, that has significantly affected or may significantly affect, the operations of the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales in future financial years.

INDEMNIFICATION OF OFFICERS AND AUDITORS

During the financial year, the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales paid a premium in respect of a contract insuring the Governors of the Foundation (as named above) and all officers of the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales and of any related body corporate against a liability incurred as such by a governor or an officer to the extent permitted by the *Law and Justice Foundation Act 2000*. The contract of insurance prohibits the disclosure of the nature of the liability and the amount of the premium.

The Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales has not otherwise, during or since the financial year, indemnified or agreed to indemnify a governor, officer or auditor of the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales or any related body corporate against any liability incurred as such by a governor, officer or auditor.

On behalf of the Board of Governors

Paul B

GOVERNOR

Sydney, 8/10/08

GOVERNOR

Sydney, 8 Oct 08

FINANCIAL REPORT

Auditor's Report

Deloitte.

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Independent Auditor's Report to the members of Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales ("the Foundation"), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2008, and the income statement, cash flow statement and statement of changes in equity for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the Governors' declaration as set out on pages 29 to 39.

The Responsibility of Governors for the Financial Report

The Governors of the entity are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial report, are appropriate to meet the financial reporting requirements of the Law and Justice Foundation Act 2000 and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The responsibility of Governors also includes establishing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying 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 financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Governors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to the members for the purpose of fulfilling the Governors' financial reporting requirements under the Law and Justice Foundation Act 2000. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Auditor's Independence Declaration

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian professional accounting bodies.

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales as at 30 June 2008 and of its financial performance, its cash flows and its changes in equity for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu

DELOITTE TOUCHE TOHMATSU

Stuart Alexander
Partner
Chartered Accountants
Sydney, 8 October 2008

Member of
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

Governors' Declaration

As detailed in Note 1 to the financial statements, the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales is not a reporting entity because in the opinion of the Board of Governors there are unlikely to exist users of the financial report who are unable to command the preparation of the reports tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs. Accordingly, this 'Special Purpose Financial Report' has been prepared to satisfy the Board of Governors' reporting requirements under the *Law and Justice Foundation Act 2000*.

The Board of Governors declares that:

(a) the attached financial statements and notes thereto comply with Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 to the financial statements;

(b) the attached financial statements and notes thereto give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales;

(c) in the Governors' opinion, the attached financial statement and notes thereto are in accordance with the *Law and Justice Foundation Act 2000*; and

(d) in the Governors' opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

On behalf of the Board of Governors

GOVERNOR

Sydney 9/11/08

GOVERNOR

Sydney 8 Oct 08

Financial Statements

Income Statement for the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2008

	Note	2008 $	2007 $
Operating revenue	2(a)	2,431,182	1,958,006
Investment income	2(b)	(863,495)	656,365
Employment related expense	14	(1,677,066)	(1,512,097)
Consultants and contractor expenses		(108,181)	(153,741)
Premises costs		(237,122)	(191,143)
Depreciation expense	6	(71,642)	(62,011)
Grants and projects costs		(200,021)	(231,859)
Audit fees	17	(24,998)	(23,436)
Justice Awards expenses		(63,165)	(58,234)
Insurance costs		(29,882)	(44,402)
Information technology & related costs	14	(387,962)	(91,381)
Legal needs survey costs		(113,386)	(6,250)
Other expenses from ordinary activities		(159,737)	(161,571)
(Deficit) /Surplus before income tax expense		(1,505,475)	78,246
Income tax expense relating to ordinary activities		-	-
Net (Deficit) / Surplus		(1,505,475)	78,246

Notes to the Financial Statements are included on pages 33 to 39

Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2008

	Note	2008 $	2007 $
Current Assets			
Cash assets	12(a)	861,632	484,071
Receivables	3	56,217	87,690
Investments	4	3,633,812	4,521,841
Non-current assets classified as held for sale	5	442,010	442,010
Other current assets		38,277	17,331
Total Current Assets		5,031,948	5,552,943
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	6	117,615	177,804
Other assets		1,053	-
Total Non-Current Assets		118,668	177,804
Total Assets		5,150,616	5,730,747
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	7	947,095	185,302
Provisions	8	219,717	163,923
Grants and external projects allocated- not drawn	9	839,728	729,630
Total Current Liabilities		2,006,540	1,078,855
Non-Current Liabilities			
Provisions	10	34,886	37,227
Total Non-Current Liabilities		34,886	37,227
Total Liabilities		2,041,426	1,116,082
Net Assets		3,109,190	4,614,665
Equity			
Accumulated surplus		3,109,190	4,614,665
Total Equity		3,109,190	4,614,665

Notes to the Financial Statements are included on pages 33 to 39

Cash Flow Statement for the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2008

	Note	2008 $	2007 $
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Receipts from customers and grants		2,695,703	1,892,045
Interest received		69,755	49,532
Payments to suppliers, employees, and grants and projects		(2,428,144)	(2,425,140)
Net Cash From / (Used) in Operating Activities	12 (b)	337,314	(483,563)
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Proceeds on sale of investment securities		1,390,917	2,665,815
Payment for investment securities		(1,585,560)	(2,682,434)
Dividends and interest received		247,395	236,871
Proceeds from disposal of fixed assets		1,512	-
Payment for fixed and other assets		(14,017)	(85,207)
Net Cash From / (Used) in Investing Activities		40,247	135,045
Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash Held		377,561	(348,518)
Cash at Beginning of Financial Year		484,071	832,589
Cash at End of Financial Year	12 (a)	861,632	484,071

Statement of Changes in Equity for the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2008

Opening Balance	4,614,665	4,536,419
Net (Deficit) / Surplus for year	(1,505,475)	78,246
Closing Balance	3,109,190	4,614,665

Notes to the Financial Statements are included on pages 33 to 39

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2008

1. SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Financial Reporting Framework

The Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales is not a reporting entity because in the opinion of the Board of Governors, there are unlikely to exist users of the financial report who are unable to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs. Accordingly, this "Special Purpose Financial Report" has been prepared to satisfy the Governors' reporting requirements under the *Law and Justice Foundation Act 2000*.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the *Law and Justice Foundation Act 2000 (" The Act")*, the basis of accounting and disclosure requirements specified by Australian Accounting Standards AASB101 Presentation of Financial Statements, AASB107 Cash Flow Statements, AASB1031 Materiality and AASB108 Accounting Policies Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors.

Basis of Presentation

The financial report has been prepared on the basis of historical cost and except where stated, does not take into account changing money values or current valuations of non-current assets. Cost is based on the fair values of consideration given in exchange for assets.

Significant Accounting Policies

Accounting policies are selected and applied in a manner which ensures that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events is reported.

The following significant accounting policies have been adopted in the preparation and presentation of the financial report:

(a) Grant and Project Expenditure

Grant expenditure in excess of $5,000 requires the approval of, and is at the discretion of, the Board of Governors. Grants of $5,000 or less can be approved by the Director. Those approved in the current financial year are reported as expenses in the Income Statement, to the extent approved.

Grant and project allocations not drawn at the expiry of the project are, after systematic review by recipients and management, written back to the Income Statement.

In a minor number of instances, grants are advanced by way of loan. Repayment of the loans is usually considered remote. Notwithstanding the advance of the funds as loans they are nevertheless treated as grants, as described above. If the loans or a portion thereof are repaid, the amounts are brought to account as income in the period in which they are repaid.

(b) Income Allocation

Public Purpose Fund income has been brought to account at a monthly accrual of $159,440. This represents 1/12th of the annual allocation for Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales core activities which, in the financial year ended 30 June 2008 totalled $1,913,275.

(c) Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on leasehold improvements, furniture and fittings and office equipment. Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis so as to write off the net cost or other revalued amount of each asset over its expected useful life. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the period of the lease or estimated useful life, whichever is shorter, using the straight-line method.

With regard to the Strata Title at Reid House, the Board of Governors has not been able to differentiate between the land and building content of the investment and accordingly attribute the whole amount to land. This amount is not depreciated.

The following estimated useful lives are used in the calculation of depreciation:

Leasehold improvements	Term of the lease
Furniture and fittings	10 years
Office equipment	3 years

1. SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(d) Recoverable Amount of Non-Current Assets

Non-current assets are written down to recoverable amount where the carrying value of any non-current assets exceeds recoverable amount. In determining the recoverable amount of non-current assets, the expected net cash flows have not been discounted to their present value.

(e) Income Tax

The Law and Justice Foundation has been granted exemption from Income Tax under Section 50–55 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

(f) Employee Entitlements

Provision is made for benefits accruing to employees in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave when it is probable that settlement will be required and the amounts are capable of being measured reliably.

Provisions made in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave expected to be settled within 12 months, are measured at their nominal values.

Provisions made in respect of long service leave which are not expected to be settled within 12 months are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made by the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales in respect of services provided by the employees up to the reporting date.

(g) Payables

Trade payables and other accounts payable are recognised when the Foundation becomes obliged to make future payments resulting from the purchase of goods and services.

(h) Acquisition of Assets

Assets acquired are recorded at the cost of acquisition, being the purchase consideration determined as at the date of acquisition plus costs incidental to the acquisition.

(i) Goods and Services Tax

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST) except:

i. where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office ("ATO"), it is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of an asset or as part of an item of expense; or
ii. for receivable and payables which are recognised inclusive of GST.

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included as part of receivables or payables.

Cash flows are included in the Cash Flow Statement on a gross basis. The GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is classified as operating cash flows.

(j) Receivables

Trade receivables and other receivables are recorded at amounts due less any provision for doubtful debts.

(k) Investments

Section 16 of the Act provides that *'...the Foundation may invest money held by it in any investment in which a trustee may invest funds in accordance with the Trustee Act 1925.'*. The Foundation's investment policy complies with the Act and, to at least the extent required, the *Trustees Act 1925*.

Given the long-term nature of much of the Foundation's work (2–4 years), and the need from time to time to use more than the annual allocation from the Public Purpose Fund for major projects, the Foundation maintains some reserves. These reserves are invested via fund managers in a range of investments across property, fixed interest and equities with the aims of ensuring the continuity of income for Foundation operations and to obtain some growth in the capital base over the medium to long term.

Investments in quoted shares are included in the financial statements at fair value at balance sheet date period. Gains and losses on revaluation of investments to fair value are recognised as revenue or expenses respectively in the Income Statement. Realised gains and losses on sale are recognised as revenue or expenses respectively in the Income Statement. Dividend income is recognised on a receivable basis on the date that shares are quoted ex-dividend. Interest from fixed securities and discount securities is recognised as income on the basis of the accumulated entitlement that would be received on the disposal of the security according to the trading practices accepted by the market for the relevant security. Interest on cash on deposit is recognised in accordance with the terms and conditions which apply to the deposit.

(l) Revenue Recognition

Sale of Goods and Disposal of Assets

Revenue from the sale of goods and disposal of other assets is recognised when the Foundation has passed control of the goods or other assets to the buyer.

Rendering of Services

Revenue from a contract to provide services is recognised by reference to the stage of completion of the contract.

(m) Non current assets held for Sale

Non-current assets classified as held for sale are measured, with certain exceptions, at the lower of carrying amount and fair value less cost to sell. Non-current assets are classified as held for sale if their carrying amount will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through continuing use. This conduct is regarded as met only when the asset is available for immediate sale in its present condition subject only to terms that are usual and customary for such a sale and the sale is highly probable. The sale of the asset must be expected to be completed within one year from the date of classification, except in the circumstances where sale is delayed by events or circumstances outside the Foundations control and the Foundation remains committed to a sale.

(n) Leased Assets

Operating lease payments are recognised as an expense on a basis which reflects the pattern in which economic benefits from the leased asset are consumed.

(o) Going Concern

The financial report for the year ended 30 June 2008 has been prepared on the basis that the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales is a going concern, which assumes continuity of normal business activities and the realisation of assets and the settlement of liabilities in the ordinary course of business. The appropriateness of adopting a going concern, basis of accounting, is largely dependent upon the continuation of allocations from the Public Purpose Fund. It is expected that these allocations will continue in the short term, but may cease at the end of the current three-year agreement in June 2009.

(p) Comparative Information

Where necessary comparative amounts have been reclassified and repositioned for consistency with the current year accounting policy and disclosures. Further details on the nature and reason for the amounts that have been reclassified and repositioned for consistency with the current year accounting policy and disclosures, where considered material, are referred to separately in the financial statements or notes thereto.

2. REVENUE

	2008 $	*2007* $
(a) Operating Revenue		
Public Purpose Fund – recurrent funding	1,913,275	1,848,566
Public Purpose Fund – Data Digest project	370,056	-
Legal aid commissions contributions	32,926	-
Sales revenue: Sale of goods	972	2,572
Rendering of services:		
Justice Awards	40,805	41,547
Other	3,017	15,637
	43,822	57,184
Interest revenue: Other financial assets	69,755	49,532
Royalties	376	152
Total Operating Revenue	**2,431,182**	**1,958,006**
(b) Investment Income		
Dividends and interest on investments	219,176	267,187
Profit on sale of investments	91,526	227,477
Unrealised (loss) / gain arising from the revaluation of current assets - investments	(1,174,197)	161,701
Total Investment Income	**(863,495)**	**656,365**

3. RECEIVABLES

	2008 $	2007 $
Trade debtors	1,046	10,602
Tax refund due	7,670	1,368
Refund of imputation credits	22,475	41,974
Dividend receivable	25,026	33,746
	56,217	87,690

4. INVESTMENTS

Shares – at market value	2,399,760	3,431,991
Fixed interest securities – at market value	1,234,052	1,089,850
	3,633,812	4,521,841

5. NON CURRENT ASSETS CLASSIFIED HELD FOR SALE

Land and Buildings	442,010	442,010

The Reid House property was independently valued on 17 November 2006 by Richard Montague A.A.P.I. of BEM Property Consultants Pty Ltd. The valuation amount of between $1,050,000 plus GST and $1,150,000 plus GST was determined using "direct comparison" and "capitalisation of net income" approaches. The valuation was not made in accordance with a regular policy of revaluations and has not been brought to account in the financial statements.

The Foundation intends to dispose off the Reid House property. The property was previously used for leasing. A search continues for a buyer.

6. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	Land & Buildings	Leasehold Improvements	Furniture & Fittings	Office Equipment	Total
Gross Carrying Value					
Balance at 01 July 2006	**442,010**	**318,591**	**81,447**	**220,094**	**1,062,142**
Additions	-	-	455	84,752	85,207
Disposals	-	-	-	(40,185)	(40,185)
Classified as held for Sale	(442,010)	-	-	-	(442,010)
Balance at 01 July 2007	**-**	**318,591**	**81,902**	**264,661**	**665,154**
Additions	-	-	718	12,246	12,964
Disposals				(1,944)	(1,944)
Balance at 30 June 2008	**-**	**318,591**	**82,620**	**274,963**	**676,174**
Accumulated Depreciation					
Balance at 01 July 2006	**-**	**(213,168)**	**(68,401)**	**(183,954)**	**(465,523)**
Depreciation expense	-	(28,937)	(2,792)	(30,282)	(62,011)
Disposals	-	-	-	40,185	40,185
Balance at 01 July 2007	**-**	**(242,105)**	**(71,193)**	**(174,051)**	**(487,349)**
Depreciation expense	-	(28,937)	(2,706)	(39,999)	(71,642)
Disposals	-	-	-	432	432
Balance at 30 June 2008	**-**	**(271,042)**	**(73,899)**	**(213,618)**	**(558,559)**
As at 30 June 2007	**-**	**76,486**	**10,708**	**90,610**	**177,804**
As at 30 June 2008	**-**	**47,549**	**8,721**	**61,345**	**117,615**

Aggregate depreciation allocated, whether recognised as an expense or capitalised as part of the carrying amount of other assets during the year:	2008 $	2007 $
Leasehold improvements	28,937	28,938
Office furniture & fittings	2,706	2,792
Office equipment	39,999	30,281
	71,642	62,011

7. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

	2008 $	2007 $
Trade Payables	192,549	166,211
Other Payables	18,182	19,091
Payables to third parties (Legal needs survey)	736,364	-
	947,095	185,302

8. CURRENT PROVISIONS

Provision for annual leave (note 11)	182,309	153,833
Provision for long service leave (note 11)	21,046	-
Accrued wages & salaries (note 11)	16,362	10,090
	219,717	163,923

9. GRANTS AND EXTERNAL PROJECTS NOT DRAWN

Grants and external projects	793,859	682,188
Tied grants payable	45,869	47,442
	839,728	729,630

10. NON-CURRENT PROVISIONS

Provision for long service leave (note 11)	34,886	37,227

11. EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

The aggregate employee benefit liability recognised and included in the financial statement is as follows:

Provision for employee benefits:		
Current (note 8)	203,355	153,833
Non-current (note 10)	34,886	37,227
Accrued wages and salaries (note 8)	16,362	10,090
	254,603	201,150

12. NOTES TO CASH FLOW STATEMENT

(a) Reconciliation of Cash

For the purposes of the Cash Flow Statement, cash includes cash on hand and in banks. Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the Cash Flow Statement is reconciled to the related items in the Balance Sheet as follows:

Cash	861,632	484,071

(b) Reconciliation of Net (Deficit) / Surplus to Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities

Net (Deficit)/ Surplus	(1,505,475)	78,246
Depreciation of non-current assets	71,642	62,011
Net unrealised loss /(gain) arising from the revaluation of investments	1,174,197	(161,701)
Profit on sale of investments	(91,526)	(227,477)
Dividends received	(219,176)	(267,187)
(Increase)/Decrease in assets		
Receivables	3,254	(17,799)
Other current assets	(20,946)	19,930
(Decrease)/Increase in liabilities		
Payables	761,793	62,020
Provision current	55,794	16,513
Provision non-current	(2,341)	18,590
Grant and projects allocated - not drawn	110,098	(66,709)
Net Cash from /(used in) Operating Activities	337,314	(483,563)

13. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

(a) Significant Accounting Policies

Details of the significant accounting policies and methods adopted, including the criteria for recognition, the basis of measurement and the basis on which revenues and expenses are recognised, in respect of each class of financial asset, financial liability and equity instrument are disclosed in Note 1 to the financial statements.

(b) Credit Risk Exposures

Credit risk refers to the risk that a counter party will default on its contractual obligations resulting in financial loss to the Foundation. The Foundation has adopted the policy of only dealing with creditworthy counter parties and obtaining sufficient collateral or other security where appropriate, as a means of mitigating the risk of financial loss from defaults. The Foundation measures credit risk on a fair value basis.

The carrying amount of financial assets recorded in the financial statements, net of any provisions for losses, represents the Foundation's maximum exposure to credit risk without taking into account the value of any collateral or other security obtained.

(c) Interest Rate Risk Exposures

The Foundation's exposure to interest rate risk and the effective weighted average interest rate by maturity periods is set out in the following table. For interest rates applicable to each class of asset or liability, refer to individual notes to the financial statements.

Exposures arise predominantly from assets and liabilities bearing variable interest rates as the consolidated entity intends to hold fixed rate assets and liabilities to maturity.

2008	Average Interest Rate	Fixed Interest Rate Maturity	Variable Interest Rate	Non-interest Bearing	Consolidated Total
Financial assets					
Cash and deposits	6.5%	-	861,632	-	861,632
Receivables			-	56,217	56,217
Other current assets	-	-	-	38,277	38,277
Investments	5.5%	1,234,052	-	2,399,760	3,633,812
Total		1,234,052	861,632	2,494,254	4,589,938
Financial Liabilities					
Trade creditors & other payables	-	-	-	947,095	947,095
Total	-	-	-	947,095	947,095
Net financial assets	**-**	**1,234,052**	**861,632**	**1,547,159**	**3,642,843**

2007	Average Interest Rate	Fixed Interest Rate Maturity	Variable interest rate	Non-interest bearing	Consolidated Total
Financial assets					
Cash and deposits	6.1%	-	484,071	-	484,071
Receivables			-	87,690	87,690
Other current assets	-	-	-	17,331	17,331
Investments	5.0%	1,089,850	-	3,431,991	4,521,841
Total		1,089,850	484,071	3,537,012	5,110,933
Financial Liabilities					
Trade creditors and accruals	-	-	-	185,302	185,302
Total	-	-	-	185,302	185,302
Net financial assets	**-**	**1,089,850**	**484,071**	**3,351,710**	**4,925,631**

14. DATA DIGEST PROJECT

During the financial year the Foundation received an amount of $595,996 from the Public Purpose Fund for three years funding for the production version of the Online Data Digest project. For the year ended 30 June 2008 expenditure totalling $370,056 was incurred. This amount is included in the Income Statement as:

Employment related expense	$ 44,948
Information technology & related costs	$ 325,108

15. GENERAL

The Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales was established under the *Law and Justice Foundation Act 2000*, to contribute to the development of a fair and equitable justice system which addresses the legal needs of the community and to improve access to justice by the community; and to conduct and sponsor research with the law, the legal system, law reform and other similar activities pursuant to Section 5 of the said Act. The Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales operates predominantly in the geographical area of New South Wales.

16. ECONOMIC DEPENDENCY

The Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales is dependent on allocations from the Public Purpose Fund. Allocations are guaranteed until June 2009. Application for funding for the coming three years 2009-2012 will be submitted to the Public Purpose Fund in September 2008. Confirmation of funding is anticipated prior to the end of the 2008/2009 financial year.

17. REMUNERATION OF AUDITORS

	2008 **$**	***2007*** **$**
Auditing the financial report	24,998	23,436

18. EMPLOYEES

Number of employees at end of financial year	26	26

19. COMMITMENTS FOR EXPENDITURE

	2008 **$**	***2007*** **$**
The Foundation currently leases office space in Pitts St Sydney. The current lease expires in July 2009.		
Non cancellable operating lease:		
Not longer than one year	161,315	157,125
Longer than one year and not longer than five years	6,268	167,583
Longer than five years	-	-
	167,583	324,708

20. SUBSEQUENT EVENT

There has not been any matter or circumstance, other than that referred to in the financial report or notes thereto, that has arisen since the end of the financial year, that has significantly affected or may significantly affect, the operations of the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Law and Justice Foundation of New South Wales in future financial years.

21. ADDITIONAL ORGANISATION INFORMATION

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Law and Justice Foundation would like to acknowledge the following people and organisations who have commented on grant applications, served on committees, reviewed draft publications, provided advice or contributed to specific Foundation programs.

ORGANISATIONS

Aboriginal Justice Advisory Council

Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) Limited

Asylum Seekers Centre

Attorney General's Department of NSW

Attorney-General's Department (Commonwealth)

Australian Domestic and Family Violence Clearinghouse

Australian Securities & Investments Commission (ASIC) – Melbourne

Beed & Associates

Blake Dawson

Centacare Blacktown Family Support Service

Centre for Community Welfare Training

Chief Magistrate's Office

Combined Community Legal Centres' Group NSW

Community Relations Commission

Community Restorative Centre

Consumer Credit Legal Centre NSW (CCLC)

Consumer Trader and Tenancy Tribunal (CTTT)

Department of Ageing, Disability & Home Care (DADHC)

Department of Corrective Services

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services & Indigenous Affairs (FaCSIA)

Department of Immigration and Citizenship

Department of Immigration and Citizenship – Sydney Office

Department of Premier and Cabinet

Disability Discrimination Legal Centre NSW (DDLC)

District Court of New South Wales

Equity Chambers

Essential Viewing Group

Family Court of Australia - Sydney

Griffith University, Key Centre for Ethics, Law, Justice and Governance

Hawkesbury Nepean Community Legal Centre

Hunter Community Legal Centre

Intellectual Disability Rights Service (IDRS)

Judicial Commission of NSW

Kingsford Legal Centre (KLC)

La Trobe University

LawAccess

Law Council of Australia

LawAccess NSW

Legal Aid Commission of ACT

Legal Aid Commission of QLD

Legal Aid Commission of TAS

Legal Aid Commission of WA

Legal Aid NSW

Legal Information Access Centre (LIAC)

Legal Services Commission of SA

Legal Services Research Centre, UK

Leichardt Municipal Council

Macquarie Legal Centre

Mental Health Coordinating Council

Mental Health Review Tribunal NSW

Mt Druitt & Area Community Legal Centre

National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLC)

National Pro Bono Resource Centre

New South Wales Law Reform Commission

North and North West Community Legal Centre

Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre

Northern Territory Legal Aid Commission

NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics & Research

NSW Guardianship Tribunal

NSW Office of Fair Trading

NSW Police Service

Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC)

Redfern Legal Centre (RLC)

Refugee Review Tribunal

Regulatory Institutions Network (RegNet)

Shoalcoast Community Legal Centre

South West Sydney Legal Centre

Sydney Multicultural Community Services Inc

Tenants' Union of NSW (TU)

The Law Centres Federation

The Law Society of New South Wales

The New South Wales Bar Association

United Muslim Women Association Inc

Uniting Care NSW/ACT

University of Canberra School of Law

University of Melbourne, Department of Criminology

University of New South Wales Faculty of Law

University of New South Wales Research Services

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University of Sydney Law School

Victoria Law Foundation

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Commissioner Andrew Scipione APM, NSW Police Service

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Ms Susan Winfield, Consumer Credit Legal Centre NSW (CCLC)

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