

Human Rights Law Centre

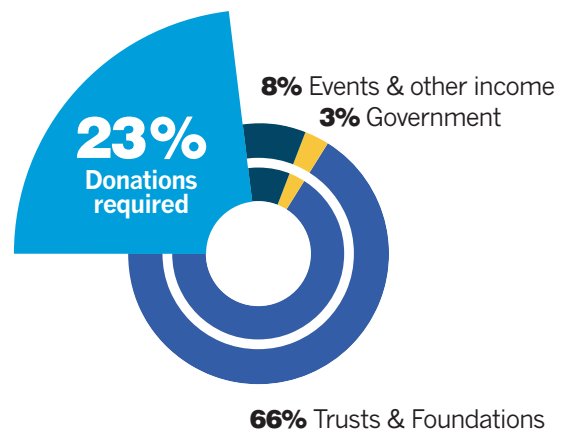
ANNUAL REPORT 15/16



10

YEARS
— of —
IMPACT

INDEPENDENT FUNDING IS VITAL TO *our* SUCCESS



Financial independence means we're free to advocate strongly for human rights. The vast majority of our funding comes from donations and trust and foundations. Your support is critical to our impact.

[See the inside back cover for information on how to donate.](#)



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Law Centre**

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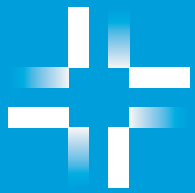
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Donate form (inside back cover)



Human Rights Law Centre

ANNUAL REPORT 15/16

The Human Rights Law Centre protects and promotes human rights in Australia and beyond. We strive for an Australia where human rights are universally understood, upheld, promoted and enforced – an Australia that is a strong and principled voice for human rights around the world. This year marks our ten year anniversary. In that time we have delivered justice for individuals and systemic change in a range of areas including for people seeking asylum and refugees; Indigenous peoples; prisoners; LGBTI people and women. We have held Australia to account when it has failed to uphold the fundamental human rights guaranteed to all people.

10

YEARS
— *of* —
IMPACT

CHAIRPERSON *and* EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



It's been 10 years since the Human Rights Law Centre was established and over the past decade, the HRLC's unique model combining legal action, advocacy, education, research and UN engagement has proven itself to be incredibly effective.

Whether it's establishing constitutional recognition of the right to vote, challenging the high-seas detention of people seeking asylum, generating the unprecedented Change the Record campaign to address Indigenous over-imprisonment or securing best-practice anti-discrimination protections for LGBTI Australians, the HRLC's impact has been profound. We're proud of what we've achieved with the support of our donors and partners.

In many ways our work over the past year fulfills the vision for the organisation when it was first established in 2006. From the #LetThemStay campaign, to safe access zones around abortion clinics, the Victorian apology for the criminalisation of homosexual conduct and working with Ms Dhu's family to stop deaths in custody, we have led nationally significant work that has delivered concrete improvements to individual lives and the broader human rights landscape.

Sadly, recent events have shown that the need for strong action to defend human rights is acute. From the US to Europe and Australia, we've seen a rise in populist causes that demonise the "other"; Muslims, refugees, people on welfare and more. These movements are synonymous with calls that discard long-established and hard-won human rights guarantees around discrimination, women's rights, arbitrary detention and even torture. It's an

agenda that feeds off feelings of exclusion and then promotes more exclusion.

Those of us who care about a fair, just, democratic and compassionate Australia need to respond and fight harder and smarter for the values we believe in.

Working alongside our extraordinary partners, donors and colleagues, we are confident that we can defend gains and secure advances. Your support, more than ever, is so vital in this. Thank you for standing with us and as always, as you read this report, know that our success is equally yours.

Finally, we want to recognise the tremendous contribution made by three individuals to the HRLC; Ben Schokman who left in June after 10 years, Rachel Ball, who is leaving in January after 8 years, and our outgoing Chairperson, Michael Kingston, who has served on the board since 2012 and as Chairperson since 2013. All three have been a critical part of the HRLC's success over the past decade.

Cathy Branson and Hugh de Kretser



Working in close partnerships with pro bono lawyers, we bring strategic legal action in the higher courts to secure justice for individuals and promote systemic change.



in the
COURTS





Justice for Ms Dhu's family

Ms Dhu, a 22 year old Aboriginal woman, tragically died in police custody in Western Australia three days after being locked up for unpaid fines. She should never have been locked up and she should never have been treated so inhumanely by police and medical staff who believed she was faking injuries she suffered in a domestic violence situation.

Western Australia has the highest Aboriginal imprisonment rates in Australia. Aboriginal women are the fastest-growing prisoner demographic in the country. Twenty-five years ago the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody provided a road map for reducing imprisonment rates including by stopping locking people up for unpaid fines.

The HRLC worked with the WA Aboriginal Legal Service and pro bono lawyers to support Ms Dhu's family in the coronial inquest into her death. The inquest provided a vital opportunity to expose the failures that contributed to her death and to push for reform to laws to stop people being needlessly locked up for unpaid fines, reducing the risk of future deaths in custody. We are awaiting the inquest findings.

Ensuring women can safely access reproductive health services

Our Supreme Court case, that sought to compel Melbourne City Council to stop the ongoing harassment and intimidation of women entering the East Melbourne Fertility Control Clinic, was a vital catalyst for legislative change.

While the case itself did not succeed, it helped to achieve the broader aim of safe access laws for abortion clinics across the state. The significant scrutiny,

media coverage and evidence we gathered generated critical momentum. We worked closely with women's rights groups to push Victorian MPs for safe access zone legislation.

Safe access zone legislation commenced operation on 2 May 2016. For the first time in two decades, patients and staff have been able to access the clinic without harassment and intimidation. On the first day of the new laws' operation, clinic psychologist, Dr Susie Allanson said, "Usually we have patients coming in who are crying, we may have partners who are angry, we might have children who are upset. Today has been delightfully uneventful."

Challenging offshore detention of people seeking asylum

For the last year over 300 vulnerable people at risk of deportation to Nauru and Manus Island have been living in Australia, including 40 babies born here, 60 other children and more than a dozen women sexually assaulted or harassed on Nauru.

In May 2015, on behalf of one of these families, we filed a High Court case challenging the legality of offshore detention. In response, the government rushed to try and deport people. We assembled a pro bono legal team and worked with support services across the country to file urgent cases for people at risk of removal. Working strategically and tirelessly with our partners, we have so far prevented the removal of over 320 people.

The lead High Court case was ultimately lost after the Parliament passed retrospective laws and the Nauru detention centre was opened on the eve of the hearing. But the legal cases enabled us to launch the highly effective #LetThemStay campaign.



@RuthHRLC

A privilege to spend the week with Ms Dhu's family, some of the strongest people I've ever met.

We also filed fresh cases that highlight the individualised risks of harm if people were returned to Nauru and Manus. These cases are ongoing.

Fighting for Baby Asha and the wife of Omid Masoumali

Two of the most emblematic cases showing the harm caused by our offshore processing regime are that of Baby Asha and Omid Masoumali.

Baby Asha was brought to Australia with her family from Nauru for medical treatment. The government said it would deport her back to Nauru once she received the treatment. We filed an urgent High Court case to prevent her return and working with partners, supported the inspiring campaign by medical staff and the community to ensure she could stay. The Government finally relented and Baby Asha and her family are now living in the Australian community, although the risk of removal remains.

In April, Omid Masoumali, an Iranian refugee held on Nauru for three years, set himself on fire in protest at his treatment. After inexcusable delay he was flown to Australia for urgent medical treatment with his partner. Tragically, Omid died from his injuries the next day.

Incredibly, Omid's distraught and grieving partner faced imminent deportation back to Nauru and constant pressure from the government to return to Iran, despite having been assessed as a refugee. The Minister for Immigration would not agree to provide

any notice of her removal. Again, we filed an urgent case in the High Court to prevent her sudden and secretive deportation.

Working with pro bono lawyers, we will continue to represent the family in the coronial inquest into Omid's death, which will examine the neglect and mistreatment which drove him to self-immolate and the inadequate medical care he then received.

Stopping police from locking up Aboriginal people for trivial offences

Kumanjaya Langdon was a respected Warlpiri elder from a large family. He died in a Darwin police cell after being locked up under the Northern Territory's unjust "paperless arrest" laws. His crime was drinking in a public place; an offence that carries a \$74 fine.

The laws purported to allow police to lock people up for up to four hours for trivial offences like offensive language or failing to keep your front yard clean. When the NT Attorney-General introduced them, he called them "a form of catch and release". Statistics showed that the laws were overwhelmingly being used by police against Aboriginal people.

Working with the North Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency, we formed a pro bono legal team to bring a High Court challenge against the laws. While the court didn't strike the laws down, its decision reined them in, placing important legal limits on their use. The new NT Labor Government has committed to repealing the laws. We will hold them accountable for this promise.

We hold Australia accountable to the
fundamental international human
rights standards it has promised to
comply with.



— *at the* —
**UNITED
NATIONS**



UN review of Australia's human rights record

The UN Human Rights Council's four-yearly Universal Periodic Review of Australia was an important opportunity to leverage scrutiny from UN member states to improve Australia's human rights record. In the lead up to the review, we worked with the National Association of Community Legal Centres to coordinate a coalition of around 200 NGOs to prepare detailed materials for UN member states documenting the lack of progress since the 2011 review, highlighting areas of concern and suggesting recommendations. We briefed member states in Australia and Geneva and engaged with the Australian Government to secure voluntary commitments on business and human rights, women's rights and removing a loophole in Federal discrimination laws that allowed states to discriminate against LGBTI people. The review provided new momentum towards Australia ratifying an important treaty to prevent torture and mistreatment in all places of detention in Australia and the government also

agreed to improve its transparency and accountability in engaging with UN human rights mechanisms.

At the review in November, 107 nations made 291 recommendations to Australia on a range of issues, with a strong focus on our cruel and illegal treatment of people seeking asylum and refugees. Throughout the year, we also made a number of statements to the UN Human Rights Council, particularly on refugee and Indigenous rights issues, helping to bring international pressure to bear on Australia for change.



@DanielHRLC

The stroke of a pen is all it would take for the Prime Minister to do the decent thing and let our clients stay. #LetThemStay





Promoting human rights in Australian foreign policy

What Australia says and does on the world stage matters. Australia's recent seat on the UN Security Council showed that it can strategically leverage its diplomatic power to advance human rights. Australia's candidacy for UN Human Rights Council membership in 2018 provides another opportunity to lead, but Australia will need to lift its game at home and abroad to be effective. This is the key message from our report *Australia at the Human Rights Council: Ready for a Leadership Role?* which reviews Australia's inconsistent and at times unprincipled approach to human rights internationally. The report, jointly produced with Human Rights Watch, calls on the Australian Government to demonstrate more leadership on global human rights at the UN and improve its record at home.

Improving the conduct of Australian businesses overseas

While Australian businesses operating in developing countries can contribute to economic growth, poverty alleviation and human development, they can also violate the rights of individuals and communities. Recognising and responding to businesses' influence and impact, particularly on vulnerable populations, is essential to the effective protection of human rights. In partnership with other NGOs, we have been calling on the Australian Government to develop a National Action Plan to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. In March, we secured a commitment from the government to undertake a national consultation on the plan. We are playing a leading role in coordinating Australian civil society engagement with the consultation with a view to ensuring that Australia takes concrete steps to improve the conduct of Australian business.



@LeeHRLC

The UN has an historic opportunity to protect #LGBT people from violence & discrimination worldwide #SOGIExpertNOW

First ever UN expert on sexual orientation & gender identity

In a historic vote, the United Nations Human Rights Council agreed to appoint an Independent Expert dedicated to protect lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans people from violence and discrimination worldwide. Working with advocates from around the world, we joined in a statement supported by 627 civil society organisations representing 151 countries to support the establishment of the new position. The LGBT rights specialist will have the power to document hate crime and human rights violations, build awareness of the impact of discrimination, recommend best practice laws and policies, and coordinate responses to violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. They will also receive complaints and conduct country visits and report back to the Council.

We partner with
organisations working on
the ground to advance
shared human rights goals.

in the
COMMUNITY

#LetThemStay



Safeguarding Australia's democracy

There is an unmistakable trend of Australian governments eroding some of the vital foundations of our democracy. Press freedom has gone backwards, secrecy has flourished, protest rights are being curtailed, whistleblowers who speak out in the public interest are aggressively pursued, NGO advocacy is stifled, the rule of law undermined and watchdog institutions like the Australian Human Rights Commission are being attacked.

In February, we released our ground-breaking report *Safeguarding Democracy*, with leaders from across Australian civil society joining the Canberra launch. The report documents the corrosive trend and outlines 38 recommendations to reverse it and strengthen our democracy. We continue to advocate for the implementation of the report's recommendations.

Ending companies' involvement in offshore processing abuses

The government relies on private contractors to operate its offshore detention centres. Corporate complicity remains one of the key pillars on which the offshore detention regime stands.

The HRLC campaigns to end corporate complicity in human rights abuses within Australia's immigration detention network. We have partnered with GetUp's No Business in Abuse campaign since its inception in early 2015, providing legal and strategic advice, drafting major reports and publications, generating domestic and international media coverage and leading advocacy at the OECD and the UN.

Our work has contributed to the global stigmatization of Australia's immigration detention industry and influenced the decision of all offshore contractors, including Ferrovial, not to re-tender once contracts expire in 2017.





#LetThemStay: strong, effective advocacy for people seeking asylum

We recognise that legal action can't happen in a vacuum – it is most powerful when combined with strategic advocacy. Building on our High Court challenge to offshore detention on behalf of people at risk of being deported to Nauru and Manus Island, we partnered with GetUp and the Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce to launch the #LetThemStay campaign. The campaign launched in February on the front pages of The Age and the Sydney Morning Herald, featuring photos of the babies we represent.

Our legal work had kept our clients here temporarily. The campaign aims to keep them here permanently. The public response was incredible. Doctors risked jail to speak out. Over 100 churches around Australia opened their doors to offer sanctuary to our clients. Teachers and school principals took a stand on behalf of their students at risk of being returned to Nauru. Premiers across the country spoke out and tens of thousands of people around Australia took to the streets to demand compassion. The #LetThemStay campaign quickly became one of the major news stories of the year and opinion polls showed a significant boost in support for our position.

In January, Immigration Minister Peter Dutton had publicly announced that our clients would be deported “within weeks”. Due to our legal work and #LetThemStay, they are still in Australia. All children and families have been released from detention and are rebuilding their lives in the Australian community.



@DanielHRLC

The legality is one thing. The morality is another. It is fundamentally wrong to condemn innocent people to a life in limbo. #LetThemStay

Advocating for LGBTI people seeking asylum

Ashkan and Nima met and fell in love after fleeing persecution and the risk of public execution in Iran because of their sexual orientation. We have been advocating for their immediate removal from Nauru where homosexual sex was, until recently, punishable with 14 years of hard labour and where gay people continue to face persecution. We alerted the UN Human Rights Council to the dangers faced by LGBTI asylum seekers sent by Australia to countries where LGBTI people are persecuted and partnered with international LGBTI rights organisation All Out, to campaign for the Ashkan and Nima to be brought to Australia.

Shining a spotlight on human rights violations on Manus Island

We continued to shine a light on the darkest corners of Australia's immigration detention network. Our Director of Legal Advocacy, Daniel Webb, has now visited Manus Island three times to inspect conditions, interview the men held there and advocate for change. In July last year, with Human Rights Watch, we released a report highlighting the incredibly poor conditions in detention and the lack of progress on resettlement. In June this year, we travelled to Manus with a photographer to document the human stories of the men warehoused there, which we then featured in our #BringThemHere campaign run with GetUp! and the Australian Churches Refugee Taskforce. The campaign has put a human face to harm being caused and amplified calls for humane policy alternatives.



Marriage equality

We continue to provide legal and advocacy support for the campaign for marriage equality. Our 2014 High Court case, where we successfully argued that the Australian Parliament has the power to legislate for marriage equality, was in the national spotlight in the plebiscite debate. We have continued to advocate for the Parliament to use that power and enable all couples the freedom to marry and joined with LGBTI organisations to oppose the plebiscite. At the same time, we partnered with LGBTI community organisations including Australians 4 Equality to take responsible steps to prepare for the possibility of a plebiscite. With the plebiscite now buried, we will continue to advocate until marriage equality is a reality.



@RuthHRLC

Shocking @4corners episode. There must be accountability for this ongoing cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment. #DonDale

on this issue and which launched a blueprint for change. We also convened a workshop of justice reinvestment programs from around the country – justice reinvestment is showing great promise in cutting crime and prison rates while strengthening communities and saving money.

Tackling the crisis of Indigenous over-imprisonment

The rapidly increasing over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples caught up in the criminal justice system is one of the most significant human rights issues in Australia. In the past 10 years we have seen an 88% increase in the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in prison, with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people now 13 times more likely to be imprisoned than non-Indigenous people. At the same time, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people – especially women and children – are increasingly experiencing violence with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women 34 times more likely to be hospitalised as a result of family violence.

We continue to support the Change the Record campaign, which we helped to establish, which has generated unprecedented national collaboration

Exposing the horrors of Don Dale

The failures of the Northern Territory's broken youth justice system are now well known following the Four Corners episode that captured national attention and sparked a Royal Commission. In the months leading up to the episode, we worked with lawyers and journalists in the Territory to expose the abuse, including by bringing freedom of information requests and sending an urgent request to the UN expert on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment to investigate. The Royal Commission now provides an unprecedented opportunity to reform youth justice systems, not just in the Territory but across Australia. We are engaging with the Commission and Australian governments to maximise this opportunity, including by advocating for the ratification and implementation of a vital international treaty that would see a system of independent inspections of places of detention to prevent abuse and mistreatment.

We engage with Ministers,
MPs and public servants to
advance human rights and
defend hard-won gains.

in
PARLIAMENT



Righting Historical Wrongs

Until 1981 in Victoria, gay men were convicted and even imprisoned for offences ranging from “buggery” and “loitering for homosexual purposes” to indecency and offensive behaviour offences. In some cases, individuals who would today be treated as victims of sexual abuse were charged with criminal offences.

We were proud to work with the Victorian Government to achieve a world first apology to victims of unjust laws that criminalised homosexual conduct. The apology, delivered by Premier Daniel Andrews, was a profound moment for Victoria and responded to a key recommendation of our 2014 *Righting Wrongs* report. We continue to advocate for the expungement of historical homosexual convictions for all Australians, with expungement now available in the ACT, NSW and Victoria. We are also supporting and advising on reforms planned in Queensland and Tasmania.

At the time of the apology we launched our Expungement Legal Service which provides free and confidential legal help to anyone affected by these laws and we continue to work towards expungement Australia-wide.

Legal, safe and accessible reproductive health services

Building on our success in Victoria in achieving laws to provide safe access to abortion clinics, we pushed to advance women’s reproductive health rights in NSW and Queensland. We visited the Albury clinic where women continue to be harassed and we are supporting efforts for law reform in NSW. We are also calling for the decriminalisation of abortion in Queensland as well as safe access laws.



A Human Rights Act for Queensland

When human rights are not protected in law, they are always in danger of being taken away, particularly from the most vulnerable. Human rights legislation in Victoria and the ACT has improved the protection of human rights. We pushed for improvements to the Victorian Charter through its 8 year review and also supported the campaign for a Human Rights Act in Queensland. In a welcome development, the Queensland Premier recently announced her government’s commitment to introduce a Human Rights Act based on the Victorian model.



Positive LGBTI rights law reform

We helped to achieve adoption equality for same sex couples in Victoria and strengthen relationship recognition. We are working with trans, intersex and gender diverse people to develop best practice birth certificate laws to ensure that everyone has access to the documentation they need to be treated with dignity and respect. We are also working with the families of trans young people, doctors and community organisations to advocate for reform to ensure trans young people have access to Stage 2 hormone treatment without the delay and cost of family court approval.



@HughdeKretser

Well done @AnnastaciaMP on Qld Human Rights Act commitment. Vic Charter has been good for Victorians & democracy.

Ending the death penalty, protecting whistleblowers and more

We welcomed an important parliamentary committee report which adopted recommendations from our 2015 joint report 'Australian Government and the Death Penalty: A Way Forward'. Our report outlines a blueprint for death penalty reform in Australia, including by recommending restrictions on Australian agencies sharing information with overseas counterparts that could lead to the death penalty.

We pushed for stronger protections for whistleblowers who expose government misconduct and we successfully advocated for a wind back of secrecy provisions in terror laws and highlighted other major flaws in terrorism legislation. We also advocated to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility for children from 10 to 12.



In the MEDIA —AMPLIFYING our ADVOCACY

The media coverage of our work and advocacy continues to strengthen and grow. This year over **1000 individual media interviews** resulted in more than **10,000 media appearances** in publications at home and overseas.



HUGH DE KRETZER

Cruel and costly: boats policy sinks to new nadir

THE AGE

JONATHAN HUNYOR, RUTH BARSON

Reining in the NT's paperless arrests is progress towards Indigenous liberty

THE GUARDIAN



HUGH DE KRETZER

Northern Territory detention royal commission shows Malcolm Turnbull can lead on human rights

THE CANBERRA TIMES

RUTH BARSON AND JULIAN CLEARY

We've been silent on injustice for too long

THE CANBERRA TIMES

ANNA BROWN

Same-sex Apology Draws a Line in the Sand

THE AGE

RACHEL BALL

For everyone's sake, Ferrovial must withdraw from Manus Island and Nauru detention contract

THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

HUGH DE KRETZER

NSW anti-protest laws are part of a corrosive national trend

THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

TWITTER FOLLOWERS:

28,700

In addition to securing quality mainstream media coverage, over the past ten years our growing social media network has broadened our advocacy to activate supporters and amplify our message in the community.

FACEBOOK SUPPORTERS:

12,114

We produce eleven editions a year of *Rights Agenda*, an email bulletin containing human rights news, opinions, alerts, and various resources that is distributed directly to around 5,000 subscribers and many more via social

WEBSITE VISITORS:

236,000

media and our website. The bulletin includes detailed case notes of recent local and international human rights judgments – which are then kept in our caselaw database with over 800 case notes freely available online.



RUTH BARSON

The youth justice system is a slippery slope of failure

THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

EMILY HOWIE, SUSIE ALLANSON

Safe access to abortion clinics must be guaranteed by law

THE AGE

RUTH BARSON

Australian prisons need to improve to measure up to the UN’s Mandela Rules

THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

RUTH BARSON

Holocaust remembrance teaches lessons for humanity

THE AGE

RUTH BARSON

Ms Dhu inquest: Western Australia must come to terms with some hard truths

THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD



EVENTS *and* SEMINARS

Our staff spoke at over 80 events Australia-wide attended by over 24,000 people. We also hosted and organised numerous events and seminars.



At our 10 Years of Impact Human Rights Dinner in Sydney journalist, Peter Greste, delivered a powerful keynote address on human rights and the state of democracy in Australia. In Melbourne, Stan Grant's speech on Indigenous recognition and human rights was inspirational. The two dinners are key events for the human rights community to come together to celebrate. They are also an important way we say thank you for the generous support we receive from donors and pro bono supporters. Together the dinners raised over \$90,000.

The Australian Human Rights Commission, the HRLC, the Law Society of Western Australia and Amnesty International Australia collaborated for a panel discussion about current Indigenous rights issues in Western Australia. The event, held in Perth included panel members Tammy Solonec, Indigenous Rights Manager, Amnesty International, Ben Schokman and Mick Gooda of the Australian Human Rights Commission.

At the 32nd session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, Rachel Ball moderated an event with Surya Deva from the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, the Global Detention Project's Michael Flynn, and Brynn O'Brien from No Business in Abuse. The event, 'Human rights, Business and Immigration Detention', explored the human rights responsibilities of companies that either provide or are linked to the detention of people seeking asylum and refugees.



We partnered with the Wheeler Centre and Women's Legal Service Victoria to present a panel discussion on policy responses to family violence. Alongside Rosie Batty and host Joanna Fletcher, Hugh de Kretser, Elizabeth Broderick and Kirstie Parker explored what a proper and nuanced response to the complex issue of family violence might entail.



Tim Costello, Chief Executive Officer, of World Vision joined Andrew Hudson – the Executive Director of Crisis Action and Emily Howie for the event, ‘Global ambitions, domestic pitfalls – can Australia lead on human rights?’. The panel discussion, facilitated by The Australian’s Rowan Callick, explored Australia’s foreign policy on human rights, including Australia’s bids for membership of the UN Human Rights Council and Security Council.



We collaborated with Community Legal Centres Queensland to host ‘Stifling democracy: global and local attacks on press freedom and protest rights’ – a conversation between Peter Greste and Emily Howie. The event, held in Brisbane, touched on journalism, politics and the importance of safeguarding our democracy.



Emily Howie joined with Human Rights Watch’s South Asia Director, Meenakshi Ganguly for a public conversation discussing some of the issues affecting the protection and promotion of human rights in South Asia.

After Daniel Webb and Human Rights Watch’s Elaine Pearson returned from their reporting trip to Manus Island, we hosted an event ‘Inside Australia’s Pacific Non-Solution’. The briefing and public discussion covered the current conditions facing refugees and asylum seekers on the remote island.



In April we collaborated with the Wheeler Centre to host an event with the Executive Director of Human Rights Watch. Emily Howie interviewed Ken Roth and explored how the politics of fear had affected global developments in recent years.



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 David Burke
 John Buxton-Rella
 Sophie Callan
 Elissa Campbell
 James Carty
 Megan Casey
 Andreas Cassinides
 Emily Christie
 Tom Clarke
 Deborah Cleland
 Jood Clough
 Laura Connor
 Kate Connors
 Helen Conostas
 Carmendy Cooper
 Katherine Cowen
 Faye Crossman
 Andrew Davies
 Mark Deasey
 Cath Debreceny
 Anna Dorevitch
 Sam Drummond
 Jan & Elvira Earthstar
 Jennifer Ejlak
 Audette Exel
 Joshua Fisher
 The Fogarty Family
 Rohan Foley
 Ruth Forrest
 Jonathan Gatward
 Alycia Gawthorne
 James Gibson
 Ian Gould
 Lois & Juris Greste



PRO BONO SUPPORT

Annie Grindrod
 Jen Grindrod
 Julie Hamblin
 Claire Harris
 Penny Harris
 Ashlea Hawkins
 Robert Hayes
 Sarah Heesom
 Mark Hollis
 Jenny Hooper
 Keran Howe
 John & Helen Howells
 Andrew Hudson
 Chris Humphreys
 Erica Jago
 Hanna Jaireth
 Rosalind James
 Kate Jeffery
 Sadhna Jithoo
 Lesley Johnson
 Catherine Jones
 Naomi Kefford
 Timothy Kelly
 Claire Kenna
 Adrian Kennedy
 Susie Kennett &
 Rick Friedman
 Leslie Kilmartin
 Kristine Klugman
 Stuart Knibbs
 Jeanette Lawrence
 Kerin Leonard
 Vanessa Leslie
 Danny Libson
 Kay Libson
 Isabelle Limerick
 Jan Loh
 Samantha Lovrich
 Andrew Lynch
 Judith Lynch
 Kathleen MacDermott
 Phillipa MacDonald
 Marita MacMahon Ball
 Rosemary Mann
 Antonia Marran
 Jane Matthews
 Maureen McDonald
 Lyndal McIlwaine
 Dean Mighell
 Kathryn Miller
 Rowan Minson
 Nick Moraitis
 Martha Morrison

Sally Moseby
 Richard Moshinsky
 Richard Naughton
 Bronwyn Naylor
 Mary Nicholson
 Janice Nugent
 Jonathan Pangu
 Leana Papaalia
 Mark Pegg
 Sue Pennicuik
 Georgina Perry
 Gabrielle Pitt
 Juanita Pope
 Muriel Porter
 Jack Post
 Chris Povey
 Mark Ravech
 Janet Rice
 Jenn Roberts
 Joanne Rolfe
 Arthur Rosenwald
 Linda Ryle
 Mike Salvaris
 Edward Santow
 Arun Saravanamuthu
 Satcunam
 Saravanamuthu
 Ronnie Sayag
 Chris Sayers
 Perambalam Senthooan
 Rochelle, Stephen, Jack
 & Harry Serry/Edwards
 Fergus Shiel
 Paul Sinclair
 Gail Siracusa
 Diane Sisely
 Joe Slaven
 Marius Smith
 Robert Stary
 Sally Stockbridge
 Jennifer Strauss
 Deborah Sykes
 Evelyn Tadros
 Jeanne Taylor
 John Tobin
 Caroline Vains
 Saskia Vaneveld
 Alison Vivian
 Simon Wail
 Stephen Warne
 Georgina Webster
 Neil Webster
 Alan Yang

Pro bono support from leading law firms and barristers is crucial to our impact. Law firms we worked with over the year provided over 10,000 hours of pro bono legal work to support the HRLC including undertaking legal action, research, writing case notes and seconding lawyers to us. The value of this work was over \$4.4 million. Barristers at the Victorian and NSW bars provided substantial additional pro bono support.

Major law firm pro bono supporters in 2015/16

Allens	Gilbert + Tobin	Maddocks
Ashurst	Hall & Wilcox	Maurice Blackburn
Arnold Bloch Liebler	Henry Davis York	McCullough Robertson
Baker & McKenzie	Herbert Smith Freehills	SBA Lawyers
Banki Haddock Fiora	King & Wood	Slater & Gordon
Colin Biggers & Paisley	Mallesons	Stacks Goudkamp
DLA Piper	Lander & Rogers	

Pro bono barrister support in 2015/16

Matt Albert	Adam Hochroth	Ian Neil
Emma Bathurst	Christopher Horan QC	Emrys Nekvapil
Fiona Batten	David Hughes	Alistair Pound
Olaf Ciolek	David Hume	Jonathon Redwood
Albert Dinelli	Amy Knox	Christopher Tran
Stephen Donaghue QC	Craig Lenehan	Brenda Tronson
Kylie Evans	Brendan Lim	Danielle Tucker
Sarala Fitzgerald	Rachel Mansted	Bret Walker SC
Kathleen Foley	Adam McBeth	Kristen Walker QC
Fiona Forsyth	Therese McCarthy	Brian Walters QC
Dr Ben Gauntlett	Ron Merkel QC	Julia Watson
Tim Goodwin	Travis Mitchell	Peter Willis SC
Peter Hanks QC	Mark Moshinsky QC	
Claire Harris	(now Justice Moshinsky)	
Perry Herzfeld		

In kind support

Thank you to the many other friends, family and organisations who provided in kind support for our Human Rights Dinners – donating auction items, agreeing to be auctioned, hosting events and much more.

RECOGNITION



Tim McCoy Award

Our Director of Advocacy and Litigation, Anna Brown, won the Tim McCoy Award in 2015. Tim McCoy (1956-1987) was a much-loved worker in Community Legal Centres who was a tireless advocate for CLCs. Anna won the Award for her outstanding work to promote and protect the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people in Victoria, Australia and worldwide. From the successful bid to erase unjust historical criminal records for homosexual conduct to the fight for legal recognition of gender diversity, Anna has been involved in almost every advance in LGBTI rights in recent years.

Anna was also one of the State finalists for Australian of the Year for 2016. The Australian of the Year awards celebrate the achievement and contribution of eminent Australians.



2016 Philanthropy Awards – Best Small Grant of the Year Award

Australian Communities Foundation won the Philanthropy Australia 2016 Best Small Grant of the Year Award for its Refugee and Asylum Seeker Giving Circle. The Giving Circle was recognised for the critical role it played in the establishment of the HRLC's Asylum Seeker and Refugee Rights Unit. This support has helped the HRLC to undertake legal action to defend the rights of people seeking asylum and refugees and build a prominent and credible voice exposing the inhumane conditions in Australia's offshore detention centres and advocating for change.



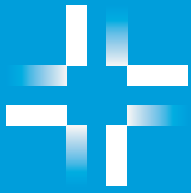
@AnnaHRLC

Very honoured to receive the Tim McCoy award last night. A wonderful night to connect & celebrate with the community law movement.

FINANCIALS

THIS IS AN EXTRACT OF THE HRLC'S AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016.
FOR A FULL VERSION VISIT WWW.HRLC.ORG.AU

	2016	2015
Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income for the Year ended 30 June 2016		
INCOME	\$	\$
Indigenous Rights Unit (Including: Australian Communities Foundation; The Caledonia Foundation; The Funding Network donors; Jon Webster; Perpetual Trustees; Rae and Peter Gunn Family Foundation; Reichstein Foundation; Ron Merkel and Beth Charles; The Shulu Foundation; The Trawalla Foundation; Vicki Standish Family Foundation; Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation)	305,580	111,390
Asylum Seeker & Refugee Rights Unit (Including: Andrew Sisson; Australian Communities Foundation; Fair World Foundation; Grenet Foundation; Guy Campbell; Planet Wheeler Foundation)	233,196	67,083
LGBTI Rights Unit (Including: Dennis Altman; Equity Trustees - Eric Ormond Baker Charitable Fund; Gary Singer; Henry Davis York; The Myer Foundation; La Trobe University; Leonard Vary and Matt Collins; Terry Kennedy; The United States Embassy Canberra)	73,754	-
The Myer Foundation	85,000	62,834
Victorian Department of Justice and Regulation	54,998	52,464
Equity Trustees - Phyllis Connor Trust	87,000	49,000
Victorian Legal Services Board	26,735	34,997
Safeguarding Democracy Project (Reichstein Foundation, The Myer Foundation, Graeme Wood Foundation)	-	27,328
Other Grant Income	47,586	24,744
Individual Donations	307,101	223,553
Corporate Donations	142,391	64,567
Interest	14,371	9,704
Event Registrations	7,618	3,980
Human Rights Dinners	190,998	96,012
Other Income	20,313	28,584
Total Income	1,596,641	856,240
EXPENDITURE		
Occupancy expenses	35,982	31,163
Operational and administration expenses	370,126	173,877
Employee benefits	987,859	730,005
Total Expenditure	1,393,967	935,045
Total Comprehensive Income	202,674	-78,805
Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2016		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,786,481	611,866
Trade and other receivables	121,338	60,750
Total current assets	1,907,819	672,616
Total assets	1,907,819	672,616
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Trade and other payables	75,638	36,603
Provisions	113,722	51,843
Grants received in advance	1,215,595	279,839
Total current liabilities	1,404,955	368,285
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Provisions	27,869	32,010
Total non-current liabilities	27,869	32,010
Total Liabilities	1,432,824	400,295
Net Assets	474,995	272,321
EQUITY		
Retained earnings	474,995	272,321
TOTAL EQUITY	474,995	272,321



the HRLC TEAM

Our staff

Hugh de Kretser
Executive Director

Rachel Ball
Director of Advocacy

Emily Howie
Director of Advocacy and Research

Ben Schokman
Director of Advocacy (to June 2016)

Ruth Barson
Director of Legal Advocacy

Daniel Webb
Director of Legal Advocacy

Anna Brown
Director of Advocacy and Litigation

Tom Clarke
Director of Communication

Michelle Bennett
Director of Communication

Rachael Hambleton
Fundraising Coordinator

Anna Fordyce
Operations Coordinator

Amy Frew
Lawyer

Laura Wilson
Lawyer (to October 2016)

Lee Garnie
Lawyer

Alina Leikin
Lawyer

Adrienne Walters
Senior Lawyer

Kara Connolly
Paralegal & Events

Esther Faine-Vallantin
Administrator

Seconded lawyers in 2015/16

Amy Frew
Community Legal Centre
Graduate Lawyer Scheme

Volunteers & interns in 2015/16

Louis Andrews

Lisa Button

Daisy-May Carty Cowling

Lauren Caulfield

Patrick Coleridge

Kara Connolly

Emily Dixon

Krista Eleftheriou

Madeleine Forster

Asher Hirsch

Kevin Jackman

Isaac Johanson

Tenieka Love

Kelsey Montgomery

Beatrice Paull

Roselina Press

Bianca Sealey

Maree Lucky Skalistis

Board

Michael Kingston (Chair),
Solicitor (to 1 December 2016)

Cathy Branson, (Chair from 1
December 2016), Former President
of the Australian Human Rights
Commission

Ilan Atlas, Non-executive director

Carolyn Creswell,
Founder & Managing Director,
Carman's Fine Foods

Jamie Gardiner,
Vice-President, Liberty Victoria

Melanie Schleiger, Manager,
Equality Law, Victoria Legal Aid

Fiona McLeay, CEO, Justice Connect

Jon Webster, Partner, Allens

Advisory Committee

Chris Sidoti, International
human rights consultant and
former Australian Human Rights
Commissioner

Daniel Creasey, Special Counsel,
Colin Biggers & Paisley

Vanessa Lesnie, Human Rights
Consultant

Dr John Tobin, Professor, University
of Melbourne Law School

Ambassadors' Circle

Damian & Sandy Abrahams

Dennis Altman

Julie Ligeti

Verity Quinn

Jonathon Redwood

Leon Zwier

DONATE

Invest in principled human rights leadership. Invest in the Human Rights Law Centre.

The quality, volume and impact of the Human Rights Law Centre's work is only possible because of our partnerships with people like you who understand the importance of principled human rights leadership.

Donations to the Human Rights Law Centre have been ranked in the Top 50 Philanthropic Gifts ever made in Australia, recognising the incredible impact we've had on Australia's human rights landscape.

All donations of \$2 or more are fully tax-deductible.



**Human Rights
Law Centre**

ABN: 31 117 719 267

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461 Bourke St
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SYDNEY
Level 5
175 Liverpool St
Sydney
NSW 2000
Australia

Fax: (03) 8636 4455

Email: hugh.dekretser@hrlc.org.au

I want to support the work of the Human Rights Law Centre

- I would like to make a one-off donation
- I would like to make a recurring donation
- \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500
- \$1,000 \$2,500 \$5,000 \$10,000
- Other

Personal Information (*required information)

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Last Name* _____

Email Address* _____

Postal Address _____

- I wish to remain anonymous

Phone Number () _____

Credit Card Information

Name on Card* _____

Card Type* _____

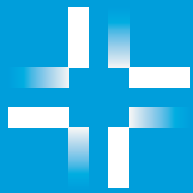
Card Number* _____

Card Expiry* CCV Number* _____

Amount \$* _____

Donations of \$2 or more are fully tax-deductible

Alternatively, you can make your donation by cheque. Just send it to the address to the left with details of who to make the invoice out to along with a return address.



in the COURTS

- Our High Court cases helped to stop the government from deporting over 300 vulnerable people to serious risks of harm on Nauru and Manus Island.
- Our urgent legal action prevented the deportation of Baby Asha and her family to Nauru.
- Our legal action and advocacy helped to secure Victorian laws that stopped the harassment and intimidation of women accessing reproductive health services.
- We supported the family of Ms Dhu, who tragically died in police custody, to push for accountability and reforms to stop Aboriginal people being locked up for unpaid fines.
- Our High Court case reined in unjust 'paperless arrest' laws that allowed police to lock up predominantly Aboriginal people for trivial offences and resulted in a death in custody.

in the COMMUNITY

- We prompted and helped to coordinate the highly successful Let Them Stay campaign that helped to ensure over 300 vulnerable people were not sent back to Nauru and Manus.
- We visited Manus Island and documented the inhumane conditions and the stories of the men Australia has sent there.
- We led advocacy for Ashkan and Nima, highlighting the plight of gay men Australia has sent to Nauru where they face persecution.
- We launched our Safeguarding Democracy report highlighting the erosion of many of the foundations of Australian democracy and outlining a roadmap for reform.
- We provided legal and advocacy support for the campaign for marriage equality.
- We advocated for reforms to address the crisis of Indigenous over-imprisonment and helped to expose the abuse being perpetrated in the Northern Territory's youth justice system.

at the UNITED NATIONS

- We coordinated a coalition of nearly 200 organisations to inform the UN Human Rights Council's 4-yearly review of Australia's human rights record.
- We launched a report reviewing the human rights impact of Australia's foreign policy and calling for more consistent, principled leadership.
- We secured a commitment from government to consult with civil society on an Australian action plan on business and human rights to implement the UN Guiding Principles.
- We supported the push to establish the first ever UN LGBTI rights expert.

in PARLIAMENT

- We helped to secure a historic and moving apology from the Victorian Government for the criminalisation of homosexuality.
- Building on success in Victoria and NSW, we secured a scheme to erase historic criminal records for homosexuality in the ACT and a commitment to introduce one in Queensland.
- We helped to secure adoption equality law reform in Victoria for LGBTI couples.
- We played an important role in securing a commitment from the Queensland Government to introduce a Human Rights Act.
- We pushed for safe access zone laws and the decriminalisation of abortion in NSW and Queensland.
- We successfully advocated for the adoption of key recommendations on death penalty reform in an important Parliamentary report.