

FAIRER
AND
BETTER
LIVES

Annual Report 2016–17



Life's problems have legal solutions. We connect people and community organisations who are locked out of the justice system, or are lost in it, with the help they need.





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Acknowledgement of country

Justice Connect acknowledges the Aboriginal people of the many traditional lands and language groups of Australia. It acknowledges the wisdom of Aboriginal Elders both past and present and pays respect to Aboriginal communities of today.

25 years of access to justice

When I was in high school, history was my favourite subject. I was fascinated by how the actions of people in the past could have an impact far into the future. As Justice Connect prepares to celebrate its 25th birthday, I've been thinking again about history and how it shapes the future.



Fiona McLeay, CEO

Almost 25 years ago, a small group of passionate and creative lawyers saw an opportunity to advance the public interest by engaging more lawyers in pro bono work. They established Australia's first pro bono clearing house (PILCH) in New South Wales. Two years later, a group of law firms and public interest lawyers adapted the model for Victoria. From humble beginnings, the vision of those founders has helped build a thriving pro bono culture among Australian lawyers today. The fledgling PILCHs have become Justice Connect, which plays a leading role in harnessing that commitment to the cause of justice. This financial year, that has translated into over 30,000 hours of pro bono work; help provided to 6,882 requests from people and community organisations, as well as 80 submissions, working groups and collaborative projects to challenge and change unfair laws.

But we're not content to rest easy. Over the last 12 months, we've undertaken a detailed review of our strategy, to identify what's been working well and what we'd like to do better. We identified partnerships, outreach to find clients, and learning and evaluation as being key elements of what makes our work impactful. We've also decided that we want to increase our focus on innovation in program design, advocacy and law reform, and staff and volunteer support. We will be making some changes to support our new strategy, including appointing our first ever head of advocacy in 2018.

Late last year, we commenced an ambitious digital innovation strategy, which centres on the development of our online tool: the Legal Help Gateway. With initial funding from Google via its Impact Challenge, the Gateway will provide a technology-driven, efficient tool for matching people's unmet legal needs to pro bono lawyers with relevant expertise and to our digital self-help tools. It will increase access to legal help and increase pro bono opportunities for lawyers, as well as improving our own efficiency. We're very excited about the potential of the Gateway as it develops over the next several years.

Over the last financial year, we received funding from the NSW government for our first health justice partnership in NSW. We also supported the establishment of Health Justice Australia, which will work to achieve better health and justice outcomes for vulnerable communities, through

effective integrated legal and health service delivery.

Since its establishment, Justice Connect has been a paramount example of the notion that the sum is greater than its parts. We enjoy strong partnerships and support from a diverse range of people and organisations, all of whom are crucial to the impact we can have for vulnerable people.

Finally, our success is underpinned by the extraordinary staff of Justice Connect, the volunteers (including practical legal training graduates and law students), and law firm secondees, whose passion for justice provides the energy on which Justice Connect runs. The legacy of our founders is lived out each day in the work of our team and the support of our many partners, for which I say thank you.

At Justice Connect we are committed to putting the people we help at the centre of what we do - people lost in the justice system, or locked out of it.



Justice Connect, 2016-17 in brief

How many people asked for help?

Help provided to 6,882 requests from people and community organisations



How did we help?

We helped 2,475 people and groups (1,987 people and 488 community organisations) with legal assistance:

- 1696 pieces of advice to 1476 people and community organisations  **36%**
- 929 Referrals to pro bono lawyers  **21%**
- 511 new legal casework files opened  **25%**
 - 12% Koori clients

Social work support through Homeless Law Program

- 199 people assisted  **26%**
- 1,872 hours spent assisting clients by in-house social workers

1,026

We trained 1,026 individuals and 2,435 people from community organisations

Legal information

- In person or by phone - **609 individuals** and **1097 community organisations**
- Online 310,354 unique page views  **31%**

1,225

We also trained 1,225 legal professionals

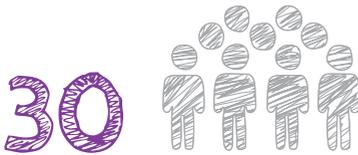
How did we challenge and change unfair laws?



20 submissions to government decision makers



29 working groups, advisory groups and committees



30 collaborative projects with a range of organisations, peak bodies and research institutions



over 100 meetings with decision makers and other influencers

Each year, Justice Connect conducts an audit of our impact, with a zero to six rating, six being a very high, positive impact on the client's life.

2017 results

Average impact 5.3



46% of stories rated 6/6



65% of case stories reported outcomes that were only possible with Justice Connect's help

	FY17	FY16	FY15
Average impact rating out of 6	5.3	5.2	4.6
% of stories rated 6/6	46%	45%	29%
% of stories that reported outcomes that were only possible through the program's assistance	65%	65%	53%



The way I've thought of my whole situation is like Justice Connect coming in with big open wings. You feel like you're down and then someone comes in, scoops you up to protect you.

121

We prevented 121 people and their families being evicted into homelessness

Maggie's story

Maggie came to our Women's Homelessness Prevention Project in 2016, seeking help because she was facing eviction. Today, she is safely housed and studying. Her daughter is in year 12, after Maggie kept her in school through multiple periods of homelessness. This is her story, in her own words.

In 2010 I left a violent relationship of 23 years. I just had enough money for a one way ticket for my daughter Emily and me to fly to Melbourne and \$68 for a taxi to the hostel.

So I landed here with nothing. It was hard just trying to cope in a new environment with Emily who was only 11.

We were in the hostel for about two months, until we moved into transitional housing in 2012. Since then, my daughter and I have been homeless another three times, because of domestic violence.

Throughout all this, if I'd known about Justice Connect and the supportive service it provides, I honestly feel, my bouts of homelessness would have been significantly reduced.

When you're not in the right frame of mind, you let the system beat you; you become resigned to the idea, 'this is what happens, you get a notice to vacate and you have to go', not even knowing there's a service or a support out there.

It's like Justice Connect came in with big open wings. You feel like you're down and then someone comes in scoops you up to protect you.

The wonderful lawyers made me feel safe at VCAT. I felt less vulnerable in this crisis.

Having wonderful support workers like Rachelle is a vital lifeline to people in my circumstances. She orchestrated all the things that can slip your mind when you're buried down in life itself.

The goal for all of us – for most women – is just to have a normal home, but getting there is a struggle if you've been evicted. That's why support workers are so crucial.

From my experience with Justice Connect, I feel much lighter.

My new house is like a mansion, it's glorious, it's beautiful. I feel proud that I can provide a place for Emily and she doesn't feel embarrassed now. She can bring friends round. And I can ask friends up to have a cuppa with me.

The only thing that kept me sane and focussed was Emily's education. Throughout all the disruption Emily has a scholarship too.

In 2015 I started university. This year I finish my degree in crime, justice and legal studies and Emily will finish year 12.

One thing I say to Emily is, throughout your life people can put you down, but your education is the one thing people can't take away. It's your sense of self-worth and power.

A warm welcome

“Welcome” is a word that appears a lot around Eltham, a not-quite-country town that has, despite the continuing sprawl of Melbourne’s suburbs, retained a eucalypt-scented sense of community. Nestled in the hills, it certainly feels like a welcoming place.



Nina and Gillian from Welcome to Eltham

The help we received from Justice Connect has given us the confidence to go out and receive donations and grow the size of our group.

So when 60 centrally located, derelict units became available, they were ideal accommodation for Syrian and other refugees. Nina Kelabora saw an opportunity for the Eltham community to do its thing, and with a small group of friends she started Welcome to Eltham, a local community group focused on giving these new neighbours a warm welcome.

Starting with only a Facebook page and good intentions, Welcome to Eltham soon found itself in the middle of a larger story. Visitors emerged from around the state to protest the settlement of refugees in the suburban enclave. Counter protests emerged, and all of a sudden headlines like ‘The Battle of Eltham’ were appearing.

True to their name, Welcome to Eltham worked to ensure that no matter what, Eltham’s newest residents would feel at home, bringing together the local community to tie 8,000 ‘welcome butterflies’ at the protest site, each representing a person who had pledged that refugees were welcome in Eltham.

All this attention meant that Welcome to Eltham was suddenly grappling with problems that Nina and Gillian, the 'President' ("they made me become President because the law said we had to have one"), never anticipated. Their membership swelled to over 8,000 people, and suddenly there were questions of incorporation, fundraising and structure; questions nobody felt equipped to answer.

"It started off as just a little group of us and then went absolutely ballistic!" said Nina.

Gillian adds: "Suddenly we saw all this money coming in and we thought "oh goodness"! We knew by that stage that there were rules around fundraising and that we had to apply for permission to raise that much money".

Fortunately, a simple google search sent Welcome to Eltham on a path to meet with Justice Connect.

"We could skill up Welcome to Eltham, while giving them confidence in knowing where to go if they had more questions. We then provided tailored legal advice to Welcome to Eltham on incorporation, volunteers and fundraising." said Jacob Wood from the not-for-profit Law team.

"It was fantastic to be able to assist such a passionate group, knowing that helping them would in turn help the local community".

"The legal framework for community groups can be so difficult to navigate. Thousands of groups have been in the same position - wanting to make a difference in their community, but facing a multitude of legal requirements." said Anna Lyons, manager of advice with Not-for-profit Law.

"The help we received from Justice Connect has given us the confidence to go out and receive donations and grow the size of our group. We have 8,500 followers on our Facebook page and a mailing list of a similar size – a whole community who are behind us. If it weren't for Not-for-profit Law, I'd probably still be googling 'how to incorporate', because we sure couldn't afford a lawyer," said Nina.

The Not-for-profit Law team provided community organisations with 4,020 instances of advice, training and information. Nearly 300,000 people accessed our online services.





Madeleine and Nigel,
Scarlet's parents

This year, the Stage 2 Access project helped 46 families access the Family Court. Before this year, we had helped eight.

Scarlet's story

Being a teenager is hard work at the best of times. Imagine going through all of those challenges while living in the 'wrong' body, all the normal self-image issues facing adolescents amplified.

For young people like Scarlet, this is their reality. There are thousands of trans and gender-diverse young people in Australia, kids who have known since childhood that the body they were born into meant they were assigned a gender they never belonged to.

"Things are often harder for me than for my friends," said Scarlet.

"Going out, or getting a job is quite daunting. To be around other people in clothes I'm probably not even really going to feel comfortable in for several hours a day – other kids don't need to think about it. I think that that's something that a lot of these stories don't really focus on, like, jobs and stuff, feeling safe at work."

For those who wish to transition to their chosen gender, there are two stages of treatment; stage 1 and stage 2 hormone treatment. Stage 1 involves 'puberty blockers' which prevent the onset of adulthood, such as boys' breaking voices and breast development in girls. Stage 2 is the application of 'cross-sex hormones' – oestrogen or testosterone – which encourage the body to develop traits characteristic of the new gender.

Unfortunately, due to the Family Law Act, people like Scarlet must seek the court's approval to access stage 2 treatment, even when everyone agrees that it's right.

"The stress as a parent is kind of a loss of control. The idea of going to court was a very confronting one. The choice is taken out of your hands, so imagine how that feels for a child going through this, for whom it's their own life and identity that is being literally put on trial," said Madeleine, Scarlet's mum.

"Through this whole process what we care most about is quality of life for our child. I think that's what every parent wants," said Scarlet's dad, Nigel.

Seeing more and more families trying to deal with an unnecessarily stressful process, Justice Connect launched the Stage 2 Access project. By matching families with experienced pro bono lawyers, and working with the Family Court to streamline proceedings, we hope to take the trauma out of accessing necessary treatment.

Since the launch, we have seen a doubling in the number of people coming to us for help, as more families learn of the project.

"Working with Justice Connect has been fantastic. Right from the first phone call that I made to contact you we were just treated with a lot of respect and dignity. And that's something I care about a lot for all of us," said Madeleine.

Better lives through better partnerships

One of the big, ongoing challenges facing Justice Connect is public understanding of just how much help a lawyer can be. When someone has a problem like homelessness, or debt, or a violent family member, they probably don't think their problem is a legal one. The problem is "I have no money, no house and no one to care for me" or "I'm scared to go home, but I also don't want to go into care".



Faith and Jess

Life's problems often have a legal solution. That was the thinking behind setting up our Health Justice Partnerships – a new way of helping older people dealing with elder abuse, established by our Seniors Law team.

And it is the partnership that is central to our success. By stationing one of our lawyers in a healthcare setting, healthcare workers can be trained to spot the signs of elder abuse, and our lawyers can be there, on-site, to help people as and when they need it.

One such partnership is our collaboration with cohealth, personified by the work of Jess Eastwood and Faith Hawthorne. Jess, a dietician at cohealth, has worked closely with Faith, a Justice Connect lawyer who works out of the various cohealth locations around Melbourne.

"Faith is a worker in a health centre. She's a health worker...she's one of us," said Jess.

"When you have to go outside the organisation you feel you have to explain yourself – or know a little bit more about what you're talking about – and sometimes you don't have a clue where to begin.



"The closeness of the working relationship, the ability to pick up the phone and have an open and frank conversation happen because we are working together, in the same organisation. When you are having to work with a third party...it is a little more distant," she said.

"Clients have a relationship with the workers and with Faith. We can introduce her as someone who works with us. Not just a referral to a legal service. I think it is fantastic that she is here with us. Sometimes I just call her to sound her out," Jess said.

"Elder abuse is the hidden face of family violence. In just two years, we've seen hundreds of people through our partnership with cohealth, and we're making a real difference in their lives," Faith said.

"Working with Jess, and working with cohealth, has just made it so much easier to be there to help older people who are at risk."

Justice Connect now operates Health Justice Partnerships in Melbourne and Sydney, with cohealth, St Vincent's Hospital, and the Alfred Hospital.

This year, our Health Justice Partnerships:

provided

545

instances of legal help

provided

169

attendees with Community Legal Education

provided

238

attendees with personal development sessions for healthcare professionals

Co-designing a bold vision for a digital future

After 25 years of helping people access justice, Justice Connect is working to scale its impact. Millions of Australians have legal problems each year and do not access help. Justice Connect and its network of pro bono lawyers want to do more to assist.

14

co-design sessions

228

survey responses

756

756 post-it notes

13

help seekers' input

When a service model like ours involves people helping people, traditionally, 'scaling' involves finding *more* people to do the helping. This means more staff at Justice Connect processing requests for assistance and placement with lawyers. With funding for legal services scarce, this is difficult and costly.

So over the last year, we have been looking at different strategies to make the most of our fantastic people – Justice Connect's staff and network of pro bono lawyers – so that their work can have the biggest impact. In particular, we've been looking to digital innovation strategies.

In late 2016, we were a finalist in the Google Impact Challenge, proposing an online 'Legal Help Gateway', a platform to assist Justice Connect in efficiently matching people and organisations with the lawyers who can help them, as well as self-help resources and links to other agencies.

We received \$250,000 in seed funding from Google.org to start work on our idea. We've started down a path of transformation – toward doing things differently to reach more people, in more ways, and in more places.

Our bold vision is that Justice Connect will be accessible for people needing help, for workers that want to find the right help for their clients, and for organisations that need help for themselves. We will have guided online entry points that make understanding our services and whether we can help clear and easy. Applying for the help of a lawyer will be quick and transparent. We will have self-help tools to build people's understanding of their issue, and where they sit in a complicated system. These tools will free up our time so we can provide intensive support to vulnerable clients.

Technology will help us leverage pro bono too. With better systems tracking availability and interest within our pro bono network, we can allocate matters efficiently and help more lawyers contribute pro bono work more easily.

In 2017, we've started 'co-designing' our Gateway by involving all its future users in our design process. We've held 14 workshops, involving clients, community legal centres, courts,

We conducted 14 co-design sessions with stakeholders ranging from our pro bono lawyers to the people we all work to help.

Legal Aid Commissions, regulators, social services organisations, law firms, barristers and our staff. They have helped us understand people's needs and frustrations, and the best opportunities to add value to Justice Connect's work using technology.

We're excited about our digital future, about all the extra people and organisations we'll reach, all the time we'll free up for our staff, and all the extra hours of pro bono that we'll unlock to scale the number of people we can help. This way, we ensure we have the capacity to provide intensive support to people when they're most vulnerable.





222

We connected
people with 222
barristers

“I have found the work I did
with Justice Connect to be the
most impactful both on my
development as a practitioner
and for the client.”

- pro bono lawyer

30,000+
pro bono hours
unlocked

295k

visits to our
Not-for-profit Law
information hub



121

We prevented 121 people and their families being evicted into homelessness

929

we connected people with free, pro bono legal help 929 times

"Absolutely brilliant service from everybody we have had to deal with. A very distressing matter has turned into a very positive matter, thanks. We will always be grateful." - Justice Connect client

Challenging and changing unfair laws



"There is still time for Melbourne to reclaim its role as a leader in well-thought-out, compassionate and effective responses to homelessness."

‘Melbourne, don’t criminalise homelessness’

As many of us were easing ourselves into the New Year this January, the media began to explode with stories about people sleeping rough outside Flinders Street Station.

There was relentless negative media coverage, including the depressingly titled front page article ‘Grand Slum’, referring to the Australian Open and to people sleeping rough.

Melbourne’s Lord Mayor was initially strong in his position, saying he had seen cities around the world that bundled homeless people up and shipped them out, and that this wasn’t the kind of city Melbourne wanted to be.

Disappointingly, after further media pressure, his position changed and it was announced that the council was proposing tougher local laws to respond to rough sleeping in Melbourne. The proposed changes broaden the existing ban on camping (and camping isn’t defined, so would include sleeping with a sleeping bag or blanket) and create a new ban on leaving items unattended. People can be fined \$250 or charged for either of these offences. People’s unattended items can also be confiscated; and they have to pay a fee to get them back.

“Homeless Law knew we had to act quickly”, said Lucy Adams, manager of the Homeless Law team. “We see every

day the harsh and ineffective impact of using fines, charges and move-on powers to tackle homelessness and we don’t want to see our city go down this path”.

“Informed by the evidence from our work and the insights of our clients, we worked with our partners across the legal, housing, homelessness and faith-based sectors to try to prevent Melbourne going down a path that is doomed to fail”.

The United Nations have raised human rights concerns twice, and over 84% of the 2500 people and organisations that contributed to the council’s consultation oppose the proposed changes. Justice Connect and the homeless service sector knew that they had to speak up, so a coalition of 54 leading organisations presented the council with a framework for responding effectively to homelessness in Melbourne.

“We wanted to highlight the risks of these laws, but we also wanted to give council constructive solutions and assure them that there is another, better way forward”, Lucy said.

In a welcome development, the decision on the proposed laws, initially due in May, has been adjourned twice for further consideration of the evidence.

“There is still time for Melbourne to reclaim its role as a leader in well-thought-out, compassionate and effective responses to homelessness”, Lucy said. “And we urge them to take this path”.

‘How much longer do we need to wait?’

‘It’s all a bit ridiculous. Imagine if businesses had to put up with this kind of thing!’

Sue Woodward, director of our Not-for-profit Law team, has many passions, but a consistent, modern, and fair regulatory framework for charities and community groups would have to be near the top of the list. Sue has been the engine behind Justice Connect’s #fixfundraising campaign, an effort to bring fundraising law under the banner of the Australian Consumer Law. This would save the sector millions of dollars and – more importantly – let it spend its time doing what it’s good at, rather than wasting it complying with difficult and unnecessary laws.

‘The current fundraising regulations are a mess. They’re out-of-date. They deal with wishing wells and the length of handles on collection boxes, but not with online fundraising and crowdfunding. Charities want to do the right thing, but it’s too complex, too confusing and it’s ineffective,’ Sue said.

‘This isn’t a new problem. The sector has been asking for this change for about two decades.’

Justice Connect pulled together a powerful coalition including influential peak sector and professional bodies (such as ACOSS, Philanthropy Australia, Australian Institute of Company Directors, CPA Australia, Chartered Accountants Australia & NZ, Community Council of Australia and the Governance Institute of Australia).

The #fixfundraising coalition started with a joint statement outlining how to fix this problem: changes to the Australian Consumer Law to cover fundraising by charities and other not-for-profits, the repeal of existing state-based fundraising laws, and a self-regulatory code applicable to all fundraisers.

And momentum is building.

‘We understand a number of state governments are agreeable to our proposal – it delivers them a national framework and is cost neutral’, said Sue. ‘And now is crunch time: consumer ministers are about to meet and decide how far to go with Australia Consumer Law and to fix the fundraising law mess’.



This isn’t a new problem. The sector has been asking for this change for about two decades.

‘Teenagers already have enough to deal with’

In 2014, Justice Connect started receiving calls from a new kind of client. Worried parents of trans and gender-diverse teenagers were facing a seemingly absurd hurdle: in order to access vital, identity-affirming hormone treatment, they were required to obtain a court order.

Being a teenager is hard enough. For children who identify as trans or gender-diverse, adolescence carries the added burden of developing physical features which do not align with the body they feel belongs to them. Young trans girls can find their voice breaking, or trans boys may begin growing breasts. The first stage of treatment often involves puberty blockers, which delay these developments. At one time, access to this first stage treatment also required a court order, until the hard work of young activist Georgie Stone saw a change in the law.

Sadly, ‘stage 2’ treatment – which induces physical development in line with the young person’s gender identity – still requires a court appearance and sign-off from a judge, even when parents, doctors, and the person themselves all agree on the need for treatment.

Recognising this problem, Justice Connect’s Stage 2 Access project was born. Since the first call just three years ago, we have helped dozens of families – 51 in the last financial year – and that number continues to grow. By building partnerships with the Royal Children’s

Hospital in Victoria, and Inner City Legal Centre in NSW, we increased our ability to help families access representation, and alleviate the burden of navigating the court system.

“Ideally, young trans people and their families shouldn’t have to go to court in the first place. It would only take a small change to the Family Law Act to remedy this,” says Edward Davis, from Justice Connect’s Public Interest Law team.

“It’s hard to imagine the stress these young people must feel, knowing there is a ticking clock, and still having to ask a stranger for permission to simply be who they are,” Edward said.

Justice Connect is partnering with a wide variety of organisations including Transgender Victoria, Transcend, Parents of Gender Diverse Children and the Human Rights Law Centre, to work towards change.

“The coordinating role we play gives us a unique opportunity to understand and respond to any issues arising from the running of these matters. Our priority is to remove the role of the Family Court in these matters and, until then, to advocate for a more streamlined and consistent process in the Family Court,” said Edward.

Ideally, young trans people and their families shouldn’t have to go to court in the first place.



Our people

Our strength is our people. The people we help, who are locked out of the system or trapped within it, and the community of incredible people who help them. So who are we?

Staff

We have 56 paid staff working in Melbourne and Sydney at our offices, in courts, at outreach locations and in health settings. We proudly support flexible work arrangements with 45% of our staff working part-time. 88% of our staff and 100% of our senior leadership team are female. We employ talented people with a passion for our work across our legal and non-legal positions.

A list of our current staff can be found at justiceconnect.org.au/who-we-are/our-staff.



Katie, Homeless Law

Secondees

In 2016/17 we received invaluable support from firms who provided secondees for 3 to 6 months. The secondment program greatly assists Justice Connect and provides a valuable experience to participating firms and practitioners.

Volunteers

Our volunteers are crucial to the operation of Justice Connect. We have professional volunteers as well as students from university law schools and law graduates who are undertaking their practical legal training. We extend our thanks to all of the talented and committed volunteers who made such a difference to our effectiveness this year. We couldn't do our work without them.

Pro Bono Lawyers

Our 10,000+ pro bono lawyers are at the heart of our work. We can't thank them enough for their time, expertise and dedication to helping individuals and community organisations.

Patrons

We were delighted to have the continued support of our inaugural patrons:

Julian Burnside AO QC

“Justice Connect has been at the forefront of social justice and pro bono law in Australia for 25 years. I am proud to be associated with Justice Connect, and hope that

others will join me by financially supporting their work. The lawyers at Justice Connect have often come out of private law firms, and could be earning large salaries in those firms now, but have instead chosen to dedicate their work to improving access to justice for people experiencing disadvantage.”⁴⁴

Professor Gillian Triggs

⁴⁴ Justice Connect’s work to help vulnerable and marginalised people have access to justice is vital. For 25 years, Justice Connect has been advancing human rights and public interest law in Australia, and I am delighted to be involved in its work. Anyone who cares about social justice should consider supporting Justice Connect.”⁴⁵

Board

We are governed by an independent, skills based volunteer board whose commitment to the organisation is crucial to our success.

Our Directors for 2016/17 were:

- Mitzi Gilligan (Chair), Principal and Founder, Hive Legal
- Gordon Renouf (Deputy Chair), CEO, Good On You
- Carmel Mulhern, Group General Counsel, Telstra
- Geoffrey Rush, Partner, KPMG
- Nicky Friedman, Head of Pro Bono & Community Programs, Allens
- Simon Lewis, Head of Philanthropy, The Myer Family Company
- Richard Wilson, Barrister, Victorian Bar
- Alexandra Rose, Senior Manager Group Compliance and Regulatory Affairs, IAG (retired 22 Nov 2016)

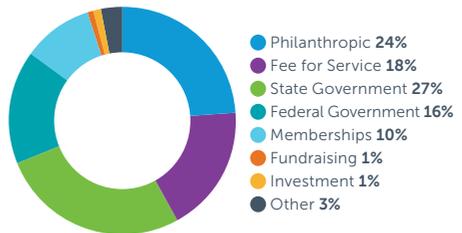
Our Finances

The unaudited financial result for the 2016/17 financial year is a surplus of \$47,070 representing 0.8% of our annual income. At 30 June 2017 we maintain healthy net assets and retained earnings of \$1,173,498.

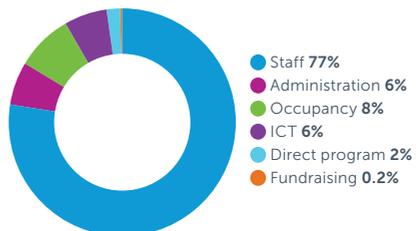
We have continued to diversify our funding sources and increase the number of funding partners seeing our income grow by 13% on 2015/16 to \$6,143,371. In 2016/17 we received funding from local, state and federal governments, memberships, philanthropic trusts and foundations, corporates, fee for services we provided and fundraising events.

We also received a range of very generous in-kind support from our members which assist in making our work possible including secondment of staff, volunteer engagement and donation of resources and facilities.

Income FY17



Expenses FY17



Thank you to our supporters

Justice Connect would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the following law firms, governments, professional legal associations, philanthropic partners, community groups, and individual donors for providing ongoing support for our work.

As a not-for-profit, we are reliant on the generosity of our supporters and the ongoing connections with our partner organisations to ensure the continued delivery of the life changing work that we do.



Patrons

We offer a special thanks to our patrons, Julian Burnside AO QC and Professor Gillian Triggs, whose support has been a vital element in our supporter engagement and fundraising work. Their commitment to human rights and access to justice has provided a tangible benefit to Justice Connect through their ongoing support of our work.

Legal sector partners

Law Institute of Victoria
Legal Services Board Grants Program
Melbourne Law School
[Law Apps project]
Victorian Bar
Victoria Law Foundation
Victoria Legal Aid

Government and community partners

Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department
Canterbury Bankstown City Council
City of Melbourne
Melbourne Magistrates Court
NSW Aboriginal Land Council
NSW Government, Family & Community Services (FACS)
Seniors Rights Victoria
Victorian Government, Department of Health and Human Services
Victorian Government, Department of Justice and Regulation

Philanthropic partners

auDA Foundation
Collier Charitable Fund
Equity Trustees
Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal
Gandel Philanthropy
Google.org
Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation
Percy Baxter Charitable Trust, managed by Perpetual
Perpetual
Perpetual IMPACT Partnership, with funds from the following trusts:
Eric Norman Sweet Trust
The Fred P Archer Charitable Trust
H & L Hecht Trust
The Mabel and Franklyn Barrett Trust
The Samuel Nissen Charitable Foundation
The Sir James McNeill Trust
The Trust Company Australian Foundation
Phyllis Connor Memorial Innovation Fund, managed by Equity Trustees and Mr Norman Bourke
Portland House Foundation
Telematics Trust
The Ian Potter Foundation
The Marian and E.H. Flack Trust
The R E Ross Trust
Victorian Legal Services Board
William Buckland Foundation

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