

WESNET

The Women's Service Network



**Australia's peak women's organisation working to
eliminate domestic and family violence**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2014-2015**

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Our Members

Our members, Australia's domestic and family violence services, are a service system of complex service delivery organisations that are specialists in assisting women experiencing or escaping domestic and family violence. Our members include:

- Women's refuges/shelters
- Halfway houses
- Safe houses
- Women's medium-term housing schemes
- Information and referral services
- Sexual assault services
- Outreach services.
- Counselling services
- Advocacy services
- Indigenous services
- Immigrant, refugee and non-English speaking background services
- Other women's services

The models of domestic and family violence services in Australia are diverse. They range from single communal shelters to multi-building cluster models of self-contained units with counselling rooms, children's resource buildings, playgrounds, and group or training rooms; to shop fronts in busy shopping centres servicing dispersed houses throughout the community; to large purpose built facilities in remote areas; to lone outreach workers working out of other organisations. They may be a crisis phone service that also provides crisis accommodation, a community development worker, a counsellor, a networker, a children's worker, or a worker in an isolated community with little support. They may specialise in certain disadvantaged groups of women and children in their community.

Vision

That all women and children live free from domestic and family violence and its consequences.

Purpose

WESNET is a national women's peak advocacy body that facilitates and promotes policy, legislative and programmatic responses relevant to women and children who have experienced domestic and family violence.

WESNET advances responses which:

- ensure the safety of women and children,
- empower them to live free of violence, and
- improve the social, political and economic status of women.

WESNET works within a feminist framework which promotes an understanding of domestic and family violence as gendered violence.

In addition, WESNET acknowledges that women and children's experiences are also intrinsically shaped by their ethnicity, culture, ability, age, sexuality and class.

Goals

1. Membership Services.
2. Promotion of the prevention of domestic and family violence.
3. Continue to strengthen our viability and relevance as a peak body.
4. Contribute to and monitor policies, legislation and programs which impact on women and children experiencing domestic and family violence.

Committee Members 2014-15

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The WESNET National Committee is comprised of twelve women who volunteer their time and expertise to further our work in our sector to eliminate violence against women. Drawn from every State and Territory in Australia, they are grassroots service managers, direct service workers, counsellors, trainers, peer educators, researchers and expert advisers. These women, along with women in the domestic and family violence sector across the country, are Australian experts in various aspects of domestic and family violence. They are experts in policy and legislative frameworks, evaluation and what constitutes 'good practice'. They are fully conversant with 'good practice' discourse and programs in each of their States and Territories. On the Committee there are also delegates for immigrant, refugee and non-English speaking background women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and older women.

Committee Reports

National Chair

Julie Oberin

It is with pleasure that we present the 2014 – 2015 Annual Report to our members and supporters.

On behalf of the National WESNET Committee, we thank you for your continued support of WESNET, particularly in times of increasing sector reform and demand on our services.

I wish to take a moment to remember and vale the women and children murdered over the last year by someone they knew and once were intimate with. I also take this moment to honour all of the women and children who have survived domestic/family violence or intimate partner abuse. I also acknowledge the disproportionate abuse experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women and women with disabilities, along with the additional disadvantage they experience along with women from immigrant, non-English speaking or refugee backgrounds.

Your continued support is vital in this environment of increased demand on our services along with cutting funding to women's specific services. Your support helps WESNET continue the fight to improve policy, legislation and responses to women and their children who experience domestic and family violence, across the nation. WESNET undertakes this much needed advocacy role as the peak body for domestic and family violence services across Australia. Your support also helps us continue our part in sector development as we strengthen our Technology Safety Training and support to women and children experiencing technology assisted abuse via trained workers in the field.

We rely on your input and support as your National Voice. At a time of continued major change, upheaval and uncertainty in our sector, it is vital that we come together to advocate and lobby for the women and their children that we work with and support, now and into the future.

WESNET's Advocacy work

With the implementation of the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women currently underway into the second action plan, as well as a number of state governments cutting funding to vital services, it is critical that we join together to support WESNET as your National Peak advocacy body working to ensure all women and their children live free from domestic and family violence and services which support these women and children remain strong and viable. It is vital that we also feed into the third action plan.

It is a travesty to have lost so many specialist women's domestic/family violence services from the sector in NSW over the last year due to state government reforms. The value and expertise provided by these specialist services and the expert staff they employed has been eroded by these reforms and it is arguable that more women and their children have been put at risk because of them. We have heard that one woman in NSW who was murdered had attempted to seek refuge many times, but was unable to. Coroner's reports on these deaths will be telling. As awareness goes up, so does demand on services. Women must be able to access specialist domestic/family violence services and legal support and advice when they are most at risk. It is not acceptable to put these women when they are at their most vulnerable into a queue or in a position of not being able to have their phone calls answered, or be provided with specialist support and shelter if needed. I look forward to a responsible and urgent response by all governments in this time of dire need and I note that much good work has already begun by individual states and territories and through the setting up of the COAG Advisory Panel on Reducing Violence against Women and their Children. We know that prevention work will continue to raise demand for services. It is critical that we strengthen the front line services until the demand goes down, otherwise we as a society will be negligent in allowing increasingly more women and children to remain in extreme danger from harm or death. These are key messages I am advocating for on the COAG Advisory Panel to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children, along with other advice about prevention, technology abuse and use, women's safety and perpetrator interventions.

WESNET Committee members have positions on a number of key advisory mechanisms including the COAG Advisory Panel to Reduce Violence Against

Women and their Children, the ANROWS Practitioner Engagement Group (an advisory group to assist in the translation of research to practice), the Australian Bureau of Statistics Personal Safety Survey Specialist Advisory Group, the 1800 RESPECT Advisory Group, the Australian Bureau of Statistics Counting the Homeless in the Census advisory group, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Data Users Group, and OurWatch Awards Technical Advisory Group and Awards Judge. WESNET also contributes to various other national consultations and Round Tables on violence against women as they occur. I have also provided advice this year to the Cybercrime Working Group and the Children's Safety Commissioner on technology facilitated abuse. It is great governments are taking this issue seriously and working to help protect victims from technology abuse and hold perpetrators to account.

WESNET remains a founding member of Homelessness Australia, providing advice on women's and children's homelessness. Homelessness Australia has recently lost its government funding, from end of June 2015, and WESNET has been supporting Homelessness Australia to remain a viable peak advocacy body for reducing homelessness in Australia by supporting the lobbying for the reinstatement of government funding to allow for continued operations.

WESNET is also lead agency and contract manager for the Australian Women Against Violence Alliance (AWAVA). If you haven't already done so, please go to www.awava.org.au and see the wonderful work that AWAVA is doing. AWAVA is focused on all forms of violence against women and has undertaken some incredible work over its first few years of funding. To keep up to date with the work that AWAVA is doing, you can go to the website and subscribe to weekly e-bulletins (the "Weekly Round-up") follow AWAVA on twitter or follow AWAVA on Facebook.

International Conference on Violence against Women

AWAVA and OurWatch, with support from WESNET as lead agency will be hosting an international conference on violence against women from 19th to 22nd September 2016. So save the date and we will see you there!

'Prevalent and Preventable': International Conference on Violence Against Women

AWAVA, in conjunction with Our Watch, supported by WESNET (Women's Services Network), invite you to attend an international conference on violence against women from 19-22 September 2016.

Explore the challenges for preventing and responding to violence against women in remote, rural, regional, and metro areas in communities with limited services

- Engage in conversation and knowledge share from the Asia-Pacific, Australia and beyond
- Learn from overseas and local examples of improving capacity in challenging situations
- Explore community-driven approaches to prevent and respond to men's violence against women and children
- Identify ways to ensure women's safety and perpetrator accountability
- Examine coordinated and integrated approaches
- strengthen strategies for building local and international movements for change

The conference comprises two elements. The main conference on Tuesday 20th and Wednesday 21st will focus on workshops and interactive forums (with a welcome reception on early registration on Monday, 19th). There is an optional third day on the 22nd featuring intensive sessions where issues will be visited in more depth. Invited speakers and session leaders will lead discussion across the entire program.

Safety Net Australia (Technology Safety Training and Advice)

WESNET's focus on the last few years on sector development around technology and safety has given us a reputation as the go-to national body for technology and its impact on women escaping violence.

WESNET has, in partnership with the US based National Network Ending Domestic Violence (NNEDV) established *Safety Net Australia*. This project provides resources to help victims/survivors and agencies respond effectively to the many ways that technology impacts victims of domestic and dating violence, sexual violence and stalking. WESNET continues to provide this vital training and to date has trained in Melbourne (including Victorian Magistrate's Court staff), Warrnambool, Bendigo (including Survivor Media Advocates group), Hobart, Alice Springs, Perth, Ipswich and Canberra. By the time you receive this report we will also have delivered 4 more days training in Canberra to up to 120 sector workers, funded by the ACT Government. This grant was in response to increased domestic murders in the ACT along with the increase in technology assisted abuse.

As part of a partnership with Women's Legal Services NSW, and Domestic Violence Resource Centre in Melbourne under a grant from ACCAN, we delivered additional webinars, providing training for sector and allied workers from the comfort of their desks. This training was mainly taken up by workers based in

Community Legal Services across the country. We also provided a workshop under this grant at the National Community Legal Services Conference in Melbourne in August. These opportunities enabled workers from regional, rural and remote areas to access the training.

Everyone who attends this training has realised just how crucial it is for support workers to be trained up on how technology can be used to abuse but also how technology can be used to keep women safe and be used as evidence against the abuser.

This year Karen Bentley our senior trainer and I again attended a 4-day intensive training technology summit in San Francisco, hosted by the National Network to End Domestic Violence. This summit brings together advocates, police, trainers, lawyers, technology specialists, feminists, government and lobbyists from around the USA and the World to work together on the complex issue of technology and abuse. We have returned to Australia with a new wealth of up to date knowledge, after hearing and learning from Google, Facebook, the FBI and other specialists in this area. Technology rapidly changes and this summit is a critical way of staying on top of it. The 4th Annual Technology Summit will be held in July 2016 if you are interested and able to attend: <http://techsafety.org/technology-summit/>

Earlier this year I gave a presentation on tech safety at the Ending Domestic Violence Summit in Sydney. From the questions and discussion afterwards it is apparent that perpetrators are increasing their use of technology assisted abuse to stalk and locate women. For further information contact us and keep an eye on our website www.wesnet.org.au

I was also fortunate to attend the UN CSW 59 in New York City in March this year and provided a Side Event for the Australian Government on Technology and Women's Safety. It was very well attended and feedback was very positive about the need for ongoing training and awareness in every country.

As I finalise this report I am with a group of Australian's, including WESNET members in The Hague, Netherlands, attending the 3rd World Conference of Women's Shelters hosted by the Global Network of Women's Shelters and organised by the Dutch Women's Network. I will be participating in a plenary session on Friday on technology and safety with Cindy Southworth from the NNEDV and representatives from Google and Facebook.

Many of you have ordered and been using our Safety Planning Around Technology booklet, which has been specifically developed for Australian women who may be experiencing some form of stalking or abuse through technology. Feedback from users is that this is an invaluable and easy-to-use tool that explains some of

the safety precautions women can take, and also includes a log-book for collecting evidence. Go to our website should you wish to order any of these booklets for your staff and the women they work with. We also encourage you to provide us with feedback for improvements or how it has helped the women you work with.

WESNET Partnership with Telstra – TELSTRA SafeConnections

We have continued our strong partnership work with Telstra. Please remember you can access this national program that enables services to order pre-paid recharge cards for mobile phones, which can be provided to clients free of charge. Up to 25 can be ordered each time.

The Telstra Pre-Paid Recharge Program provides \$20 pre-paid mobile recharge cards, at no cost, to support community agencies helping survivors of domestic violence who depend on a Telstra Pre-Paid Mobile for their communications. To inquire about this program or order recharge cards, send an email to: **consumer.affairs@team.telstra.com** or call **1800 804 591**

Or you can find more information here
www.telstra.com.au/accessforeveryone

Organisations that can apply

- Are an incorporated charity or not-for-profit community organization whose primary purpose is to support victims of domestic violence or people who are homeless

OR

- Are an incorporated charity or not-for-profit community organization whose primary purpose is to provide material aid/ financial assistance as a normal part of their operation based on a careful assessment of client needs.

As many of you are aware because you are already participating, we developed a new fantastic partnership with TELSTRA over the last year called **Telstra SafeConnections**.

WESNET has partnered with Telstra to provide safe smart phones for women experiencing domestic/family violence. Telstra has provided smartphones, pre-paid credit and information on the safe use of technology to WESNET for distribution through our partner full member agencies nationally to provide support to women impacted by domestic violence. WESNET has put together additional safety tech hand-outs for support

workers to skill up on tech abuse and help women learn how technology can be used against them but also how to use it to stay safe and connected. We have designed the distribution to ensure that a risk and safety assessment and plan, including around technology, is put in place with the support of a specialist domestic/family violence worker.

To date TELSTRA have provided us with 2,500 smart phones and our Local Agencies began distributing the phones in May 2015 after we completed the operational framework. Other Local Agencies are continuing to come on board. Feedback we have had has been very positive, with support workers expressing what a wonderful initiative it is. We have promoted the program at the UN and TELSTRA was a finalist in their recent ACCOMS Awards evening for the program. We are looking forward to strengthening this program over the next twelve months and are pleased that the Women's Safety Package recently announced has a focus on technology.

At the time of finalising this report, over 300 risk assessments and risk safety planning around technology safety has been undertaken throughout Australia under this program by specialist domestic/family violence workers with women they have supported. The women have benefited from a new smart phone donated by TELSTRA along with tech safety tips and fact sheets and a stalking log to help them keep evidence against the perpetrator. The phones and support have occurred across 82 different postcodes nationally through 59 participating local agencies. Of these support activities around tech safety and the allocation of phones, 33% have been to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, 11% to women from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Backgrounds and 5% have been to women with a disability. This means that almost half of this specialist work and almost half of the smart phones have been allocated to women most marginalised.

Until we redress gender inequality and how it intersects with other social inequalities we will not prevent gender-based male violence against women and girls. Social change requires a sustained and coordinated effort. Stay connected with WESNET as we continue to work towards our Vision "that all women and children live free of domestic and family violence and its consequences" – follow us on Twitter, our Facebook page and our website www.wesnet.org.au for all the latest information

Thank you again for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely



Julie Oberin

National Chairperson

June 2015



Immigrant, Refugee and Non-English Speaking Background Women

2014/2015 financial year was marked by a number of common themes and issues for family violence service specialising in supporting women from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds across Australia.

Funding uncertainty continues to be the overriding theme for most of those services. Migrant Women's Support Service (MWSS) from South Australia participated in consultations with the sector, which produced the "A Road Map for Future SA Homelessness System from July 2015". This report, coproduced by Specialist services (SHS) and Housing SA (DCSI), identified priorities in relation to risk management of potential funding cuts to NAHA funded services and outlined strategies to move forward. Due to major lobbying efforts on both, states and national levels, the funding was retained for next two years, however without indexation and EFO increases.

Servicing disadvantaged client groups with a multiplicity of needs, within scarce resources, increases challenges and pressures for small under resourced agencies. MWSS (SA) together with the Central Domestic Violence Service SA and the Domestic Violence Gateway Service (DVCS) commenced a process to strengthen the position of community based, women's led NGOs by strategic formation of one larger entity with a management, governance and administrative model that warrants uniform focus on women and children impacted by domestic violence to best respond to their needs.

On service delivery level, the ever-increasing demand for assistance from immigrant, refugee and asylum seekers women and children in domestic violence situations continued. Within its limited funding, MWSS provided services to 451 CALD women and children within the past financial year and recorded the highest level of demand for services by women and children from varied Asian countries, from Middle - Eastern backgrounds, followed by women and children from different African countries. Many clients presented with high and complex needs and numerous clients were without income.

InTouch, Multicultural Centre against Family Violence (VIC) has also experienced record demand for services. In 2014/2015, InTouch supported 1050 CALD women, 50% above funded target of 697 women. More than third of InTouch clients in 2014/2015 were women without permanent residency. InTouch in-house Registered Migration Agent supported 377 women in accessing Family Violence Provisions and obtaining permanent residency. Despite high demand for this service, it has always been and still remains unfunded.

Key Victorian multicultural agencies welcomed the Royal Commission into Family Violence and urged the Commission to look closely at the issue of providing more access, funding and resourcing for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) specific services. InTouch and a number of another CALD specialist agencies contributed to the work of the Commission through written submissions, consultations attended by their staff and clients and public hearings.

CALD family violence services were also involved in kitchen table conversations that were held across Australia by the Department of Social Services on issues of violence against CALD women and their children. CALD women leaders hosted 29 kitchen table conversations throughout Australia with women from more than 40 ethnic and cultural backgrounds to discuss violence against women and their children. The kitchen table conversations were established under the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and Children 2010-2022 and the Second Action Plan 2013-2016, with focus on deepening understanding of diverse experiences of violence by women from CALD communities. At the conversations, there was general recognition that CALD women can be more vulnerable to experiencing domestic and family violence than others. The Report "Hearing her Voice" presents an overview of key issues and some responses suggested in the conversations. It is an imperative for the Government to act on this report with meaningful actions. Although 20 per cent of Australian population were born overseas in a country whose main language is a language other than English, the level of funding for CALD-specific family

violence services, or for culturally-sensitive mainstream family violence services, does not reflect this.

While issues of funding uncertainty and CALD services and clients being further marginalised by inadequate policies and funding allocations, we continue achieving exceptional outcomes for the most vulnerable women in our communities and developing and delivering innovative, best practice models tailored to meet the needs of CALD communities.

MWSS was pleased to support efforts of the National Crisis Line to prepare of a report “Snapshot of Women Without Income” to Federal Government and participated in the collection of data regarding immigrant women unable to access Centrelink’ entitlements, unable to obtain a work visa, or use a Medicare, and without real exit points from emergency accommodation provided by domestic violence services or homelessness services.

2014/2015 highlights for InTouch include:

- community-led prevention program ‘CALD Communities Leading the Way to Respectful Relationships’ has been recognised for its innovative model through the 2015 Crime Prevention Award
- InTouch Legal Centre, first of its kind in Australia has partnered with Monash Health, Jean Hailes for Women’s Health and a number of community and private law firms to establish a Health Justice Partnership model with a legal outpost in the Dandenong hospital
- In August 2014, at Melbourne Writer’s Festival, InTouch launched “The Empty Jar’, a children therapeutic book
- Partnered with 1800RESPECT to develop online resources for frontline workers on cross-cultural communication and engagement skills
- Partnered with Lifeline to deliver the Multicultural DV-alert Training program in Victoria
- Most of the frameworks, policies, systems and initiatives are designed using a ‘one-size-fit all’ approach and provide only superficial responses to CALD communities.
- Responses that will have long-term sustainable outcomes for CALD communities have to be designed based on needs analysis and extensive community engagement. While this approach seems to be resource intense, high initial investment prevents CALD women from re-entering the system and ensures long-term sustainability.
- Funders should recognize that there are significant barriers that make it difficult for service providers to win the trust of immigrant and refugee victims. Programs that provide a variety of services—from the victim’s urgent need for direct services to language classes to

‘community centers’ to employment services—by themselves or with partner programs may, over time, have a better chance at building that trust. Therefore, funders should support culturally appropriate programs that provide an array of services for CALD communities reasonably calculated to both meet clients’ needs and win their trust, keeping in mind that there are no one-size-fits-all formulas.

Older Women

Pauline Woodbridge

The rhetoric of equality is very strong in our public life and the trend now is to de-gender the information gathered and the way we analyse that information. This means the real disadvantage experienced by women because they are women is unseen. The position of older women in our society is a reflection of the way our society functions. There are many barriers to women's ability to be treated equally in their private lives and in their public lives.

The barriers are in many ways traditional; stemming from the endemic cultural view of the value of men to society and the ignoring or actively silencing of the value of women through all their life stages. The Human Rights Commissioner the Hon. Susan Ryan AO acknowledges that "the elimination of discrimination in Australia is unfinished business". It is where sex discrimination and age discrimination intersects, that the many barriers faced by older women plays out.

The Australian Human Rights Commissioner in 2011 stated that many older women "have little or no superannuation and many do not own a home. Yet demographers constantly remind us that most of us will live into our 80's, a lot beyond that. Federal MP Kate Ellis also in 2011 said that Australians need to think about why so many women are facing retirement with so little money in the bank. She stated that men see on average a payout of about \$198,000 in superannuation compared to women pocketing around \$112,600. Many articles state that the superannuation gap is due to a myriad of factors including; unpaid caring work as women tend to take career breaks to care for family; part-time work and receive lower income compared to men.

The A.C.T Shelter "Home Truths: Older Women's Housing Vulnerability in the ACT" 2013 research identifies "that older women who are single, on low incomes and renting, represent one of the most disadvantaged groups in our community". They repeat that this fact stems from women having lower superannuation; women earning less than men; and women are living longer in an increasing population. Add this on to the unaffordability of housing and rent, the stress put on older women is serious and can exacerbate health and wellbeing problems.

The Human Rights Commission identified that "older workers perform an expansive range of unpaid caring responsibilities be it for adult children; children with a disability; or care of spouses and parents and for grandchildren". According to the Human Rights

Commission in 2009 there were 2.6 million carers in Australia. That two-thirds of the carers are women - caring responsibilities in Australia are clearly gendered. The Centre of Research and Education in Ageing, in the University of Newcastle in 2006 suggests that "while women were increasingly likely to need help with daily tasks because of long-term illness, or disability, they were also increasingly likely to be providing help to someone else because of that person's disability or illness. Indeed women were still almost twice as likely to be providing care as needing care themselves". This evidence clearly contributes to women's low superannuation levels because superannuation contributions are not payable on caring work.

Another relatively silent barrier for older women in Australia is abuse and neglect. A Curtin University of Technology study in 2002 estimated that the prevalence of elder abuse of women in WA to be two-and-a-half times that of men. One of the earlier studies in 2002 suggest that the perpetrators of this elder abuse is 43% the victim's children (equally sons and daughters) and 35% were either spouses or other relatives.

The Older Women's Network in NSW identifies that "violence against women does not end at the age of 45. Instead, the violence may become more complex, insidious and debilitating, compounded by factors such as financial insecurity of single women in their fifties and sixties, and a culture of silence and stoicism among older women".

Even if women have the financial ability to retire into a care home there is again risk to older women in what is meant to be a "safe space". Sexual assault in care homes is often a silent issue, about 3% of known cases of elder abuse in care homes is sexual assault and overwhelmingly women are the victims of this elder sexual abuse.

Overall, older women in Australia face barriers and systems disadvantage as they go through life, and they also suffer interpersonal violence and abuse. The hidden issue of older women living on the street is diametrically opposite to the image of homelessness held in our society.

Whilst most men may look forward to retirement in relative luxury, women who lose their jobs, their health and their family and who experience systemic disadvantage and discrimination retire into poverty and are at great risk of violence and abuse. If our systems, and our financial and social policies and practices are not examined for the deleterious effects on the lives of women, then the elimination of discrimination for women in Australia, in all their age stages will continue to be "unfinished business".

Australian Capital Territory

Mirjana Wilson

The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) representation covers a diversity of services and members that come from the following sectors: domestic violence, sexual assault, homelessness, health and legal. The services users of these organisations are predominantly women although not all are women's specific services. Some of the organisations have women's specific programs and some are gender sensitive organisations that support men and women, however a high proportion of clients are women due to the nature of the services. All of the organisations provide culturally appropriate service provision to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, a range of ages and culturally and linguistically diverse people and women with disabilities.

Overview of changes/reforms since

The *Better Services* trio of initiatives in the ACT have been working towards simplifying the way people access and are supported by services across the ACT such as housing, family support and disability as part of the Whole of Government *Human Services Blueprint* (Blueprint).

These three initiatives have one common aim – to ensure that people are supported with the *right service*, at the *right time* and for the *right duration*.

1. Local Services Network Launch

This commenced with a two-year, \$1.335 million *Local Services Network Launch* in West Belconnen which will rolled out new ways to better integrate local services, including local governance, flexible funding arrangements, enhanced service coordination, and data sharing.

2. Strengthening Families

The \$445,000 expansion of *Strengthening Families* works with up to 50 vulnerable families to develop and implement an agreed family plan, supported by a tailored support package to meet their particular requirements.

In addition to supporting families, *Strengthening Families* builds front line worker capacity across the Government and community sectors.

3. Human Services Gateway

The \$322,000 commitment established a *Human Services Gateway* for people to improve access to information and self-support options, and link individuals and families into more intensive and tailored support where required.

Highlights of 14/15

The deaths of four Canberrians within a few short months earlier this year prompted the ACT Government to see whether there had been systemic failings that contributed to the losses. On 18 March 2015, the ACT Legislative Assembly passed a motion calling on the ACT Government to work with the Domestic Violence Prevention Council (DVPC) to convene an Extraordinary Meeting. The Legislative Assembly resolved that the meeting would be attended by domestic violence experts in the community and should include organisations that represent people who have experienced domestic and family violence, and Members of the Legislative Assembly.

The DVPC Report includes 33 recommendations about the safety and security of victims of domestic and family violence, including sexual assault, in the ACT. Key findings were that:

- Eight areas warrant priority attention and action:
 1. *Cultural change*
 2. *Reliable practical supports for victims from skilled service providers*
 3. *Integrated service delivery system, as a whole-of-government priority*
 4. *Evidence-based perpetrator interventions*
 5. *Meeting the diverse needs of victims and their families*
 6. *Improvements to the legal and justice system's response to domestic and family violence, including sexual assault*
 7. *The provision of ongoing long term supports*
 8. *Maintain adequate services to meet demand;*

Key recommendations were:

- The ACT should establish an integrated whole-of-government service delivery system to ensure that all ACT Government Directorates work together to deliver connected and well-targeted services and responses;
- The ACT needs to focus on challenging and changing cultures and attitudes towards domestic and family violence, including sexual assault, through primary prevention methods such as education in schools, and discussion in the community and workplaces; and
- It is vital to ensure that existing services are maintained and available to meet demand, including

services for perpetrator intervention and specialist domestic, family and sexual violence services.

Future Direction

The ACT is very much looking forward to the release of the recommendations from its first ever death review. This is a body of work that has seen the ACT benefit from processes, learnings and outcomes in the other states.

There are some conversations being had about a potential move away from block funding to community services, of which domestic and family violence are a part of. The government is inviting the sector into a co-design process that redesigns the service system sector that can embrace alternate sources of funding that is not entirely dependent on government funding. It is crucial that women's domestic/family violence services continue to demand a gender lens and analysis in this process. Any redesign of the service system sector needs to embrace ideas that women subjected to violence need a suite of options available to achieve safety that there are wraparound supports available to them wherever they are.

New South Wales

Ela Foster

The membership includes a diverse range of women's services across NSW including: refuges, Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services, health centres, counselling and information centres and Immigrant Women's Speakout

The 2014-15 period saw the launch of the Safer Pathways Local Coordination point model. The implementation of the Going Home Staying Home reforms also took place over this period.

Safer Pathways – Local Coordination Point Launch Sites

The initial two launch sites of the Safer Pathways Local Coordination Points based in Orange (Western NSW) and Waverly (Central Sydney) commenced in September of 2014.

Safer Pathways is a model aimed at preventing serious injury or death of women and children who are in domestic violence situations. It is based on a program operating in South Australia that has been adapted for the NSW service sector. The Local Coordination Points are situated within Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services (WDVCAS).

The key aspects of the model include consistent risk assessment processes, and streamlined referral to specialised women's domestic violence services. Women assessed as being at serious threat are referred to a Safety Action Meeting (SAM). In an integrated approach government agencies (Police, Corrective Services, Health, Education, Housing and Family and Community Services) and non government agencies (Domestic Violence Services, Childrens Services, Homelessness Services and Mens Behaviour Change Services) share relevant information and develop a safety plan that is offered to women.

Initial findings from an evaluation process undertaken by the Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research (BOCSAR) have been extremely positive with women relating they feel the process has improved their level of safety.

Four more sites are commencing in July 2015 at Tweed Heads/Byron Bay (Northern NSW), Broken Hill (Far West NSW, Parramatta and Bankstown (Metropolitan)

The model is expected to be rolled out to the 28 WDVCASs across the state over a three to five year period

Going Home Staying Home (GSHS) Reforms

This year has seen the implementation of the Going Home Staying Home (GSHS) reforms. A major component of the reforms was a shift to regionalised and generalist services, which resulted in many women's refuges no longer being able to maintain a gender-specific approach. In addition, many services no longer have the capacity to maintain child support workers.

There have been significant concerns expressed across the sector about the impact of decreased capacity for support to women and children resulting from a reduction in the number of specialised women's refuges, where women have previously been able to access domestic violence specific counselling and group work etc.

It is felt that an effective response to domestic violence must include streamlined referral processes, legislative protection in an integrated response but just as importantly offer counselling, support, case management and safe housing options for women and children in a specialised format specifically for domestic and family violence rather than a generalist homelessness response.

Tribute

It is important to acknowledge the efforts of the amazing women who were a part of the NSW Women's Refuge Movement over the many years of its evolution. These women were trail blazers in raising awareness about the prevalence and impact of domestic and family violence when broader society did not want to listen.

The NSW Women's Refuge Movement (WRM) played a lead role in highlighting the impact of domestic violence on children, the additional barriers faced by Aboriginal women, women from a non-English Speaking Background and women in rural settings. The WRM has also drawn attention to the difficulties faced by women in lesbian relationships.

The WRM fought for specialised child support services and sexual assault responses and counselling services. Other service responses such as WDVCAS and Staying Home Leaving Violence models were also initiated by the NSW WRM to meet emerging needs.

The current and past elders of the WRM, some of whom remain in the women's sector, have embraced the dinosaur label that was placed on them as it represents the strength, resilience, sisterhood, courage, cleverness, determination and humour in the face of adversity so

necessary to fight the good fight over a prolonged period of time.

We, all of us, salute you and send heartfelt thanks and say cheers in celebration of your fabulousness.

Domestic Violence Justice Strategy (DVJS)

The DVJS was released in late 2013. As of July 2015, police will be undertaking risk assessments in all domestic violence matters. Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services will receive all referrals electronically and initiate follow up contact where possible.

Highlights of 2014-15

Two pieces of legislation passed during this period. These included:

The Criminal Procedure Amendment which allowed women to give evidence by way of video recorder at the time of the offence. Anecdotally, it is reported that this has resulted in an increase of guilty pleas once the defendant views the video statements and ascertains it is more likely that the magistrate will find in her favour.

The Criminal Procedure Amendment (Domestic Violence Complainants) Act 2014

Specifically, the Amendment Act amends the Criminal Procedure Act 1986 to:

- Enable domestic violence complainants to give their evidence in chief by way of a prior recorded video or audio statement, in criminal proceedings for a domestic violence offence.
- Enable the recorded statement of a domestic violence complainant to be used in committal proceedings instead of a written statement and to ensure that all relevant provisions that apply to written statements will apply to the complainant's recorded statement as if the recorded statement was a written statement.

Section 13 A of the Crimes (Domestic and Personal Violence) Amendment (Information Sharing) Bill 2014

This bill, which was developed to assist in the Safety Action Meetings in the Local Coordination Point model, permits departments and domestic violence related services to share relevant information without consent to allow the provision of domestic violence support services to the primary person (person who has experienced domestic violence), or where the agency believes domestic violence poses a serious threat.

Future Direction

The horrendous amounts of domestic violence homicides this year is of great concern. Too many deaths, too many injuries, too many children impacted by exposure to abuse and violence. The increased attention to acknowledging that domestic and family violence is a major issue in our society will hopefully result in increased investment into the services and supports and strategies that are proving successful.

The "It Stops Here" Safer Pathways will result in further launches of Local Coordination Points based within Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Services being rolled out.

Northern Territory

Dale Wakefield

Queensland

Lindy Edwards

Membership includes domestic violence Refuges, Specialist DV Services, Sexual Assault services, and other specific Women's Services

Overview of changes/reforms since 14/15

One of the biggest changes this year for the sector, is the change in government following the state elections in January. With the Labour government returning to power, there is a feeling of optimism that things will improve for the sector (domestic violence & homelessness). The feelings of fear around losing funding, being forced into consortiums as a result of government reforms etc, is no longer hanging over services, particularly small specialist domestic violence services. Very quickly we have seen a shift in attitude and a far greater willingness by government to listen to the sector and understand our issues.

With current Service Agreements under the SHS funding due to expire on 30/9/15, we have finally had confirmation that the Government will be negotiating new 3 year Agreements with existing services, and although there may be some negotiation around details of the agreements, at least we feel reassured that we will not have to go through an open tender process. However, one of the changes we will see is a move towards having to report on outputs as well as outcomes.

All Department of Communities funded services have to, over the first 18 months of their new Service Agreements, go through a certification process, with external auditors, to demonstrate compliance with the Human Services Quality Framework. For domestic violence shelters, who are currently funded by the Department of Housing, there is still some uncertainty around when we need to undergo this process, but we are fairly confident that we will be required to do so following the signing of new Service Agreements.

Domestic violence continues to be very much in focus in Queensland, as it is nationally. Towards the ends of last year new funding was made available in certain regions, primarily to enhance existing services, and meet identified gaps, and further funding is to be rolled out in other areas later this year.

Highlights of 14/15

The establishment of a violence against women peak in Queensland is nearing fruition. EVAWQ (Ending

Violence Against Women Queensland) will soon become incorporated, with the first AGM to be held later this year. Queensland will be the first state to have a peak body that incorporates domestic violence, sexual assault and women's health. Already EVAWQ is being accessed by the state government seeking information and advice around violence against women issues in Queensland.

One of the highlights this year is the great partnership between Telstra and WESNET that has resulted in the donation of smart phones across the country, to be distributed to women escaping domestic violence, particularly where their phones have been compromised. The greatest benefit of this program is the opportunity it presents for workers to discuss safety technology with clients, and assist women to have a greater understanding of ways to ensure their safety after escaping domestic violence.

In February this year, the DV Task Force Report "Not Now, Not Ever" was released, with 140 recommendations. One of the recommendations was that two 72 hour shelters be set up in Brisbane and Townsville, in an attempt to reduce the number of women being put into motels unsupported. This recommendation was immediately endorsed by the Department of Communities, and an announcement made that funding would be made available for the 2 shelters. Because DV Shelters are funded under the Department of Housing, they will be the lead agency and will work in conjunction with the Department of Communities. At this stage, we have been advised that suitable land/properties are being sought, and that Consultations will be happening in the two areas to get ideas and input from the sector. We can only hope that the government will listen to the sector about what is needed and not simply impose what they believe should happen.

Future Direction

On-going work is happening in the domestic violence sector to lobby for dv shelters to be moved back into the Department of Communities, who currently fund Regional Domestic Violence Services and Sexual Assault Services. There is a strong feeling that the separation of the funding for these two parts of the sector has had a negative impact on services. In addition, domestic violence shelters believe that by being within the Department of Housing, there is a concern that the connection between domestic violence and homelessness will be overlooked.

Consultations are currently happening around the State, with regard to the 140 recommendations in the Task Force Report. The vision of the report and the recommendations are about working towards fundamental change in our culture, support services and justice systems to bring about a Queensland free from domestic and family violence. Already fairly substantial

funding has been committed by the Premier, to roll out some of the recommendations. As well as the 2 crisis shelters, there will be a pilot, run in Southport, of a separate domestic violence court, an independent D&FV Death Review & Advisory Board, and funding for a duty lawyer 1 day a week in 14 locations across the state.

South Australia

Vicki Lachlan

South Australia – through the Coalition of Women’s Domestic Violence Services of SA Inc. This is an unfunded peak for all domestic and family violence services across SA, we have 24 member services.

Overview of changes and reforms

Lobbying across SA finally gained two year Service Agreements across the sector enabling funding to programs to continue until 30-6-17.

The Coalition members were active in the ASU’s public campaign to secure ongoing funding for specialist D&FV and homelessness services, and to highlight programs that had their funding cut.

The Serial Offender’s Data Base has been established managed by the Domestic and Aboriginal Family Violence Gateway, in conjunction with the Office for Women and the ability to share the info gained with SA Police; all D&FV Services can give info into the database.

The Zahra Foundation Australia was launched, which will collect funds from any donors for the benefit of women and children coming from Domestic or Family Violence, in particular establishment type funds for them and also funds to enable women to advance their education and improve their access pathways to employment for their long term benefit and self esteem. It will be managed by an independent board, and is the initiative of the children of Zahra Abrahimzadeh, a woman who was killed very publicly by her estranged husband in SA 7 years ago.

There has been a reorganisation of the department to which the D&FV services answer to, there will no longer be a specific Homelessness and D&FV unit within the Housing Strategy unit. And once again our Housing SA regional offices have been further regionalised in their operations, so that services work with different figure heads within the government.

The initiatives arising out of the Abrahimzadeh Coronial inquest especially with and for SA Police continue to roll-out – MAPS – the Multi-Agency Protection Service is

now well established, with all government departments cooperating and working very closely together to ensure the safety of women and children as much as possible – D&FV services are yet to be included in this initiative however, although we are fully aware of the system.

Additionally the D&FV crisis and transitional properties within our system have been flagged in the SAPOL data base – so that patrols know that women should be able to live in peace and that they respond to incidences immediately at these properties. There has been the establishment of an Early Warning System – which enables services to flag immediately that SAPOL or other government departments have not responded as we would expect for women and children from D&FV, and those incidences will be reviewed to ensure that doesn’t continue to happen – as much as possible. Lastly it is a requirement that all government departments have to go through the White Ribbon accreditation process to raise awareness within the public sector.

Telstra SafeConnections phones have slowly been taken up by the member services in SA, and services are giving them out as required. All agree that this is a great partnership with WESNET and TELSTRA.

The Coalition has participated fully in the SA Parliament’s Domestic Violence Enquiry, both as individual services and as the Coalition, the findings will not be circulated until 2016. Our members were also consulted by the Victorian Royal Commission into D&FV – in particular about our well established core and cluster models of crisis accommodation for women and children.

The Women’s Safety Contact Officers program was re-tendered, and has been re-situated within the specialist D&FV services, managed by Central DVS with officers North and South Metro, and at the moment in one country region – it is hoped that this program will expand further.

The Coalition held a very successful, well attended Candle Lighting Vigil for the women who have died as a result of D&FV, in Elder Park in the middle of the city. We were very pleased with the broad range of media coverage and politicians attending.

We are pleased that our Co-Chair Maria Hagias was recommended by the Premier to be the SA rep on the COAG Advisory Panel, we hope this important initiative continues under the new Prime Minister.

A new Court Support System has been established particularly for women applying for Intervention Orders, the service is managed by the Victim Support Service.

A successful Focus Awards event was held, honouring workers and services within the D&FV field.

Operationally:

- Three metro services are in the process of merging – Central DVS, Migrant Women's Support Service and the Domestic and Aboriginal Family Violence Gateway.
- The Coalition held their annual country general meeting in Ceduna, as well as the business of the day members were welcomed into the regional DVS to see its set-up and operations.
- The Coalition has revamped its website.
- We held another successful Annual Networking Luncheon – this time at Parliament House- so many politicians attended as well as members and associated service reps.
- We contracted a media consultant to improve and broaden our relations with media, timely given all of the publicity about D&FV and its implications.
- The Coalition developed and tendered a submission to 'Our Watch' for the Media Project, in partnership with YWCA and Adelaide Uni, however were unsuccessful.
- Have done a lot of work on some of our internal documents – completed a Code of Conduct, developed a Media Strategy, and are currently working on our Reconciliation Action Plan.

Highlights of 2014-15

- Distribution of Telstra Safe Connections phones to member services
- New 2 year service agreements 1-7-15 to 30-6-17
- Women's Safety Contact Program returning to the DV sector
- Candle – Lighting Vigil
- Launch of the Zahra Foundation Australia
- Offender's Data Base being established
- SA Parliament Domestic Violence Enquiry
- Establishment of new Court Support System for women
- Annual Networking Lunch
- Focus Awards

Future Direction

Finalising the Coalition's RAP

Looking forward to the Parliamentary Enquiry outcomes, given the commitment given to it by the Coalition.

The outcome of the COAG Panel

The work about to be started with the Office for Women on D&FV and Sexual assault that is occurring with younger and younger women.

Tasmania

Jacinta Atkins

Tasmania-WESP Womens Essential Service Providers (WESP), Tasmanian peak body for women's services has members from across women's services sector, including women's shelters, sexual assault support services, Domestic Violence Counselling service, housing connect services. WESP have been successful in the 2014/15 period in a member drive. This has increased interest from not only new members but has reinvigorated members to attend meetings. Meetings are held every six weeks in Ross, Tasmania, a central location for services across the state.

Highlights of 14/15

On 25 May 2015, the Premier, the Hon Will Hodgman MP, announced his intention to take a leadership role in addressing family violence in Tasmania through a new coordinated whole-of-government approach to help drive change.

To support this approach, a comprehensive action plan to address family violence is being developed. The Family Violence Action Plan will complement and build on the work that is already being done under the *National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children 2010-2022* and the Council of Australian Governments' agenda.

The Family Violence Action Plan is due to be released in August 2015.

The five pillars of action include:

- 1) addressing attitudinal behaviours that lead to family violence (primary prevention);
- 2) ensuring Safe At Home remains the nation's best response model;
- 3) strengthening support for adults and children affected by family violence;
- 4) strengthening legal responses to family violence; and
- 5) Strengthening perpetrator management and rehabilitation.

The Action Plan will include short term (2015/16 Financial Year), medium term (1-2 years) and long term (3-5 years) actions to be undertaken by the Tasmanian Government.

The Department of Premier and Cabinet is leading an interagency Taskforce to develop the Family Violence Action Plan in consultation with the community, including service and support organisations.

Future Direction

Safe Homes, Safe Families, Tasmania's family violence action plan 2015-2020 commits to:-

- Establishing Safe Families Tasmania

Bringing together government agencies in a state-wide collaborative unit to coordinate support services for victim and hold perpetrators accountable.

- Changing attitudes and behaviours that lead to family violence

Respectful relationships in all government schools. Support the national campaign to reduce violence against women and their children. Join "Our Watch". All Govt. agencies to be White Ribbon accredited.

- Supporting Families affected by violence

Support children affected by violence in Child and Family centres, Govt. schools and non Govt. schools. Extend and provide counselling services for children, young people and adults experiencing family violence. Invest in crisis accommodation and provide supported housing options.

- Strengthen our legal responses

Strengthen the legislative framework to address family violence. Extend legal assistance to people experiencing family violence. Appoint more specialist police prosecutors. Support perpetrator programs. Improve data collection and reporting and develop a business case for a Criminal Justice information Management system.

Tasmanian Government has committed an additional \$25.57 million to new and direct actions over the next four years.

WESP Projects

WESP have had 2 projects during 2014/2015. WESP provided state-wide training to the sector in Technology Safety. The training took place in Launceston utilising trainers from Victoria.

WESP have developed a "Bin Sticker" that simply states "Domestic Violence is Everybody's Business". The sticker will be launched at the WESP AGM.

WESP are planning a mini conference to be held next year for workers in the DV/Family Violence and sexual assault services and women's service providers.

Victoria

Margaret Augerinos

The last 12 months in Victoria have been dominated by the establishment of the Royal Commission into Family Violence and seen some small increases in funding that were announced during the election period by both sides of government.

Royal Commission into Family Violence

The Royal Commission into Family Violence was established in February 2015. The Terms of Reference are fairly broad, namely:

1. Examine and evaluate strategies, frameworks, policies, programs and services across government and local government, media, business and community organisations and establish best practice for:
 - a. The prevention of family violence;
 - b. Early intervention to identify and protect those at risk of family violence and prevent the escalation of violence;
 - c. Support for victims of family violence and measures to address the impacts on victims, particularly on women and children; and
 - d. Perpetrator accountability;
2. Investigate the means of having systemic responses to family violence, particularly in the legal system and by police, corrections, child protection, legal and family violence support services, including reducing re-offending and changing violence and controlling behaviours;
3. Investigate how government agencies and community organisations can better integrate and coordinate their efforts; and
4. Provide recommendations on how best to evaluate and measure the success of strategies, frameworks, policies, programs and services put in place to stop family violence.

The Royal Commission aims to make recommendations which:

- foster a violence-free society
- reduce and aim to eliminate family violence
- prevent the occurrence and escalation of family violence
- build respectful family relationships
- increase awareness of the extent and effects of family violence

- reinforce community rejection of the use of family violence
- ensure the safety of people who are or may be affected by family violence, by:
 - facilitating early intervention before violence occurs
 - providing fast, effective responses to those who report family violence
 - providing effective protections to adults and children who have been affected by family violence in the past, and remain at risk of family violence
- support adults and children who have been affected by family violence
- hold those who have been violent accountable for their actions
- help people who use or may use family violence to change their behaviour.

The Commission has held a series of community consultations including some closed sessions with women with lived experience of family violence and held a series of public hearings to explore different aspects of the terms of reference.

In addition, written submissions were called for, with over 1,000 submissions received from across Victoria and Australia. Many of those submissions are available on the royal commission website at www.rcfv.com.au including transcripts of the public hearings.

The sector is keenly waiting to hear the Commission's recommendations and hopes that not only increased investment will flow on from the implementation of its recommendations, but that also specialist women's domestic and family violence services are acknowledged as integral to leading change and reform.

Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence

Honouring its election commitments, the government established the first ever Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence. The Hon. Fiona Richardson MP was appointed as our first Minister and has been busy engaging with the sector in a series of roundtables and discussions. Fiona has also been appointed the Minister for Women.

Funding Announcements & Increases

There have been some funding increases announced in the sector over the last 12 months: some pre-election and some post-election. The establishment of the Royal Commission into Family Violence also saw the government invest \$4 million to support services to manage increased demand as a result of the Royal Commission.

The budget announcements in May 2015, provided the following increases to programs:

- \$900,000 was allocated to pilot a program to remain women to stay safely at home through the use of increased security measures such CCTV and duress cards and emergency alarms
- The budget announced an \$81.3 million package which included funding for the Royal Commission to continue its work. Specifically, the sector is slated to receive the following:
 - A \$16 million fund to deal with urgent or unforeseen demand. This includes \$1 million for crisis support and \$1 million for counselling for women and children
 - Additional \$2.5 million dollars for crisis support, purchasing approximately 15,000 nights of accommodation for victims in crisis situations, and \$2.5 million for 55,000 hours of extra counselling services
 - Our peak body DV Vic will receive \$1.4 million to extend their services
 - Family violence legal services will receive \$1.2 million to ensure family violence duty lawyers from community legal centres can assist more victims in court.

There was also an announcement that safety audits of the physical structure and operation of all Magistrates' Court of Victoria will take place to ensure victims are safe from intimidating or threatening behaviour while attending court proceedings.

Victorian Crime Statistics – 2014/2015

Crime statistics released show that police attended more than 68,000 family violence incidents during 14/15, an increase of 8.2% from the previous year.

The overall rate of recorded family violence incidents has increased since 2010. Family violence incidents also featured in the following offences:

- A third of sexual assault and related offences (3282 of 9806 offences)
- Almost half of assault and related offences (17,544 of 37,639 offences)
- More than half of stalking, harassment and threatening behaviour offences (5310 of 10,573 offences).

Western Australia

Kedy Kristal

18 metro refuges 22 rural and remote refuges

Overview of changes/reforms

Following a review of the Perth metropolitan Family Violence Courts and the Geraldton Barndimalgu Aboriginal Court, the Attorney-General decided to close this judicial response to violence on 30th June 2015.

The main basis of his decision was a reported increase in recidivism in the men who had attended the mandated perpetrator program. Offenders dealt with in the five Perth family violence courts, which cost close to \$10 million a year to operate, were 2.4 times more likely to go on to commit further acts of violence than matched offenders in the mainstream system. The review found there was some reduction in re-offending rates by perpetrators dealt with in the Barndimalgu Court in Geraldton, but it was not statistically significant.

The new court response from 1st July 2015 will provide a victim support worker on hand to provide 'real time' information and support to victims who have notified breaches of violence restraining orders that are in place to protect them.

The Attorney-General said "A key difference between the two systems is that those who face charges will no longer be able to pick and choose whether they are dealt with in a specialised family violence court and potentially avoid sentencing in return for undergoing treatment".

FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMUNITY SECTOR ROUNDTABLE

In 2015, the Senior Officers' Group agreed to change the state planning governance arrangements to include a quarterly meeting of community sector representatives and to provide opportunities for issues focused discussions with relevant government, community sector and private stakeholders. An initial meeting has been held and it was agreed to widen the number of community representatives. The community members and members from the Senior Officers Group also meet as part of the consultations undertaken by the Commissioner for Victims of Crime on the proposed new Family Violence court model.

The State DV action plan: Freedom from fear has been endorsed by Cabinet and includes actions and strategies

that are relevant for all government agencies and community sector services that have a role in providing 'human services'. The plan has five main themes:

- 1 Promote understanding and awareness about family and domestic violence:
- 2 Target communities and populations at greatest risk.
- 3 Trial and evaluate innovative approaches to perpetrator intervention.
- 4 Promote consistent quality practice in engaging and responding to men who use violence:
- 5 Increase the capacity and authority of the service system to stop perpetrators of family and domestic violence when they are identified.

Highlights of 14/15

The metropolitan refuge sector has continued to meet and attend workshops in preparation for the commencement of the Hub model on 1st October 2015. The metropolitan region has been divided into three regions, north, south and east, each with a lead 24/7 refuge and a group of 6-7 refuges included in the hub for each region. The lead refuges will commit to provide immediate crisis accommodation for single women and families at imminent risk of violence. After the initial accommodation period these clients will be moved into longer term refuge accommodation and support from a refuge within the hub. Supporting this new model is the development of a Code of Practice for refuge staff and Good Practice Guidelines for child support staff.

The Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence held a very successful conference:

Supporting Children & Young People Who Have Experienced Domestic & Family Violence Conference" 25th & 26th March 2015

Prof. Cathy Humphreys, Professor of Social Work, University of Melbourne was the key note speaker.

SKAFI Project:

The SKAFI is an education tool for Child Support workers to work with children aged between the ages of 4-8 and 9-12, there will be an iPad with an app on it called SKAFI delivered to every refuge in WA by midyear.

The SKAFI App contains information about children and young people's Rights and Responsibilities, Protective Behaviours and how to stay safe, developing a personal safety plan for when things go wrong and how they can get help when it is needed. This is proudly funded by Variety WA.

Future Direction

The Women's Council for Domestic and Family Violence services will provide training for 20 refuge staff in the Promoting Respect 'Train the Trainer (PRTTT) program. Following this 3 day training staff will undertake the delivery of the promoting respect into local high schools. The Women's council will be celebrating 40 years as the WA peak body for refuges and domestic violence services in 2017. A conference is planned as part of the celebrations.

Following a review of the Restraining Orders legislation the Attorney-General has promised changes to the Act to include a category of Domestic Violence protection order and mandatory attendance at counselling programs for respondents.

Treasurer's Report

Kedy Kristal

This year WESNET has worked hard to continue the development and participation of the safety and technology training courses which will again be a focus in the new financial year. Also in this year WESNET partnered with Telstra to help women impacted by domestic violence to stay safely connected, the distribution of these phones is ongoing and in conjunction with our partner agencies nationally.

The hard work put into Membership of WESNET will need to be kept up as these fees are essential to WESNET's continuing activities.

WESNET has made a small profit overall in this financial year of just over three thousand dollars and will, as in all years, go into 2015/16 on a very tight budget. The audit was again an unqualified audit and I would like to thank Lisa Thomas for her work during the year.



WESNET INCORPORATED
ABN 16 068 548 631
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2015

WESNET Incorporated
ABN 16 068 548 631
Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2015

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**WESNET Incorporated
ABN 16 068 548 631
Committee's Report
For the year ended 30 June 2015**

The Members of the Committee herewith submit the financial report of WESNET Incorporated for the financial year ended 30 June 2015.

Committee Members

The names of Committee members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

Julie Oberin - Chairperson
Mirjana Wilson - public officer
Ela Foster
Dale Wakefield
Lindy Edwards - Secretary
Pauline Woodbridge

Vicki Lachlan
Margaret Augerinos
Kedy Kristal - Treasurer
Jane Corpuz-Brock -Sept 14
Jacinta Atkins
Maya Avdibegovic -from Sept 14

Principal activities

During the year the Association provided Women's services in Australia dealing with violence against women and related issues. WESNET promotes innovative models of practice and service delivery, undertakes community education, and conducts or facilitates research on the key issues around domestic and family violence and related issues for women and their children.

Significant changes

No significant changes in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

Operating Results

The profit of the Association for the period amounted to \$3,288 (2014: \$6,136)

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee.



Treasurer - Committee



Committee Member

Dated this 9th day of November 2015

WESNET Incorporated
ABN 461 068 548 631
Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income
For the year ended 30 June 2015

	Notes	2015 \$	2014 \$
Revenue	2	445,820	390,144
Employee Provisions Expense		(106,327)	(108,750)
Other Expenses	3(a)	(334,076)	(271,498)
Audit Fees	3(b)	(2,129)	(3,760)
Current year surplus before income tax		<u>3,288</u>	<u>6,136</u>
Income Tax Expense	1(a)	-	-
Other Comprehensive Income		-	-
Net Current Year Surplus		<u>3,288</u>	<u>6,136</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

WESNET Incorporated
ABN 16 068 548 631
Statement of Financial Position
As at 30 June 2015

	Notes	2015 \$	2014 \$
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash on hand	4	236,671	141,408
Accounts receivable and other debtors	5	10,546	39,928
Other Current assets	6	11,570	5,784
Total Current Assets		<u>258,787</u>	<u>187,120</u>
Total Assets		<u>258,787</u>	<u>187,120</u>
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts payable and other payables	7	228,612	164,550
Employee provisions	8	5,517	1,200
Total Current Liabilities		<u>234,129</u>	<u>165,750</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>234,129</u>	<u>165,750</u>
Net Assets		<u>24,658</u>	<u>21,370</u>
Equity			
Retained surplus		<u>24,658</u>	<u>21,370</u>
Total Equity		<u>24,658</u>	<u>21,370</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

WESNET Incorporated
ABN 16 068 548 631
Statement of Changes in Equity
For the year ended 30 June 2015

Notes	Retained Surplus \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2013	15,234	15,234
Net surplus for the year	6,136	6,136
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-
Total Comprehensive Income	<u>6,136</u>	<u>6,136</u>
Balance at 30 June 2014	<u>21,370</u>	<u>21,370</u>
Balance at 1 July 2014	21,370	21,370
Net surplus for the year	3,288	3,288
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-
Total Comprehensive Income	<u>3,288</u>	<u>3,288</u>
Balance at 30 June 2015	<u>24,658</u>	<u>24,658</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

WESNET Incorporated
ABN 16 068 548 631
Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended 30 June 2015

	Notes	2015 \$	2014 \$
Cash Flows From Operating Activities			
Operating grant receipts		322,942	274,368
Receipts from membership and customers		196,061	139,341
Interest received		1,390	1,968
Payments to suppliers and employees		<u>(425,130)</u>	<u>(326,998)</u>
Net cash provided by operating activities	9	<u>95,263</u>	<u>88,679</u>
Net increase in cash held		95,263	88,679
Cash on hand at the beginning of financial year		141,408	52,729
Cash on hand at the end of financial year	4	<u>236,671</u>	<u>141,408</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

WESNET Incorporated
ABN 16 068 548 631
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2015

Note 1 Summary of significant accounting policies

The financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations incorporation Act . The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity

Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historic costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where stated specifically, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise, have been adopted in the preparation of these financial statements.

Accounting Policies

(a) Income tax

Wesnet Inc. is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

(b) Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows are presented on a gross basis. The GST components of cash flows from investing or financing activities, are recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO are presented as operating cash flows included in receipts from customers or payments to suppliers.

(c) Employee Provisions

Short-term employee benefits

Provision is made for the association's obligation for short-term employee benefits. Short-term employee benefits are benefits (other than termination benefits) that are expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service, including wages, salaries and sick leave. Short-term employee benefits are measured at the (undiscounted) amounts expected to be paid when the obligation is settled.

Other long-term employee benefits

Provision is made for employees' annual leave entitlements not expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related service. Other long-term employee benefits are measured at the present value of the expected future payments to be made to employees. Expected future payments incorporate anticipated future wage and salary levels, durations of service and employee departures, and are discounted at rates determined by reference to end-of-reporting-period market yields on government bonds that have maturity dates approximating the terms of the obligations. Any remeasurements of other long-term employee benefit obligations due to changes in assumptions are recognised in profit or loss in the periods in which the changes occur.

The association's obligations for long-term employee benefits are presented as non-current provisions in its statement of financial position, except where the association does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months after the reporting date, in which case the obligations are presented as current provisions.

WESNET Incorporated
ABN 16 068 548 631
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2015

Note 1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(d) Asset Capitalisation

All asset purchases above \$1,000 are capitalised into the Statement of Financial Position then depreciated. Asset purchases less than \$1,000 are expensed as minor asset purchases in the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income.

(e) Cash on hand

Cash on hand include cash on hand, deposits held at-call with banks and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

(f) Accounts Receivable and Other Debtors

Accounts receivable and other debtors include amounts due from members as well as amounts receivable from customers for goods or services sold during the ordinary course of business. Receivables are expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

Accounts receivable are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method, less any provision for impairment.

(g) Comparative Figures

Where required by Accounting Standards comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the current financial year.

(h) Revenue and Other Income

Income is recognised as revenue to the extent that it is earned. Unearned Income at reporting date is reported as income in advance.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method.

Revenue from the rendering of services is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customer.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST).

Government Grants

Government grants are recognised as revenue when the association has performed the services for which the grant was received. If, at balance date, grant monies are held, but services are to be delivered in the next financial year, the unexpended grants are recorded as a current liability on the statement of financial position.

(i) Accounts Payable and Other Payables

Accounts payable other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association during the reporting period, which remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

WESNET Incorporated
ABN 16 068 548 631
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2015

Note 1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(j) Financial Instruments

Initial recognition and measurement

Financial assets and financial liabilities are recognised when the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions to the instrument. For financial assets, this is equivalent to the date that the association commits itself to either purchase or sell the asset (i.e. trade date accounting adopted).

Financial instruments are initially measured at fair value plus transaction costs except where the instrument is classified "at fair value through profit or loss" transaction costs are expensed to profit or loss immediately.

Classification and subsequent measurement

Financial instruments are subsequently measured at fair value, amortised cost using the effective interest method, or cost.

Amortised cost is calculated as the amount at which the financial asset or financial liability is measured at initial recognition less principal repayments and any reduction for impairment, and adjusted for any cumulative amortisation of the difference between that initial amount and the maturity amount calculated using the *effective interest method*.

The *effective interest method* is used to allocate interest income or interest expense over the relevant period and is equivalent to the rate that discounts estimated future cash payments or receipts over the expected life (or when this cannot be reliably predicted, the contractual term) of the financial instrument to the net carrying amount of the financial asset or financial liability. Revisions to expected future net cash flows will necessitate an adjustment to the carrying amount with a consequential recognition of income or expenses in profit or loss.

(i) Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market and are subsequently measured at amortised cost. Gains or losses are recognised in profit or loss through the amortisation process and when the financial asset is derecognised.

(ii) Financial liabilities

Non-derivative financial liabilities other than financial guarantees are subsequently measured at amortised cost. Gains or losses are recognised in profit or loss through the amortisation process and when the financial liability is derecognised.

WESNET Incorporated
ABN 16 068 548 631
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2015

Note 1 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

(j) Financial Instruments (continued)

Impairment

A financial asset (or a group of financial assets) is deemed to be impaired if, and only if, there is objective evidence of impairment as a result of one or more events (a "loss event") having occurred, which has an impact on the estimated future cash flows of the financial asset(s).

In the case of financial assets carried at amortised cost, loss events may include indications that the debtors or a group of debtors is experiencing significant financial difficulty, default or delinquency in interest or principal payments; indications that they will enter bankruptcy or other financial reorganisation; and changes in arrears or economic conditions that correlate with defaults.

For financial assets carried at amortised cost (including loans and receivables), a separate allowance account is used to reduce the carrying amount of financial assets impaired by credit losses. After having taken all possible measures of recovery, if management establishes that the carrying amount cannot be recovered by any means, at that point the written-off amounts are charged to the allowance account or the carrying amount of impaired financial assets is reduced directly if no impairment amount was previously recognised in the allowance account.

When the terms of financial assets that would otherwise have been past due or impaired have been renegotiated, the association recognises the impairment for such financial assets by taking into account the original terms as if the terms have not been renegotiated so that the loss events that have occurred are duly considered.

Derecognition

Financial assets are derecognised where the contractual right to receipt of cash flows expires or the asset is transferred to another party, whereby the association no longer has any significant continuing involvement in the risks and benefits associated with the asset. Financial liabilities are derecognised where the related obligations are either discharged, cancelled or expire. The difference between the carrying value of the financial liability extinguished or transferred to another party and the fair value consideration paid, including the transfer of non-cash assets or liabilities assumed is recognised in the profit or loss.

When an impairment loss on a revalued asset is identified this is recognised against the revaluation surplus in respect of the same class of asset to the extent that the impairment loss does not exceed the amount in the revaluation surplus for that class of asset.

(k) Impairment of Assets

At the end of each reporting period, the association assesses whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired. The assessment will consider both external and internal sources of information. If such an indication exists, an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of that asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less cost to sell and its value-in-use, to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is immediately recognised in profit or loss.

(l) Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgements

The association evaluates estimates and judgements incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and the best available current information. Estimates assume a reasonable expectation of future events and are based on current trends and economic data, obtained both externally and within the association.

Key estimates

(i) Impairment - general

The association assesses impairment at the end of each reporting period by evaluation of conditions and events specific to the association that may be indicative of impairment triggers. Recoverable amounts of relevant assets are reassessed using value-in-use calculations which incorporate various key assumptions.

(m) New and Amended Accounting Policies Adopted by the Association

Certain new AAS's have been issued that are not mandatory for the 30 June 2015 reporting period. The association has assessed these pending standards and has identified that no material impact will flow from the application of these standards in future reporting periods.

WESNET Incorporated
ABN 16 068 548 631
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2015

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Note 2 Revenue		
- Operating Grants	322,942	274,368
- Other Operating Revenue	87,804	78,337
- Member Subscriptions	33,684	35,471
- Interest Received	1,390	1,968
	<u>445,820</u>	<u>390,144</u>
Note 3(a) Other Expenses		
- Consultancy fees	47,027	19,247
- Management fee	109,936	90,310
- Management costs - AWAVA	54,531	46,640
- Meeting Costs	18,137	3,442
- Employee Cost - Recruitment	455	3,335
- Insurance	3,124	3,343
- Postage	1,837	1,573
- Printing and Stationary	3,810	747
- Subscriptions / Membership	546	341
- Travel related expenses	54,392	63,926
- Bad debts written off	6,138	8,043
- Miscellaneous- Other expenses from ordinary activities	34,143	30,551
	<u>334,076</u>	<u>271,498</u>
Note 3(b) Auditor's Remuneration		
- audit of financial report	<u>2,129</u>	<u>3,760</u>
Note 4 Cash on hand		
Cash at bank-unrestricted	236,671	141,408
	<u>236,671</u>	<u>141,408</u>
Note 5 Accounts Receivable and Other Debtors		
Accounts Receivable	10,546	39,928
	<u>10,546</u>	<u>39,928</u>

No impairment of accounts receivable and other debtors was required at 30 June 2015 (2014: NIL)

WESNET Incorporated
ABN 16 068 548 631
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2015

Note 5 Accounts Receivable and Other Debtors (continued)
Credit Risk

The association has no significant concentrations of credit risk with respect to any single counterparty or group of counterparties.

The following table details the association's contributions and other debtors receivable exposed to credit risk with ageing analysis and impairment provided thereon, Amounts are considered as "past due" when the debt has not been settled within the terms and conditions agreed between the association and the member or counterparty to the transaction. Receivables that are past due are assessed for impairment by ascertaining their willingness to pay and are provided for where there are specific circumstances indicating that the debt may not be fully repaid to the association. The balances of receivables that remain within initial terms (as detailed in the table) are considered to be of high credit quality.

2015	Gross Amount \$	Past Due and Impaired \$	Within initial trade terms \$	Past Due but Not Impaired (Days Overdue)		
				31-60 \$	61-90 \$	>90 \$
Trade Receivables	10,546	-	7,449	2,883	214	-
Total	10,546	-	7,449	2,883	214	-

2014	Gross Amount \$	Past Due and Impaired \$	Within initial trade terms \$	Past Due but Not Impaired (Days Overdue)		
				31-60 \$	61-90 \$	>90 \$
Trade Receivables	39,928	-	38,816	1,112	-	-
Total	39,928	-	38,816	1,112	-	-

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Note 6 Other Current Assets		
Prepayments	11,570	5,784
	<u>11,570</u>	<u>5,784</u>
Note 7 Accounts Payable and Other Payables		
Trade creditors	29,900	29,756
Revenue in Advance	159,201	101,469
Accrued Expenses	17,998	16,747
GST Liability	21,513	16,578
	<u>228,612</u>	<u>164,550</u>

WESNET Incorporated
ABN 16 068 548 631
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2015

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Note 8 Employee Provisions		
Current		
Annual Leave	5,517	1,200
	<u>5,517</u>	<u>1,200</u>
Analysis of Employee Provisions - Annual Leave Entitlements		
Opening Balance as at 1 July 2014	1,200	
Additional provisions	8,125	
Amounts used	<u>(3,808)</u>	
Balance at 30 June 2015	<u>5,517</u>	

Employee Provisions - Annual Leave Entitlements

The provision for employee benefits represents amounts accrued for annual leave.

Based on past experience, the association doesn't expect the full amount of annual leave to be settled wholly within the next 12 months. However, the amount must be classified as a current liability because the association does not have an unconditional right to defer the settlement of the amount in the event employees wish to use their leave entitlements.

Note 9 Cash flow information

Reconciliation of cash flow from operating activities with net current year surplus

Current year surplus	3,288	6,136
Changes in assets and liabilities		
- (Increase) decrease in accounts receivable and other debtors	29,382	(2,659)
- (Increase) decrease in other assets	(5,786)	(5,784)
- Increase (decrease) in accounts payable and other payables	64,062	95,298
- increase (decrease) in employer provisions	<u>4,317</u>	<u>(4,312)</u>
Net cash flows from/ (used in) operating activities	<u>95,263</u>	<u>88,679</u>

Note 10 Related Party Transactions

a. Key Management Personnel

The Chair of the Board is also employed by Annie North Inc. and information relating to her remuneration is disclosed in the financial statements of Annie North Inc. During the year WESNET Incorporated paid \$164,467 (2014: \$136,950) to Annie North Inc. in relation to the service provided by the Annie North Inc., CEO and other Administration staff.

b. Other Related Parties

WESNET Incorporated has conducted transactions with its member organisations on normal commercial terms and conditions during the year.

WESNET Incorporated
ABN 16 068 548 631
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2015

Note 11 Events after the reporting period

There have been no events after the end of the financial year that would materially affect the financial statements.

Note 12 Contingent Liabilities & Contingent Assets

There were no contingent liabilities or contingent assets at the date of this report.

Note 13 Commitments

There are no capital commitments. There is a subcontract with YWCA Canberra for rental payments of \$2202.15 per quarter for the next 12 months, total \$8808.60 per year.

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Payable - minimum lease payments		
- no later than 12 months	8,809	8,809
- between 12 months and 5 years	-	-
- greater than 5 years	-	-
	<u>8,809</u>	<u>8,809</u>

This agreement is currently only for the next 12 months.

Note 14 Association Details

Registered place of business and registered office of the association is:

Wesnet Inc.

166 Queen Street

Bendigo, VIC 3550

Association Incorporation Number: A02400

Australian Business Number: 16 068 548 631

WESNET Incorporated
ABN 16 068 548 631
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2015

Note 15 Financial Risk Management

The association's financial instruments consist mainly of deposits with banks, short term investments, accounts receivable and accounts payable.

The totals for each category of financial instruments, measured in accordance with AASB 139, as detailed in the accounting policies to these financial statements, are as follows:

	Notes	2015 \$	2014 \$
Financial Assets			
Cash on hand	4	236,671	141,408
Accounts Receivable and other Debtors	5	10,546	39,928
Other Current Assets	6	11,570	5,784
Total Financial Assets		258,787	187,120
Financial Liabilities			
Financial liabilities at amortised cost:			
- Accounts Payable and other payables	7	207,099	147,973
Total Financial Liabilities		207,099	147,973

Financial Risk Management Policies

The association's Board is responsible for, among other issues, monitoring and managing financial risk exposures of the association. The Board monitors the association's transactions and reviews the effectiveness of controls relating to credit risk, liquidity risk and market risk.

Discussions on monitoring and managing financial risk exposures are held and minuted by the committee of management

The Board's overall risk management strategy seeks to ensure that the association meets its financial targets, while minimising potential adverse effects on cash flow shortfalls.

Specific Financial Risk Exposures and Management

The main risks the association is exposed to through its financial instruments are interest rate risk, liquidity risk and credit risk. There have been no substantive changes in the types of risks the association is exposed to, how these risks arise, or the Committee's objectives, policies and processes for managing or measuring the risks from the previous period.

a. Credit Risk

Exposure to credit risk relating to financial assets arises from the potential non-performance by counterparties of contract obligations that could lead to a financial loss to the association.

Risk is minimised through investing surplus funds in financial institutions that maintain high credit rating or in entities that the committee has otherwise assessed as being financially sound.

Accounts receivable and other debtors that are neither past due nor impaired are considered to be of high credit quality. The association has no significant concentrations of credit risk with any single counterparty or group of counterparties. Details with respect to credit risk of accounts receivable and other debtors are provided in Note 5.

WESNET Incorporated
ABN 16 068 548 631
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2015

Note 15 Financial Risk Management (continued)

b. Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk arises from the possibility that the association might encounter difficulty in settling its debts or otherwise meeting its obligations related to financial liabilities. The association manages this risk through the following mechanisms:

- preparing forward looking cash flow analysis in relation to operational investing and financing activities,
- only investing surplus cash with major financial institutions, and
- proactively monitoring recovery of unpaid debtors.

The table below reflects an undiscounted contractual maturity analysis for non derivative financial liabilities. The association does not hold directly any derivative financial liabilities.

Cash flows realised from financial assets reflect management's expectation as to the timing of realisation. Actual timing may therefore differ from that disclosed. The timing of cash flows presented in the table to settle financial liabilities reflects the earliest contractual settlement dates.

Financial liability and financial asset maturity analysis

	Within 1 Year		1 to 5 Years		Total	
	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial liabilities due for payment						
Accounts Payable and Other Payables (excluding Annual Leave and grants receivable in advance)	207,099	147,973	-	-	207,099	147,973
Total contractual outflows	207,099	147,973	-	-	207,099	147,973
Total expected outflows	207,099	147,973	-	-	207,099	147,973
Financial assets - cash flows realisable						
Cash On Hand	236,671	141,408	-	-	236,671	141,408
Accounts Receivable & other Debtors	10,546	39,928	-	-	10,546	39,928
Total anticipated inflows	247,217	181,336	-	-	247,217	181,336
Net (outflow)/inflow on financial instruments	40,118	33,363	-	-	40,118	33,363

c. Interest Rate Risk

Exposure to interest rate risk arises on financial assets and financial liabilities recognised at the end of the reporting period whereby a future change in interest rates will affect future cash flows or the fair value of fixed rate financial instruments. The association is exposed to earnings volatility on floating rate instruments. The financial instruments that expose the association to interest rate risk that are limited to cash and cash equivalents.

The association also manages interest rate risk by ensuring that, whenever possible, payables are paid within any pre-agreed credit terms.

Sensitivity analysis

The following table illustrates sensitivities to the association's exposures to changes in interest rates and equity prices. The table indicates the impact on how profit and equity values reported at the end of the reporting period would have been affected by changes in the relevant risk variable that management considers to be reasonably possible.

WESNET Incorporated
ABN 16 068 548 631
Notes to the Financial Statements
For the year ended 30 June 2015

Note 15 Financial Risk Management (continued)

These sensitivities assume that the movement in a particular variable is independent of other variables.

	Current Surplus	Equity
	\$	\$
Year ended 30 June 2015		
+/- 2% in interest rates	+/-1,905	+/-1,905
	Current Surplus	Equity
	\$	\$
Year ended 30 June 2014		
+/- 2% in interest rates	+/-1,774	+/-1,774

No sensitivity analysis has been performed on foreign exchange risk as the association has no significant exposure to currency risk.

There have been no changes in any of the assumptions used to prepare the above sensitivity analysis from the prior year.

Fair Values

The fair values of financial assets and financial liabilities are presented in the following table and can be compared to their carrying amounts as presented in the statement of financial position. Fair value is the amount at which an asset could be exchanged, or a liability settled, between knowledgeable, willing parties in an arm's length transaction.

		2015		2014	
		Carrying Amount	Fair Value	Carrying Amount	Fair Value
		\$	\$	\$	\$
Financial Assets					
Cash on hand (i)	4	236,671	236,671	141,408	141,408
Accounts receivable and other debtors (i)	5	10,546	10,546	39,928	39,928
Total Financial Assets		247,217	247,217	181,336	181,336
Financial Liabilities					
Accounts Payable and other payables (i)	7	207,099	207,099	147,973	147,973
Total Financial Liabilities		207,099	207,099	147,973	147,973

- (i) Cash on hand, accounts receivable and other debtors and accounts payable and other payables are short-term instruments in nature whose carrying amount is equivalent to fair value. Accounts payable and other payables exclude amounts relating to the provision for annual leave, which is outside the scope of AASB 139.

WESNET Incorporated
ABN 16 068 548 631
Statement by Members of the Committee
For the year ended 30 June 2015

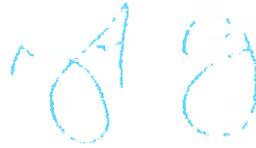
In the opinion of the Committee of WESNET Incorporated the attached financial report as set out on pages 1 - 16:

- (a) Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of WESNET Inc. as at 30 June 2015 and its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, (including Australian Accounting Interpretations) of the Australian Accounting Standards Board; and
- (b) At the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that the association will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:



Treasurer - Committee



Committee Member

Signed this 9th Day of November 2015

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WESNET INCORPORATED

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of WESNET (Non-reporting) Incorporated (the association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2015, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the certification by the members of the committee on the annual statements giving a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of the association.

Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The committee of the association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report, and has determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 is appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009* and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about 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 judgment, 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 directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

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

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report gives a true and fair view of the financial position of WESNET (Non-reporting) Inc as at 30 June 2015 and of its financial performance for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009*.

Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial statements, which describe the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist WESNET (Non-reporting) Inc to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 2009*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

RICHMOND SINNOTT & DELAHUNTY
Chartered Accountants



P. P. Delahunty
Partner
Bendigo

Dated this 9th day of November 2015