

# **Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service Inc.**



Villamanta Disability  
Rights Legal Service Inc.



## **Annual Report 2011 – 2012**

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# Villamanta Disability Rights

## Legal Service Inc. Staff Members



<b>Deidre Griffiths</b>	Principal Solicitor & Executive Officer (5 days per week)
<b>Greg Leeson</b>	Casework Lawyer/Policy & Law Reform Worker (2 days per week)
<b>Ben von Einem</b>	Casework Lawyer (4 days per week)
<b>Viv Avery</b>	Casework Lawyer (3 days per week)
<b>Darrell Harding</b>	Accounts Administrator/Personnel/Special Projects (3 days per week)
<b>Sue Wolter</b>	Paralegal Worker (4 days per week)
<b>Viv Nicol</b>	Administration Worker (3 days per week)
<b>Trish Jardine</b>	Telephone Advice Worker (3 days per week)

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service Inc. is part of the Australian Network of Disability Advocacy Services funded by the Australian Government. We thank our funder, the Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, our sponsor, donortec, who generously upgraded our computer software and the Victoria Law Foundation for funding our new publication.*



**Australian Government**

**Department of Families, Housing,  
Community Services and Indigenous Affairs**

funded by a grant from

**Victoria  
Law Foundation**

Grants  
Publications  
Education



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# About Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service Inc.



## Our Mission

***“Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service advances the rights of people who have a disability related legal or justice issue”***

Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service Inc. is a statewide community legal service that works only on disability related legal issues. Our main purpose is to make sure that Victorian people who have a disability know about the law and are enabled to use the law to get their rights.

We have a particular focus on the rights of people who have an intellectual disability.

### **Villamanta provides these free services to people who have a disability:**

- ◆ Telephone information, advice and referral service
- ◆ Legal assistance on disability related issues
- ◆ Community legal education
- ◆ Policy and law reform

Some of these services are also provided to people who do not have a disability who are involved in supporting people with disabilities. We also sell books on disability related legal issues.

Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service Inc. is committed to the rights of people who have a disability. We believe people who have a disability have a right to be treated in ways that are fair and reasonable, and which result in opportunities, freedoms, and a standard of living that are equal to those existing for people who do not have a disability.

We aim to make it possible for people who have a disability to use the law to ensure that their legal rights are recognised and acted upon by others.

*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has”*

*Margaret Mead*

<b>VILLAMANTA DISABILITY RIGHTS LEGAL SERVICE Inc.</b>	
<b>Annual General Meeting MINUTES</b>	<b>Wednesday 21st September, 2011</b> <b>5.00 p.m.</b> <b>Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service Inc.</b> <b>44 Bellerine Street,</b> <b>GEE LONG VIC 3220</b>

<b>1. Welcome</b>	<p>Andrew Hill, Acting Chairperson, welcomed everyone and explained that he was chairing today because both David Lindsay and Amanda Hiscoe were apologies. Andrew then read out the list of apologies and asked for any further apologies.</p>
<b>2. Present</b>	<p><b>Present</b></p> <p><b>Committee Members:</b> Andrew Hill (Acting Chairperson &amp; Secretary), Stephen Dinner, Alex Risk, Kathryn McBride, Lauren Matthews and Hank Wyllie.</p> <p><b>Visitors and volunteers:</b> Tamara Kotowicz (Volunteer law student), Diana Kambovski (Volunteer administration) and Paul McFadden (Disability Liaison Officer, Geelong Magistrates Court).</p> <p><b>Staff:</b> Deidre Griffiths, Viv Nicol (Minutes), Darrell Harding, Sue Wolter, Trish Jardine and Greg Leeson.</p>
<b>3. Apologies</b>	<p><b>Committee Members:</b> David Lindsay (Chairperson), Amanda Hiscoe (Deputy Chairperson), Janet Ward, Neville Porter, Barbara Machnyk (support person), Peter Landers (Treasurer) and Simon French</p> <p><b>Staff:</b> Ben von Einem (Villamanta Lawyer) and Viv Avery (Villamanta Lawyer)</p> <p><b>Volunteers:</b> Siew Kuiper, Belinda Jane, Melissa Van der Ploeg and Joyce Schroeter</p> <p><b>Visitors:</b> Colin Hiscoe, Lisa Neville M.P., Ian Trezise M.P., Cathy Bolger (RIAC), Patricia Tainton (VLA - Geelong), Gordon Prior, Susan Ball (Legal Services Board), Gabrielle Dickinson (AMIDA), Rosemary Crossley (Deal Communication Centre), Gabrielle Nagle (Glastonbury Community Services) and Margaret Gottlewski (Southwest Advocacy Association).</p>
<b>4. Confirmation of Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>	<p><b>Motion:</b> That the minutes of Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service Inc.'s Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2010, be accepted.</p> <p><b>Moved:</b> Darrell Harding</p> <p><b>Seconded:</b> Sue Wolter     <b>Carried.</b></p>

<b>5. Chairperson's Report</b>	<p>Andrew Hill, Acting Chairperson, thanked staff and committee members for their work and read out David Lindsay's Chairperson's Report which noted that David is resigning from the position of Chairperson.</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> That the Chairperson's Report be accepted</p> <p><b>Moved:</b> Kathryn McBride</p> <p><b>Seconded:</b> Lauren Matthews</p> <p><b>Carried</b></p>
<b>6. Executive Officer's Report</b>	<p>Deidre Griffiths, Executive Officer, invited everyone to read her report in the Annual Report. Deidre gave a brief overview of the year's work and thanked staff, Committee Members, trainers and volunteers for their great work over the past year.</p> <p>Andrew thanked Deidre for her report.</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> That the Executive Officer's Report be accepted</p> <p><b>Moved:</b> Sue Wolter</p> <p><b>Seconded:</b> Hank Wyllie</p> <p><b>Carried</b></p>
<b>7. Treasurer's Report</b>	<p>As Peter Landers, Treasurer, was an apology, Darrell Harding, Accounts Administrator, spoke to the Treasurer's Report and informed everyone that over the past twelve months Villamanta's financial situation has maintained good health. Darrell thanked Peter Landers, Treasurer, for his support throughout the year. Darrell referred everyone to the Treasurer's Report in the Annual Report and encouraged people to direct any questions they may have to him or Peter Landers.</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> That the Treasurer's Report be accepted subject to a formatting amendment.</p> <p><b>Moved:</b> Darrell Harding</p> <p><b>Seconded:</b> Kathryn McBride</p> <p><b>Carried</b></p>
<b>8. Appointment of Auditor</b>	<p><b>Motion:</b> That Devenny Payne Taxation and Business Services, again be appointed as Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service Inc.'s Auditor for the 2011/2012 financial year.</p> <p><b>Moved:</b> Darrell Harding</p> <p><b>Seconded:</b> Sue Wolter</p> <p><b>Carried</b></p>

<b>9. Election of Committee Office Bearers/Ordinary Members</b>	<p>As all current Committee Members were happy to continue and there were no new nominations, the Committee was re-elected to the same positions unopposed, with the exception of David Lindsay, who is remaining on the Committee but is resigning from his role as Chairperson. A new Chairperson will be elected at the next Committee of Management Meeting.</p> <p><b>Motion:</b> That the following Committee Members be re-elected:  David Lindsay  Andrew Hill (Secretary)  Amanda Hiscoe (Deputy Chairperson)  Peter Landers (Treasurer)  Neville Porter  Janet Ward  Simon French  Kathryn McBride  Alex Risk  Stephen Dinner  Lauren Matthews  Hank Wyllie</p> <p><b>Moved:</b> Andrew Hill  <b>Seconded:</b> Stephen Dinner  <b>Carried</b>  No vacancies remain</p>
<b>10. Other Business</b>	<p>Deidre Griffiths thanked Committee of Management members for their great contribution over the past year and presented them with a small token of Villamanta's appreciation.</p> <p>Andrew thanked everyone for attending and invited people to stay for something to eat and drink.</p>
<b>11. Close meeting</b>	<p>The meeting closed at 5.00 p.m.</p>



# Committee of Management Members



**Kathryn McBride** is the Chairperson of Villamanta's Committee of Management. Kathryn is the Co-ordinator of Care Services at the City of Greater Geelong. She holds a Diploma of Fine Art, Graduate Diploma of Education and Diploma of Management.

Kathryn has a rich experience in service provision and a commitment to quality improvement.

Kathryn is a past member of the Board of Directors of Colac Area Health, Arts Colac, Colac Community Development Association and the Disability Managers Association.



**Amanda Hiscoe** has been a member of Villamanta's Committee of Management for 17 years and has held the office of Deputy Chairperson for at least 13 of those years. Amanda is the second longest serving Committee member, Neville Porter is our longest serving Committee member. As Deputy Chairperson Amanda sometimes chairs the bi-monthly committee meetings.

Amanda says: *"Villamanta is a unique service being one of the first organisations to have people who have a disability on their Committee of Management and everyone gets a say."*

Amanda reminds us not to use jargon words and to think about other people's needs at meetings. When she hears a jargon word she always asks for plain English and the meaning of the word.

Amanda attended the 2012 "Having a Say" Conference and represented Villamanta at the Conference for the sixth time.

Amanda says Villamanta is always on the lookout for new members and Committee of Management members and people who have a disability are encouraged to join. Membership is free.

Amanda has a big interest in the laws around human rights and legal issues for people who have a disability. Amanda has been involved in the disability movement since 1980 and has been a very powerful self-advocate over the many years she has been involved in the disability sector. Amanda is familiar with and has used both State and Federal laws in many legal matters.

Amanda hopes you have enjoyed reading her Deputy Chairperson's Report and looks forward to the year ahead.

Amanda also barracks for the mighty Cats.



## Committee of Management Members



**Andrew Hill** is the Secretary of Villamanta's Committee of Management. Andrew is a lawyer who is a partner in the Geelong law firm, Birdsey, Dedman and Bartlett. Andrew has extensive board and committee of management experience. He has over 30 years experience in Commercial law, Property law (Rural, Commercial and Residential), Wills and Estates and Powers of Attorney. He is a keen fisherman and oarsman and enjoys golf and gardening.

Andrew is a former Convenor of Barwon Region Youth Affairs Network, Committee member of Geelong & District Day Nursery, Secretary of Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service, member of Geelong Legacy and Corio Bay Rowing Club. Andrew is a former President of Geelong District Nursing Service and Geelong Community Health Service and a former Board Member of Barwon Health.



**Peter Landers** is the Treasurer of Villamanta's Committee of Management. Peter is a partner at LBW Chartered Accountants and previously an Audit Manager at KPMG where he was employed for over 7 years (5 years in Melbourne and 2 years in London). Peter has been an Audit Partner at LBW Chartered Accountants.

Peter has also been involved in providing accounting, taxation, audit and business advice as well as forensic accounting and business valuations.



**Alex Risk** is an Ordinary Member of Villamanta's Committee of Management. Alex has lived in Geelong since 1972. Alex appreciates the wide range of health and community services on offer in our region.

He was a fulltime carer for his late wife. His background covers the fields of journalism and government service.

## Committee of Management Members



**Hank Wyllie** is an Ordinary Member of Villamanta's Committee of Management. Hank has been a disability advocate since about 1986 after acquiring his disability at age 35. Following intensive rehabilitation spanning over two years, after his release from three hospitals, he decided to dedicate his formerly physically active life to assisting other people who have disabilities to access the community, as is their right.

Having communication impairment did not deter him as he became actively involved in various committees. His first was what is now known as Leisure Networks, then the Barwon Disability Resource Council, where he was chair for over four years. Hank's other local activities include the City of Greater Geelong's Aged and Disability Street Access Committee.

Because of his interest in improving or creating awareness of the plight of people who have little or no speech, he volunteers for Communication Rights Australia, and Scope's Barwon Southwest Communication Access Network. Hank is employed part time by Scope to promote and assess businesses and organisations to make their premises Communication Accessible and obtain the Communication Accessible Symbol. These only represent a few of his interests.

Hank is currently a member of the Australian Communication Consumer Action Network subcommittee Standing Advisory Committee on Disability Issues (telecommunications). His interest in advocacy and rights made his choice in joining the Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service Committee of Management, where he can share his thoughts and ideas to assist Villamanta's excellent record of achieving results.



**Simon French** is an Ordinary Member of Villamanta's Committee of Management. Simon is a lawyer and is the General Manager of Employment Services at St Laurence Community Services. Simon has particular interest and expertise in acting for and against public bodies providing advice on decision making procedures.

Simon has acted for major Government Departments and Statutory Authorities in Australia and the UK. He has also been involved in major infrastructure projects and is an experienced advocate, having qualified and practiced in the UK as a barrister and worked for an Australian law firm.

## Committee of Management Members



**Lauren Matthews** joined the Villamanta Committee of Management as an Ordinary Member in April 2011. She is a solicitor for Wightons Lawyers in Geelong, practising in the areas of family law, criminal law, child protection and family violence.

In her early years as a lawyer, Lauren worked as a caseworker/migration agent for the Refugee Advice and Casework Service ("RACS") in Melbourne and Sydney, within the Federation of Community Legal Centres. Her prime role was to represent asylum seekers in immigration detention, as well as in the community, with their claims to refugee status under international law.

In 1998, Lauren joined the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. She served in headquarters in Geneva for a number of years, as well as field offices in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Nepal. During 2007, Lauren was based in Sri Lanka where she worked for the International Group of Eminent Persons who monitored the Sri Lankan Presidential Commission of Inquiry into Serious Human Rights Abuses.

Throughout her 10 years abroad, Lauren developed an expertise on international human rights. Having returned to Australia, she is keen to use this experience to contribute to Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service.

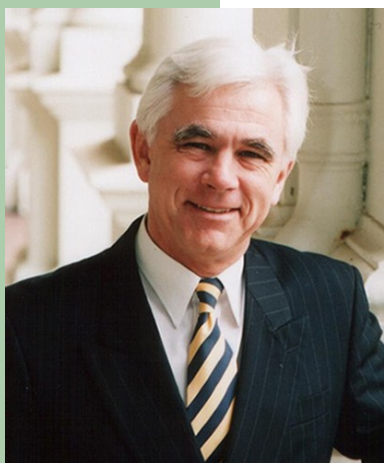


**Janet Ward** is an Ordinary Member of Villamanta's Committee of Management. Janet has a passion for social justice, specially working with people who have a disability (spanning a number of decades), and with many years working in the Community Sector. Janet now has her own business in coaching, counselling and training. In the training arm of her business, Janet trains students in Certificate IV Disabilities, Certificate III Education Support, Certificate IV Small Business Management, and in Vocation subjects with people of all ages who have been disadvantaged for whatever reason.

In volunteer roles, Janet continues to put in by training Certificate IV Telephone Counselling, has the role of telephone counsellor and supervisor for a prominent volunteer crisis counselling organisation and she has supported Disability Access and Advisory Groups in Ballarat for many years. This is her sixth year on Villamanta's Committee of Management.



## Committee of Management Members



**Professor Philip H Clarke** is an Ordinary Member of Villamanta's Committee of Management. Philip is an Emeritus Professor of Law at Deakin University, an education consultant and the principal of Corporate Compliance Australia Pty Ltd. Previously he was Deakin University's Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) (2009-2010), Pro Vice-Chancellor International (2008-2009), Dean of the Faculty of Business and Law (1999-2008) and the inaugural Head of the Deakin Law School (1993-1999). As Deakin University's Foundation Professor of Law he was instrumental in establishing and developing its law degree program.

Professor Clarke is an Australian lawyer who is a graduate of the Universities of Western Australia and Auckland University. He has extensive teaching experience at the Australian National University, Monash University and Deakin University. He has also written extensively in the fields of Competition Law, Contract Law and Consumer Protection.

Professor Clarke has experience of the law reform process through working as the Director of the Western Australian Law Reform Commission and as a consultant on competition law to the Asian Development Bank. He is a former editor of the *Australian Business Law Review* and recently joined the editorial Panel of the *Competition and Consumer Law News*.



**Stephen Dinner** is an Ordinary Member of Villamanta's Committee of Management. Stephen is a single parent with two sons aged 16 and nearly 19 who live with him and have done since they were 2 and 5. Stephen is a qualified electronics engineer and is self employed.

Stephen does volunteer work for the Office of the Public Advocate as a Community Visitor, Independent Third Person, Community Guardian, and more recently has taken on a new position as a Corrections Independent Support Person.



**Neville Porter** is an Ordinary Member of Villamanta's Committee of Management. Neville has been on Villamanta's Committee since it started 22 years ago. Neville is doing a course at BAYLINK, including reading and writing study.

Neville does screen acting classes on a Friday and works at Paper Services in North Geelong. Neville is good at his job. Neville is a member of the Geelong Football Club cheer squad. "Go Cats!"





*Darrell Harding - Accounts Administrator*



*Trish Jardine - Telephone Advice Worker*



*Viv Avery, Casework Lawyer & volunteers  
Diana Kambovski & Sally Kenyon*



*Deidre Griffiths - Executive Officer with Phil Grace  
- Information Technology consultant*



*Annie Doolan  
Volunteer*



*Barbara Machnyk (Left) Support Person  
with Neville Porter, Committee Member*



*Ben von Einem  
Casework Lawyer*





Greg Leeson - Casework Lawyer



Viv Nicol - Administration Officer (left) and Sue Wolter - Para-legal worker



Deidre Griffiths, Executive Officer (left) & Amanda Hiscoe - Deputy Chairperson



Georgie Alford - Volunteer lawyer



Darrell Harding - Account Administrator with Deidre Griffiths - Executive Officer, at First Aid class



Belinda Jane - Accounts Volunteer, with her assistance dog, Brooke

# Chairperson's Report



My first year as chairperson has been another very busy but successful year for Villamanta. Many good outcomes have been achieved for our clients as a result of the work of staff and volunteers. Staff have worked extra hard this year to change over to a new electronic system for all Villamanta records. A great deal of work has also been done in preparation for the new quality assurance audit system that NDAP-funded agencies will be undertaking from now on. The Committee of Management has worked on the review of Villamanta's strategic plan and has formed two working groups that have been working on strategic planning and also on risk management and continuous improvement. We have developed a Critical Dates Calendar and a Continuous Improvement Log to assist us in our work.

We said goodbye to David Lindsay, our former Chairperson, at the end of last year and I would like to thank him, on behalf of the Committee of Management and Villamanta staff, for his great contribution as our leader over the last several years. We have again successfully recruited new members to our committee and have really good representation to take us forward.

I would like to congratulate the staff of Villamanta on the professional way in which the service is administered and delivered and our volunteers, including committee of management members, for their much appreciated contributions to Villamanta's work.

Villamanta's finances have been very well managed by Darrell Harding, our Accounts Administrator and Peter Landers, our Honorary Treasurer and I thank them for their work too.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who supported the committee and me during the year. I look forward to Villamanta continuing into another successful year and to the committee making further contributions to its strategic planning and continuous improvement.

**Kathryn McBride**  
**Chairperson**



# Executive Officer & Principal Solicitor's Report



2011-12 has been another very busy and productive period for Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service Inc. Villamanta's Committee of Management members, staff members and volunteer workers have once again worked hard to give Victorian people who have a disability and a disability-related legal or justice issue, the best possible service.

Villamanta's free telephone advice, information and referral service, legal casework and community legal education for people who have a disability, continued to be in great demand and we did policy and law reform work on issues of importance to our constituents. We also presented training on disability rights topics to others in the community and sold some publications on disability related topics. Details about the work Villamanta staff members and volunteers did during the year are given throughout this report.

Villamanta is funded by the Australian Government through the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FaHCSIA), under the National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP), as part of the Australian Network of Disability Advocacy Services. We thank our funder for their grant of funding which enables us to work for our constituents. We have also benefited from the training provided by FaHCSIA about the National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP) Quality Assurance audit process and we are currently undertaking the audit against the new Disability Advocacy Standards. The audit process aims to measure how we are working against the service standards and improve the way our agencies are run and the way the NDAP is delivered. We also thank Microsoft for the ongoing benefits of their generous upgrade of our computer software through the Donortec Program.

We again worked collaboratively with various advocacy and other relevant organisations, networks and individuals to achieve positive results, both for individuals and at a systemic level, on numerous important issues. Villamanta and its constituents greatly appreciate the collaboration, co-operation and support of these organisations and their workers. We note with appreciation the continuation of the improved communication and consultation between our funder and agencies in the advocacy sector, in particular those in the National Disability Advocacy Program (NDAP). This helps advocacy organisations to carry out their much needed work in a stable environment. We are continuing to work with our funder, along with other NDAP agencies, to further improve the program.

Villamanta is very fortunate to have highly skilled, professional, caring and dedicated staff members working extremely hard to ensure the rights and empowerment of people who have a disability and disability-related legal or justice issues.

# Executive Officer & Principal Solicitor's Report



We have been pleased to receive very positive feedback from clients and constituents this year that shows that our work is effective and often greatly appreciated.

Villamanta's volunteer programme continues to thrive. Our busy volunteers are extremely generous with their time and bring with them many and varied types of experience and skills. We thank them all for their enormous contribution to Villamanta's work which is of great benefit to our constituents.

This year our volunteers have included our Committee of Management members: Kathryn McBride (Chairperson), Amanda Hiscoe (Deputy Chairperson), Neville Porter, Andrew Hill (Committee Secretary), Peter Landers (Treasurer), Alex Risk, Stephen Dinner, Hank Wyllie, Lauren Matthews and new member, Professor Philip Clarke. David Lindsay, our former Chairperson, retired at the end of last year after several years on the committee. He made a big contribution and will be greatly missed. Some of our committee members have received support from Barbara Machnyk. We thank them all for their hard work and great contributions.

Our volunteer workers this year have included Georgie Alford (lawyer), Tony Phillips (barrister), Belinda Jane (accounts), Diana Kambovski (administration), Melanie Vander Ploeg (law student), Siew Kuiper (administration), Karen Devey (law student), Sally Kenyon (law student), Rachel Malzac (social work student), Alana Baud (law student), Mary Guinane (student), Christie Dunn (law student), Annie Doolan (work placement - community services) & Amy Battocchio (accounts).

We also thank the various private lawyers and our colleagues at the other community legal centres and at Victoria Legal Aid, who frequently provide our clients and us with *pro bono* advice and support. We also thank our colleagues, the staff of the Federation of Community Legal Centres (Victoria) and of the National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLC), the members of Disability Advocacy Victoria Inc. (DAV) (formerly called the Victorian Disability Advocacy Network (VDAN)) and the staff and members of the Disability Advocacy Network Australia (DANA) for all of their valuable work, collaboration and support.

Phil Grace, of Grace Information Technology, has once again provided us with ever timely and much appreciated support and assistance throughout the year with our computer system.

This year we have noticed, with growing concern, the ongoing situation of disadvantage of parents who have a disability who are involved in the Child Protection system. We are continuing to work in this area to try to achieve some improved outcomes for these clients. We have also noticed the increase in education and school integration-related problems for children who have a disability and continue to try to assist these families.

# Executive Officer & Principal Solicitor's Report



We continue to be gravely concerned about the instances of abuse of people living in supported accommodation and will continue to work on this extremely serious issue.

We have also advanced our work for people who have an intellectual disability and who are involved in the criminal justice system, in particular through our new publication *People who have an Intellectual Disability and the Criminal Justice System*, which is a guide for people working in the criminal justice system with clients who have an intellectual disability.

We have continued to observe and assist our clients to learn about, understand and use the complaints and monitoring systems set up under the Victorian *Disability Act 2006*. We will continue to monitor and critique the effects of this important Act and its systems, particularly in relation to people who have an intellectual disability. We have also been working on the important review of the Victorian *Guardianship Act* and a number of other significant policy and law reform issues.

Finally, Villamanta was extremely happy to see that the outcome of the Productivity Commission's report and recommendations and the campaign for a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) has recently resulted in a commitment from government to at last provide people who have a disability with a fair system of support. Along with many other advocates and people who have a disability, Villamanta has long called for a principle of "entitlement" that would "oblige" government to fund services for people who have a disability who need support. We believe that, in line with the most fundamental principles of Human Rights, this entitlement should be provided as a matter of course. Villamanta will watch, with many others, to see the scheme become an effective reality as soon as possible.

The advent of an NDIS scheme is all the more encouraging because once again this year Villamanta has observed that one of the main factors that continues to seriously disadvantage our constituents is the grossly inadequate level of funding for disability-related services of every kind. This includes accommodation, support to live in the home, day placement, support for children who have a disability and their families in education and in the general community, and access to advocacy support, to name only some. There continues to be a waiting list of thousands of people who have an intellectual disability who desperately need appropriate supported accommodation to be built and provided for them. Similarly, there are still many Victorian people living in institutions who wish, and should be enabled, to *live in the community* with appropriate levels of support.

# Executive Officer & Principal Solicitor's Report



Villamanta, along with many others, hopes that the implementation of the NDIS will finally help to bring about the reality of **people who have a disability being treated in ways that are fair and reasonable and having opportunities, freedoms and a standard of living that are equal to those of people who do not have a disability** – basic elements of both the Victorian State and the Australian National Disability plans and strategies.

**Deidre Griffiths**  
**Principal Solicitor & Executive Officer**

## ***Objectives of all Villamanta's Programmes***

- To prevent abuse, discrimination or negligent treatment of people who have a disability
- To promote and enhance the rights of people who have a disability
- To encourage people who have a disability to make informed choices
- To increase economic and social participation for people who have a disability in the community
- To assist people who have disabilities to participate equitably in community life
- To increase the knowledge and understanding of people who have a disability, their families and carers about the rights of people who have a disability
- To recognise, value and include families and carers, wherever possible and appropriate in the support system for people who have a disability
- To improve communication between people who have a disability and other members of the community

# Policy & Law Reform Report



Deidre Griffiths  
Executive Officer &  
Principal Solicitor

## ***The aims of our Policy & Law Reform work:***

Villamanta does Policy & Law Reform work to try to bring about good changes and improvements to laws and policies that affect people who have a disability.

## ***Annual performance indicators***

Carry out Policy & Law Reform work on issues of serious concern to people who have a disability.

Situations to be monitored and reviewed and feedback obtained to measure changes.



Greg Leeson  
Casework & Policy and  
Law Reform Lawyer

**Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service Inc. carries out much of its Policy & Law Reform work through its active involvement in the Federation of Community Legal Centres (Victoria), the Disability Law Committee of the Law Institute of Victoria and their working groups, and Disability Advocacy Victoria Inc. (DAV), which is the peak body for independent disability advocacy in Victoria, and the Victorian Legal Assistance Forum.**

*During the reporting period Villamanta was involved in the following activities that included policy and law reform:*

## **Disability Advocacy Victoria Inc. (DAV) (formerly called the Victorian Disability Advocacy Network (VDAN))**

Villamanta continues to be an active member of DAV and attend the monthly network meetings. It is also a member of the DAV Co-ordinating Committee.

Through DAV, Villamanta has active involvement in the development and management of the Victorian Disability Advocacy Resource Unit (DARU), funded by the Victorian Department of Human Services, and attends meetings of DAV and of the DAV coordinating committee, helping to oversee the work of the resource unit (DARU).





Through DAV, Villamanta has active involvement in the development and management of the Victorian Disability Advocacy Resource Unit (DARU), funded by the Victorian Department of Human Services, and attends meetings of DAV and of the DAV coordinating committee, helping to oversee the work of the resource unit (DARU).

It collaborates with DAV members to contribute to policy and law reform work on important systemic issues. DAV (as VDAN) was also involved in establishing the DANA (Disability Advocacy Network Australia) which actively contributes to policy and law reform work on behalf of its member organisations. DAV's members continue to monitor the application of the Victorian *Disability Act 2006* and the work of the Disability Services Commissioner.

Along with other members of the DAV network Villamanta continues to work on important issues of policy and law reform as they arise.

## **Law Institute of Victoria's Disability Law Committee**

Villamanta also participates in policy and law reform work through the Law Institute of Victoria's Disability Law Committee and its working groups. Recent issues worked on/being worked on, by the committee, include: mental health legislation review and government response, Victorian Civil & Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) Guardianship List policies and procedures, review of the Victorian Civil & Administrative Tribunal, impact of, and Inquiry into, the Charter of Human Rights (Vic.), review of Victorian Equal Opportunity legislation, Inquiry into Powers of Attorney, UN Convention on the rights of People with Disabilities, development of the National Human Rights Framework, the proposal (recommended by the Productivity Commission) for government implementation of a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), the Victorian Parliamentary Law Reform Committee's Inquiry into Intellectual Disability and the Justice System, and the Victorian Law Reform Commission's review of the Guardianship legislation. Villamanta was a member of the Commission's reference group for this review.

## **Federation of Community Legal Centres (Vic.)**

Villamanta participates in policy and law reform work undertaken by the Federation of Community Legal Centres (Vic.) and its working groups. This often includes many of the same issues as are worked on by the Law Institute of Victoria's Disability Law Committee and DAV members (see above). Recent issues we have worked on have been the review of the Guardianship legislation and the proposal for a NDIS.



Villamanta is a member of the Disability Rights working group of the Federation of Community Legal Centres (Vic.). The Disability Rights Working Group meets to discuss disability-related issues and coordinate necessary policy and law reform work.

## **National Disability Rights Network**

Villamanta is a member of the National Disability Rights Network which consists of community legal centres throughout Australia that are members of the National Association of Community Legal Centres and work on disability rights issues. Regular telephone link-up meetings enable participants to share information and advice on important issues of common concern, including policy and law reform subjects. The network also holds a meeting at each annual national conference of community legal centres.

## **Villamanta's project on people who have an intellectual disability and the criminal justice system and the Victorian Parliamentary Law Reform Committee's Inquiry into Access to and Interaction with the Justice System By People with an Intellectual Disability and Their Families and Carers**

This year Villamanta completed its most recent project, funded by the Victoria Law Foundation, researching and writing about the extremely important issue of the over-representation of people who have an intellectual disability in the criminal justice system. This resulted in our new publication *People who have an Intellectual Disability and the Criminal Justice System - A Guide and Educational Tool for People working in the Criminal Justice System: Judges, Magistrates, Court Staff, Lawyers, Advocates, Police and Corrections Workers*.

It is intended that the publication will provide a better understanding of the issues for people who have an intellectual disability to those working in the criminal justice system and help to ensure that people who have an intellectual disability are provided with the best possible and most appropriate treatment and assistance.

Publication of our project coincided with the Victorian Parliamentary Law Reform Committee's Inquiry into access to and interaction with the justice system by people with an intellectual disability and their families and carers. (The terms of reference of this inquiry were expanded to include other forms of cognitive impairment). Villamanta made a written submission to the inquiry (available on Villamanta's website and also on the Victorian Parliament's website) and appeared before the Parliamentary Law Reform Committee to talk about its submission.





## **Victoria Legal Aid (VLA) Access to Justice initiative**

Villamanta has been actively involved in stakeholder forums organised by Victoria Legal Aid to improve access to justice for Victorian people, in particular those who have a disability and continues to collaborate with VLA in furthering this project.

## **Human Rights Charter (Victoria)**

Along with the Federation of Community Legal Centres, Villamanta continues to monitor the implementation and use of the Victorian *Human Rights Charter*. Villamanta's lawyers continue to use Charter arguments in their casework matters whenever possible. Villamanta was an active participant in the process of developing the Charter. Along with other advocacy organisations, Villamanta monitored the Victorian Government's review of the legislation.

## **A Bill of Rights for Australia/Human Rights Framework**

Villamanta, in collaboration with many of its colleague organisations, continues to lobby for the introduction of a national Charter of Human Rights for Australia despite the Australian Government's extremely disappointing decision not to adopt such a charter. Villamanta will monitor and comment upon the Human Rights Framework which the government is currently developing instead of a charter.

## **Community Living Alliance (CLA)**

Villamanta is a member of the Community Living Alliance. The CLA includes organisations and individuals who promote and monitor accommodation options for people with disabilities, to ensure these accommodation options encompass / are based on, community living principles.

## **Shut In Campaign**

Villamanta is a participant in the Shut In Campaign, coordinated by People With Disability Australia, aimed at ending the institutionalisation of people who have a disability. The Campaign points out that although there has long been a commitment by governments in Australia to provide community-based accommodation services to people with disability, over time this commitment has decreased to the point where a number of governments have redeveloped old institutions and provided congregate models of care to people with disability. This is in breach of governments' obligations under the *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* to which Australia is a signatory.



## **Victims of Crime Charter and disability strategy**

The Victorian Government's Victims Charter spells out the rights of victims. Villamanta and other advocacy organisations will use the Charter as an advocacy tool to support clients, and will monitor its effectiveness. Villamanta was actively involved in the development of the Department of Justice's Disability Strategy in relation to the *Victims Charter*.

## **Child Protection Legislation**

Villamanta continues to actively monitor the Victorian Child Protection legislation, in particular, aspects of it which are likely to be detrimental to parents who have a disability.

## **The Victorian State Disability Services Legislation – The *Disability Act 2006***

Villamanta continues to monitor and give input regarding the implementation of the *Disability Act 2006* and will pursue desired amendments. Villamanta is continuing to educate constituents about the system and assist them to access it.

## **The Disability Services Commissioner**

The Disability Services Commissioner, appointed under the *Disability Act 2006* is the main point for complaints from Victorian people who have a disability about disability services. Villamanta continues to support constituents to learn about and use the complaints system. Villamanta has met with Commission staff on a number of occasions and provided feedback on how the legislation and system are working and shall continue to do so. It will also lobby for appropriate improvements to the system. Villamanta has supported a number of clients to access the Commissioner's complaints system during the reporting period.

## **The Senior Practitioner**

Villamanta is also monitoring the development of the Office of the Senior Practitioner, another position set up under the *Disability Act 2006*. Villamanta has met with the Senior Practitioner's staff during the year and provided input during the development by the Senior Practitioner of best practice in relation to restrictive interventions and other related matters of great significance to Villamanta's constituents. Villamanta was a member of the Restrictive Practices Reference Group.



## **The Office for Disability**

Villamanta continues to have ongoing involvement with the Victorian Office for Disability, which is now based in the Department of Human Services, and its work to bring about a “whole of government” approach to disability issues in Victoria.

## **The Review of the Victorian Guardianship and Administration Legislation**

Villamanta took an active part in the recent review of the laws in Victoria about Guardianship and Administration. These laws are very important to our constituents because they can be used to take away people’s rights to make their own decisions. The review was carried out by the Victorian Law Reform Commission and Villamanta was a member of the Commission’s review Consultative Committee. The Report of the review is now with the Victorian government and Villamanta will monitor its outcomes as they unfold.

**Deidre Griffiths**  
**Principal Solicitor & Executive Officer**

# Casework Report



## ***Annual Performance targets for casework***

1. Undertake casework about disability related legal issues	Minimum of 40 active files per year
2. Resource telephone advice in relation to queries about the law	Review of legal resources manual. Available to the advice service staff as needed. Regular meetings with advice service staff for provision of ongoing training.
3. Supervise the telephone advice provided	Review of all contact sheets.

### ***1. Undertake casework about disability related legal issues – a minimum of 40 active files per year.***

During the period 1/7/011 to 30/6/12, 41 new files were opened and 55 files were closed.

A total of 32 files remained open at the end of the period.

***A breakdown of issues covered in the files still open at 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2012 is as follows:***

*Note: Issue type may exceed number of files as some clients have more than one issue.*

***Priority area: Advancing the rights of people who have their finances managed by administrators, including State Trustees Ltd.***

5 files relate to this area.

***Priority area: Advancing the rights of people for whom applications are made to restrict those rights through the appointment of guardians.***

2 files relates to this area.

***Priority area: Advancing the rights of people to have accommodation/service/access to services/quality of service that meet their needs and conform with the principles of the Disability Act 2006.***

16 files relate to this area.

***Other matters still being dealt with at 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2012 relate to:***

*Note: Issue type may exceed number of files as some clients have more than one issue.*

Child Protection	2
Criminal Accused	1

# Casework Report



Wills/Estates	2
Finances/Administration	1
Human Rights	12
Victim of Crime	2
Consumer Rights/Medical Services	1
Negligence/Duty of Care	2
Forensic Leave	1
Treatment Orders/Restrictive Interventions	2
Assault/Intervention Orders	2
Abuse/Education Complaint	1

***Of the 55 casework files closed in the period, results were as follows:***

***Priority area: Advancing the rights of people who have their finances managed by administrators, including State Trustees Ltd.***

*Note: Issue type may exceed number of files as some clients have more than one issue.*

Matters of administration are extremely important to many of our clients as Administration Orders, which are made by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal's Guardianship List, can severely restrict a person's freedom to make their own choices about their finances, property and in some cases, their legal affairs. Sometimes there is a less restrictive way of dealing with the issues affecting our clients. Because of this it is important that the person has access to legal advice and representation when administration orders are being considered. In some instances the orders can be of benefit as they can provide authority that helps family members, or other support people, to get things done for our clients. Sometimes clients need help to communicate with their administrator and get their views and wishes heard.

*8 matters related to this area.*

In these cases we investigated, advised, liaised and negotiated on behalf of clients in relation to whom application for appointment of an administrator had been made to the Guardianship List of the Victorian Civil & Administrative Tribunal (VCAT). Where necessary, we represented clients at VCAT Hearings ensuring that their views and wishes were clearly communicated to the Tribunal and that, if orders were made, they were the least restrictive possible under the circumstances and were fully understood by our clients.

***Outcomes included:***

In one case an administration order was revoked by the Tribunal. In one case an administrator of our client's choice (a family member) was appointed at our client's request and in one case a change of administrator was made to one of our client's choice.

In one of these cases we supported a client having serious difficulties with their administrator to negotiate for a financial independence trial with a view to the

# Casework Report



client managing their own finances in the future.

In one case we gave initial advice before referring a client of CALD background to an appropriate lawyer who spoke their language, then provided secondary consultation. In another case we gave detailed advice to a client who then represented themselves at hearing.

In one case, at Victorian Civil & Administrative Tribunal's request, a declaration of Trust was drafted to assist with the purchase of a house for our client.

In one case, at Victorian Civil & Administrative Tribunal's request, we conducted an investigation into the appropriateness of an administrator who was also the executor of a deceased estate of which our client was a beneficiary, where possible conflict of interest had been identified; it was established that there was no conflict/potential conflict of interest, so the administrator was reappointed.

In one case we investigated and then advised our client that an application for revocation of their order would not succeed, explaining why this was the case.

## **Priority area: Advancing the rights of people for whom applications are made to restrict those rights through the appointment of guardians**

*Note: Issue type may exceed number of files as some clients have more than one issue.*

Matters of guardianship are extremely important to many of our clients as Guardianship Orders, which are made by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal's Guardianship List, can severely restrict a person's freedom to make their own choices about many aspects of their daily life. Sometimes there is a less restrictive way of dealing with the issues affecting our clients. Because of this it is important that the person has access to legal advice and representation when guardianship orders are being considered. In some instances guardianship orders can be of benefit as they can provide authority that helps family members, or other support people, to get things done for our clients. Sometimes clients need help to communicate with their guardian and to get their views and wishes heard.

*8 files related to this area.*

In these matters we investigated, advised, liaised and negotiated on behalf of clients for whom applications had been made to the Guardianship List of the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT) for the appointment of a guardian. We represented our clients at Tribunal hearings, ensuring that their views and wishes were clearly communicated and were fully understood by our clients, and negotiated with relevant parties.

### *Outcomes included:*

In one case the application was withdrawn following negotiations with the applicant.

# Casework Report



In one case the order was revoked.

In one case, after initial investigation, client was advised that an application to have their order revoked would not succeed.

In three matters our clients' relatives were appointed guardians, limited to decisions about accommodation and services, providing them with much needed authority to negotiate with service providers to obtain appropriate accommodation and services for our clients.

In another matter a limited order was made providing our client's relative with authority to make a specific decision in relation to the client's wellbeing.

In another matter a limited, short-term order was made appointing the Public Advocate to make a specific decision in relation to a client.

**Priority area: *Advancing the rights of people to have accommodation / service/access to services/quality of service that meet their needs and conform with the principles of the Disability Act 2006***

*Note: Issue type may exceed number of files as some clients have more than one issue.*

Issues of accommodation and services are extremely important to our clients. They affect many of our clients and often relate to the most basic issues of their day-to-day lives, including where they live, how they are treated there, what services they access outside of their accommodation, including day placement, health and other services. If things go wrong in any of these areas of our clients' life, their life can be an ongoing misery for them until something is done to fix the problem(s). Issues encountered include negligence/breach of their duty of care by service providers, injury to our clients, exposure to physical and/or psychological abuse, lack of services, insufficient, inadequate or inappropriate services – sometimes no services at all.

*16 files related to this area.*

In many of these cases we investigated, advised, liaised and negotiated with relevant parties in relation to service plans and accommodation and services issues where service providers were failing to provide appropriate accommodation and/or services. Where required, we represented clients at meetings, conciliations, mediations or hearings. In some cases we advised and assisted clients to access the conciliation process of the Disability Services Commissioner, under the *Disability Act 2006*. Some satisfactory outcomes resulted from the Disability Services Commissioner's conciliation process.

*Issues and outcomes included:*

In one case concerning abuse of our client in supported accommodation we supported the client to have the matter dealt with and to make a Victim of Crime compensation application.



# Casework Report



In one matter concerning unsatisfactory and inappropriate accommodation services we achieved satisfactory outcomes through a combination of negotiation with the service provider and a complaint to the Disability Services Commissioner.

In one matter concerning unsatisfactory services we achieved a satisfactory outcome through a combination of negotiating a revised care plan and a complaint to the Aged Care Complaints Board.

In one case we achieved improved communications and a revised care plan through negotiation.

In two matters we assisted clients who were having great difficulties acquiring them to access appropriate support services.

In one case, where our client was experiencing major difficulties in their supported accommodation, we negotiated for appropriate accommodation and services and our client was eventually moved to new and appropriate permanent accommodation.

In one case, where the service provider was trying to evict our client, we negotiated and achieved a satisfactory outcome resolving the issues.

In one case, where our client was having their freedom to access the community severely restricted, we successfully negotiated with their accommodation service provider to agree to, and enable, unfettered community access.

In one case, where our client was being subjected to reduction, suspension and finally expulsion from a day placement service, we achieved a satisfactory outcome including all issues being addressed, appropriate planning and policies put in place and a new and more suitable service provider being found and accessed.

In one case we negotiated to ensure that our client received the necessary funding to access appropriate disability services, to enable them to continue living in the community.

In one case we negotiated to secure the necessary funding and services to enable a child, who had been forced to live in out-of-home care, to return home to live with their family with appropriate support services in place.

In one case we investigated and then negotiated to have our client's incorrect personal records corrected by an accommodation service provider.

In one case we negotiated at length with a service provider to achieve ongoing and timely access to incident reports for a client living in supported accommodation.



## **Other Matters:**

### **Human Rights**

Most of Villamanta's clients' matters contain issues that affect their Human Rights and all of our work is underpinned by our aim to uphold these rights.

### **Victim of Crime**

*4 files related to this area.*

In one matter we advised the administrator of a client who had allegedly been abused / assaulted by a direct care worker while living in supported accommodation, in relation to available courses of action. We provided initial advice on making a police report and on application for Victim of Crime compensation, and appropriate referral. (A complaint to the Disability Services Commissioner was not an option as the accommodation service was not a registered disability service provider).

In one matter we advised client's guardian in relation to alleged physical assault of client by co-resident of a respite service and referred to specialist support for Victim of Crime compensation application.

In one matter, where client had allegedly been the victim of sexual assault by a co-resident in a supported disability accommodation service, we provided initial advice to their administrator regarding an application for Victim of Crime compensation and referred to specialist support to assist with filing the application. The alleged offender was removed from the supported accommodation.

In one matter, where client had sustained burns while in the care of a disability services provider, we advised client's family member/support person in relation to Victim of Crime compensation and provided appropriate referral.

### **Wills/Estates**

*1 file related to this area.*

In this matter we investigated and advised client in relation to their rights as the beneficiary of a deceased estate.

### **Access to community**

*1 file related to this area.*

In this matter we monitored our client's situation and successfully liaised and negotiated with service providers regarding an application to extend client's Extended Community Access Leave Order.



## **Access to family**

*1 file related to this area.*

In this matter we assisted a client who was being denied access to their family.

We negotiated and liaised between service provider and government organisations and designed and facilitated an agreement between the parties. This enabled the revocation of a Victorian Civil & Administrative Tribunal order that had prevented our client from seeing their family. We then provided follow-up assistance to a number of service providers regarding access to the client's family. As a result, family access now occurs without the involvement of other agencies.

## **Abuse**

*5 files related to this area.*

In one matter, where our client had allegedly been abused by staff in a supported accommodation service, we provided advice on appropriate courses of action to client's administrator.

In one matter, where client had allegedly been assaulted by a co-resident in a community residential unit, we provided advice and guidance to client's guardian.

In one matter, where client had received unexplained injuries in a residential service, we provided legal advice and appropriate referral.

In one matter, where client from CALD background had been the victim of abuse while in residential care, we provided initial advice and appropriate referral and secondary consultation to a lawyer who spoke the family's language.

One matter, which related to sexual assault by a co-resident of a client living in supported accommodation, is reported on under the heading of Assault/Intervention Orders, below.

## **Child Protection**

The area of Child Protection is of particular importance to many of Villamanta's clients as parents who have an intellectual disability are significantly over represented in this area. These clients often have their children removed from their care and their access to them restricted, and frequently permanently cut off. It is therefore vital that these clients receive appropriate legal advice and representation in regard to this extremely important area of law.

# Casework Report



*2 files related to this area.*

In these matters we advised, negotiated and represented clients in Children's Court proceedings with the following outcomes:

In one matter continued access of parent to child was ensured and DHS varied its application for permanent removal without Permanent Order, which our client consented to.

In one matter continued access of parent to child was ensured, we successfully negotiated reduced conditions on the order being sought and our client agreed by way of consent to an extension of the order.

## **Personal Records**

*1 file related to this area.*

In this matter we sought access under Freedom of Information legislation to client's files held by an employment agency service provider, in order to check the correctness of the records and have them amended as necessary.

## **Family Law/Access to child**

*1 file related to this area.*

In this matter we advised our client in relation to issues around an application by a former partner for increased access to their child.

## **Discrimination**

*2 files related to this area.*

In one matter, where our client was being discriminated against by a tertiary educational institution, we negotiated a satisfactory outcome ensuring that our client received appropriate support to enable them to continue their studies.

In one matter, where our client was denied access to a chain convenience store because they have an assistance animal (dog), we advised and represented them in a complaint to the Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission, with a satisfactory outcome by way of a confidential settlement reached at mediation.

## **Housing/Accommodation**

*2 files related to this area.*

# Casework Report



In one case, where our client had been illegally removed from their home by a relative and was living on the street, we succeeded in evicting the relative from the home and returning our client to live there.

In one case, where a client had been evicted by a relative from a property, we investigated and found that unfortunately, as the client's legal residential status was as a mere licensee, their eviction was lawful. We ensured that they received appropriate support to find stable alternative accommodation.

## **Assault/Intervention Orders**

*3 files related to this area.*

In one matter, where our client was the victim of sexual assault by a co-resident in a Community Residential Unit, we ensured that appropriate legal action was taken and that the offender was removed from our client's accommodation.

In one matter we supported a client who had been victim of an assault to make a statement to police and to successfully apply to the Magistrates' Court for an intervention order against the person who had assaulted them.

In one matter, where a client living in supported accommodation had been the victim of ongoing assaults by a co-resident, we successfully sought an extension of a Personal Safety Order from the Magistrates' Court.

## **Forensic Leave**

*3 files related to this area.*

Several of our clients are subject to legislation which dictates that they must live in extremely restrictive accommodation circumstances and receive on-going treatment as forensic residents. These clients must apply regularly to the Forensic Leave Panel for leave to access the community. It is vital that they receive appropriate legal advice and representation in relation to these issues and also have access to legal assistance for any other legal issues that may arise for them.

In these cases we advised clients in relation to their Applications for Leave and represented them at Forensic Leave Panel hearings, ensuring that their wishes were clearly communicated to the Panel, with the successful outcomes that all leave applied for was granted.

## **Restrictive Interventions/ Behaviour Support Plans/ Treatment Plans/ Supervised Treatment Orders/ Restraint and Seclusion**

*11 matters related to this area.*

# Casework Report



Many of our clients are subject to various types of legally authorised treatment plans, behaviour support plans and restrictive interventions (including behaviour modifying medications that may have serious and damaging health effects) that may significantly affect their wellbeing, freedom of movement and choice. It is crucial that they receive appropriate legal advice and representation in relation to these issues.

In these matters in relation to Supervised Treatment Orders, Treatment Plans and Behaviour Support Plans under the *Disability Act 2006*, we investigated, liaised with various parties including the Office of the Senior Practitioner, the Office of the Public Advocate and Victoria Legal Aid. We advised and represented our clients at Victorian Civil & Administrative Tribunal hearings where their orders and plans were made or reviewed, ensuring that their views and wishes were clearly communicated to the Tribunal and that orders and plans incorporated appropriate provisions including adequate protections in relation to use of medication.

In two of these matters the orders were revoked and, in one, an application for an order was successfully resisted.

In all other matters we ensured that our clients' views were heard and appropriate changes, corrections or additions were made to treatment plans, and clients were afforded adequate protections, medication reviews were provided, clients' health was promoted and civil liberties protected, and their plans complied with the *Disability Act 2006*.

## Health and Privacy

*1 matter related to this area.*

In this matter we investigated and advised client in relation to a possible breach of health information privacy principles by an accommodation service provider. There was insufficient evidence to lodge a complaint civilly or to the Privacy Commissioner.

## Criminal Accused

*1 matter related to this area.*

In this matter we provided initial advice and appropriate referral to a client accused of a criminal offence.

# Casework Report



- 2. Resource telephone advice in relation to queries about the law - Compile and review a legal resources manual. Be available to the advice service staff as needed. Hold regular meetings with advice service staff for provision of ongoing training.***

Villamanta's lawyers provided legal advice to staff members working on Villamanta's free advice, information and referral service about legal matters, on an as needed basis.

We have continued to update our Legal Resources Manual.

Staff meetings and one-on-one meetings provided regular opportunities for staff to raise systemic issues in relation to the advice, information and referral service. Specific staff training needs are provided for on an ongoing basis. Lawyers undertake compulsory professional development to increase their knowledge and comply with professional indemnity insurance and legal practice requirements.

- 3. Supervise the telephone advice & referrals. Regularly review all IVO (client database) records where legal advice was provided and ensure the IVO database is operating effectively.***

The supervision and review system is operating effectively.

## Casework Team



Top — From left: **Deidre Griffiths**, (Executive Officer & Principal Solicitor) and **Sue Wolter** (Para-legal Worker)

Bottom — From Left: Casework Lawyers, **Ben von Einem**, **Greg Leeson** and **Viv Avery**





## ***The aims of our Community Legal Education work :***

- Help increase the access of people with disabilities to the community and participation in community life
- Increase people with disabilities' knowledge and understanding of their rights so that they can exercise their rights as citizens
- Encourage people with disabilities to make informed choices
- Improve communication between people with disabilities and other members of the community
- Promote the understanding of the rights of people with disabilities in the Australian Community

## ***Annual Performance Indicators***

Present workshops/talks about rights of people who have a disability using a community development model.	Workshops to be reviewed and evaluated.
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Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service Inc. participated in 17 community legal education activities this year, including CLE sessions for groups, presentations at conferences and distribution of materials, including a total of approximately 650 people. Most of these sessions were for people who have a disability living in Victoria. A number were for people assisting people who have a disability and some were for other members of the community, to extend the community's knowledge of disability rights and related issues, with the aim of advancing the full inclusion in the community of people who have a disability. Participants included advocates, clients, field workers, disability service providers, TAFE, university and high school students, community organisations (including their board members), disability support workers, carers, parents, staff of open employment services and other members of the community.

Metropolitan and suburban areas covered included Melbourne CBD and suburbs. Rural and regional areas included Werribee, Geelong and surrounding areas, Ballarat, Bacchus Marsh and Colac. We also presented at the Victorian Disability Advocacy Conference in Melbourne, the National Disability Conference held in Canberra and the National Association of Community Legal Centres' Conference in Tasmania.

# Community Legal Education



Organisations provided with training or training materials/information included: the Migrant Resource Centre, Diversitat, Karingal, St Laurence Services, Carers Respite (Ballarat and Bacchus Marsh), Victorian Civil & Administrative Tribunal Twilight Evening Event, Victoria Police, Magistrates' Court (Victoria), County Court (Victoria), Office of the Public Advocate, Federation of Community Legal Centres, Victoria Legal Aid, Corrections Victoria, VALID, Disability Forensic Assessment & Treatment Service (Victoria), members of the Victorian Bar, Disability Services Commissioner, Department of Human Services (Victoria), Office of the Senior Practitioner, Better Access Consulting, Mental Health Legal Centre, Department of Justice (Victoria), Parliamentary Law Reform Committee of the Victorian Parliament, the "Having a Say" Conference, the National Disability Advocacy Conference, the Victorian Disability Advocacy Conference and the National Association of Community Legal Centres' Conference.

The main topics covered were disability rights/Your Rights Your Choices, Human Rights, wills/administration/powers of attorney/guardianship, capacity and consent, "Thinking about the Future", special trusts, case notes, Duty of Care/Dignity of Risk, Working with People who have an Intellectual Disability in the Criminal Justice System, and the work that Villamanta does.

During the year material was distributed to numerous community organisations and a number of disability expos and conferences, informing them of Villamanta's various services, including education and training. Information about Villamanta education and training is also available on the VCOSS website.

This year Villamanta also represented Disability Advocacy Victoria Inc. (DAV) on the organising committee for the very successful Victorian Disability Advocacy Conference organised jointly by DARU, SARU and DAV.

We continue to use a community development approach when providing community legal education. Sessions are delivered in a way that makes sure that people who have a disability can participate to identify and discuss issues of importance to them. This also provides Villamanta with valuable input about issues that are affecting people who have a disability, to inform our casework and policy and law reform work. The community development approach empowers people to work for positive social change on both a personal and a community level. A variety of topics is often discussed during each session. Community legal education sessions, like all of Villamanta's work, are based on a Human Rights foundation. The training we provide looks at issues, such as Duty of Care/Dignity of Risk, from the perspective of people who have a disability.



Villamanta's constituents continue to tell us that they have many serious worries. The most commonly reported problems include: uncertainty about income support, welfare to work, appropriate accommodation and services, the lack of entitlement to receive disability services, the loss of the right to have service plans independently reviewed, the need for a clearly understood and accessible complaints system in relation to disability services, the need for an effective complaints system that can get real results/changes/improvements for people experiencing problems with disability services providers, accessing the community, opportunities for educational activities and employment, and access to advocacy support. Child Protection/Children's Court issues for parents who have a disability, and School/Education and integration of students who have a disability, continue to be recurrent themes. The desperate need for an independent place to complain to about education/school-related issues is often mentioned by parents of children who have a disability.

Villamanta's constituents and their supporters continued to be very actively involved in the campaign for a National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) this year. The positive recommendations of the Productivity Commission and the Federal government's recent commitment to implement a NDIS scheme – starting with pilot programs in a number of states, including Victoria - have been extremely heartening to all those who have been campaigning for this for so long. Villamanta will continue to campaign and contribute to the work of implementing the scheme, and monitor and provide feedback once it is finally up and running.

## **Publications**

The Villamanta publication, *Your Rights Your Choices*, especially written to let people who have an intellectual disability know about their legal rights, is distributed free at our CLE sessions. Numerous copies have been distributed across Victoria this year. The substantial cost of producing this important material is an ongoing challenge for Villamanta.

This year we completed our new publication, *People who have an Intellectual Disability and the Criminal Justice System*, which is a guide for people working in the criminal justice system, and was funded by a grant from the Victorian Law Foundation. This is available free on-line on Villamanta's website, or can be ordered and purchased in hard copy.



A number of other Villamanta publications are also available for purchase from Villamanta. These include the *Duty of Care Training Manual*, the booklet *Duty of Care, Who's Responsible?*, *People.dot.com*, *Oliver Twist has asked for more*, and *Cripples, Coons, Faggs and Fems*. Our publication *A Guide for Advocates appearing before the Guardianship List of VCAT*, produced in conjunction with the Mental Health Legal Centre, also funded by the Victoria Law Foundation, is available free on line and can be accessed on Villamanta's website.

The *Villamanta Information Booklet* continues to be distributed to clients.

Increasingly, because of the expense involved in producing and printing publications, Villamanta relies on printed materials and resources from other agencies, such as Victoria Legal Aid and the Office of the Public Advocate.

### ***"Having A Say" Conference 2012***

Villamanta once again participated in the very successful annual "Having a Say" Conference, organised by VALID, which was held in Geelong in February, 2012. We provided an information and advice table and a presentation on the legal rights of people who have a disability. Informal constituent consultations were also conducted and a large number of service brochures, fridge magnets and many copies of *Your Rights Your Choices* were distributed to conference goers. This important conference will be held again in Geelong in February, 2013.

# Telephone Advice Service Report



Trish Jardine  
Telephone Advice  
Worker

Villamanta provides a statewide, free Telephone Advice, Information and Referral Service five days per week from 1.00 p.m. - 3.00 p.m.

## ***The aims of our Telephone Advice, Information & Referral Service:***

Villamanta provides a Telephone Advice Information & Referral Service to ensure that people who have a disability are able to know their rights and get access to the services they need.

## ***Annual performance targets :***

Provide a toll free number.	Staffing of toll free number each work day from 1.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.
Provide callers with information about disability related legal issues over the phone and in writing.	Provision of information designed to maximise choice and empowerment of people with disabilities, over the telephone &/or written (via mail, fax, email, or referral to our website)
Provide callers with a referral service to generic services.	In order to provide efficient / effective referrals: maintain and continue to develop knowledge of specialist & generic services throughout Victoria
Provide advocacy to constituents.	Advocate / liaise on behalf of constituents where appropriate: Referral to Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service Inc. legal casework services or other advocacy services where necessary
Provide constituents with access to legal advice.	Referral to Villamanta casework lawyers or other specialist lawyers where appropriate

# Telephone Advice Service Report



Villamanta continues to provide a free-call, state-wide Telephone Advice, Information and Referral Service. We give information around the law and disability rights issues, and practical advice on ways to deal with situations, including those where using the law may not be the most useful way of dealing with the issue. Only a small proportion of calls require specifically legal advice. Villamanta aims to give callers more options to maximise their choices and to promote and advance the rights of people who have a disability. Many calls are long and may involve:

- support to work out what the issues are and what the caller would like to achieve;
- developing options and strategies to give people more choices;
- information around the law; and on how to deal with issues;
- defusing, in stressful or angry situations; and supporting people to gain some hope and confidence to advocate for themselves.

Some calls require research to be done, or staff to advocate or negotiate on a caller's behalf.

Villamanta aims to be as accessible as possible and we are happy for people to call us, even if they are not sure we are the right service for them. We aim to give the caller the best possible service right away, whenever possible. There is a common misunderstanding that we are “a legal service for people who have a disability”, or a segregated legal service, which we are not. Villamanta's area of expertise is disability related legal issues, with a particular focus on the rights of people who have an intellectual disability. People often call us about issues which are not disability related legal issues, because they don't know who to go to. If we are not the best option, we can provide referral to a wide range of generic agencies or other specialist services, including other legal services or specialist lawyers.

Sometimes, getting the caller the best possible service means that, although we might provide initial information, we then refer them to another organisation with greater expertise in the area of their issue; for example, personal injuries claims would be referred to a personal injuries lawyer; financial issues may be referred to a financial counsellor, or perhaps Consumer Action Law Centre. We also resource other agencies on disability issues so that they can provide a better service to people who have a disability.

As the Telephone Advice Worker position is only three days per week, all workers take a turn at providing this service. All workers take part in regular specialist training and professional development to increase their skills and knowledge, and ongoing training is provided at staff meetings and casework team meetings.



# Telephone Advice Service Report



We are continuously increasing our knowledge of legislation and policy, disability issues, justice issues, the community sector and community and government agencies and services. We have a web based Telephone Advice Service Manual, which is continuously being added to and updated. Every advice record is checked and feedback provided to workers where appropriate.

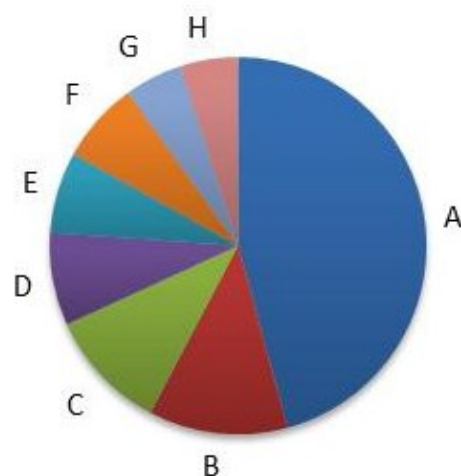
Villamanta's website [www.villamanta.org.au](http://www.villamanta.org.au) includes free information sheets on a range of disability rights topics. We can mail these information sheets out to people who do not have access to the internet.

People call us about a lot of different issues (see table and examples following), in fact it could be said that no two calls are the same. Caller's issues and relevant statistics are recorded electronically allowing analysis. In the period 1st July 2011 to 30th June 2012, 601 individuals were recorded as receiving legal advocacy, advice, information and/or referral.

**Trish Jardine - Telephone Advice Worker**

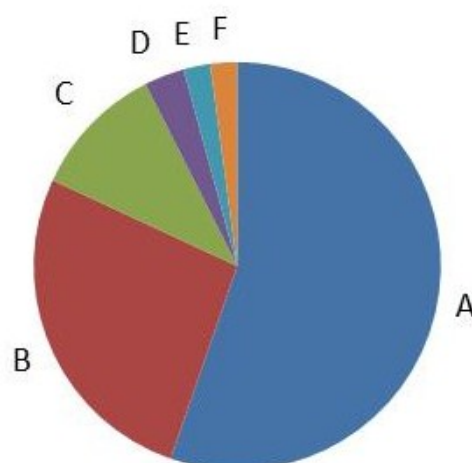
## Primary disability of people who call us, or of people we get calls about

A)	Intellectual	-	46%
B)	Physical	-	12%
C)	Psychiatric	-	11%
D)	Autism	-	8%
E)	Acquired Brain Injury	-	7%
F)	Other	-	7%
G)	Neurological	-	5%
H)	Specific Learning / ADD	-	5%



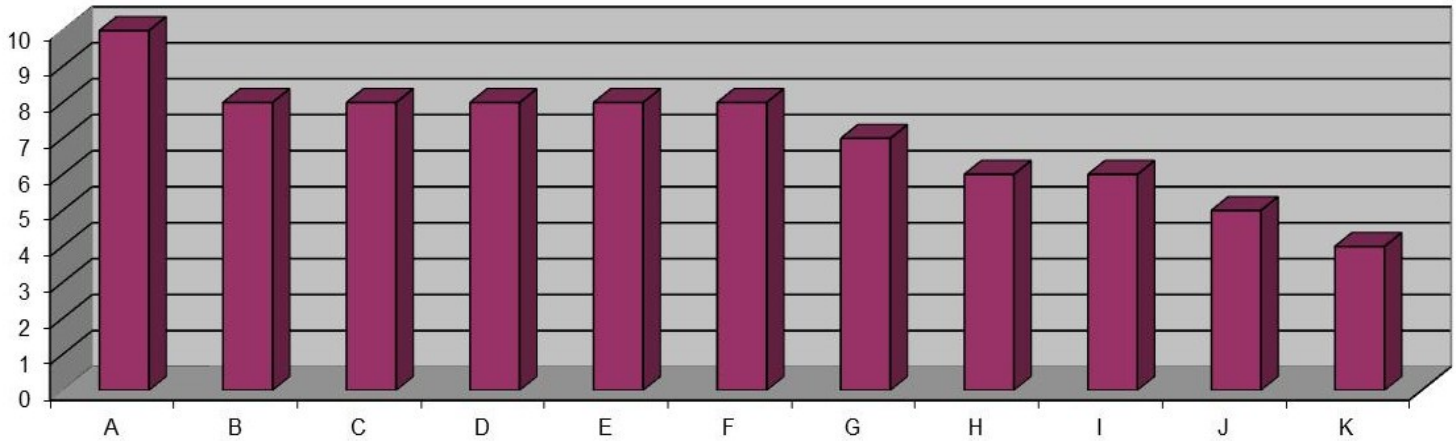
## Who we refer people to

A)	Legal Service or firm	-	52%
B)	Advocacy Agency	-	25%
C)	Government Agency	-	10%
D)	Non Government	-	3%
E)	Disability Agency	-	2%
F)	Other	-	2%



## Types of issues people call us about

*(Very often combinations of several issues)*



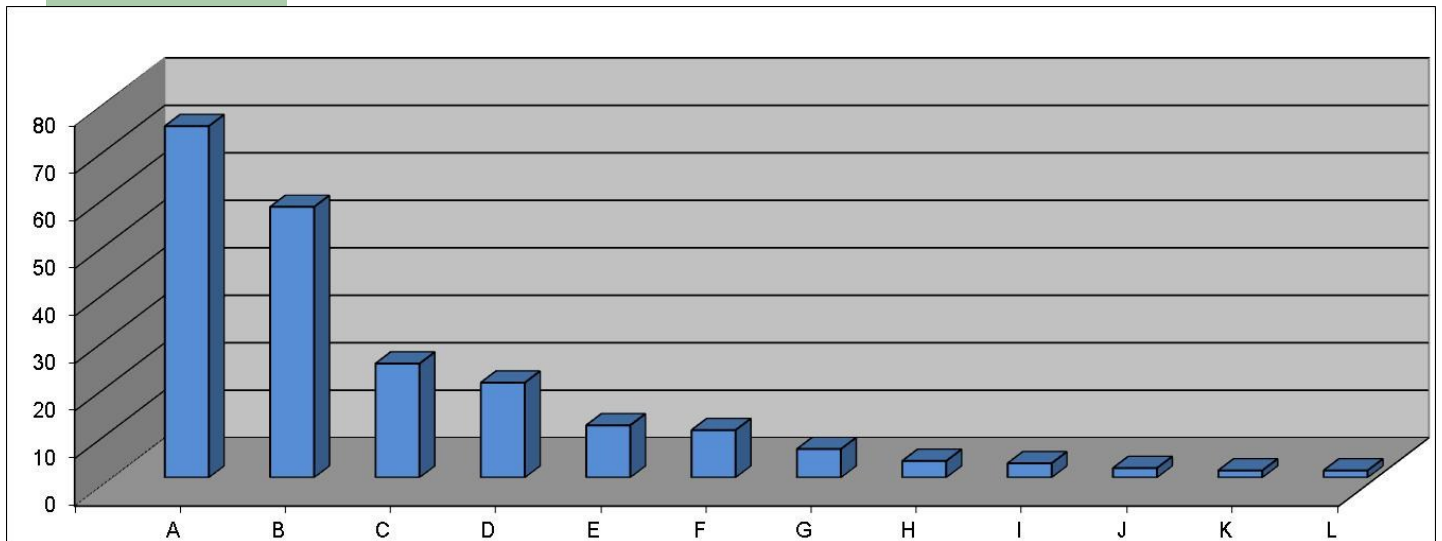
A) Financial matters	-	10%
B) Administration	-	8%
C) Access to Services	-	8%
D) Service Provider Policy/Prac	-	10%
E) Guardianship	-	8%
F) Accommodation	-	8%
G) Wills	-	7%
H) Criminal Accused	-	6%
I) DDA & EO, Discrimination	-	6%
J) Family Law	-	5%
K) Contract/Consumer issues	-	4%

### Other issues 4% and below

Abuse, Children's Court/Child Protection, Confidentiality and Privacy, DHS Complaint, Education, Employment, Equipment & Aids, Freedom of Information, Harassment/Bullying, Human Rights, Independent Living, Intervention Order, Mental Health, Neglect, Negligence / Duty of Care / Personal Injury, Physical Access, Powers of Attorney, Recreation/Social or Family, Respite, Social Security, State Trustees, Statutory Obligation, Supervised Treatment Order, Transport, Utilities: gas/elec/phone/water etc., Victim of Crime, Victim of Sexual Offence, Villamanta info about and Vulnerable and/or Isolated.

## What action did we take?

*(There are often several actions for one caller)*



A)	Telephone advice/info	-	74%
B)	Referral	-	57%
C)	Info about Villamanta	-	24%
D)	Telephone legal consultation	-	20%
E)	File opened/individual legal advocacy	-	11%
F)	Secondary consultation	-	10%
G)	Email information	-	6%
H)	Information in person	-	3.5%
I)	In person legal consultation	-	3%
J)	Negotiate/liaise on behalf of constituent	-	2%
L)	Legal letter	-	1.5%

# Financial Statements



## Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service Inc. Income and Expenditure Statement For the Year ended 30 June 2012

	2012 \$	2011 \$
<b>Income</b>		
Grants - Recurring	471,041	444,266
Sales	1,384	2,147
Workshops	-	1,652
Miscellaneous Income	4,425	-
Donations	500	-
	<u>477,350</u>	<u>448,065</u>
<b>Gross Profit from Trading</b>	<u>477,350</u>	<u>448,065</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Administration Costs	7,907	7,314
Consultancy Fees	19,270	2,800
Depreciation - Office Furniture & Equipment	9,044	9,044
Library	1,309	687
Memberships of Other Organisations	3,814	3,977
Motor Vehicle Expenses	11,659	9,922
Office	21,890	25,211
Occupancy	43,458	40,890
Publishing	2,203	1,085
Staff Training	3,359	5,500
Telephone	8,977	9,861
Wages	359,463	339,460
Workshops and Projects	-	769
	<u>492,353</u>	<u>456,520</u>
<b>Other Income</b>		
Interest Received	18,709	14,375
	<u>18,709</u>	<u>14,375</u>
<b>Profit</b>	<u><u>3,706</u></u>	<u><u>5,920</u></u>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. These financial statements have been subject to audit and should be read in conjunction with the attached Compilation Report*

# Financial Statements



## Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service Inc. Balance Sheet As at 30 June 2012

	Note	2012 \$	2011 \$
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	3	314,640	306,021
Trade and Other Receivables	4	-	660
Inventories	5	1,825	199
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<u>316,465</u>	<u>306,880</u>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Property, Plant and Equipment	6	<u>18,845</u>	<u>28,281</u>
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<u>18,845</u>	<u>28,281</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<u>335,310</u>	<u>335,161</u>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Trade and Other Payables	7	4,464	19,557
Provisions	8	101,890	90,354
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<u>106,354</u>	<u>109,911</u>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<u>106,354</u>	<u>109,911</u>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<u>228,956</u>	<u>225,250</u>
<b>Equity</b>			
Retained Profits		228,956	225,250
<b>Total Equity</b>		<u>228,956</u>	<u>225,250</u>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements . These financial statements have been subject to audit and should be read in conjunction with the attached Compilation Report*





## Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service Inc. Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year ended 30 June 2012

### 1. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This special purpose financial report of Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service Inc ("the Association") has been prepared for distribution to the members to fulfill the Committee of Management's financial reporting requirements under the Association's constitution.

The accounting policies used in the preparation of this report, as described below, are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Association's constitution and with previous years, and are, in the opinion of the Committee of Management, appropriate to meet the needs of members.

- (a) The financial report has been prepared on a modified accrual basis of accounting including the historical cost convention and the going concern assumption.
- (b) The requirements of Australian Accounting Standards do not have mandatory applicability to the Association in relation to the year ended 30 June 2012 because the Association is not a "reporting entity" as defined therein. Accordingly, not all Australian Accounting Standards have been used in preparing these financial statements.

The following accounting policies have also been adopted in preparing the accounts:

- (c) **Revenue Recognition**  
Grant revenue is recognised when the Association obtains control over the grant funds, however grants received prior to the yearend which will be fulfilled in the following year will be carried forward.  
  
Revenue from sales and interest is recognised as it is earned.
- (d) **Inventory**  
Inventory is valued at the lower of cost and the net realisable value. Cost is determined on the basis of first in first out.
- (e) **Depreciation of property, plant and equipment.**  
Property, plant and equipment are depreciated over their estimated useful lives to the Association using the straight line method. The estimated useful life of plant and equipment is 3 to 10 years.  
Profits and losses on disposal of plant and equipment are taken into account in determining the operating result for the year.
- (f) **Employee entitlements**  
Liabilities for employee entitlements to salaries and annual leave are accrued at nominal amounts calculated on the basis of current salaries.  
  
Liabilities for other employee entitlements which are not expected to be paid or settled within 12 months of balance date are accrued in respect of all employees at the present values of future amounts expected to be paid.
- (g) **Taxation**  
The Association is exempt from income tax.
- (h) **Comparative figures**  
Where necessary, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation in the current year.



## Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service Inc. Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year ended 30 June 2012

(a) Employee entitlements

Liabilities for employee entitlements to salaries and annual leave are accrued at nominal amounts calculated on the basis of current salaries.

Liabilities for other employee entitlements which are not expected to be paid or settled within 12 months of balance date are accrued in respect of all employees at the present values of future amounts expected to be paid.

(b) Taxation

The Association is exempt from income tax.

(c) Comparative figures

Where necessary, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation in the current year.

## Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service Inc. Statement of Cash Flows For the Year ended 30 June 2012

	Note	2012 \$	2011 \$
<b>Cash Flows from Operating Activities</b>			
Receipts from Customers		477,350	448,065
Payments to Suppliers and Employees		(487,441)	(434,624)
Interest Received		18,709	14,375
<b>Net Cash Inflow from Operating Activities</b>		<u>8,620</u>	<u>27,816</u>
Net Increase in Cash Held		<u>8,620</u>	<u>27,816</u>
Cash and Cash Equivalents as at 1 July 2011		306,022	278,205
<b>Cash and Cash Equivalents as at 30 June 2012</b>		<u><u>314,642</u></u>	<u><u>306,021</u></u>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.  
These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the attached Compilation Report.*

# Financial Statements



## Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service Inc. Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year ended 30 June 2012

	2012 \$	2011 \$
<b>2. Profit</b>		
<b>Expenses</b>		
Employee Benefits Expense	359,463	339,460
Depreciation and Amortisation	9,044	9,044
Telephone	8,977	9,861
Other Expenses	114,869	98,155
	<u>492,353</u>	<u>456,520</u>
<b>3. Cash and Cash Equivalents</b>		
Petty Cash	365	365
Cash Management Accounts	26,591	43,763
Cheque Accounts	15,018	3,554
Sandhurst Mortgage Fund Account	272,666	258,339
	<u>314,640</u>	<u>306,021</u>
<b>Reconciliation of Cash</b>		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	<u>314,640</u>	<u>306,021</u>
	<u>314,640</u>	<u>306,021</u>
<b>4. Trade and Other Receivables</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Trade Debtors	-	660
	-	660
<b>Total Trade and Other Receivables</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>660</u>
<b>5. Inventories</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Inventory	1,825	199
	<u>1,825</u>	<u>199</u>
<b>6. Property, Plant and Equipment</b>		
<b>Plant and Equipment</b>		
Motor Vehicles	39,003	39,003
Less Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment	24,379	18,529
	<u>14,624</u>	<u>20,474</u>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.  
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# Treasurer's Report



## Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service Inc. Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year ended 30 June 2012

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Office Furniture & Equipment	165,445	165,445
Less Accumulated Depreciation & Impairment	164,646	161,452
	<u>799</u>	<u>3,993</u>
Prepayments	3,422	3,814
	<u>3,422</u>	<u>3,814</u>
Total Plant and Equipment	<u>18,845</u>	<u>28,281</u>
<b>Total Property, Plant and Equipment</b>	<u><u>18,845</u></u>	<u><u>28,281</u></u>
<b>7. Trade and Other Payables</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Trade Creditors	2,834	377
Receipts in Advance	-	7,000
Provision for GST	1,630	12,180
	<u>4,464</u>	<u>19,557</u>
<b>Total Trade and Other Payables</b>	<u><u>4,464</u></u>	<u><u>19,557</u></u>
<b>8. Provisions</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Villamanta Social Club	939	1,642
Provision for Long Service Leave	75,157	66,047
Provision for Annual Leave	25,794	22,665
	<u>101,890</u>	<u>90,354</u>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements  
These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the attached Compilation Report*

# Treasurer's Report



## Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service Inc. Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year ended 30 June 2012

<b>9. RECONCILIATION OF NET CASH PROVIDED</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>BY OPERATING ACTIVITIES TO NET PROFIT/(LOSS)</b>		
Net Profit (Loss)	3,706	5,919
Depreciation	9,044	9,044
(Increase)/decrease in trade debtors	660	660
(Increase)/in inventory	(1,626)	222
(Increase)/in other assets	391	(492)
Increase/(decrease) in payables	(8,796)	(1,078)
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	12,239	7,861
Increase in receipts in advance	<u>(7,000)</u>	<u>7,000</u>
Net cash from/(used in) operating activities	<u>8,618</u>	<u>27,817</u>

*The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements  
These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the attached Compilation Report*





## VILLAMANTA DISABILITY RIGHTS LEGAL SERVICE INC.

### STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial report comprising the income statement, balance sheet, statement of cash flows and notes thereto:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service Inc. as at 30 June 2012 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service Inc 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:

Dated this 9th day of September, 2012

Kathryn McBride  
Chairperson

Peter Landers  
Treasurer

### TREASURER'S REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012



Peter Landers  
Treasurer



Darrell Harding  
Accounts Administrator



**devenny payne**  
TAXATION & BUSINESS SERVICES

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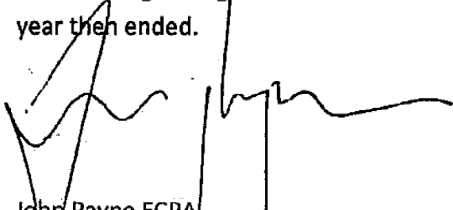
## Auditor's Report

I have audited the financial statements for the Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service Inc. as set out in the Balance Sheet, Income and Expenditure Statement, Statement of Cash Flows and notes thereto for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2012.

My audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance as to whether the financial statements are free of material misstatements. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of the evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial statements, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial statements are presented fairly in accordance with accounting standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements.

## Audit Opinion

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis. In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly in accordance with applicable accounting standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements, the financial position of Villamanta Disability Rights Legal Service Inc. as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.



John Payne FCPA  
Devenny Payne Taxation & Business Services

