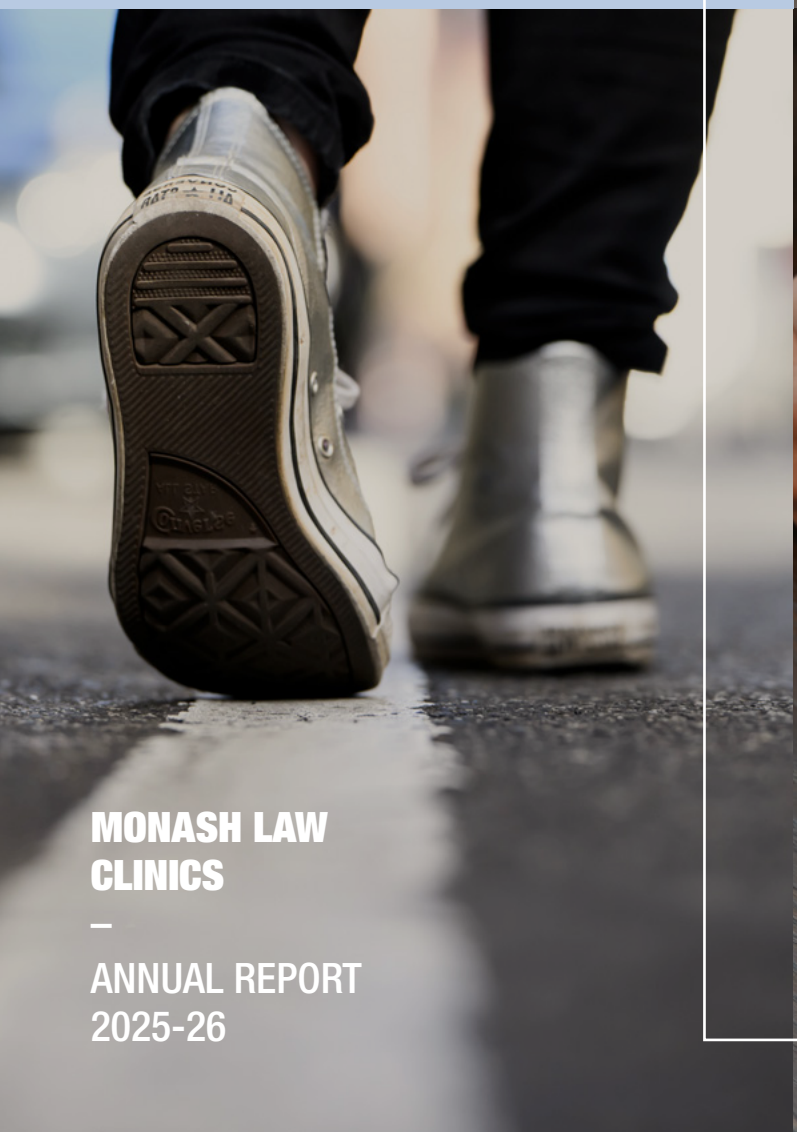
MONASH University

JUSTICE WITHIN REACH







MONASH LAW CLINICS

–

ANNUAL REPORT
2025-26

JUSTICE WITHIN REACH



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Monash Law Clinics acknowledges and pays respect to the Elders and Traditional Owners of the land on which out Clinics stand.



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WHO WE ARE



OUR VISION

To lead by readdressing the imbalance on access to justice by engaging and applying the clinical legal education resources of the Faculty of Law at Monash University.

OUR VALUES

Social Justice

We give priority to matters that merit attention for social justice reasons, both locally and globally.

Diversity

We respect and embrace diversity of opinion, ideas, skills, knowledge, background and culture.

Empowerment

We strive to empower our clients, students and staff.

Safety

We provide a safe space for clients, students and staff.

Integrity

We act with integrity, sincerity, ethics, honesty, fairness and compassion.



Richard Stewart, Monash Tax Law
Clinic Supervising Lawyer and students

OUR MISSION

To empower disadvantaged members of our local and global communities through access to legal services and advocacy support, and to inspire life-long learning in our students.

OUR OBJECTIVE

To reduce the unmet needs of different communities through the provision of legal and related services.

To provide high-quality, collaborative, impactful experiential education for law students.

To create meaningful impact at an international level through the provision of legal research and advocacy support to organisations and individuals in need of social justice advocacy.

To provide legal information and education to the community.

JUSTICE WITHIN REACH

Access to justice remains uneven, and for many individuals and communities, the law's protections are available in principle but out of reach in practice.

That distinction has shaped the work of Monash Law Clinics this year, as we have continued our efforts to redress the imbalance in access to justice by putting the clinical legal education resources of the Faculty of Law to direct, practical use.

Behind every file opened and every client advised lies the same commitment: To empower disadvantaged members of our local and global communities through legal services and advocacy, while inspiring in our students a habit of life-long learning that will outlast any single case.

This has meant reducing unmet legal need where we find it, delivering experiential education of real depth and rigour, and extending our reach — through research, advocacy and information — to individuals and organisations well beyond Melbourne who might otherwise stand outside the law's protection. It is this steady, unglamorous work of narrowing distance between people and the justice they are owed that gives the following pages their theme, and their purpose: justice within reach.

> To empower disadvantaged members of our local and global communities through legal services and advocacy, while inspiring in our students a habit of life-long learning that will outlast any single case.



OUR REACH

1,726
Number of clients provided with a service

2,309
Number of services provided

464
Casework files opened

1,396
Advice files opened

449
Other discrete services (info, referral or secondary consults)

TOP 10 (PRIMARY) LEGAL ISSUES:

These numbers are based on the **primary** reason that people came to MLC. Some clients present with multiple legal issues.

1	Divorce / separation / property	334
2	Parenting / child contact	324
3	Family and domestic violence	259
4	Motor vehicle accidents and damage	212
5	Credit & debt issues	182
6	Fines	148
7	Tenancy issues	127
8	Government administrative issues/complaints (incl pensions)	110
9	Road traffic offences	106
10	Family law - other	69

CLIENT-FACING CLINICS

- ATO Tax Clinic
- Climate Justice Clinic
- Cohealth Monash Legal Assistance Clinic
- County Court Commercial List
- Divorce Clinic
- Extended Clinical Placement
- Family Law Assistance Program (FLAP)
- Lawyer Assisted Family Dispute Resolution (LAFDR)
- Professional Practice (JD)
- Professional Practice (LLB)
- Regional Clinic
- Sports Law Clinic
- Supreme Court Winding Up List

NON-CLIENT-FACING CLINICS

- Afghanistan Support Clinic
- Castan Centre Human Rights Clinic
- ELEOS Anti Death Penalty Clinic
- Fintech Clinic
- Impact Clinic
- Law Reform and Systemic Change
- National Justice Project
- South Pacific Plastics Treaty

465

Total number of students

60 – 70

Average number of client appointments per week (across all the client-facing clinics)

1,229

Number of referrals made to us by other industry organisations

252

Number of referrals made to us through self / friend / relative / neighbour

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

JOEL TOWNSEND

How can we put justice in reach? The question makes me think of the notion of 'the justice gap', described by the Victoria Law Foundation as "the gap between the legal help that people need and the help they are getting".

As always, Monash Law Clinics tackles this challenge with two tools to hand: we provide legal services to people who need them, and we educate law students, giving them a window into what it means to be a lawyer focussed on bridging the justice gap.

Monash Law Clinics plays a distinctive role in the provision of legal assistance. It addresses legal need which is left unaddressed, or under-addressed, by other legal assistance providers. We are grateful for our core funding from State and Commonwealth governments, and thankful also for the support from other funding providers and especially from Monash University. We have, thanks to this support, the freedom to seek out and address legal need which is beyond the reach of some other legal assistance providers, supplementing their important work.

This past financial year, these are some of the efforts we have made to put justice in reach:

01

We have worked with the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia to develop a dedicated service focussed on divorce applications. Divorce is one of the most common and consequential proceedings in Australian law, and can be bewildering. We have assisted newly arrived migrants, and people struggling with technical issues relating to service and proof of marriage.

02

We have sought out new opportunities to reform and improve the law, drawing on our casework to find areas where the law can be reformed to eliminate justice gaps. Amongst our work this past year: looking at the treatment of fines in bankruptcy, and the protection of the confidentiality of client conversations with health and social welfare workers.

03

We have developed new services at the County Court of Victoria and the Supreme Court of Victoria, helping people facing financial ruin. At the County Court, we are helping people to settle large financial claims, preparing them to get the most out of mediation processes. At the Supreme Court, we are providing duty lawyer services at the Winding Up List. We offer advice to people struggling with technicalities of the winding up of the closely held corporations through which they earn their living.

> This experience has been the reality check I needed to bridge the gap between being a student who understands the law in theory and a practitioner who knows how to actually put it to work for real people."

– Student reflection



Associate Professor Joel Townsend, Director, Monash Law Clinics.



Monash Law Clinics also addresses the justice gap by producing the creative, principled lawyers of tomorrow. Graduates who have spent time at Monash Law Clinics will help to put justice in reach, whatever area of the profession they work in.

- This past year, our students went out on the Justice Bus, bringing legal education to schools and communities in regional Victoria.
- Our students have moved on from our clinics to employment in law reform bodies, in courts and tribunals, and in the private profession.

All of this happens not only because of the generous resourcing we receive from the university, from State and Commonwealth governments, and from philanthropic donors. It is also the product of the diligence and commitment of our staff, the passion of our students, and the dedication of our partners. Together we have, again, had a year of bridging the justice gap.

REGIONAL CLINIC IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ARC JUSTICE

Extending the reach of justice into Central and Northern Victoria

CHRISTIE GEORGE

For clients in regional Victoria, the nearest source of free legal advice is often a long drive away. Their legal problems, often bound up with family violence, are rarely the only difficulties in their lives.

The Regional Clinic is funded to help ARC Justice's clients with legal matters that feature family violence, and ARC Justice has identified family law (including parenting and divorce), Family Violence Intervention Orders, and infringement matters as its priority areas of legal need.

The partnership between Monash Law Clinics and ARC Justice seeks to close that distance, delivering assistance to disadvantaged communities across Central and Northern Victoria.

Students are placed onsite in Bendigo one day a week, spending time at the community legal centre and the Bendigo Specialist Family Violence Court. In 2025/26, the clinic consolidated its work, deepening a partnership that has shaped how individual clients are helped.

Monash Law Clinics staff have worked on student selections, seeking to draw on (and to build) a passion for working in regional Victoria.



ON THE GROUND IN BENDIGO

Students' duties can vary on any given week in the clinic. Some shadow ARC Justice's duty lawyers at the Bendigo Specialist Family Violence Court, watching how the law is applied in real time. Others are placed in the clinic, where under supervision they take instructions from clients, draft documents, and help manage casework. Students allocated to the onsite generalist team shadow lawyers across a range of matters, sit in on client interviews, and turn their hand to legal research and writing. Students may also assist ARC Justice's Strategy and Implementation Team with advocacy work, and attend training seminars delivered by ARC's lawyers. Few clinical placements ask students to move between a courtroom, a community legal centre and a policy team as part of their experience, and it is that breadth, as much as any single task, that gives the Bendigo placement its value.



CONSOLIDATION AND A STRENGTHENED PARTNERSHIP

In 2025/26, students took up the work of producing research, resources and analysis that fed directly into ARC's frontline work and its broader advocacy. For example, students worked on:

- A Family Violence Safety Brochure now used by ARC's Information and Referral Officer during court attendances
- A research paper examining alternative arrangements for co-renters giving evidence in proceedings involving allegations of family violence, prepared for ARC's Housing Justice Team
- A case study documenting the experience of a victim-survivor of family violence who was initially misidentified as the perpetrator, provided to ARC's Family Violence Team and its Strategy & Insights Team
- Research into case law and academic literature on Magistrates' approaches to determining the duration of Family Violence Intervention Orders, provided to the Family Violence Team
- Research examining the impact of the Family Law Courts, their processes and legislation, on the safety of victims of family violence
- A review of emergency management plans and sub-plans across the regions in which ARC operates, provided to ARC's Strategy & Insights Team
- Research supporting ARC's advocacy for minimum cooling standards in rental housing, provided to the Housing Justice Team
- Research into the implications of specific terminology used in VCAT member determinations in tenancy matters, also provided to the Housing Justice Team
- Student support for an offsite Wills and Estates legal information seminar delivered by ARC

Through this work, students on placement are getting exposure to policy-facing legal work, not only casework.

CLIENT ASSISTANCE AND IMPACT

The policy work has not come at the expense of direct casework. Family violence matters continued to dominate the client base. Clients affected by family violence accounted for 33% of appointments in the second half of 2025, rising to 47% by early 2026.

On student clinic days, three or four appointments are typically available at ARC Justice's Bendigo office, mostly in family law with some seeking legal advice on their infringements.

ARC Justice has identified free family law assistance as an ongoing area of need in the Bendigo region for many years, and a significant share of the clinic's family law referrals come through The Orange Door, which supports families and children affected by family violence or in need of care and wellbeing services. An emerging issue for the clinic is helping clients through the divorce process itself, particularly where a client has multiple vulnerabilities that make the online application difficult to navigate unassisted.

The clinic also assists clients to apply under the Family Violence Scheme, helping to waive outstanding fines incurred as a result of family violence where a client is eligible. The clinic is exploring closer collaboration with the Centre for Non-Violence, the specialist family violence support service operating across the region, with a view to delivering legal education to its teams so that staff can identify clients who may benefit from the scheme and refer them on to the clinic.

Among the outcomes achieved for individual clients, one is worth noting for the difference it made. With the clinic's assistance in preparing a Family Violence Scheme Application, a client had $11,659.90 in outstanding debt waived in full. It was debt that, left unresolved, would have continued to weigh on someone already dealing with the aftermath of family violence.

A more recent example shows just how significant that assistance can be. Following a successful Family Violence Scheme application, another client of the Regional Clinic had $16,961.40 in fines waived in full. The client had experienced significant family violence during her relationship with her ex-partner and, after fleeing, had gone through a period of homelessness, relying on emergency accommodation from support services. Because of her ex-partner's controlling behaviour, she had been unaware of the fines until they had grown to a substantial amount. On learning the outcome, she shared the following reflection:

33%

Of appointments in the second half of 2025 were for clients affected by family violence

— rising to —

47%

Of appointments in early 2026 were for clients affected by family violence

> "Words of gratitude could not express my thanks enough. You have really brought much peace to my life as I was nervously waiting for the worst expected outcome, but you have proven my thoughts wrong. I honestly could not thank you enough for what you have done."
>
> – Client reflection

STAFFING AND PROGRAM GROWTH

The clinic's ability to do all of this rests on people, and April 2026 brought a significant addition to the team. Christie George, a senior lawyer with extensive regional and family law experience, joined alongside Sheryn Lane, who brings a background in paralegal support. Together they have given the clinic a depth of expertise and capacity it did not previously have. They have spent time with staff at Monash Law Clinics, sharing knowledge about student supervision.

That investment is already turning into growth. From August 2026, the Clinic will run an additional clinic session, doubling the number of participating students and lifting the level of assistance available to clients. Alongside that expansion, the Clinic plans to keep building on the community education and legal research work that has come to define its partnership with ARC Justice over the past year, work that keeps justice within reach for communities that might otherwise stand outside it. ARC Justice looks forward to continuing this work with Monash Law Students in delivering the Regional Clinic, and to exploring further ways that Monash Law Students can help deliver access to justice in a regional context.

> "The most important thing I have learnt throughout this placement is that, at its core, being a lawyer is a service relationship rather than just a technical skill… My time at ARC Justice (Regional Clinic) has been invaluable."
>
> – Student reflection

> "This placement has challenged me, and I walk away with a better understanding of my personal emotional competence and lawyering skills. I hope to apply these skills and continue to grow in my future legal experiences to maximise my ability to help clients."
>
> – Student reflection



Sophie Winzar,
Monash Law Clinics

MONASH LAW TAX CLINIC

Where the reach of the law meets the weight of the tax system

RICHARD STEWART

For most people, an encounter with the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) is mediated through a letter, a portal, a phone call postponed as long as possible. For clients of the Monash Law Tax Clinic (MTLC), that encounter is rarely so contained.

THE YEAR IN FIGURES (2025–2026)

~300

Matters worked on over the year

66

Active matters as at 30 June 26

4

Matters before the County Court of Victoria

7

Community events, visits and presentations

The ATO is, for many, the most consequential institution they will ever confront, and one they would otherwise confront unaided. Over the past year, the MTLC has become a significant point of access for taxpayers and small businesses who would otherwise stand outside the reach of competent legal assistance, providing free representation of genuine calibre to those navigating disputes, debts and audits.

The scope of that assistance is considerable. First, clients are provided with the support they need to understand the tax issue they bring to the MTLC. Rights and obligations are made clear through in-person and written legal advice such that clients have not only the knowledge, but real agency, in their movement towards resolution of the tax issue. MTLC supports that movement in various ways, including by supporting clients in their dealings with the ATO and by preparing carefully crafted legal submissions, applications, amendment requests, audit responses, objections and complaints. Where a matter escalates, MTLC can go further still with a capacity to provide legal representation in mediations and before courts and tribunals. And where a client's experience discloses something larger than their own circumstances, say, perhaps, the incapacity of the law to respond to taxpayer reality as observed in the MTLC or a systemic failure in the conduct of the revenue authority, that can be pursued too; the MTLC works to extend its advocacy beyond the individual client to meaningfully address the conditions that contributed to the emergence of the tax issue.

Among the four matters before the County Court of Victoria is one in which MTLC appears formally as solicitors on the record. To be sure, this is onerous legal work that involves a degree of litigation responsibility uncommon for a student clinic. Work of this nature is undertaken in recognition of its importance not only to the represented client but to justice more broadly. Knowing that such services are needed in the community, and encouraged by the measure of confidence that clients, the courts and the profession are increasingly placing in its work, the MTLC is pursuing all opportunities to develop its capacities with the support and guidance of the broader legal and tax profession. The MTLC is, therefore, a legal service offering that is committed to the task of genuinely meeting the unmet legal need of the community in the area of taxation.

WHO WE HELP, AND WHY IT MATTERS

A single thread runs through the clientele the served by the MTLC, and it is only incidentally about taxation. Vulnerability presents as a near-constant condition, most often the consequence of financial abuse, family violence, coercion, criminal exploitation, an unstable sense of identity, or simply an absence of the education or capacity required to engage with a system of this complexity. Within tax law itself, the matters that recur most frequently are GST fraud resulting in substantial debt, tax debt more broadly, Director Penalty Notices, and identity theft. For those affected, these are not administrative categories but determinants of whether a home, a livelihood, or a fragile sense of self and stability can be preserved.

The outcomes achieved reflect what is genuinely at stake. MTLC has secured the release of, or workable arrangements for, tax debts and associated penalties extending well into the tens of thousands of dollars for individual clients, and in a number of matters considerably more still. For those who arrived with no other avenue open to them, as many MTLC clients do, these outcomes do not merely resolve a debt; they restore a measure of certainty to lives that had, for some time, been governed by its absence.

A GAP THAT FEW OTHERS FILL

The MTLC advises on state taxation matters where it can, on a best-efforts basis. No other free legal service in Victoria appears to provide such assistance. The position is scarcely better for Commonwealth tax matters across the community legal sector as a whole. MTLC is one of very few providers of taxation legal services of this kind. MTLC is relied upon to an extent that continues to grow.

That reliance carries with it an obligation the MTLC takes seriously: not to render the minimum that a difficult area of law might permit, but to deliver work of a standard any client might expect from a premium provider of legal services. Clients appear to recognise this distinction. The feedback the MTLC receives consistently speaks to a depth of care and professionalism that many did not expect to find in assistance offered without charge — a discrepancy that says as much about prevailing expectations of free legal help as it does about the MTLC itself.

> “
>
> Dear Richard,
>
> Thank you very much. You have done a great job, and I really appreciate all your help.
>
> I am very happy with the submission and have no concerns about what you have written... This matter means a great deal to me and my family, and I truly appreciate the effort you are making to help us through it.
>
> I am happy for you to go ahead with the submission as drafted. I trust your advice and am prepared to follow your recommendations regarding the next steps.
>
> Thank you again, Richard. I sincerely appreciate everything you are doing for me and my family.”

> “
>
> Thank you so much Richard and Chenuki. This is incredibly thorough, way beyond what I thought I’ll receive. Thanks for all your effort and time, it really means a lot. I’ll let you know the outcome.”

EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY BEYOND THE CASEWORK

Individual representation is only one part of the MTLC’s purpose. Over the past year, MTLC took part in seven community events: visits to professional bodies, a session hosted at a municipal library, and the reception of guests from law firms and professional associations who came to hear of the clinic’s work. The intent behind these engagements is to extend tax literacy further into the community so that taxpayers, advisers and community organisations alike understand where genuine, expert assistance can be found.

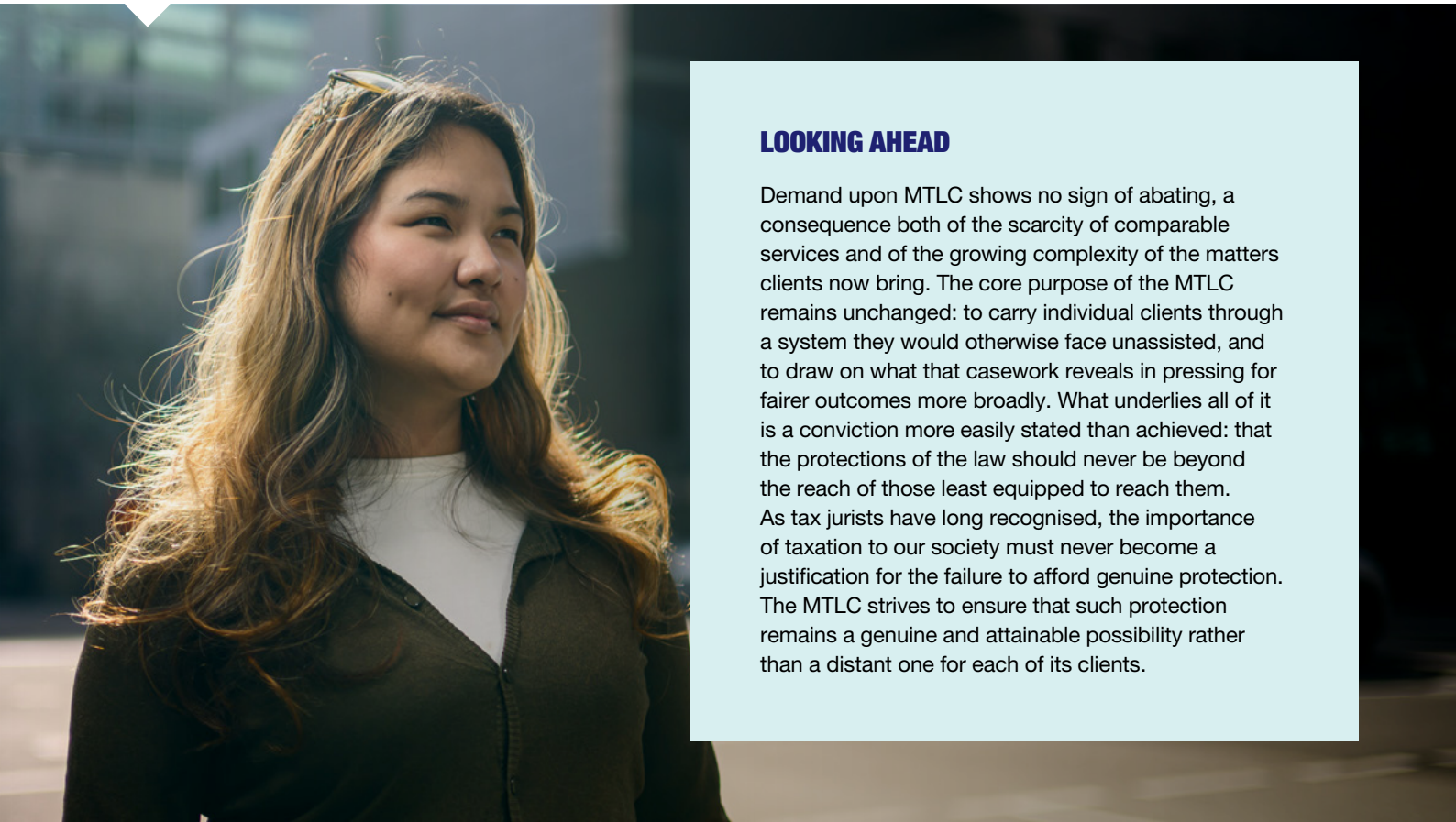
The MTLC has also deepened its collaboration with Monash’s Department of Business Law and Taxation, within which a new tax agent services clinic is emerging. Together, these distinct tax clinics join clinical legal practice with tax agency services in a manner that would strengthen both the advice given to clients, and the calibre of the education clinical students receive. Given the solid cross-faculty relationships that are continuing to develop, which take full advantage of the expertise that is housed within the University more broadly, this is a collaboration that is likely to flourish in a such a way as to realise benefits for all stakeholders.

WHAT STUDENTS TAKE FROM IT

A placement within this comparatively young clinic offers an experience somewhat distinct from the conventional clinical rotation. Students undertake the direct client work one would expect: interviewing clients, drafting advice letters and submissions, representing clients in negotiations with the ATO, for example. But in the MTLC students are urged to go deeper in their learning about the law and its real-world application. Students are given licence to ask questions, and turn their attention to issues, of a kind they will not typically have anticipated: what is law, what might the law tell us about the human condition, what are the contexts within which law happens, how might law be connected to justice, and why do any of these questions matter to a legal practitioner generally, and a tax lawyer specifically? To be sure, the MTLC is not a theory-free zone, nor philosophy more broadly, and the awareness students develop in the MTLC, the questions they are supported to ask and ponder, become a part of the foundation upon which these students will build their competence and capacity as lawyers who will make a difference.

> **“As this placement has come to an end, I feel as though it has been an extremely rewarding opportunity. Since beginning placement, I have become aware that effective legal practice requires more than just understanding Tax Law… my experience at the Monash Tax Law Clinic (MTLC) has shown me that ethical awareness, client communication and teamwork are just as important to providing a good quality legal service to clients.”**
>
> – Student Reflection

> **“The clinic exposed me to the practical realities of client interaction and the responsibilities inherent in providing legal assistance. ...**
>
> **I felt it was important to constantly acknowledge that I was dealing with people. Not just words on a paper or numbers in a spreadsheet, clients were facing real problems with lasting consequences, all subjected to the adherence of fiduciary duties and effort from myself that would ultimately decide on how these legal issues will impact my clients for years to come.”**
>
> – Student Reflection

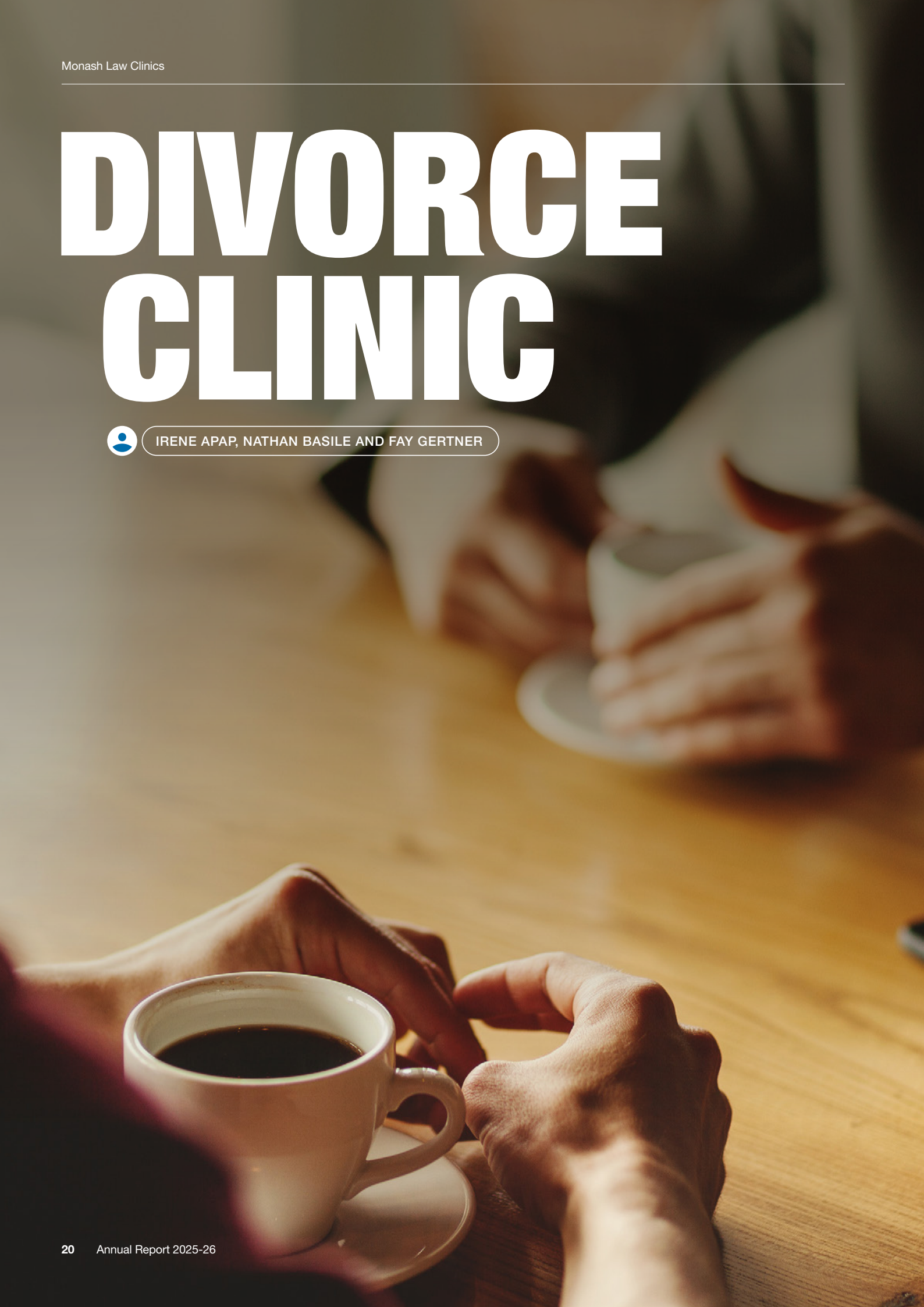


LOOKING AHEAD

Demand upon MTLC shows no sign of abating, a consequence both of the scarcity of comparable services and of the growing complexity of the matters clients now bring. The core purpose of the MTLC remains unchanged: to carry individual clients through a system they would otherwise face unassisted, and to draw on what that casework reveals in pressing for fairer outcomes more broadly. What underlies all of it is a conviction more easily stated than achieved: that the protections of the law should never be beyond the reach of those least equipped to reach them. As tax jurists have long recognised, the importance of taxation to our society must never become a justification for the failure to afford genuine protection. The MTLC strives to ensure that such protection remains a genuine and attainable possibility rather than a distant one for each of its clients.

DIVORCE CLINIC

IRENE APAP, NATHAN BASILE AND FAY GERTNER



The divorce clinic commenced operating in January 2026 – and is now running for the third consecutive clinical period. We have had 18 law students to date and acted for and provided advice to more than 30 clients in that time.

The clinic was created with support from the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (FCFCOA). It now includes details of Monash Law Clinics in documents, including attachments to the FCFCOA's orders. An increasing number of our clients come to us in this way. Other clients are self-referred or are referred by other legal services and Victoria Legal Aid.

Whilst we focus on divorce, we provide advice, information and referrals for matters including property and children's issues; mediation; and support services for family violence.

Many of our clients present complex underlying issues including language and cultural barriers; technological isolation; financial disadvantage; mental health issues; housing instability; and vulnerabilities due to family violence. Many live in suburbs and regional areas where there is no community legal service which can act or assist in divorces and consequently have to travel long distances to access our service.

Whilst many consider a divorce a straightforward "form-filling exercise" our experience in clinic has faced and dealt with the complexities that arise. Some clients never had or could not locate their marriage certificate; or have a marriage certificate in a language other than English, which needs to be translated; or they don't know where their spouse is.

Students gain legal skills in learning how to manage these complicating issues by drafting affidavits – which means they need to obtain instructions, draft and settle affidavits. This can be difficult as it requires clients to re-tell often harrowing stories. Students also learn how to manage clients' expectations which can be challenging.

In addition, students interview clients; take detailed file notes; engage with interpreters, client support workers, the FCFCOA, process-servers, other lawyers, and the Magistrates' Court; learn about the divorce process and how to use the FCFCOA portal for filing of all documents; gain an understanding as to associated costs clients face in applying for a divorce; and how legal practice trust accounts operate – valuable experience for practice. Students undertake research as required.

Students are engaged in the whole divorce process from the taking of initial instructions to the finalisation of the divorce application when the divorce order is granted. Alongside the identifiable legal learning, students are developing their interpersonal skills in a professional environment. Students work under supervision and with guidance – they do the work, and it can be challenging: listening to a client's narrative which includes family and/or political violence; recognising the financial limitations clients may have; challenges with languages; explicit family violence; understanding the challenges faced when individuals try to navigate the legal system – all while being professional, empathetic, respectful and managing client expectations.

Students' experiences at the divorce clinic provide an opportunity for deep reflection about themselves and developing an understanding of the complexities and challenges of the law and being a legal practitioner.

> **"I came into the clinic believing that good lawyering required a level of detachment that I associated with being objective and professional. I have left learning that being empathetic and understanding of different client's circumstances builds a trusting relationship that allows the client to speak honestly which therefore allows the lawyer to be a more effective advocate."**
>
> – Student reflection

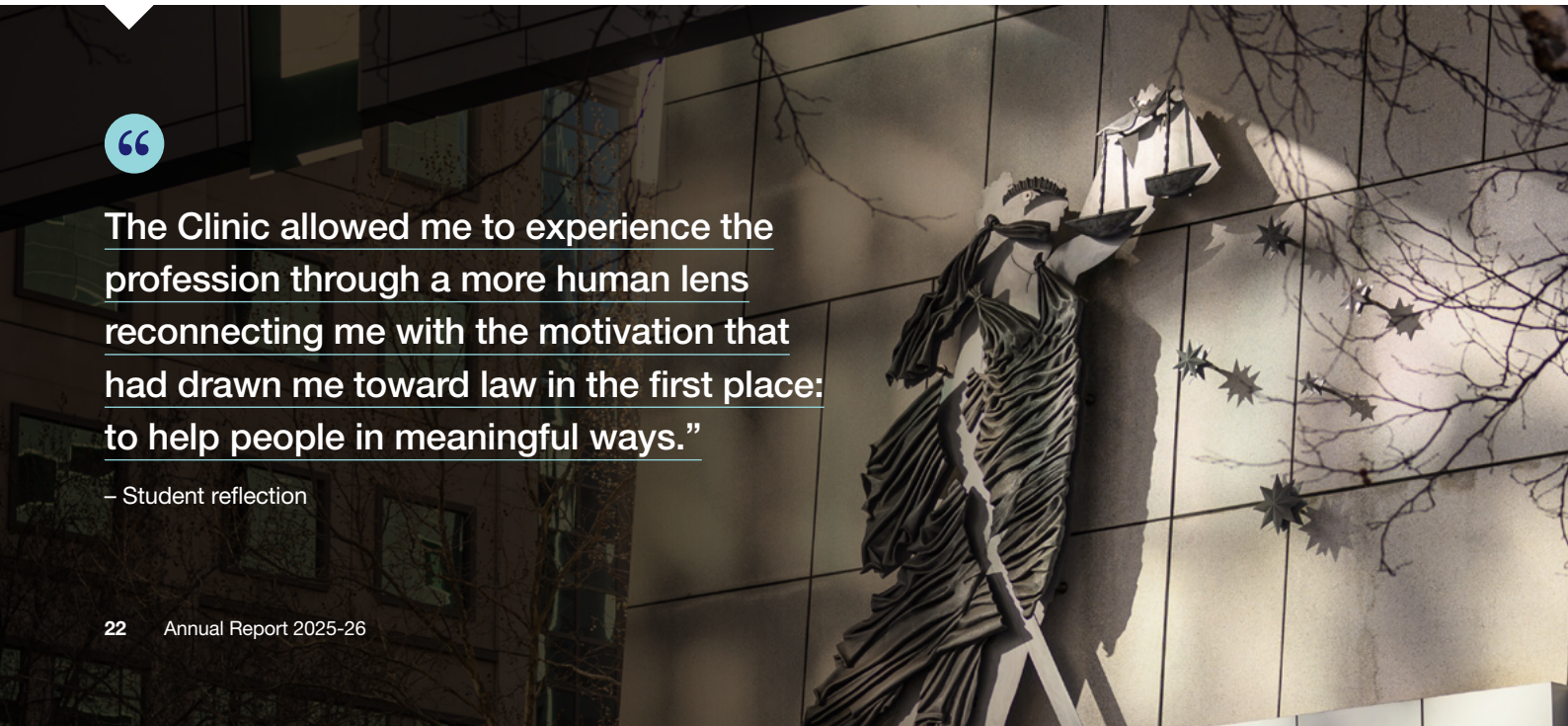
COUNTY COURT CLINIC REPORT

JOEL TOWNSEND AND SALLY LATTER

The work of the Commercial List of the County Court of Victoria is not as dry as it sounds. A wide variety of human disputes finds its way into the list. Matters heard include foreclosures on properties, disputes concerning jointly held family assets, and complex insurance disputes.

Over the past year, Monash Law Clinics has provided a service to self-represented litigants with matters before the Commercial List. In particular, the clinic has focused on assisting individuals who are participating in mediation processes. The objective has been to ensure that, through the provision of appropriate legal advice in advance of mediation, self-represented litigants are better placed to resolve their disputes.

In its first year of operation, the County Court Mediation Clinic has advised and assisted approximately 12 self-represented litigants, with demand steadily increasing as the referral process has been streamlined and awareness of the service has grown. The clinic assists self-represented litigants involved in commercial proceedings, including contractual, commercial, building and property disputes, where these matters have been referred for mediation prior to trial. The assistance provided is tailored to each client's needs, ranging from discrete procedural and strategic advice about mediation, to more substantial assistance with synthesising the broad strengths and weaknesses of a case, considering settlement options, and drafting mediation papers for use at Judicial Resolution Conferences (JRCs).



"The Clinic allowed me to experience the profession through a more human lens reconnecting me with the motivation that had drawn me toward law in the first place: to help people in meaningful ways."

– Student reflection

What would have happened to these people without us? The answer is that they would have navigated a process with significant consequences for their lives in a state of near-total procedural blindness."

– Student reflection



Many self-represented litigants cannot afford ongoing representation but require legal assistance to understand and navigate unfamiliar County Court and mediation processes. By helping clients participate meaningfully in settlement negotiations, the clinic not only helps to avoid the costs associated with a trial, thereby reducing the unnecessary expenditure of substantial public resources, but also provides relief from the significant expense of conducting County Court litigation. In many circumstances, this means that self-represented litigants will emerge from the process in a better position than if they had proceeded through to a final hearing and judgment.

In the course of providing advice to self-represented litigants, students have reviewed pleadings and a wide range of client documents, and have analysed the strengths and weaknesses of clients' cases. They have provided legal advice and, under supervision, assisted in the preparation of offers of settlement on behalf of clients and the conduct of negotiations. In late September, the clinic will represent a client at a JRC for the first time, assisting a pro bono barrister to appear in a complex family dispute concerning property.

One advice involved clients who, as administrators of their mother's estate, were defendants to a claim of more than $800,000 arising from the sale of a property that was substantially destroyed by fire before settlement. Students, under supervision, advised the clients about the strengths and weaknesses of their position, valuation evidence, settlement options and the risks of proceeding to trial. Following negotiations and referrals for specialist property and conveyancing advice, the parties agreed to a settlement for a sum substantially less than the amount initially claimed, and the trial was vacated.

In another matter, a mediation paper prepared by the clinic contributed to the settlement of a client's contractual dispute at her JRC. That client later told the clinic: "I am so grateful for the help of the clinic. We would have had no idea how to navigate this process without your advice. Thank you so much for your help and support." These outcomes demonstrate the practical difference the clinic makes by giving self-represented litigants the legal understanding, preparation and confidence needed to make informed decisions about settlement and engage effectively in mediation.

Through this work, students have learnt the importance of alternative dispute resolution (ADR). They have observed firsthand not only the operation of mediation and other ADR mechanisms, but also the broader operation of court processes. In particular, they have had to become familiar with court rules and the pleadings commonly used in Commercial List matters.

Students have emerged from this clinic with an understanding of the complexity of commercial litigation, and the professional rigour required to conduct it. They have also developed an appreciation of the benefits of resolving disputes at an early stage, and a recognition of the legal need that can arise even in areas of the legal system where a significant "justice gap" might not ordinarily be thought to exist.

The Court has been a strong supporter of Monash Law Clinics' work in this area and has expressed its appreciation for the efforts made by the clinic to provide vital assistance to self-represented litigants. In doing so, the clinic has also assisted in reducing the demands placed upon a very busy court and its staff. Court, students, and clients all benefit from this new foray for Monash Law Clinics.



SUPREME COURT WINDING UP LIST CLINIC

JOEL TOWNSEND

The William Cooper Justice Centre, at the corner of Lonsdale and William Streets in the centre of Melbourne's legal precinct, is busy on Wednesdays.

The Supreme Court Winding Up List, on a typical Wednesday, hears 50 to 60 matters involving applications for the winding up. These companies have failed to respond to a statutory demand for the payment of a debt, and presumptively are to be put in the hands of liquidators.

Among those attending court are many people who are bewildered by the process. Frequently directors of companies come to the Court expecting to be able to speak for their companies. Court rules prohibit their doing so. The company must usually be represented by a lawyer. The procedures for serving a statutory demand, and applying to have a company wound up are technical and detailed, and responding to a statutory demand or to an application before the Court likewise requires a degree of knowledge and understanding of the system.

Throughout 2026, Monash Law Clinics has attended most Wednesdays at the William Cooper Justice Centre to provide a duty lawyer service in the List. Students undertaking this Supreme Court Clinic have provided advice to individuals involved in proceedings: mostly, directors seeking to represent their companies' interests. This advice has covered issues including the procedures by which matters run, the applicable costs rules, the potential personal liability faced by directors, and other related matters.

> **I came into the clinic assuming the emotional and ethical dimensions of this work would be secondary to the legal analysis. I leave thinking they are at least as demanding, and perhaps more so."**
>
> – Student reflection

Associate Professor Joel Townsend, Director Monash Law Clinics, with students



It made me appreciate that some of the most significant legal work happens not in courtrooms, but in conversations. Sometimes simply having a discussion in which someone leaves with a clearer understanding of where they stand, is significant and meaningful."

– Student reflection

This assistance has often been followed by written advice and, on occasion, has involved multiple consultations with clients whose complex matters are before the List. On one occasion, a student undertook an appearance before the Judicial Registrar, arguing the client's case in relation to the costs that might be imposed.

The Judicial Registrars who regularly sit in the List, together with the Associate Justice who oversees the Winding Up List, have been key partners in developing and operating the clinic at the Supreme Court. They have hosted legal education sessions for our students and have provided valuable insights into the practicalities of the List's operation. Students have also benefited from the input of practitioners from the legal profession who have provided insights into conducting corporations matters, and winding up matters in particular.

The experience of providing assistance through the clinic has been enriching for students. It has provided an opportunity to build on the core knowledge they have acquired during their law degrees in subjects such as Corporations Law. Additionally, it has exposed them to the realities of litigation.

A disproportionate number of people seeking assistance from the clinic have been directors of closely held companies. In substance, these companies are the vehicles by which these people operate their small businesses. The winding up of these companies often represents a devastating blow to their hopes for the businesses they have established.

These clients have also disproportionately come from diverse backgrounds, frequently being first-generation migrants and/or people operating in English as a second language. Typically, they have had little detailed understanding of the operation of corporations law, and limited experience with litigation in Australia.

The clinic experience has therefore prepared our students not only by strengthening their knowledge of corporations law, but also by developing their capacity to assist disadvantaged people to navigate a complex legal system. As they enter the legal profession, they will be practitioners who are better equipped to respond to the diverse range of people who seek assistance with complex legal problems. In the meantime, they have helped to bridge the justice gap for an underserved group of litigants.

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF CLINICAL LEGAL EDUCATION AT THE GALA DINNER

JAMES BRANDIS

On Thursday 23 October, the Monash Law community gathered at the RACV City Club in Melbourne to mark 50 years of the Monash Law Clinical Program. The 2025 Monash Law Gala Dinner drew together alumni, students, staff, donors and supporters for an evening centred on reflection, storytelling and hope, hosted by Professor Steven Vaughan, Dean of the Faculty of Law.



Left: Professor Steven Vaughan

Right: Keynote speaker Commissioner Meena Singh



A LEGACY OF JUSTICE, ADVOCACY AND TRANSFORMATION

The evening opened with Professor Vaughan framing the milestone as fifty years of turning theory into real-world impact. He described the clinical program's mission as one of everyday commitment to making a difference, and characterised the Faculty as being in "the business of hope" — the belief that law and lawyers matter in a democratic society, that law schools can instil a sense of justice in their students, and that where the law falls short, there is a responsibility to step in and help.

The scope of the clinical program's reach is considerable: over the past twenty years, more than 3,000 Monash Law students and over 1,500 volunteers have assisted more than 40,000 clients, working across 21 in-house clinics and more than 200 external partner organisations. Vaughan pointed to the breadth of legal support delivered, including refugee assistance, domestic violence advocacy, social security appeals, and regional outreach through the Justice BuS, as evidence that the program touches almost every corner of legal need.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS: COMMISSIONER MEENA SINGH

The keynote speaker was Commissioner Meena Singh, a Monash Law alumna and Victoria's Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People. Noting that she and the clinical program are of the "same fine vintage", she used her address to reflect on the power of storytelling in legal practice, describing the countless client stories she witnessed as a lawyer and commissioner...

> **I imagined the thousands of stories that have been told by community members, desperate to be heard. To law students equally keen to help and also learn. Stories that hoped to be elevated beyond 'Im really sorry that happened to you' to 'Yes, we can do something about this.' Maybe even both."**

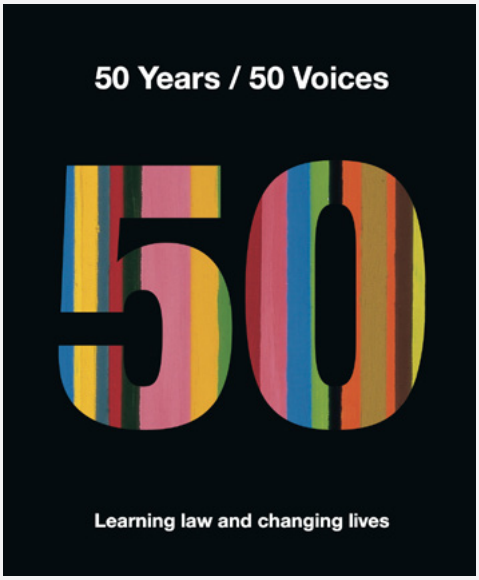
Commissioner Singh challenged the notion of law as a "single narrative" and called for a more inclusive, empathetic approach to justice.

> **Law is both a single story, but it is also a tool in reinforcing that single story. And if you've witnessed the hatred of the so-called 'March for Australia' rallies, you'll see how strongly some people will go to cling to a single story. But storytelling is a two-sided process. It's a process of hope, a process of teller and listener."**

She closed with a personal tribute to her late father, who passed away in April and was a practising Hindu; she connected his memory to the recent festival of Diwali, describing it as the triumph of light over darkness and justice over cruelty, and likened each client story shared through the clinical program to one of those individual lights guiding the community forward.

LAUNCH OF "50 YEARS / 50 VOICES"

A highlight of the night was the launch of a commemorative book, *50 Years / 50 Voices: Learning Law and Changing Lives*, a project pairing 50 current students with 50 alumni interviewees. With some amusement, Vaughan recounted how a fairly audacious idea – commission a book, have it printed in time for the Gala, and pair fifty students with fifty alumni – came together in just four months into a polished finished publication, which was gifted to attendees on the night. A recurring theme running through the book, he noted, is that clinical legal education transforms not only clients' lives but also those of the students, staff and alumni who carry the experience forward, citing one interviewee's observation that a clinic placement did not just teach a student how to practise law, but showed him why the work mattered.



> "Clinical legal education transforms not only clients' lives but also those of the students, staff and alumni who carry the experience forward..."



Above: Meghan Butterfield
Right: Dr Deborah Glass OBE





Jacqui Weinberg, Professor Jeff Giddings, Sara Kowal, Melissa Fletcher, Associate Professor Joel Townsend, Sally Anderson and Associate Professor Ross Hyams from the Monash Law Clinical Program at the 2025 Monash Law Gala Dinner.

VOICES OF THE CLINICS: ALUMNI REFLECTIONS

The evening included a video montage in which founders, supervisors, lawyers and program leaders shared their earliest and most meaningful memories of the clinics, met with applause each time a familiar face appeared on screen. Professor Jeff Giddings, Associate Dean (Experiential Education) and a clinics alumnus himself, recalled the sense that working in the clinics turned the law from something read about in black and white into something lived in colour.

Legal practice manager Jennifer Lindstrom shared the gratitude of clients who had been helped — including one who said she hadn't realised there were people willing to listen to her for free. Looking ahead, legal practice manager Fay Gertner expressed confidence that so long as the program's focus on student and client outcomes remains constant, its essence will endure for decades to come.

LOOKING AHEAD: THE BUSINESS OF HOPE

Vaughan toasted the pioneers and voices who built the program over five decades, expressing pride without complacency and a commitment to doing more in the years ahead. The evening closed as a shared celebration — a reaffirmation of purpose and a recognition that the Monash Law Clinical Program will continue to serve its community with courage, compassion and hope.

Summary of the original Monash University Faculty of Law article, "Celebrating 50 Years of Clinical Legal Education at the Gala Dinner" (monash.edu, 24 October 2025).



PHILANTHROPY AND FUNDING

Extending our reach

MELISSA FLETCHER

This year's theme, "justice within reach," captures how Monash Law Clinics works to widen access to legal help and smooth the path toward it: extending our regional reach into northern and central Victoria, strengthening an individual's ability to navigate the court system, and reaching further into law reform through submissions for systemic change. Across all three, the clinics' impact continues to grow.

None of this is self-sustaining. It exists because a network of funders, partners and individual benefactors choose, year after year, to invest in the belief that legal help should be available to people who could not otherwise afford it. In 2025/26, Monash Law Clinics again delivered transformative legal services thanks to the unwavering support of these partners.

The Monash Faculty of Law remains the cornerstone of our operations. Its financial support, staffing and infrastructure are the constant against which every other partnership is built, and without it, the clinical program would not exist.

Government funding closes the dimension of distance most directly. Significant contributions from the Commonwealth and State Governments, and Victoria Legal Aid, support our Professional Practice and Family Law Assistance Program. These services are further strengthened by the Litigant Support Fund provided by the Pratt Foundation, who also support a range of specialist clinics.



Left: Monash Law Clinics Staff, Chloe Jack, Melissa Fletcher and Sophie Winzar

Other partners address the dimension of complexity, helping the clinics meet clients where their problems are most tangled. In 2025/26, funding and resourcing enabled the development and continuation of clinics addressing specific client needs:

- Vulnerable clients with tax law matters are supported through the **Monash Tax Law Clinic**, funded by the Australian Taxation Office.
- The **Cybec Foundation** funds our Regional Clinic and Lawyer Assisted Family Dispute Resolution Clinic.
- Clients facing complex medico-legal issues were assisted through our **cohealth clinic**, funded by a private benefactor.
- Climate change legal work is supported by **Mr Ernie Chow** and **Dr Gwen Hinze**, with invaluable further support from **Russell Kennedy Lawyers** and **Lander & Rogers**, who provide secondee lawyers.
- The **Sports Governance Clinic** is funded by Monash Clubs and Societies to support their members.

Other support keeps the clinics themselves within reach of the students who staff them and the researchers who strengthen them. Continuing support from **Mr Cary Stynes** ensures Monash Law Clinics has IT equipment and software needed to deliver services and educate students effectively.

In another rewarding year, we thank our dedicated staff, volunteers and supporters, whose commitment underpins our success. Together with our funding partners, we continue to keep justice within reach of those who need it most, regardless of where they live, how much time they have, or how complicated their circumstances have become.

We would like to acknowledge our partners South-East Monash Legal Service and ARC Justice who collaborate, not only to increase legal service assistance, but in the education of our law students. They are a vital part of our education program.

Monash Law Clinics has grown to offer over 20 specialist clinics to provide legal assistance and contribute to legal reform. As we celebrate our 50th year, we are proud of the legacy on which we are built and excited by the possibilities ahead.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BRUCE DYER
PRESIDENT, MONASH LAW CLINICS INCORPORATED (MLC INC) MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (COMMITTEE)

MLC Inc is the legal practice through which Monash Law Clinics provides legal services as a community legal centre. MLC Director Joel Townsend is MLC Inc's supervising legal practitioner.

In the context of this year's theme, Joel and team are those bringing justice within reach, while the Committee focuses on oversight, governance and policy to facilitate that. Joel's report outlines the outstanding contributions in this area by Monash staff, students, and MLC. I briefly outline below some of the matters considered by the Committee.

Cybersecurity and the dangers and potential of GenAI are ever increasing challenges for all law practices. The Committee is seeking to address these challenges, including by drawing on resources from the Federation of Community Legal Centres.

Student numbers and demand for MLC units have increased at a spectacular rate. Accommodating this growth without compromising quality in an ongoing focus.

Clinical legal education (CLE) is resource-intensive. The Committee is considering whether and how it can assist in meeting the challenge of ensuring CLE can be delivered to Monash students on a sustainable basis.

The Committee seeks to monitor its own functioning, to seek to ensure effective governance. To that end, it has adopted a core skills matrix to identify any gaps it should seek to fill. It is also considering whether to propose adoption of new Rules better suited to MLC Inc's needs.

The Committee intends next year to adopt a structured annual work cycle to ensure systematic coverage of key governance responsibilities, drawing on AICD not-for-profit governance principles.

MLC Inc offers special thanks to all its partner organisations. The Monash Law Faculty makes the greatest practical and financial contribution to MLC Inc. We thank the Vice Chancellor, Sharon Pickering and the Dean of Law Professor Steven Vaughan, for their ongoing support.

I congratulate Joel on his well-deserved appointment as Professor of Practice (Access to Justice) and thank him and all MLC staff for their excellent work throughout the year. Finally, I thank all Committee members for their valuable contributions.



Bruce Dyer
President
–
Monash Law Clinics Incorporated Management Committee



FINANCIALS

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COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT MEMBERS REPORT

Your Committee of Management members present the special purpose financial report on the entity for the financial year ended 30 June 2026.

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT MEMBERS

The names of Committee of Management members at the date of this report are:

President	Bruce Dyer	**General Member**	Jacqueline Weinberg
Secretary	Nate Cheng	**General Member**	Shalini Mendis
Treasurer	Natalie Shanahan	**General Member**	Sarah Stratton
General Member	Donald Betts	**General Member**	David Taylor
General Member	Malvina Hagedorn	**General Member**	Emily Singh

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

Monash Law Clinics is a community legal centre operating from 2 sites which provide free advice and assistance to members of the community in relation to a range of legal matters. It is also a teaching site that blends student learning and client service.

Monash Law Clinics aim to help people who are unable to afford private legal assistance and representation or are unable to obtain access to the legal system because of language barriers or other disadvantages.

The philosophy at Monash Law Clinics is that everyone is entitled to free initial advice, even if the problem is not one that the service can continue to handle. Monash Law Clinics is committed to demystifying the law and empowering clients with a better understanding of the legal system.

Monash Law Clinics receives funding from the Monash University Faculty of Law and Victoria Legal Aid. The Law Clinics are overseen by the Monash Law Clinics Incorporated Committee of Management.

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

No significant changes in the nature of the entity's activity occurred during the financial year.

OPERATING RESULTS

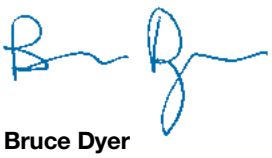
The surplus for the year attributable to the entity amounted to $Nil (2025: $Nil - surplus).

AFTER BALANCE DATE EVENTS

No matters have evolved since 30 June 2026 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect:

(a) the entity's operations in future financial years, or
(b) the results of those operations in future financial years, or
(c) the entity's state of affairs in future financial years.

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



Bruce Dyer
President



Emily Singh
General Member

30 October 2026
Date

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

INCOME	2026 $	2025 $
Grant Funding Income		
Commonwealth Funds – Generalist	328,996	278,796
Commonwealth Funds – Generalist - Indexation	-	39,574
State Funds – Generalist	29,460	28,970
Reallocation from VLA Grants In Advance	(102,313)	(20,080)
Monash Uni – external support for CEP	75,000	21,212
Victoria Law Foundation Grants	-	49,736
	331,143	**398,208**
Other Income		
FCLC Interpreter Funding	5,000	5,000
Legal Services	12,800	1,200
Other Income	55	-
	17,855	**6,200**
TOTAL INCOME	**348,998**	**404,408**

EXPENDITURE	2026 $	2025 $
Client Disbursements	28,249	50,124
Finance, Audit & Accounting Fees	11,318	10,487
Grant Expenses	-	49,736
Insurance	2,796	1,134
Interpreter Costs	9,745	8,130
Library, Resources & Subscriptions	3,970	4,578
Office Overheads	320	219
Transfers to Monash Uni Law Faculty - salaries	292,600	280,000
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**348,998**	**404,408**
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	-	-

The Income and Expenditure Statement is to be read in conjunction with the independent audit report and the notes to the financial statements.

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

	2026 $	2025 $
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	-	-
Other Comprehensive Income for the Year	-	-
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE ASSOCIATION	**-**	**-**

The Income and Expenditure Statement is to be read in conjunction with the independent audit report and the notes to the financial statements.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2026

CURRENT ASSETS	2026 $	2025 $
Cash at Bank	177,811	155,475
Accounts Receivable	15,928	5,473
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	**193,739**	**160,948**
TOTAL ASSETS	**193,739**	**160,948**

CURRENT LIABILITIES	2026 $	2025 $
Accounts payable	-	84,562
Other payables	7,690	-
GST payable	846	(6,504)
Grants in Advance		
Department of Justice & Community Safety	-	-
Victoria Legal Aid – Commonwealth & State Funds	167,977	65,664
Monash University – External Support for Clinical Education Program (CEP)	-	-
Victoria Law Foundation	4,975	4,975
PLEA – fundraising	6,364	6,364
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	**187,852**	**155,061**
TOTAL LIABILITIES	**187,852**	**155,061**
NET ASSETS	**5,887**	**5,887**

EQUITY	2026 $	2025 $
Accumulated funds	5,887	5,887
	5,887	**5,887**

The Statement of Financial Position is to be read in conjunction with the independent audit report and the notes to the financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

	Accumulated funds $	Total $
Balance as at 1 July 2024	5,887	5,887
Surplus/(deficit) attributable to the Association	-	-
Balance as at 30 June 2025	**5,887**	**5,887**
Surplus/(deficit) attributable to the Association	-	-
Balance as at 30 June 2026	**5,887**	**5,887**

The Statement of Changes in Equity is to be read in conjunction with the independent audit report and the notes to the financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	Note	2026 $	2025 $
Receipts from other grants		423,001	399,065
Receipts from other sources		17,855	6,200
Payments to Monash Uni Law Faculty & suppliers		(418,520)	(328,404)
Net cash generated from/ (used in) operating activities	**(i)**	**22,336**	**76,861**
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		22,336	76,861
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year		155,475	78,614
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	**(ii)**	**177,811**	**155,475**

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

	2026 $	2025 $
Note (i). Net cash generated from/ (used in) operating activities		
Net surplus for the year	-	-
(Increase)/decrease in current and other receivables	(10,455)	21,872
Increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	(69,522)	76,004
Increase/(decrease) in grants received in advance	102,313	(21,015)
	22,336	**76,861**
Note (ii). Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year		
Cash at bank	177,811	155,475
	177,811	**155,475**

The Statement of Cash Flows is to be read in conjunction with the independent audit report and the notes to the financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2026

Note 1. Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

This financial report includes the financial statements and notes of Monash Law Clinics Incorporated, an incorporated association, which is incorporated in Victoria under the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

Basis of preparation

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*. The Board has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and also a not-for-profit association.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the association in the preparation of the special purpose financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

Accounting Policies

a. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at-call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities on the balance sheet.

b. Revenue

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable.

AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers and AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities

The Association applies Australian Accounting Standards AASB 15 and AASB 1058.

AASB 15 involves the use of a five-step recognition model for recognising revenue, the steps are:

Step 1 – Identify the contract with the customer

Step 2 – Identify the sufficiently specific performance obligations to be satisfied

Step 3 – Measure the expected consideration

Step 4 – Allocate that consideration to each of the performance obligations in the contract

Step 5 – Recognise revenue

AASB 1058 measures income by reference to the fair value of the asset received. The asset received, which could be a financial or non-financial asset, is initially measured at fair value when the consideration paid for the asset is significantly less than fair value, and that difference is principally to enable the entity to further its objectives. Otherwise, assets acquired are recognised at cost.

Where the asset has been measured at fair value, AASB 1058 requires that elements of other Accounting Standards are identified before accounting for the residual component. These standards are:

- AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers
- AASB 16 Leases
- AASB 137 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities & Contingent Assets
- AASB 9 Financial Instruments

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

Revenue from the rendering of a service is recognised upon the delivery of the service to the customers.

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

c. Income Tax

By virtue of its aims as set out in the constitution, the Association qualifies as an organisation specifically exempt from income tax under Section 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act* 1997.

d. Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of expense. Receivables and payables in the Balance Sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

e. Employment Entitlements

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee benefits that are expected to be settled within one year have been measured at the amount expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Contributions are made by the association to employee superannuation fund and are charged as expenses when incurred.

f. Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the Association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

g. Related Party Transactions

The Committee of Management members act in an honorary capacity and are not paid for their services as Committee Members.

There were no transactions with related parties during the 2026 year.

STATEMENT BY MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

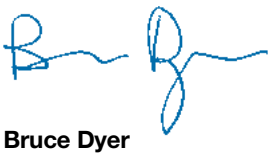
The Committee of Management has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the Committee of Management, the financial report as set out on pages 2 to 8, satisfy the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Victoria) and:

1. a. comply with Australian Accounting Standards applicable to the association; and

   b. give a true and fair view of the financial position of Monash Law Clinics Incorporated as at 30 June 2026 and its performance for the year ended on that date.

2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Monash Law Clinics Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.



Bruce Dyer



Emily Singh

30 October 2026
Date

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial report of Monash Law Clinics Incorporated (the Association), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2026, and the income and expenditure statement, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year ended on that date, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes and the statement by the members of the Committee of Management.

In my opinion, the financial report of the Association is in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act* 2012, including:

i. giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2026 and of its performance for the year ended; and

ii. complying with Australian Accounting Standards as per Note 1 and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. I am independent of the Association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution

I draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist Monash Law Clinics Incorporated to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the applicable legislation and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Association's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Association's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the registered entity's internal control.

Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the responsible entities.

Conclude on the appropriateness of the responsible entities use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the registered entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the registered entity to cease to continue as a going concern.

Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal controls that I identify during my audit.

Name of Auditor:
Frederik R. L. Eksteen

Address:
Collins & Co Audit Pty Ltd
127 Paisley Street
Footscray VIC 3011

Date:
30 October 2026

MONASH University

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ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26

JUSTICE WITHIN REACH

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