



**Midlas**

# **Annual Report 2016**

## Midlas Year at a Glance

### July 2015

- New job descriptions and key performance indicators for all staff
- New Midlas branding
- Financial counsellors attended grievances at Parliament in regards to the loss of financial counselling funding news
- Presented at the WACOSS ER conference on making alliances and partnerships

### August 2015

- Held a community event for NAIDOC day in Midland
- Attended a working group for DSS National Financial Wellbeing and Capability Activity

### September 2015

- Department of Child Protection financial counselling funding ceases
- Discussions start re a partnership arrangement for Department of Local Government and Communities financial counselling funding

### October 2015

- Midlas Annual General Meeting, new directors Elizabeth Lee and Andrew Canion join the Board

### November 2015

- New Midlas Disability Access and Inclusion Plan approved
- White Ribbon Day March

### December 2015

- Partnership established for state financial counselling funding - Financial Counselling Network.
- Attended City of Swan facilitated meeting to discuss sustainability of Not For Profit services

### January 2016

- State financial counselling funding approved as part of the Financial Counselling Network, financial counselling services resume

### February 2016

- Midlas Board holds a strategic direction meeting
- Midlas moves to new offices at 23 Old Great Northern Hwy as part of People Who Care community hub space
- Meetings with the State Shadow Cabinet

### March 2016

- Finalist in the Department of Commerce Consumer Protection Award
- Attended DANA Advocacy Summit
- Disability advocacy funding extended to June 2017
- Met with ministers -Ken Wyatt, Michaelia Cash and Simone McGurk
- Carol Mirco and Clint Ford joined Midlas Board

### April 2016

- Legal service funding approved 3 years from Public Purposes Trust
- External Merits Review funding extended to 30 June 2017
- NSDS audit conducted and passed

### May 2016

- Attended Disability External Merits Review workshop facilitated by DSS in Canberra

### June 2016

- Collaboration project initiated with The Spiers Centre
- Disability advocate finalist for NDS Disability Support awards
- Leadership study breakfast attended by management and directors
- Meeting with Labor candidate and Shadow Attorney General Mark Dreyfus re legal funding



## Message from the Chair

**A**s the incoming Chair of the Midlas Board I would firstly like to acknowledge and thank our outgoing Chair, Carol Micro, for her outstanding commitment to Midlas during her 4 years as Chair. I would also like to thank our other departing Board members Bettina McManus (Vice Chair), Adrian Tomizzi (Treasurer), Sarah Josey (Secretary), Jennifer Handz and Cerys Corrins.

With every departure comes an opportunity for new ideas and organisational growth and I would like to welcome Elizabeth Lee (Treasurer), Andrew Canion (Secretary) and Clint Ford, who all bring significant experience to the Board. I would like to thank Danielle Bejr (Vice Chair) and Maxinne Sclanders for their ongoing commitment to the organisation and welcome back Carol Micro who returned in the role as a Director after a short break

Midlas governance objectives have been capably supported by the Finance and Policy Sub Committees and the establishment of a Collaboration Committee to explore new opportunities and potential working partnerships.

Midlas could not operate without its staff and volunteers, and on behalf of the Board I would like to thank you for your dedication, commitment and hard work in providing the services that work towards Building Resilient Communities. I would like to thank Justine Clarke for her dedication and leadership as General Manager of the Midlas team. The Board would like to thank our grant providers and collaboration partners for their continued belief in our service provision as we work towards common community outcomes.

2015/2016 was a year of change, with a move to a new location within the Midland area and the adoption of new methods of operation for service delivery. This has enabled Midlas to be in a strong position to respond to the reform and regulatory challenges in our sector and adapt to meet future challenges as they arise. The Midlas Board look forward to the new year's opportunities and to continuing to expand and refine our service delivery.

**Simon Kimber** Chair

## Midlas Mission Values and Vision

### Our Mission

We partner with individuals and organisations to promote independence, strength and wellbeing in our community through support, advocacy, and education.

### Our Values

- **Caring for People**  
This is at the heart of all we do, central to our drive and motivation.
- **Developing Partnerships**  
We form partnerships with both individuals and with other organisations to maximise our reach and impact.
- **Supporting our Community**  
We go out into the community to inform, educate and raise awareness to enable people to address social issues before they reach crisis.

### Our Vision

Building Resilient Communities



## Message from the General Manager

**M**idlas staff, directors and volunteers have experienced another challenging but exciting year and are pleased to say that as a result we are stronger, happier and more committed to pursuing and meeting our strategic objectives. I would like to express great thanks to everyone that has worked



for, or that Midlas has worked with in helping us grow, become more professional and allowed us to do the work that is so important to those who look to us for support, information and advocacy. Thanks to every one of you for putting a smile on your face, managing change and coming in and doing the best that you can do for our clients. I am privileged to work with people whose values are embedded in all that they do and assist Midlas to build community capacity and orientate supports around positive client outcomes.

Sadly the demise of the financial counselling service and financial counsellor assessment for the Hardship Utility Grants Scheme funded by the Department of Child Protection and Family Support caused some distress to the financial counselling sector and to those clients who were unable to access a financial counsellor for a lengthy period. But change brings opportunity and Midlas joined the Financial Counselling Network which allowed us to

secure new state financial counselling funding from the Department of Local Government and Communities, as part of an integrated partnership across the metropolitan area. This allows us to bring a collective, consistent and professional approach to provide quality financial counselling and a range of other valuable supports to those using the service.

Other highlights of the year include: Midlas moved to a fabulous new home in February located at 23 Old Great Northern Highway within the the People Who Care Community Centre; we were a finalist for the Department of Consumer Protection Richard Fletcher award for organisational achievement; we were successful in our application for legal funding to the Public Purpose Trust and this will allow our legal service to continue with Domestic and Family Violence legal services and some minor family law advice for another 3 years; and our disability advocate, Megan Butt was a finalist in the Advocacy and Right Promotion award category in the Disability Support awards.

All our other existing funding arrangements continued throughout the year. Our thanks once again to the Department of Social Services for providing funding for our Disability Advocacy, External Merits Review support and Financial Counselling services; Department of Commerce for providing funding for our Tenant Advocacy and Education service; Public Purposes Trust for providing a grant for our Legal service and to Lotterywest for providing a grant for our Emergency Relief service and supporting us to move locations. Additionally I would also like to say thanks to our partners Sussex Street Community Law Service to whom we sub contract to provide Emergency Relief and to Uniting Care West to whom we sub contract to provide a Financial Counselling service. I look forward to working with you all over the next year and furthering opportunities to continue and improve our organisational and client successes.

I would also like to acknowledge our clients that put their faith and trust in us to assist them to navigate through their diverse range of issues and experiences. I hope that each of you takes away information and support that will help you build a more resilient future.

**Justine Clarke** General Manager

## Administration Report

**D**uring the 2015/16 Financial Year Midlas was able to move to more suitable offices in the new Community Centre owned by People Who Care. As the Business Manager I was responsible for planning the move over a period of two months. The tasks involved designing the office layout and modifications to suit our needs, as well as sourcing all the necessary suppliers such as telecommunications, internet, removalists, cabling and IT for the new location.

To ensure that the move did not disrupt our service provision for more than a few days the suppliers were locked in to the scheduled date for the move well ahead of time. This allowed us to arrange for our move to take place over one day with the following being set aside for unpacking and setting up the new location. The team settled in to the new location over the next few months and have handled any of the teething problems with the new location with professionalism and humour.

The Administration team are at the forefront of our organisation and are committed to supporting the advocates in their important role, directing calls, maintaining statistics, managing workloads, educating the wider community and keeping the day to day running of Midlas working smoothly.

Our new location means we are more visible in our community and as such we have seen a marked increase in the number of walk in enquiries. Over

winter in particular many homeless find their way to us looking for shelter and food. We have been fortunate to have plenty of swags to provide to our clients who have been most grateful for the chance of a warm sleep that night.

The calls we receive for Financial Counselling and Tenant Advocacy for rent arrears are still high, demonstrating the difficulty our community is going through to just make ends meet. Our system of only booking a week in advance enables us to get many clients in quickly and keeps "no shows" to a minimum because people have forgotten their appointments. Unfortunately we have had to introduce a three month exclusion policy to counter repeat "no shows" and this seems to have reduced these occurrences so we are able to assist more people in need.

At the front desk and on the phone we often experience people at their worst due to the stress of the experiences they are going through and we have certainly had an increase in challenging behaviours. Our aim is not to judge but to impart information so as to best serve our client's needs and on the whole our admin team successfully achieves this each and every day. We pride ourselves on our can do attitudes and remaining compassionate and professional at all times.

**Janet Leerson and Lee Marter**  
Business and Administration Team





## Disability Advocacy

It has been a busy year for the Disability Advocates. The two main areas we have assisted clients with related to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and applying/appealing for the Disability Support Pension (DSP) through Centrelink.

We assisted new applicants and existing NDIS participants, as well as a number of clients and families seeking to appeal decisions made by

Northam, Toodyay, Chittering, Bayswater and Bassendean. It is anticipated that Midlas will see an increase in people with disabilities, their families and carers seeking assistance with advocacy and information to assist in the transition to the NDIS scheme.

Four clients in Western Australia were supported by Midlas to progress to an External Merits Review (EMR). Due to the Midlas model

**“Have been seeking assistance for years! Megan provided clear & concise assistance & information with this application as well as greater detail on what may be expected to happen.”**

the NDIA through lodging an Internal Review. Internal Review matters centred mostly on eligibility for the Scheme or a participant not being happy with the level or type of supports that were funded in their NDIS plans. On the whole, going through the Internal Review process has been a worthwhile experience for clients and fostered a greater working relationship with Midlas advocates and staff at NDIA.

Many clients required support to apply for the Disability Support Pension (DSP) through Centrelink as the revised criteria that a person with a disability must meet to be eligible for DSP can at times be difficult to address. We have worked to ensure that people have understood and feel supported to navigate through the application process and have also supported several clients to appeal DSP decisions externally through the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT).

In April 2016 it was announced that the NDIS trial in Western Australia would be extended for another 12 months and would expand to cover

of combining advocacy with extensive support and negotiation with NDIS in the appeals process, three of the EMR cases were settled before hearing. Ongoing community education was delivered to people with disabilities, their carers/families and service providers with a focus on rights under NDIS.

### Highlights

I was very pleased to be nominated and become a finalist in the NDS Disability Support Awards for excellence in advocacy and rights promotion.

We travelled to Canberra in May 2016 to attend a

disability conference which allowed us to meet and learn from other organisations in Australia who are also funded to provide EMR support across the various NDIS sites in Australia.



**Megan Butt** Disability Advocate

## Holistic Model of Service - Case Study

**D**ue to the often complex nature of our client base, Midlas adopts a holistic model of service delivery to ensure our clients are supported in the most appropriate and comprehensive way. Advocates regularly work in collaboration with their Midlas co-workers regarding best practice which can then lead to internal referrals as additional issues of concern are identified.

### **A specific example of this is Kathleen.**

Kathleen accessed both tenancy advocacy and disability advocacy support. Kathleen was initially referred to Midlas by a government organisation



when it was identified that her tenancy was at extreme risk of termination. When Kathleen engaged with the Midlas tenancy advocate, it became apparent that she may benefit from support from the disability advocate as well. Kathleen came to Midlas unsure of what was happening with her tenancy and did not seem to fully understand the dire situation she was in regarding this.

Our tenancy advocate supported Kathleen in negotiations with her leaseholder, informing her of her rights and responsibilities and providing court representation. Midlas tenancy and disability advocates supported Kathleen in understanding what was happening in her tenancy, why this was happening and the potential consequences in

order to empower Kathleen to make decisions with support. The tenancy advocate also worked with Kathleen in looking at long term strategies to sustain her tenancy once the immediate threat of eviction was alleviated and supported Kathleen in connecting with appropriate agencies who could best assist her in developing these strategies.

Due to Kathleen's disability, she often had difficulties understanding information given, and she needed on-going support from both service advocates to ensure that what was communicated was indeed understood. Our disability advocate also worked with Kathleen to clarify what necessary supports she needed to ensure that she was working towards independent and social participation. Kathleen had a limited support network and, due to her disability, had proven to be vulnerable to exploitation both financially and emotionally. Through sourcing evidence and supporting Kathleen in completing the necessary forms, we assisted Kathleen in applying for funding from the government to assist her in increasing these support networks as well as her own personal capacity. Whilst supporting Kathleen, Midlas emergency relief service was also accessed to assist her through this difficult time and additional referrals made to other agencies.

As a result of her involvement with Midlas, Kathleen's tenancy issues have been resolved and she has been engaged in an appropriate community program that will assist her in sustaining the tenancy. Kathleen is no longer in crisis and is more aware of the supports available to her if she requires assistance in the future. Kathleen has been connected with suitable government funding sources and has been supported in navigating this process.

**Nicole Hitchens** Disability Advocate



## Tenancy Advice and Education

**W**e have successfully saved many tenancies in the past 12 months, with tenants having a wide range of problems relating to their tenancy, from an eviction notice for having the wrong breed of dog on the property to a substandard property that eventually was demolished by the Shire. However, the accomplishment we are proudest of was managing to re-house a gentleman after he was evicted by Department of Housing.

This gentleman had been a tenant of the department for many years, who always paid his rent and associated costs on time and had letters from the department commending him on how well he maintained the property. Unfortunately, due to a personal tragedy within the family in 2014, over a short period of time he incurred

available. The gentleman was able to remain in the property until April 2016, through the goodwill of the department and conditions being met.

He then vacated the property and went to live with a family member. The conditions were not suitable to his mental health and he revealed that he thought he couldn't cope with life much longer. Midlas took this information to the Manager at the Department of Housing Midland and requested the gentleman be permitted to apply for priority housing. They agreed to interview him, required documentation supporting his application and support by Midlas Advocates, but could not offer any guarantee he would be accepted onto the wait list. After negotiation and support he was accepted to the waitlist for priority housing.

**“Thanks to Midlas, they helped me a lot and stopped me from having to live on the street.”**

3 strikes, normally an automatic eviction. Midlas supported the gentleman to appeal the decision as 2 of the strikes had expired. The department withdrew their application for vacant possession and applied for section 64 - *A lessor may give notice of termination of a residential tenancy agreement to the tenant without specifying any ground for the notice.*

Midlas advocates took the matter to trial in June 2015 and although the Judge agreed that this application was morally wrong, the department was acting within the legality of the Residential Tenancies Act and he ruled in their favour, giving 28 days for the tenant to vacate.

We approached the department management and requested further time for the tenant to remain in the property as he was on a waitlist for alternative accommodation. They agreed to allow him to remain in the property, as long as he continued to access Midlas' services and get updates of when the alternative accommodation would be

In August this year, this gentleman was offered a property, in a location that allowed him to maintain his ties to the community and he has now moved in. He required some household goods as he had lost a lot of his possessions when he moved in with the family and we were able to provide emergency relief towards a washing machine. Other goods were provided from our partner ER agencies.

This gentleman now has a spring in his step and a new lease on life.... **this is what makes the work by the Midlas team, oh so meaningful.**

**Heather McBurney and Taryn Benn**  
Tenant Advocates



## Emergency Relief

Since moving from Stafford St to Old Great Northern Highway, Midlas appears to have become a hive of activity, with all services experiencing an increase in clients with complex issues. The ability to access emergency relief through Midlas and our partnership agencies, means that some of these problems have been alleviated.

Midlas has assisted over 450 individuals and families over the past year with various types of emergency relief including Woolworths vouchers,

pharmacy vouchers, Smart riders, Foodbank vouchers, cab charge cards, Telstra vouchers, Dreambuilders grocery vouchers, Power Assist and Alinta Care. We have also made payments for rent arrears and whitegoods for clients who have not had the income to purchase either a fridge or washing machine. Most of the assistance given, has enabled clients to provide food for their family or to allow them to meet other financial obligations. In addition, we have also sought emergency relief assistance from other

partnership agencies for our clients. Primarily, but not only, helping to save tenants from eviction. We have given out a number of awesome swags from Swags for the Homeless and blankets and Christmas hampers from Charity Link to a wide range of clients needing help.

Midlas advocates regularly attend Emergency Relief forums, including a local forum for agencies within the Swan area. These are a source of information on growing trends, ER availability and alternative services available e.g. Meals/food, showers and laundry services for the homeless. These forums not only give an opportunity for services to network with each other but also to ascertain what the status, availability and extent of their ER and services. This provides invaluable updated information for advocates, who then have the knowledge of where they can refer clients for specific assistance.

### **The definition of Emergency relief is:**

*"The immediate survival assistance to the victims of crisis and/or violent conflict. Most relief is initiated on short notice and have a short implementation period. The main purpose of emergency relief is to save lives."*

This may sound dramatic but, in reality, Midlas sees many clients who fit this definition and without Emergency Relief being available lives can be at risk.

**Heather McBurney**

**Tenant Advocate/Financial Counsellor**





## Financial Counselling

**A**t present, Midlas employs two Financial Counsellors – one funded by Department of Social Services and the other by the Department of Local Governments and Communities as part of the Financial Counselling Network. Despite the year of funding uncertainty and unfortunate loss of staff, Midlas has continued to empower, assist

particularly amongst those on Centrelink benefits who would be best served by it. Of special note this year is the National Hardship Register, an initiative by various participating debt collectors who will voluntarily disengage contact with any client on the list for up to three years. Intended as an alternative to bankruptcy, this exciting new idea may provide the relief people are looking for when they want to

**“Siobhan has made it so clear to me at Midlas on how to get on top of finances and I have left her office feeling most relieved and at peace.”**

and advocate for over 400 clients experiencing a variety of complex and exhausting circumstances. Over-commitment prior to loss of income, illness or injury and family separation have been three of the major trends and our statistics have given a stark reminder that no ‘working age’ group is exempt from sudden financial hardship.

Six years on from the National Consumer Credit Protection Act that tightened up creditor obligations towards not-unsuitable lending and our Financial Counsellors are still putting on their detective hats and investigating contested or unaffordable credit contracts. Payday lending, although just as damaging to low-income earners as always, has decreased as a presenting issue while rent-to-buy schemes (that often end up with clients spending quintuple the item’s retail value and sometimes don’t end with the item owned at all) are increasing. Consumer awareness of alternative low or no-interest lending is low,

honour their debts but simply can’t right now but don’t want to go bankrupt just to get relief from creditor contact.

Demand for the service remains high with increasing numbers of outgoing and partnership referrals being recorded.

Clients seeing a Financial Counsellor are often also linked in with our Tenancy, Legal or Disability advocates as part of Midlas’ holistic focus. Despite cuts to funding, Midlas continues to engage in outreach activities to Bandyup Women’s Prison and provide various free community workshops and information sessions.

As always, our Financial Counsellors maintain the professional development and supervision standards required to be members of the Financial Counselling Association of WA and ensure premium service to our clients.

**Siobhan Meerman** Financial Counsellor



## Legal Service

**M**idlas is honoured to be able to operate its legal service despite being the smallest legal CLC service in the state with our funding coming solely from the Public Purpose Trust of the Law Society of W.A. This funding allows us to provide a legal service for victims of family violence 4 days a week. Carrying on an innovation introduced in December 2014, the service has been supplemented by volunteers - they came in three categories - undergraduates wanting exposure to legal work, a pre admission graduate requiring compulsory placement hours and a restricted practitioner who was required to complete supervised hours.

Our assistance to victims of family violence included the preparation of affidavits in support of applications for Violence Restraining Orders, and appearing in the Midland Magistrates' Court on interim and final hearings of applications. Additional assistance for these clients included negotiating parenting plans and consent to family court orders; drafting, initiating or responding to documents for Family Court proceedings and preparing applications for criminal injuries compensation claims. Where appropriate we have referred matters to other CLC's or Legal Aid W.A. Subject to capacity, and with the aim of providing the practitioners - to-be with broader experience, we also assisted

low income clients with proceedings for divorce, service of documents overseas, negotiated property settlements, contraventions, leave to intervene in parenting proceedings and some issues concerning child support were also covered.

In terms of professional development and policy we attended the quarterly meetings of the CLC W.A., which included obtaining Continuing Professional Development points, and a conference on Improving Court Practice in Family Violence Cases hosted by the Australian Institute of Judicial Administrators. Arising out of this conference, we made representations to the Magistrates' Court to have the pro forma wording on the Violence Restraining Orders amended to provide for parenting plans in them, and subsequently these changes have been made. We anticipate that this will lead to more efficiently settling arrangements for children caught in the middle of family breakdowns.

The work could not have been done without the assistance of our volunteers, the unsung heroes of Community Law Centres and we are grateful for their willingness to work in sometimes difficult circumstances and for no financial reward.

**Leah Billeam** Principal Lawyer

Midlas

Building Resilient Communities

**"Midlas staff are always prepared to make time to talk with you and you leave feeling light as a balloon. Midlas needs to advertise more, as many people in the community do not realise how much Midlas can assist them."**

## A Volunteer's Experience

In March 2015 I started volunteering at Midlas two days a week. As a law graduate, I was undertaking practical legal training at the College of Law, and hoping to become a lawyer.

As a volunteer I have been blessed to work under the supervision of Leah Billeam, Midlas's widely experienced domestic violence and family lawyer. Leah is a passionate legal advocate, whose hard work is assisted greatly in the background by a team of 3 to 4 student volunteers, of which I was but one. The legal volunteers allow Midlas to undertake much more work than our funding might allow.

Over the course of the following year of volunteering at Midlas I learned a great deal and gained genuine hands on experience in many are-

as of family law. In April of this year I was proud to be admitted to practice as a lawyer in WA and continue the important work at Midlas as a volunteer intern lawyer 4 days a week. With Leah's supervision, I am seeing clients, providing legal advice and am representing clients in court.

Throughout my period volunteering I have grown as a person and have very much enjoyed working within the wider Midlas team of advocates and volunteers. I am proud to be part of that team, together we provide much needed services to the people of the Midland area.

**Malcolm Bradley** Volunteer Intern Lawyer

**"There were times during the process of collecting information for the Criminal Injury Compensation that just felt too difficult. Having to relive a lot of the thoughts that I had been trying to suppress in order to write the victim impact statement was stressful. But Leah's attention to detail made me determined to complete it properly. Knowing that somebody was supporting me to make the claim, encouraging psychology appointments & making sure that I had covered all bases of medical reports, police reports, treatment receipts, loss of income, kms travelled to my GP and therapist - ALL in aide of making the claim the best it could be to put forward.**

**I am so grateful. Even if the CIC is unsuccessful, I truly believe that the process that I have endured with Leah has contributed to my healing and recovery and helped also get my children the support they needed.**

**Thank you so much for everything xo"**



## Treasurer's Report to Members

### Treasurer's Report to Members for the financial year ended 30 June 2016

**T**he audited financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2016 show an after tax profit of \$2,876 compared to a profit of \$5,720 for last year. The small surplus amount shows the strong internal control of the management team in monitoring expenses against budget targets as well administering state and commonwealth government funding which have experienced cuts to legal and financial services.

Total revenue for 2016 was \$908,393 compared to \$1,141,979 for 2015 which shows the reductions in grants received.

Total expenses for 2016, including depreciation, prior period adjustment and provisions for annual leave and long service leave, amounted to \$905,517.

The management team is continuously seeking opportunities to increase revenue. Currently the organisation is providing accounting services for a

fee to other NFP organisations which cannot afford qualified accounting personnel but require such services in their organisation. In addition the management team has reduced expenses by relocating to new premises for a reduced rent which offers the possibility of synergies with other NFP organisations in the building and around the area and investigation of other opportunities to reduce expenses will continue.

In line with our strategic direction, the organisation will continue to seek funding from all sources in order to provide much needed services to all members of the community that needs them.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the dedication and passion of all of the staff members in the delivery of Midlas' services to the community.

**Elizabeth Lee** Midlas Treasurer

7 September 2016



# **Independent Audit Report**

## **ON THE FINANCIAL REPORT TO MEMBERS OF MIDLAND INFORMATION DEBT AND LEGAL ADVOCACY SERVICE (INC).**

I have audited the accompanying financial report of Midland Information Debt and Legal Advocacy Service (Inc.) for the year ended 30 June 2016. The financial report comprises the balance sheet as at 30th June 2016, and the income statement, cash flow statement for the year then ended, notes comprising of a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information and the Board Members' declaration for the year then ended.

### **Board Members' Responsibility for the Financial Report**

The Association's Board Members' are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the Association Incorporation Act 1987(WA) and Accounting Standards in Australia. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from any material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

### **Auditor's Responsibility**

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Auditing Standards in Australia. Those standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Board, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

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

### **Independence**

I am independent of the association, and have complied with the independence requirements of Australian ethical pronouncements.



## Auditor's Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report presents fairly in all material respects, the financial position of Midland Information Debt and Legal Advocacy Service (Inc.) as at 30 June 2016 and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended, in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of Associations Incorporation Act 1987 (WA) .

**Abbott**  
Solutions

## Going Concern

Without modifying my opinion, I draw your attention to uncertainties of continuous funding post 30 June 2017. After discussion with board member on 30 August 2016, only two out of eight current grants have been confirmed for the continuous funding after 30 June 2017, which gives rise to uncertainties about its abilities to continue to operate.

## Basis of Accounting

Without modifying my opinion, I draw your attention to Note 2 of the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the financial reporting obligations under the association's constitution. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

Dated: 1st day of September 2016

**Abbott Audit Services Pty Ltd**



GRAEME WOVODICH CPA  
Registered Company Auditor No. 13421

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**MIDLAND INFORMATION DEBT AND LEGAL ADVOCACY SERVICE (INC)**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**AS AT 30 JUNE 2016**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>\$</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Continuing Operations</b>		
Revenue and funding	908,393	1,141,979
Expenses for charitable activities	(905,517)	(1,136,259)
Surplus/(Deficit) from continuing operations	<u>2,876</u>	<u>5,720</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) from discontinued operations	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	<u>2,876</u>	<u>5,720</u>
Other Comprehensive Income for the year	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Comprehensive (Deficit)/Surplus for the year	<u>2,876</u>	<u>5,720</u>



**MIDLAND INFORMATION DEBT AND LEGAL ADVOCACY SERVICE (INC)**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**AS AT 30 JUNE 2016**

	2016 \$	2015 \$
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	280,887	268,412
Other receivables	100,066	67,064
Prepayments	7,772	12,214
Total Current Assets	388,725	347,690
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	15,896	23,720
Total non-current assets	15,896	23,720
TOTAL ASSETS	404,621	371,410
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Provisions	32,062	31,467
Deferred income	115,964	86,518
Other liabilities	49,784	48,620
Total Current Liabilities	197,810	166,605
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Provisions	21,409	22,279
Total Non-Current liabilities	21,409	22,279
TOTAL LIABILITIES	219,219	188,884
NET ASSETS	185,402	182,526
EQUITY		
Retained surplus	185,402	182,526
TOTAL EQUITY	185,402	182,526

**MIDLAND INFORMATION DEBT AND LEGAL ADVOCACY SERVICE (INC)**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016**

	2016 \$	2015 \$
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Grant Receipts	983,214	1,288,211
Other income	4,540	832
Payments to suppliers and employees	(982,805)	(1,231,911)
Interest received	6,026	6,937
Net cash inflows/(outflows) from continuing operating activities	10,975	64,069
Net cash inflows/(outflows) from discontinued operating activities	-	-
Net cash inflows/(outflows) from operating activities	10,975	64,069
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Profit/(Loss) on sale of property, plant and equipment	1,500	-
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	-	(14,183)
Net cash inflows/(outflows) from investing activities	1,500	(14,183)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Net cash from financing activities	-	-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	12,475	49,886
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period	268,412	218,526
Cash and cash equivalents at end of period	280,887	268,412

# The Board of Management

## Chairperson - Simon Kimber

Simon has over 20 years management experience in business operations, marketing and general management in the private sector. This is Simon's first position in a not - for - profit sector and he brings to the team an approach based on service flexibility and exceeding customer requirements. Simon's interests are diverse and include international political economy, geopolitical risk, resources and energy sustainability, business innovation, policy and governance. Simon holds a Masters of Business Administration.

## Vice Chair - Danielle Bejr

Danielle is employed by Woodside Energy in a People and Capability Graduate role, where she applies her learning from her double degree in Psychology, Human Resources and Industrial Relations. Prior to this role, Danielle worked and volunteered in community based roles with the Department of Child Protection, Curtin University and Enactus. Danielle brings knowledge about current Indigenous issues, and through a secondment at AMMA an up to date view of employee relations. Danielle has previously held the role of Secretary for the Midlas Board, and is currently the Vice Chair of the Board, and Chair of the Policy Committee.

## Treasurer - Elizabeth Lee

Elizabeth has over 19 years experience in the areas of corporate governance and company secretarial functions. Prior to joining Questus, Elizabeth held company secretarial positions for Phosphate Resources Limited, Macmahon Holdings Limited, Corporate Compliance Partners and Lend Lease Primelife Limited. Elizabeth also performed contract company secretarial roles with Macquarie Bank Limited and Austock Group Limited. Elizabeth holds a Bachelor of Business majoring in Finance and Business Law from Edith Cowan University, a Graduate Diploma in Corporate Governance from Governance Institute of Australia, a Graduate Diploma in Corporate Governance for ASX Listed Entities from Kaplan Financial Institute and is a Fellow member of the Governance Institute of Australia.

## Secretary - Andrew Canion

Andrew is employed by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA to deliver the Federal Government's Entrepreneurs' Programme. In this role, Andrew works with firms to help them grow and improve. Andrew's prior experience includes business ownership, being an Advisor to both former State Premier and State Government Minister, and management at CBH Group. Andrew attended high school at Swan Christian College and his first purchased home was in Bassendean. Andrew holds a degree in Economics and Commercial Law, an Advanced Diploma in Leadership and Management, has completed the Cranlana Programme and is a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

## Maxinne Sclanders

During her professional career Maxinne has been a senior manager in the public service for over ten years, an educational administrator and a teacher. She left the public service in 1997 to become an independent consultant and since that time, has been active in providing consultancy services to a range of agencies, specialising in evaluation and review, policy development, human resource management and organisational development. As well as broad experience across the public sector, through the memberships of various boards and committees, she has established extensive networks and working relationships throughout the health industry (government and non-government) and the agricultural sector. She has worked with local community groups on a voluntary basis to initiate and develop tourism and various events to support and promote the area in which she lives.

## Clint Ford

Clint Ford has around 20 year's senior corporate experience. His experience includes lobbying and public affairs, marketing strategy, campaign direction and business development. He is also a director of WA Deaf Society Inc and is a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Clint holds a Master of Commerce, Graduate Diploma of Marketing Management and a Bachelor of Arts.

## Carol Mirco

Carol is a registered nurse with many years of experience throughout Australia in the public and private health sectors and as a non-executive director in the not-for-profit sector. She was recognised for her contribution to the public sector as winner of the Northern Territory 2003 TMP / Hudson Telstra Business Women of Year Community and Government Award. Carol has a Master of Business Administration and a Master of Applied Anthropology. She is a Fellow of the Australasian College of Health Service Management and a Fellow of the Australian College of Nursing. Carol was Chair of the Midlas Board from 2012 – 2015, returning to the Board in March 2016 after a short break. Carol's focus is governance, policy development, regulation and strategic planning.

## Jennifer Handz

General Counsel and Company Secretary at P&N Bank, working with the Board of Directors, CEO and business units. Previously, Jennifer was a partner at Lavan Legal specialising in banking and finance with extensive experience in project finance, syndicated and bilateral lending, equity investments and restructuring. Jennifer resigned from the board in February 2016.





# Midlas

**Building Resilient Communities**

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