



midlas

ANNUAL REPORT

2024-25






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Midlas acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we live and work, the Whadjuk Nyoongar people, and pay our respects to elders past and present. We acknowledge the past, walking hand in hand, for a better future. 

Midlas recognises, respects and welcomes diversity in all its forms, in the belief that diversity is a source of strength and opportunity. 



VISION

Social justice and equity through access to rights and opportunity.

PURPOSE

Providing advocacy, education, information and advice that empowers people to thrive.

VALUES



COMPASSION



COLLABORATION



EXCELLENCE



INCLUSION

CONTEXT

Midlas provides inclusive, accessible, holistic, safe, and culturally appropriate community and legal services for individuals, families and communities.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



Over the past 12 months, our organisation has continued to grow in both strength and impact. This success is a direct reflection of the outstanding leadership of our CEO, Angie Perkins. Angie commenced in September 2024, and with her previous experience as a Midlas Board member and her deep understanding of our operations and programs, she was able to hit the ground running. Her commitment, professionalism, innovation, and vision have guided us through another productive and positive year.

Midlas successfully maintained financial stability throughout the year, delivering a commendable surplus of \$48,505 for the financial year. This result was achieved despite a reduction in revenue, reflecting strong financial management, prudent decision-making, and effective control of expenses. Importantly, Midlas also achieved an increase in equity, further strengthening our overall financial position and ensuring a solid foundation for future growth and sustainability.

Midlas continued to deliver quality programs and services, whilst also expanding into new areas. This year we have seen significant increases in future funding, reflecting the growing confidence of our partners and stakeholders in our

capacity to deliver meaningful and culturally grounded outcomes. These new opportunities will enable us to broaden our programs, strengthen our operational base, and continue to support our community in the years ahead.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks to all staff members for their dedication and hard work. Their efforts continue to make a real difference in delivering outcomes for our community and ensuring that our programs and projects are carried out with integrity, respect, and effectiveness.

I would like to acknowledge our Board of Directors, whose guidance, governance, and collective wisdom have been instrumental in shaping our direction and maintaining strong organisational performance. Long-standing members Merissa Van Der Linden, Joseph Hoe and Dwayne Wescombe were joined this year by three new Board members - Leanne Nickels, Rachel King and Michael Lester, whose specialist skills in law, corporate services, and information technology and cyber security further strengthen and diversify the expertise of our Board. Their contributions are already adding great value to our strategic decision-making and organisational resilience.

Jane Davies
Chairperson



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Since stepping into the role of CEO in September 2024, I have had the privilege of leading an organisation deeply committed to social justice, equity, and opportunity. The work of Midlas is grounded in purpose and powered by people - our clients, staff, Board, and partners, who all play a role in creating meaningful change. I am in awe of our staff - their experience, commitment, and determination is truly inspiring. They chose Midlas as a place to work, and I am thrilled to be part of a team so dedicated to making a meaningful difference every day.

In these first months, we have focused on strengthening the foundations that support long-term sustainability. This has included significant work on governance, systems, and strategic alignment. We completed a Board Skills Audit and welcomed three new Board Directors, whose experience and insights will support Midlas in delivering on our vision. We have also invested in, and prioritised updating our policies and vital internal systems to ensure our governance remains strong, responsive, and fit for the future.

Relational leadership is at the heart of how I work. Building strong connections internally and externally has been a key priority, because relationships are what drive trust, collaboration, and impact.

This year, we have been proud to engage in several sector initiatives, ensuring the voices and experiences of our staff, clients, and the Swan community are represented and heard.

We have made important progress on our infrastructure too, securing a Labour State Government election commitment to fund a major IT upgrade project. This will enhance staff connectivity, data governance, and service efficiency, ensuring we remain agile, secure, and well-equipped to meet client needs.

A significant milestone this year was the successful securing of a substantial three-year grants to expand our legal services. This achievement builds on the vision of our previous leadership team, whose commitment to access to justice laid the groundwork. With this funding, Midlas will increase our reach and support more people through programs including our Health Justice Partnership, Wills and Estates Program, and Property Law supports.

For the first time, we will also have legal staff present at the Midland Magistrates Court five days a week, and establish a regular outreach legal clinic in Ellenbrook, helping us meet people where they are, in the communities where they feel safe and supported.



As part of our commitment to building a sustainable and supportive organisation, we are currently working with local community service partners to identify fit-for-purpose office space. We want to ensure we have the physical environment our staff need and that our clients feel welcomed, respected, and safe.

Despite sector-wide challenges, Midlas remains financially stable, strategically focused, and deeply committed to delivering inclusive, high-quality, client-first services that empower people and build long-term resilience.

Looking ahead to 2026, we will continue focusing on outreach, access, and inclusion.

All of our programs support the basic needs people require to thrive, so we must have a funding structure that allows us to remain flexible and responsive to changing community needs. By working closely with funders and community partners, we will keep expanding our impact, seeking new funding and partnership opportunities that align with this focus.

To the Board, staff, and all our stakeholders, thank you for welcoming me so warmly and for working alongside me to lead such a well-loved and vital service in our community. It is an honour to be part of Midlas and to contribute to the important work we do together.

Angie Perkins
CEO



The Midlas Financial Counsellors I have worked with have been incredibly welcoming, compassionate, and professional in every interaction. They have gone above and beyond to ensure that each client feels heard, respected, and supported, often during what can be a very stressful and vulnerable time for them.

Clients regularly share positive feedback about their experiences, often mentioning how much more hopeful and empowered they feel after their sessions. As a referring partner, I have appreciated their prompt communication, collaborative approach, and willingness to adapt to each client's needs.

— Service Provider





OUR IMPACT



1,773
CLIENTS
SUPPORTED

PENELOPE'S* STORY

"As a survivor of domestic violence for 7 years, I finally took a stand - for myself, but I could not do it alone. I was linked in with the Midlas team by the domestic violence police squad. Midlas provided multiple services to myself and my children, they advocated and represented me legally regarding violence restraining orders that I could not have done alone. The professionalism, advocacy and validation I received were above and beyond. The team were always available and made me feel like a priority. No questions went unanswered and overall, the staff acted promptly and appropriately for my situation. I truly am grateful to the team at Midlas for all their help and support. I now live a much safer and happier life, full of knowledge concerning safety via the legal system. Thank you Midlas."

OUTCOMES

Midlas' Legal Team assisted Penelope in obtaining a family violence restraining order, to keep herself and her children safe. They also assisted Penelope in lodging her application for Criminal Injuries Compensation, where she received the jurisdictional maximum of \$150,000. Midlas' Financial Counselling Team helped Penelope create a budget so she could make the most out of her compensation award. Midlas' Disability Team provided information to help Penelope advocate for herself and her children at an education facility.

*Name changed for privacy



OUR SERVICES

LEGAL TEAM

Family Law & Family Violence
Duty Lawyer Service
Criminal Injuries Compensation
Resilient Futures (Estate Planning)
Health Justice Partnership

DISABILITY TEAM

Support for People with Disabilities
Referrals to Community Organisations
Assistance with NDIS Appeals

TENANCY TEAM

Information on Tenants' Rights
Negotiation, Conciliation & Advocacy
Representation at Midland Magistrates Court

FINANCIAL TEAM

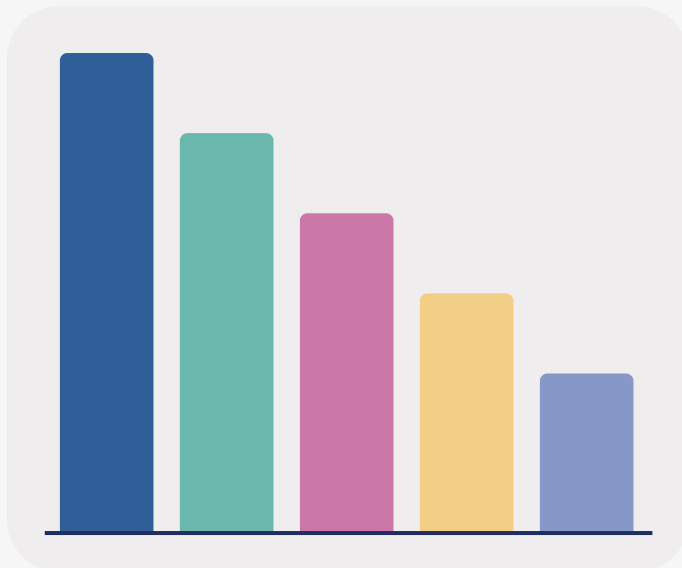
Options for Dealing with Debt
Work Development Permit Scheme
Education to Boost Financial Capability
Specialist Financial Assessment and Advice





LEGAL SERVICES

TOP 5 PROBLEM TYPES



- FAMILY LAW & RESTRAINING ORDERS
- CIVIL LAW
- PROPERTY IN MARRIAGE
- WILLS
- PROPERTY DE FACTO

SERVICE TYPES

TOTAL LEGAL SERVICES 1,809



ADVICE ONLY 1,553



CASEFILES 374

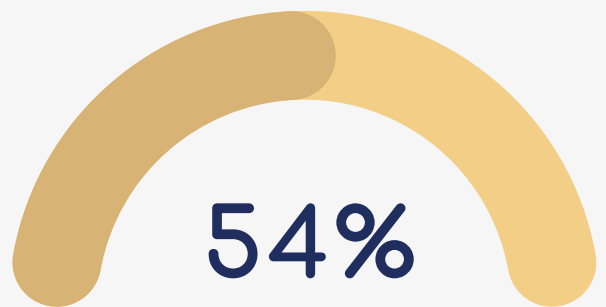


DUTY LAWYER 277



\$377,250

IN CRIMINAL INJURIES
COMPENSATION AWARDS



PERCENTAGE OF FILES IN
WHICH THE CLIENT HAD
EXPERIENCED OR WAS AT
RISK OF EXPERIENCING FDV



101

HJP* LEGAL
SERVICES



477

RF** LEGAL
SERVICES



445

FVRO
MATTERS



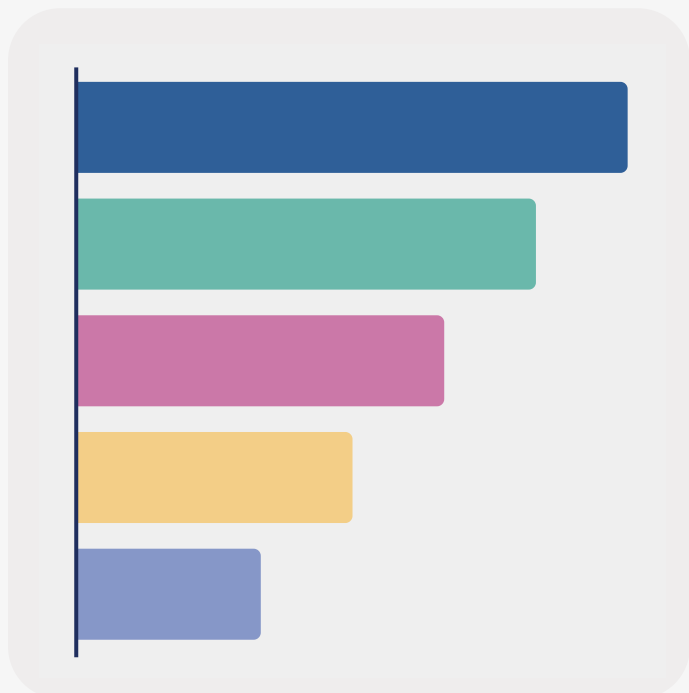
603

FAMILY LAW
SERVICES



DISABILITY SERVICES

TOP 5 PROBLEM TYPES



- HEALTH & MENTAL HEALTH
- VULNERABILITY & ISOLATION
- DISCRIMINATION & RIGHTS
- RECREATIONAL/SOCIAL SUPPORT ACCESS
- NON-NDIS SERVICES



Hannah's clear communication, willingness to listen and, most importantly, vibrant, positive personality was honestly such a breath of fresh air.

—NDIS Participant's Support Worker



186
ADVICE FILES



227
CASEFILES



Sarah was more helpful than any other service I'd tried to get help from during a very traumatic, dark time in my life. Sarah played a major part in helping me move forward.

— Client

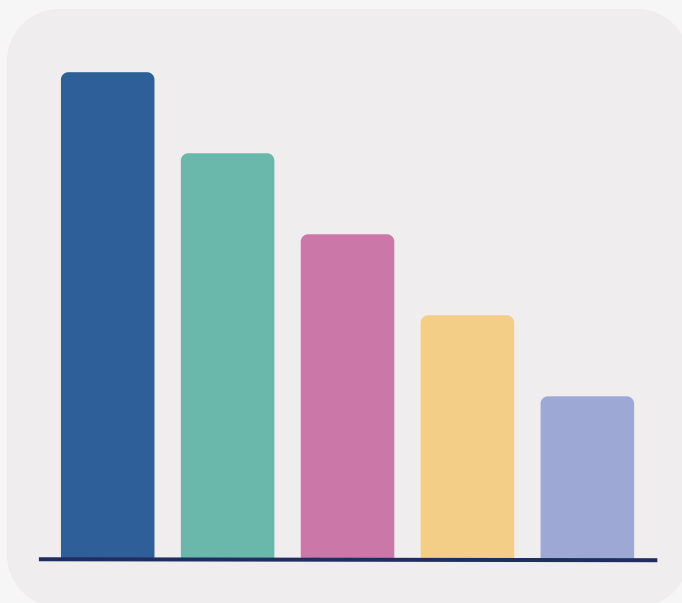




FINANCIAL SERVICES

FINANCIAL COUNSELLING

TOP 5 PROBLEM TYPES



- MORTGAGE/COUNCIL/STRATA
- SUPERANNUATION
- PROGRAM APPLICATIONS
- TAX, DEBT, INVOLUNTARY BANKRUPTCIES
- COST OF LIVING



167
ADVICE FILES



166
CASEFILES

25%

% OF CLIENTS THAT HAD LONG-TERM (≥ 2 YEARS) INSUFFICIENT INCOME

25%

% OF CLIENTS THAT IDENTIFIED LOSS OF OR UNDER-EMPLOYMENT AS A FACTOR IN THEIR HARDSHIP

FINANCIAL CAPABILITY



14

ADVICE FILES



116

CASEFILES



39

EDUCATION
EVENTS

\$101,640

AMOUNT OF FINES
CLEARED THROUGH
WORK DEVELOPMENT
PERMIT SCHEME

30%

OF CASES INVOLVED
MANAGING ON A LOW,
RESTRICTED OR
INADEQUATE INCOME



Most people aren't fully aware of their financial options, and without services like Midlas, people in my situation wouldn't have a chance.

— Client



TENANCY SERVICES



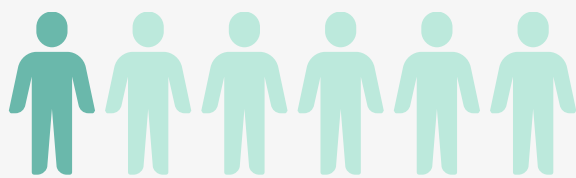
199

ADVICE FILES



273

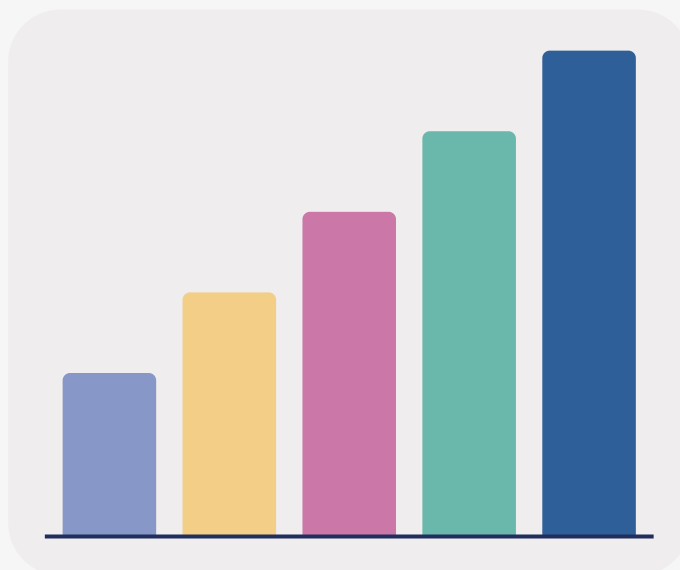
CASEFILES



1 IN 6 CLIENTS

1 IN 6 CLIENTS HAD EXPERIENCED OR WAS AT RISK OF EXPERIENCING FDV

TOP 5 PROBLEM TYPES



- REPAIRS
- RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES
- RENT
- TENANCY BOND
- TENANCY TERMINATION BY LESSOR

“

Before going to Midlas, I had no idea of the available services and spent months going around in circles trying to get help from public and government services that were less than helpful.

— Client







OUR BOARD

**Jane
Davies**
Chair



Jane is a marketing and commercial leader with over 25 years' experience in the commercial, not-for-profit and government sectors. Jane also spent many years working with Aboriginal communities, families and individuals, assisting them to develop their business aspirations.

**Merissa Van
Der Linden**
Vice Chair



Merissa has over 20-years of experience in human services including hands-on, leadership and governance roles within for-purpose community and disability service organisations, state government, and with the national peak for the disability services sector.

**Dwayne
Wescombe**
Secretary



A proven Senior Leader and Director with extensive leadership and industry experience gained across a diverse range of sectors including not-for-profit, ICT, community services, children & youth, event management, and social services.

**Joseph
Hoe**
Treasurer



Joseph is a Senior Financial Adviser with Wealthwise, and holds a Bachelor of Commerce and a Master of Taxation. He is a member of CPA (Australia), a SMSF Specialist from the SMSF Association and a Certified Financial Planner.



OUR BOARD

Michael Lester Director



Michael is an experienced Board Director and the managing director at an international ICT consultancy organisation. He holds a Bachelor of Business (Management of IT), and a Master of Business Administration (Human Resources Management).

Leanne Nickels Director



Leanne is a legal practitioner and Partner at DLA Piper and has over 25 years experience in supporting her clients to navigate through the intricate landscape of workforce management.

Racheal King Director



Racheal has a variety of experiences from committees, working groups and boards. She has served on and works at the Shire of Tammin as Manager of Finance and Corporate Services.

COMMITTEES

RISK & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Merissa Van Der Linden
Jane Davies

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Joseph Hoe
Dwayne Wescombe



MESSAGE FROM THE TREASURER



The financial year 2025 has been a positively impactful period for Midlas, marked by resilience and prudent financial stewardship.

Midlas has successfully maintained financial stability and delivered a commendable surplus of \$48,505 for the financial year, despite domestic economic uncertainties and a challenging operating environment. This surplus reflects our continued focus on budgetary control and strategic resource allocation, setting a strong foundation for sustainable growth in the years ahead.

Furthermore, Midlas recorded revenue of approximately \$2.7 million for the financial year, which is a 14.8% decrease from financial year 2024, but our expenses have been managed well. The reduction in expenses was primarily achieved through continued focus on advocacy, education, and empowerment services.

Our total equity has strengthened approximately 5.5%, a testament to the strategic focus and unwavering dedication of our staff. Our strong balance sheet ensures that Midlas is well-positioned to meet its financial obligations and invest in future initiatives.

The 2025 financial statements have been audited by Crunch Auditing and an unqualified audit opinion was issued. The financial statements have been made available on the ACNC website.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the Midlas Management Team and all staff members. Your unwavering dedication, passion, and excellence in service delivery have been instrumental in achieving these financial outcomes and in continuing to uplift our community.

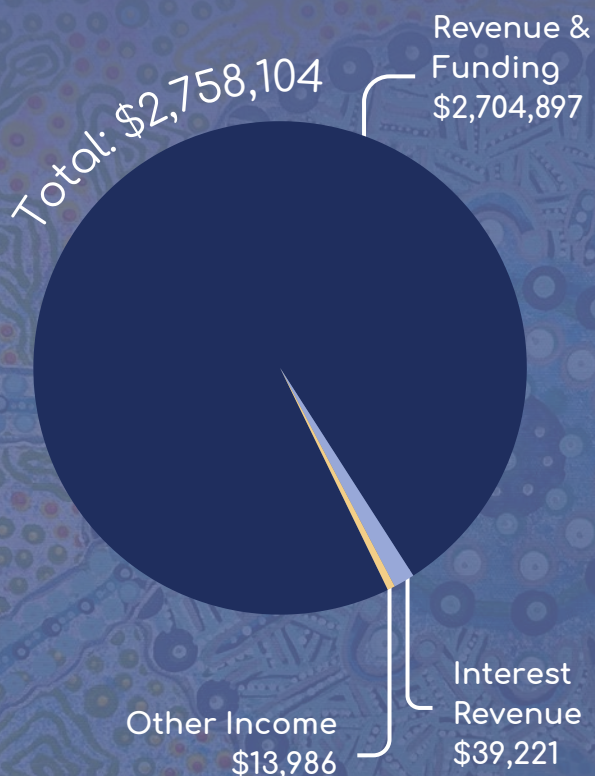
Joseph Hoe
Treasurer



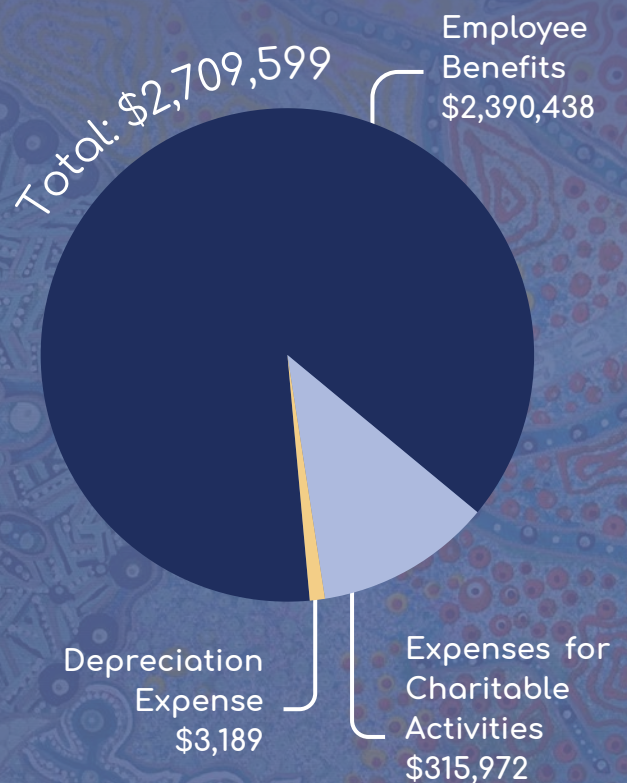
ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

2024-25

Income



Expenditure



Assets

Cash & Cash Equivalents (incl. Term Deposits)	\$1,370,927
Trade & Other Receivables	\$133,058
Prepayments	\$30,605
Property, Plant & Equipment	\$7,884
Total Assets	\$1,542,474

Liabilities

Trade & Other Payables	\$185,158
Deferred Income (Grants)	\$273,981
Provisions	\$154,117
Total Liabilities	\$613,256

Net Assets & Equity

\$929,218



OUR SUPPORTERS & PARTNERS



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of Justice



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Communities**



Community Legal Centres
Australia



Department of Local Government,
Industry Regulation and Safety

JOHNSON
WINTER
SLATTERY



McCusker Centre
for Citizenship



NDAP - Funded by the Australian
Government Department
of Social Services



I would like to thank everyone our members, partners, staff, and the community for their ongoing support and belief in our work. Together, we are building a stronger future grounded in respect, collaboration, and cultural strength.

— Jane Davies, Board Chair

“

Your dedication to helping people like me, who might not otherwise have access to legal help, makes such a difference, and I can't thank you enough for your kindness and professionalism.

— Client



Midland Information, Debt and Legal Advocacy Service Inc (MIDLAS)

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