



**Aboriginal
Legal Rights
Movement**

Annual Report
2024-2025





**Aboriginal
Legal Rights
Movement
ALRM**

© Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement

This work is copyright. Apart from use as permitted under the Copyright Act 1968, no part may be reproduced without the permission of the Chief Executive Officer, ALRM. This report is available from ALRM offices, and can also be downloaded from www.alrm.org.au

ABN: 32 942 723 464

ALRM is aware that many Aboriginal people are offended by the depiction of deceased members of their communities. While we have made every effort to ensure that only pictures of Aboriginal people still living are used, the Aboriginal community is respectfully advised that some photographs may contain images of people who have passed away.

ALRM acknowledges the Australian Government, the Federal Attorney-General's Department, the South Australian Department for Premier and Cabinet, the South Australian Department for Families and Communities for funding support. It also acknowledges significant support from the Wyatt Benevolent Institution Inc (The Wyatt Trust).

Artist Acknowledgement

Codi Buckskin

Funding Bodies



Major Stakeholders, and Supporters



ALRM Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

"We acknowledge this land that we meet on today is the traditional lands of the Kurna people and that we respect their spiritual relationship with their country. We also acknowledge the Kurna people as the custodians of the greater Adelaide region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Kurna people today. We also pay respects to the cultural authority of Aboriginal people visiting/attending from other areas of South Australia/Australia present here"

Artwork - Introduction by the Artist

This artwork was created to reflect the journey of the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement (ALRM) in contributing to the 34-year review of the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody (Royal Commission). It is a visual story of our unwavering commitment to our clients, the evolving nature of our challenges, and our respect for the enduring guidance of our ancestors.

At the heart of the painting, the large central circle on the left represents our clients — Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who continue to experience over-incarceration, systemic injustice, and structural disadvantage. The size of this circle is intentional: it symbolises that our clients must always be the centre of our focus, the priority in everything we do. Their needs, safety, and futures are the purpose of our service and our advocacy.

Surrounding the client circle are eight smaller circles, each representing the original eight themes that structured our work on the report. However, during our engagement with community and stakeholders, it became clear that the landscape of injustice has shifted. The original themes, while significant, no longer fully capture the complexity of the issues facing Aboriginal people today. Radiating beyond the eight are additional circles, showing our collective decision to expand the scope — recognising the emerging needs such as the rising incarceration of Aboriginal women, and the lack of culturally safe services for Aboriginal people with disabilities. These extra circles acknowledge that justice work must evolve alongside the lived realities of our communities.

Beside the client circle stands the second largest circle, representing the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement itself. Its position — close to the client circle — symbolises our role as the shield and protector of our people, drawing from the spirit and story behind our ALRM logo, as passed down by Chris Charles. We are not separate from our community; we stand with them, advocating fiercely and faithfully for their rights.

Around the ALRM circle are many smaller circles symbolising the broad and diverse stakeholders engaged throughout the review process: Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs), other Aboriginal organisations, internal ALRM staff, lawyers, community members, and clients themselves. These circles are placed intentionally close to ALRM to show how we listen, gather knowledge, and work collaboratively to refine and direct our efforts back towards empowering and protecting our clients.

The background of the painting moves across shifting shades and tones, representing the ever-changing landscape of challenges that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people face. The variation in colour is deliberate — it reflects that injustice is not static; it changes shape, appearance, and impact across generations. The backgrounds ask an important question: If our ancestors were looking down upon us today, what would they see? They would see a landscape marked by resilience and survival, but also new forms of struggle. The shifting shades pay respect to their sacrifices, while recognising that our responsibility is to continue adapting and fighting for justice in a landscape that continues to evolve.

In the top right and bottom sections of the artwork, two rows of red circles honour the 34-year anniversary of the Royal Commission's final report. These red pathways represent not just a moment of reflection, but a commitment to looking at the Commission's findings through a 2025 lens. They symbolise how we revisited the recommendations with fresh eyes, mindful of the modern challenges: the rapid increase in Aboriginal women's imprisonment rates, the lack of disability-specific services within justice systems, and the continuing systemic racism and discrimination experienced daily by our people. The red rows are both a remembrance and a promise — to continue the fight for justice not only with respect for the past, but with vision for the future.

Together, every element of this painting tells the story of who we are, what we stand for, and the future we are working towards — guided always by the work we do, grounded always by our clients.

Codi Buckskin, 28 April 2025

Table of Contents

About ALRM 05

Chairperson's Report	06
ALRM Board of Directors	08
Chief Executives Report	09
Organisation Chart	12



Principal Legal Officers Report 13

Criminal Section Report	15
Civil Section Report	17
Field Officer Report	24
Port Augusta Report	31



Corporate Services Report 34

Financial Statements	40
Acronyms & Abbreviations	58
Backpage	59

About ALRM

The development of an Aboriginal legal service in South Australia was part of a national movement to improve legal and civil rights for Aboriginal people.

In the late 1960s, Aboriginal people were over-represented in the criminal justice system. Most Aboriginal people appearing before the Courts were not represented by a solicitor, and many pleaded guilty to their offences and were unaware of their rights and obligations under the law. This pattern evolved for a variety of reasons, such as traditional Aboriginal people were inclined to plead guilty or were induced to do so. The newly formed Aboriginal organisations were not experienced enough to gain access to legal aid for Aboriginal defendants.

The South Australian Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement began in 1972, with the assistance of the Aboriginal Cultural Centre Inc, the Council of Aboriginal Women of SA Inc and the Redfern Legal Centre.

The Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement was incorporated in 1973 and received its first government funding (\$22,000) from the Commonwealth Department of Aboriginal Affairs.

Since its incorporation in 1973, the Movement has grown from a small service employing a solicitor, a field officer and a secretary to an organisation of approximately 90 staff, with offices in Adelaide, Ceduna, and Port Augusta.

ALRM's major aim is to advance the legal interests of Aboriginal people in South Australia, and to ensure that those rights are protected by the law and not adversely affected by abuse or misuse of any powers under the law.

Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement (ALRM) is registered with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) as an Australian Public Company, Limited by Guarantee. ALRM is also a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission (ACNC). It is controlled by an all-Aboriginal Board with members from communities across South Australia.

ALRM Locations



ALRM Free call number 1800 643 222

Chairperson's Report



Glen Wingfield (Chair)

This is my third year as the chairperson of the ALRM Board. The ALRM Board generally meets four times a year and makes non-operational decisions in line with the ALRM constitution. I would like to thank the Board members for their efforts during the 2024–2025 financial year.

The ALRM Board would like to say a big thank you to the young fellas, **Chris Larkin** and **Christopher Charles**, who have hung up their boots as the CEO and PLO at the end of June 2025. Both of these young fellas have contributed tirelessly to ALRM and take with them a vast knowledge of ALRM, Aboriginal legal rights and policy issues. We wish them all the best and can't wait to have a yarn with them in the future.

The ALRM Board would like to welcome **Klynton Wanganeen** on as our **new CEO**. He started in this position on 1 July 2025. He has been the Deputy CEO since October 2024 and has already attended over a hand full of ALRM Board meetings. The ALRM Board would like to welcome **Liz Bowering** as the **new PLO**. She has attended a few board meetings and has provided updates and advice on high-level legal issues affecting the organisation. We also have a **new HR manager, Glynis Rosser**. She provided a face-to-face update at the last Board meeting about key HR issues, including tighter screening of staff before they are employed by ALRM. Her report was eye opening and showed her commitment to the organisation.

Funding

The Federal Government has provided, through the State, funding for ALRM for the next five years, and the State Government has directly provided funding for the Policy and Advocacy team and the Aboriginal Visitors Scheme and other wrap-around services provided by ALRM for the next four years. Sadly, the funding still falls far below what is required for us to provide a statewide service.

The Aboriginal community is up in arms because legal services aren't being funded properly in remote areas. This is no criticism of the hard-working staff at ALRM. We know that they are doing all they can. More funds are needed so that face-to-face legal services can be provided in more remote locations by ALRM. I hear from community members that for various personal reasons, it is difficult for them to ring in for legal advice and support services.

Remote communities don't receive other core services either, so this in combination with not being able to walk in and get legal advice from someone face to face, makes access even harder for them. Our community members really appreciate a yarn face to face to get to know who they are talking to and to build trust. If this isn't available, a lot of our mob won't go and ask for help or won't know how to access it another way. Additional ALRM offices in remote areas are needed by our remote communities, so they can access the legal advice and support services that they need. Proper funding is required so that this can happen.

Achievements and Looking to the Future

ALRM released a massive report towards the end of the financial year called, *Unfinished Business: Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody*. This was a huge achievement for ALRM, and it is sad that there is still so much work to be done about deaths in custody and the conditions that Aboriginal people face when in jail.

ALRM intend to embark on a history of ALRM, that will capture the past fifty plus years of the organization. It is important for us to capture and celebrate where we have come from and who has worked in the organisation along the way. The ALRM Board has decided that this is a fantastic way for us to celebrate the fifty plus years that we have been in operation and fighting for the rights of Aboriginal community members.

The ALRM Board are keen to hear from the individual managers of each legal and non-legal unit in ALRM. One manager will be selected for each Board Meeting in the next financial year to update the Board about their area and to answer any questions the ALRM Board have.

The ALRM Board are concerned, along with the general Aboriginal community, about youth justice and what services are available for advocacy for Aboriginal youth through the Commissioner for Children and Young people and other avenues. The ALRM Board look forward to receiving a position paper from the Policy and Advocacy Team about these issues.

I would like to thank everyone in ALRM personally and on behalf of the ALRM Board, for all of their hard work in providing legal and support services to our Aboriginal community members in need. A special thank you to Chris Larkin and Christopher Charles for their hard work before their retirements.



Glen Wingfield
Chairperson of the ALRM Board

ALRM Board of Directors



Glen Wingfield (Chair)



Anita Taylor



Karina Lester



Michael Turner
(Treasurer)



John Chester



David Rathman



Brenda Carter

Chief Executives Report



Farewells and new ALRM leadership

I started at ALRM in October 2024 as the Deputy CEO. I took over the role of CEO from **Chris Larkin** on 1 July 2025. Chris Larkin started at ALRM over 50 years ago as a field officer and took up the position as CEO in October 2020. Chris contributed significantly to ALRM over his time as CEO and negotiated the National Access to Justice (NAJP) Funding Agreement for ALRM for the next five years. He has left ALRM in a good financial position.

Christopher Charles was also involved in negotiating this funding and resigned in his position as PLO at the end of June 2025. Christopher has worked at ALRM for over 50 years, and I thank him for his dedication to the organisation and recognise his passion for Aboriginal legal rights.

Liz Bowering took over from Christopher as the PLO. Liz has extensive experience working in civil practice within the Crown Solicitor's office for over twenty years and then at the Independent Bar as a barrister for five years. Liz has always had an interest in Aboriginal people's connection with land, community and culture and is a qualified anthropologist and lawyer. Her passion for this was reignited when she worked closely with Aboriginal families in five Inquests, briefed by ALRM. This led to her applying for and being appointed to the position of PLO.

It was the ALRM Board's idea that PLO and CEO should not retire together, and with this in mind, Chris Larkin, Chris Charles and Amy Brooks set about creating a transition period so that Liz and I would be able to work side-by-side with the outgoing incumbents. Due to this, planning our respective roles were made easier.

Chris Larkin and the executive team at the time also decided that ALRM needed a **dedicated HR manager** with significant experience to handle the volume and complexity of HR work in ALRM. **Glynis Rosser** filled this role in April 2025. Glynis brings with her a passion for Work Health Safety and vast Human Resources experience in senior roles across the social services and legal sectors. She has gained an understanding of Aboriginal affairs through her work with Aboriginal community Services, Umoona Health, Maralinga Tjarutja Piling Trust and Mutawinjtji Hand Back.

Khatija Thomas is the latest addition to the leadership team. She started in November as the Deputy Chief Executive Officer. I have worked for many years with Khatija on various projects, and I am confident her strong network within South Australian government agencies will benefit ALRM. Khatija's focus for the next few years will be on business and building development, working closely with the Board and Executive to position ALRM for a strong and sustainable future.

Highlights

At the Law Society Dinner this year, ALRM staff won **two new awards**. Sharon Lucas won “**The First Nations Lawyer Award**” and Codi Buckskin and Nathaniel Keeler won “**The Outstanding First Nations Law Student Award**”. It was fantastic to watch our staff take the stage to accept their awards.



Another recent highlight for me was presenting awards as one of the **NAIDOC Ambassadors** to the winners at the SA NAIDOC lunch, which then carried through to the SA NAIDOC Ball. I was honoured to present these awards.

The ALRM Board

We are very lucky to have a stable membership in our Board Members. **Glen Wingfield** has been the Chairperson of the ALRM Board for another year, and I thank him for his Leadership. I also thank **David Rathman** for his continued leadership in board meetings, and his fellow Directors: Michael Turner, Karina Lester, John Chester and Anita Taylor. I would also like to acknowledge their voluntary contribution to ALRM for another year. ALRM could not operate without their time, effort and commitment.

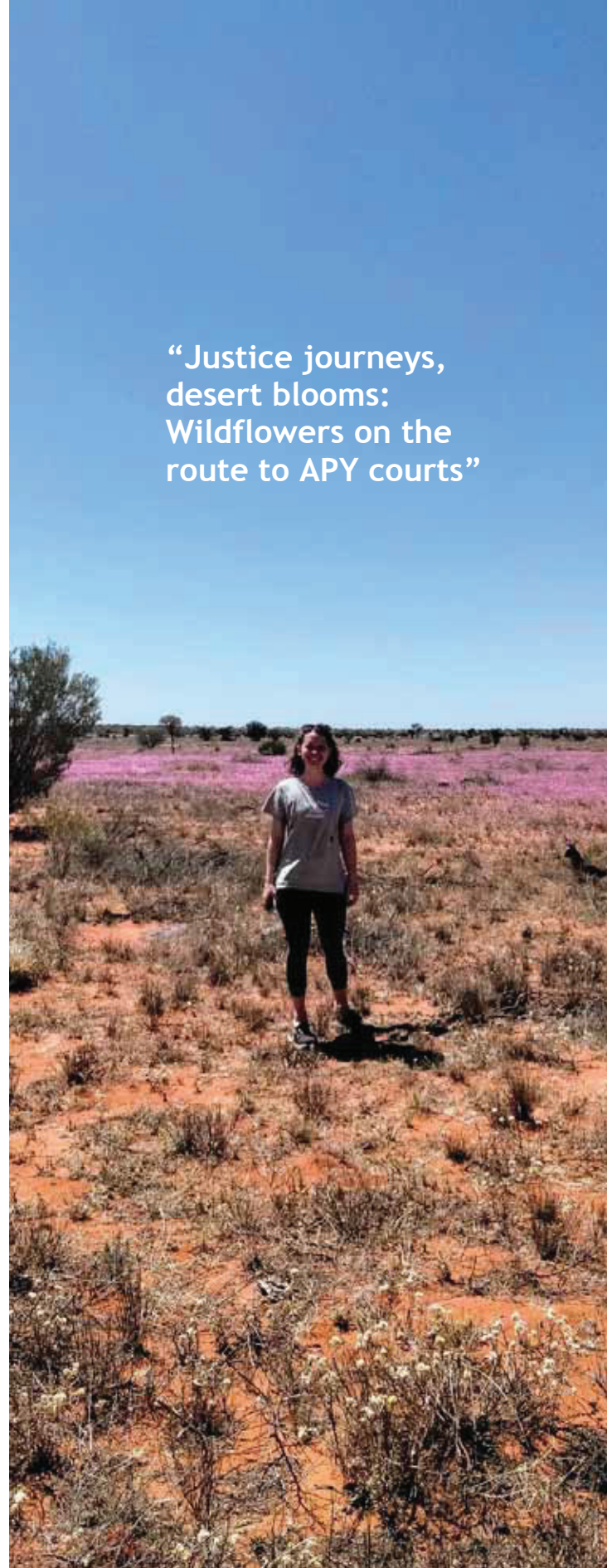
I'd like to say goodbye and thank you to **Yan Robson McInerney**, who is an exiting Board member, and to recognise her service to ALRM and the Aboriginal community of South Australia.

The policy and advocacy team, led by Kathy Russel, launched their report titled “**Unfinished Business: Royal Commissions into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody**”. It is over thirty years since this Royal Commission handed down its Findings. This Unfinished Business Report is an important report that captures stories and experiences from the past and shares it with current generations. It examines bundles of Recommendations from the Royal Commission and provides a view as to the implementation or otherwise of those recommendations to ensure that we continue to shine a spotlight on the Government of the day as to the importance of the Royal Commission. This also keeps governments accountable for implementing those very important Recommendations. I personally provided a copy of the Report to the Attorney General.



I have participated in a few **NATSILS** (National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services) **Forums** recently. The most recent was a two-day Forum held in October in Sydney, which I attended with Liz Bowering. During this forum, we met and presented to the **new Federal Attorney General** about issues relevant to; funding, bail options, our footprint of service delivery, only covering approximately two-thirds of the State, and not being able to provide a state-wide service, Youth and Child Protections issues, as well as increasing demands on services and incarceration rates. We also heard presentations and contributed to workshops about the “**Jailing is Failing Campaign**”, future planning for the Coalition of Peaks and the Youth Justice Campaign. We also heard from the **National Indigenous Times (NIT)** as an Indigenous owned newspaper and opportunities to collaborate and get South Australian issues into the NIT and the National spotlight.

“Justice journeys,
desert blooms:
Wildflowers on the
route to APY courts”



Engagement and Looking to the Future

The executive team plan to develop a new strategic plan for ALRM in the new year in consultation with staff and the ALRM Board.

I also plan to develop and deliver cultural training to ALRM staff.

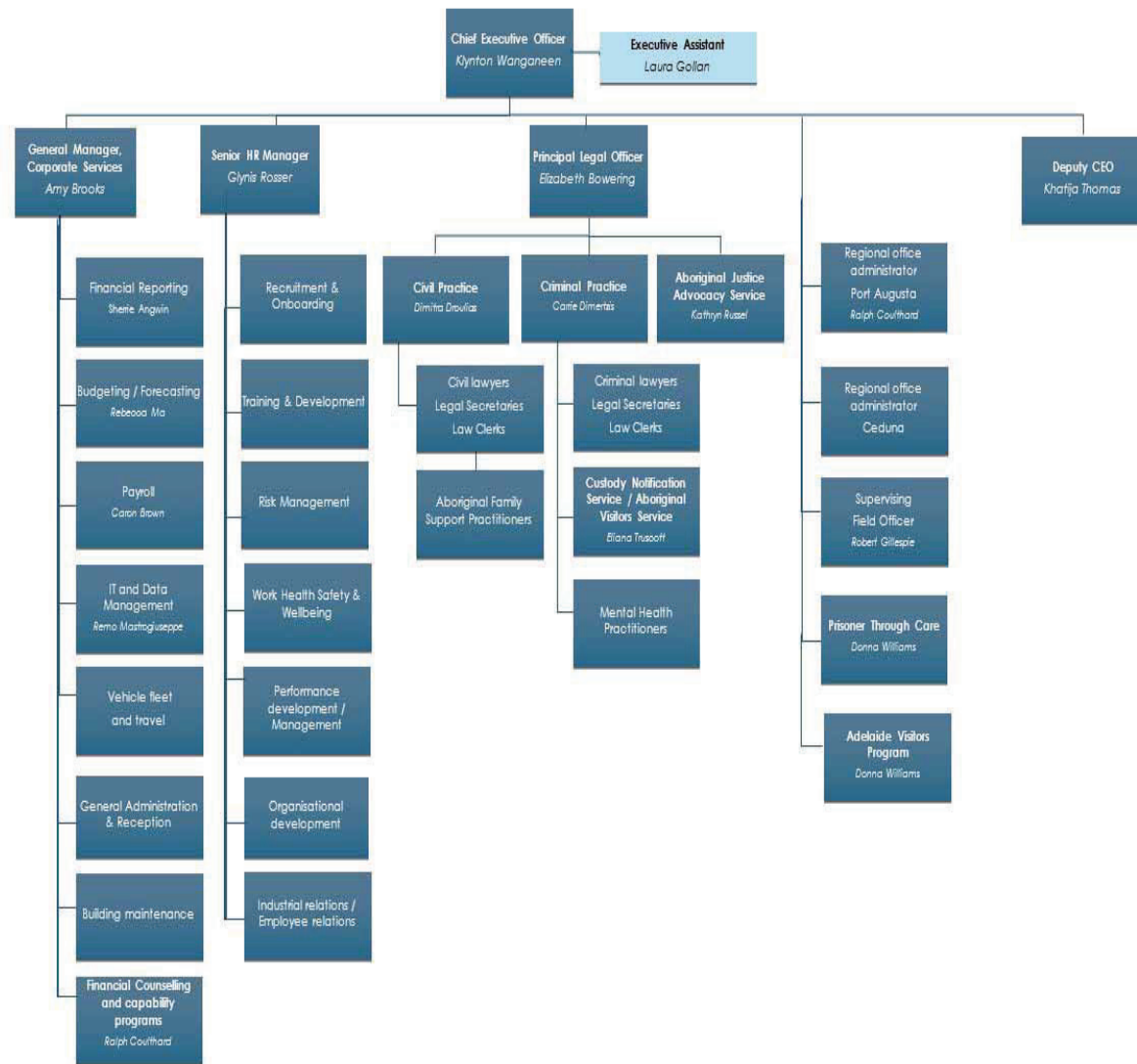
Recently, I have been engaging with the following key stakeholders; SA Police, Department of Child Protection and the Department of Correctional Services with a view to building sustainable connections and collaborative approaches to get better, more sustainable outcomes for the Aboriginal community. I will continue that engagement with all stakeholders to ensure successful outcome's for ALRM well into the future.

I also meet with the state Attorney General every three to four months, or as needed, to discuss key issues faced by Aboriginal people in South Australia. Topics that I have recently discussed with the Attorney are my concerns about amendments that allow the police to restrict people's use of public transport and other new laws that are claimed to be “tough on crime” but in effect are tougher on Aboriginal community members.

I would like to recognise the hard work and dedication of all staff who work in ALRM. I look forward to getting to know everyone better during the next financial year, during the cultural training that I intend to provide and any other opportunities I get to engage with staff collectively or one on one.

Klynton Wanganeen
Chief Executive Officer

Meet the Team



Note from Our Principal Legal Officer



Liz Bowering, PLO

I was honored to accept the position of Principal Legal Officer at the start of **April 2024**. Christopher Charles showed me the ropes until his retirement at the end of June 2025.

Christopher worked at ALRM for over **50 years** and is undoubtedly a pioneer of Aboriginal legal rights, and I wish him the best in his retirement and his continued activism for Aboriginal legal rights.

New Developments

In June 2025, ALRM signed its first National Access to Justice Partnership (NAJP) agreement with the state government.

The organization will be able to plan its service delivery and support for 5 years into the future. However, unfortunately, the funds are not at the level needed for ALRM to return to a statewide service. Klynton, Khatija and I will continue to lobby the state and federal governments for more funds so that ALRM can extend its services beyond what is currently anticipated with the current funding.

The state government has also directly provided separate funding for the next four years for the Aboriginal Visitor Scheme, Policy team and Treatment courts. ALRM are currently planning how these funds will be applied to these services. A portion of the funds for the policy section have been earmarked for a Senior Policy and Advocacy Officer. This position has been filled by Tahnee Sutton, who started work in November 2025. This is an exciting development for this team and ALRM.

ALRM are exploring a new document management system. Staff have been provided with a demonstration of the new system, and ALRM will be provided with a few licenses to test whether the product is suitable for use. I hope that this new system will provide staff with a more efficient way to access client information, whilst also being used for reporting.

Awards

I was so proud to attend the Law Society's annual dinner this year, where the following staff (both former and current) received the following awards:

Sharon Lucas won the **First Nations Lawyer Award**, which recognises the outstanding contributions of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander legal practitioner in South Australia.

Codi Buckskin and **Nathaniel Keeler** won the **Outstanding First Nations Law Student Award**, which recognises the outstanding contribution of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander law student (usually resident) in South Australia.

These are amazing achievements for these staff members and for ALRM. We are all very proud of them.

ALRM Board

It has been an absolute delight to get to know the Board members at the two Board meetings I have attended. They are passionate about what we do here at ALRM. I look forward to working with them in the future.

The ALRM Law Practices

I have been impressed by the following areas of legal practice that ALRM provide to Aboriginal people in South Australia: criminal, civil (including child protection, family law and Inquests), custody notification service and our policy and advocacy team. I am still getting to know each practice area in detail and the staff, but I have been blown away by the depth of knowledge within ALRM and the dedication of its managers and lawyers.

I am also enjoying getting to know our amazing staff who provide support services in ALRM. Those support services go hand in hand with the legal services that are provided by ALRM and are one of the many reasons that we can provide such a unique service to our Aboriginal clients.

Our administrative staff and corporate team are also always working hard behind the scenes to make sure that we can provide services directly to our clients.

The policy and advocacy team completed and launched a comprehensive report called "Unfinished Business: Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody". This report summarises key recommendations made in the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, some 34 years ago, and the progress, or lack of progress, made in relation to those recommendations. The report is available via the ALRM website, and hard copies can be requested from ALRM. We are hopeful that this work will reinvigorate conversation with key Government Departments about the issues faced by Aboriginal people who are incarcerated.

The civil team have moved a few doors down from the head office and have set themselves up in that space and have been working there full steam ahead since June this year. Two of their main areas of practice are child protection and family law, and I intend to learn a lot more about those over the next year because they are new to me. The civil team plans to extend the civil practice into Port Augusta and into workers' compensation matters soon.

The Coroner's Findings into the deaths of Mr. Miller, Mr. Weetra and Ms. Glenn have been handed down this year. ALRM recently funded the Inquest into the death of Mr. Stuart, which is part heard and I appeared in the Inquest into the death of Mr. Bright, which is also part heard.

The criminal team take on a significantly high volume of matters in the locations that they appear and advocate for clients. They cover the widest area possible with the funds available to them, including circuit courts in the APY Lands, Coober Pedy, Yalata and Maitland. The criminal team are planning to have a presence in Christies Beach and have further support in Ceduna within the next year. My legal background is in civil law, so I intend to focus on understanding more about this side of ALRM's legal practice as I continue in my role as PLO.

The CNS team continue to work tirelessly around the clock to provide urgent 24-hour assistance to Aboriginal people who are arrested and taken into police custody. A strategic unit made up of ALRM, SA Police and the Attorney General's Office has been formed to address issues involving Aboriginal people in police custody, especially children.

Plans for the Future

I am a big believer in staff development. It is important for us to foster our staff now and into the future. I hope to have other lawyers within ALRM junior me as counsel in court during Coronial Inquiries, so they can gain the skills to feel comfortable to appear on their own in court or to develop further skills if they are already appearing in court.

I am also looking forward to working with Klynton on pathways for legal and non-legal staff within ALRM, including training opportunities for legal and non-legal staff.

I look forward to working with everyone within ALRM and the Aboriginal community to provide meaningful, efficient and culturally appropriate legal and support services.

Liz Bowering
Principal Legal Officer

Criminal Section

The ALRM Criminal Section provides frontline legal services to metropolitan, regional and remote areas of South Australia. Our Adelaide office services all courts in the Adelaide CBD including Youth, Magistrates, District and Supreme Courts as well as the Elizabeth and Port Adelaide Magistrates and Youth Courts.

We also have regional offices in Port Lincoln, Ceduna and Port Augusta from which we provide services in the both the Magistrates and Youth Courts in those regions as well as Coober Pedy, Yalata and the APY lands. The Port Augusta office also provides services to those appearing in the District and Supreme Circuit Courts when they travel to Port Augusta.

The Criminal Section continues to focus on providing services to both youth and adult clients from arrest to parole. In doing so, it is often punching above its weight, both in respect of the number of vulnerable people we have been able to assist and the quality of work that is provided to those people. In just this period, we have had conduct of two successful appeals to the Supreme Court against unfair and excessive sentences that were imposed in the Magistrates Court. Those two cases are *Wilson v Police* [2024] SASC 91 and *Gallagher v Police* [2025] SASC 16.

In the Criminal Section, we are also committed to the continuing professional development of our lawyers, to ensure that our lawyers are both culturally competent and effective advocates. We have run several CPD sessions, including Cultural Interpreting, Part 8A (mental competence) defences, Trial Preparation, Nunga Court Advocacy and Ethical Considerations in Criminal Matters.

One very important part of the work that the Criminal Section does is attending the APY land Court Circuits, which run 5 or 6 times each year. As most roads within the APY lands are not sealed and often dangerous, in order to keep our staff safe on those trips, we have also enrolled several of our staff in 4WD training. These occurred in July 2024 and April 2025.

The Criminal Section is committed to supporting the most vulnerable people in the community, not just in Court but also by engagement with other stakeholders and the Government. In demonstration of this commitment, the Criminal Practice Manager has also been involved in the following:

The Bail and Remand Reform Working Group (BRRWG). This is a working group that was created following the Justice Police and Partnership (JPP) report on Bail and Remand Reform 2024, being submitted to the Standing Council for Attorney-Generals (SCAG). The purpose of this group is to consider and report back to SCAG on the recommendations outlined in the JPP report on Bail and Remand Reform.

Guest speaker at the DHS Youth Justice Knowledge sharing event, where she spoke about ALRM and their interactions with Youths in the Criminal Justice system.

Attending, with the then Deputy CEO, Klynton Wanganeen, the roundtable discussion for *Serious Repeat Young Offenders* held at parliament, where she made submissions on this topic on behalf of ALRM.



The Criminal Section also takes pride in providing support to the Policy Section by contributing to their submissions to the AGD and in this last period, their exceptional work on producing the report on the recommendations made by the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody – Unfinished Business. The members of the Policy Section regularly (approximately once per month) attended the criminal Section's weekly meeting to allow for all members of this section to provide input on any given topic.

A new Mental Health Practitioner, Mr Adam Zain, joined the Criminal team in July 2024 and has been developing his role to provide support and referrals to those in need of additional mental health support while they navigate their criminal matters. This has included attending with lawyers for Part 8A matters (mental incompetency matters) and developing a rapport with those clients so he can refer them to appropriate services.

In the reporting period, we celebrated the formal graduation from university of one of our law clerks and the admission to practice of the other law clerk. This will put both in a position to take up solicitor's positions within the criminal section in the next reporting period. This is an extremely exciting time and a wonderful achievement for both Gemma and Jewel-Lee, and we look forward to watching them grow as advocates for our clients.

The services provided by the lawyers would not be possible without the assistance of a wonderful team of hard-working support staff. The support staff that comprises both legal secretaries and law clerks provide invaluable support to the lawyers. This allows the whole ALRM criminal team to provide a high-quality and culturally safe legal service.

It truly is an honour to manage the Criminal Section of ALRM and watch all members grow and thrive in what are very often challenging circumstances. This was my first annual report in which I have been in this role for the entire period, and I could not be prouder of the dedication and hard work of all staff in the Criminal Section. I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish in the future.



Carrie Demertzis – Criminal Practice Director
Grahame Lang – Senior In-House Counsel
Rosie Denny, Nesrin El-Gadba and Phillipa Jones – Junior Counsel/ Major Indictable Lawyers
Garen Truscott – Parole/ Extended Supervision Orders
Ben Collinson, Simons Torpy and Leonard Nagel – Adelaide Magistrates Court
Tessa Anthony-Qureshi – Adelaide Youth Court
Jodie Adams and Clare Smyth – Port Adelaide Magistrates Court
Aidan Hegarty and Jeffrey Norton – Elizabeth Magistrates Court
Justin Slater – Port Lincoln and Ceduna Magistrates Courts
Ross Colthorpe – Port Augusta Criminal Practice Manager
Evanthia Makris – Senior Port Augusta Lawyer
Tegan Blewett – Port Augusta Lawyer
Claire Durand – EA to the Criminal Practice Director
Josephine Jones – Senior Legal Secretary
Mado Nimanis – Legal Secretary
Gemma De Nichilo – Law Clerk
Jewel-Lee Somerville – Legal secretary/Law Clerk



Civil and Family Section

It has been another busy year for the Civil and Family Law Practice delivering culturally proficient and trauma informed representation and assistance in the following areas:- Family Law, Child Protection, Abuse in Care, Personal Injury/Negligence Claims, Victims of Crime (involving advice regarding compensation claims), Police Complaints and advice on potential civil litigation against police and Corrections, SACAT(Housing, Adult Guardianship & DCP Reviews), Coronial Inquests and potential representation on civil claims arising from Inquest Findings.

We continue to expand our services with a strategic focus on reaching and supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across the state, who face barriers to the legal system and stability. Our client base includes people experiencing mental health problems, substance misuse, homelessness and domestic/family/sexual violence, often overlapping and in interrelated ways.

Growth has strengthened our service model to continue to integrate non-legal support together with legal advocacy. Clients experiencing domestic/family/sexual violence and facing housing instability or untreated mental illness often need immediate stabilisation to ensure they can meaningfully engage and address their legal problem(s).

By allowing clients to seek support directly from ALRM, we are eliminating some of these barriers. One example of this can be seen in the experience of a young mother who was provided family law legal advice after leaving her former partner, together with her child. At the time she did not have stable accommodation or an Intervention Order against the former partner. The former partner had issued urgent proceedings in the Family Court seeking the delivery up and custody of the child. Our legal team prepared urgent documentation and provided representation in court and our Aboriginal Family Support Practitioner (AFSP) provided culturally safe support and trauma aware care. This included narrative therapy and the appropriate referrals to the relevant service providers to address and accommodate the client's individual and urgent needs, including housing.

In 2024/2025, we also enhanced our outreach service by introducing the **Duty Solicitor (DS) service** at the **Adelaide Youth Court** in relation to care and protection matters. The DS service provides legal assistance to self-represented parties on the day they attend court. This includes legal representation, advice, referrals, information and negotiations. As a result of the DS service, our child protection case load has increased from 375 matters in 2023/2024 to 470 in 2024/2025, an overall increase of 26.7%.

In addition to direct services, we recognise the importance of early intervention and prevention and prevention through Community Legal Education (CLE). This year, our CLE activities involved distributing pamphlets and brochures and as well as providing training and information sessions for various community organisations and their client base across the state. The highlights of our CLE programs include delivering workshops on topics such as the **integration of family law and child protection systems** and providing tailored training sessions to front-line workers and health professionals, equipping them with an understanding and knowledge of their clients' legal rights and how to identify legal issues early. These educational activities not only build legal capability within communities but also strengthen our referral pathways and promote earlier and more effective intervention.



Dimitra Droulias - Civil Practice Director
George Lesses - Senior Civil Solicitor
Lynn Valentine - Senior Family Law Solicitor
Jody Knighton - Senior Civil/Family Law Solicitor
Sharon Lucas - Child Protection/Family Law Solicitor
Chelsea Marks - Child Protection/Family Law Solicitor
Courtney Dolphin - Child Protection/Family Law Solicitor
Kasey Holyman - Child Protection/Family Law Solicitor
David Dang - Civil Solicitor
Arianna Van de Water - Child Protection/Family Law Solicitor
Erini Seindanis - Child Protection/Civil Solicitor
Cherie Baxter - Aboriginal Family Support Practitioner
Kim Heath - Senior Legal Secretary
Liana Walker - Legal Secretary



“Our child protection case load has increased from 375 matters in 2023/2024 to 470 in 2024/2025 an overall increase of 26.7%”

ALRM continues to engage on key issues to achieve better outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through direct legal & social advocacy, legislative submissions, partnership with other legal and non-legal agencies.

Some **contributions** for 2024–2025 include:

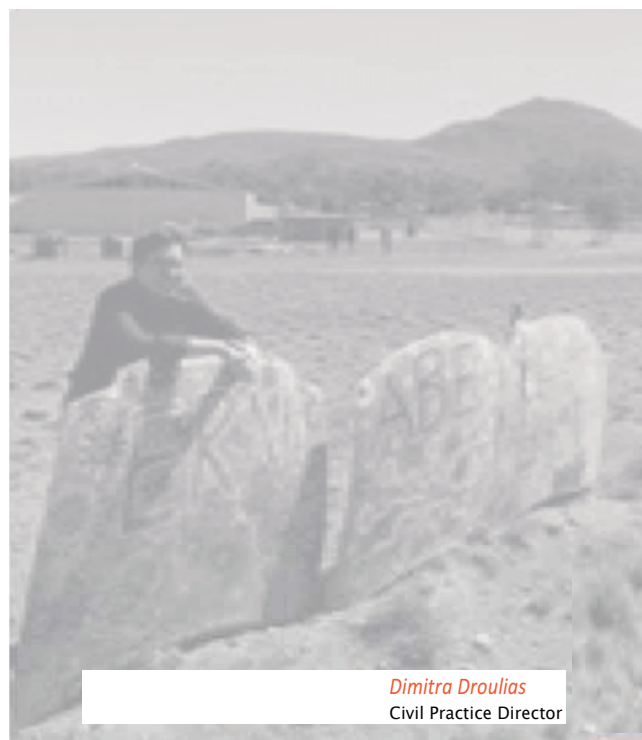
(i) participation in the consultation of design collaborative networks amongst legal and specialist domestic family and sexual violence sectors in South Australia to prioritise victims' safety,

(ii) written submissions to the Royal Commission into Violence, Family and Sexual Violence, advocating for systemic change in addressing racism and more resources to combat lateral violence in Aboriginal communities,

(iii) significant input of the review on the *Service Model for Aboriginal Victims of Crime in South Australia* by providing information, support and options available to victims' survivors following their experience of violence, family/domestic/sexual and

(iv) written submissions to the Select Committee of the Legislative Council in South Australia in its enquiry on the *Children and Young People Safety and Support Bill 2024*, highlighting the concerns of the enforceability and accountability pertaining to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander provisions. We will continue to promote and protect the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The achievements and service delivery undertaken during the past year could not have been possible without the extraordinary people who are behind the work. I want to express my deepest thanks to the dedicated and hard-working staff whose commitment to social justice and equality is the foundation of everything we do.



Dimitra Droulias
Civil Practice Director



Prisoner Care Program

Prisoner Care Program provides culturally responsive support to Aboriginal offenders at every stage of their journey – **before, during and after incarceration.**

We welcome referrals from adult men and women in the correctional system, as well as young people involved in youth justice. Referrals can be made directly by individuals or through correctional facilities, legal representatives, social workers, Aboriginal Liaison Officers, and other trusted support networks.

Our team work closely with correctional facilities, including Adelaide Women's Prison, Yatala Labour Prison and Adelaide Pre-release Centre, Adelaide Remand Centre, Mobilong Prison, Kurlana Tapa, with families, and community partners to ensure each person has the tools and connections they need to rebuild their lives with dignity and purpose.

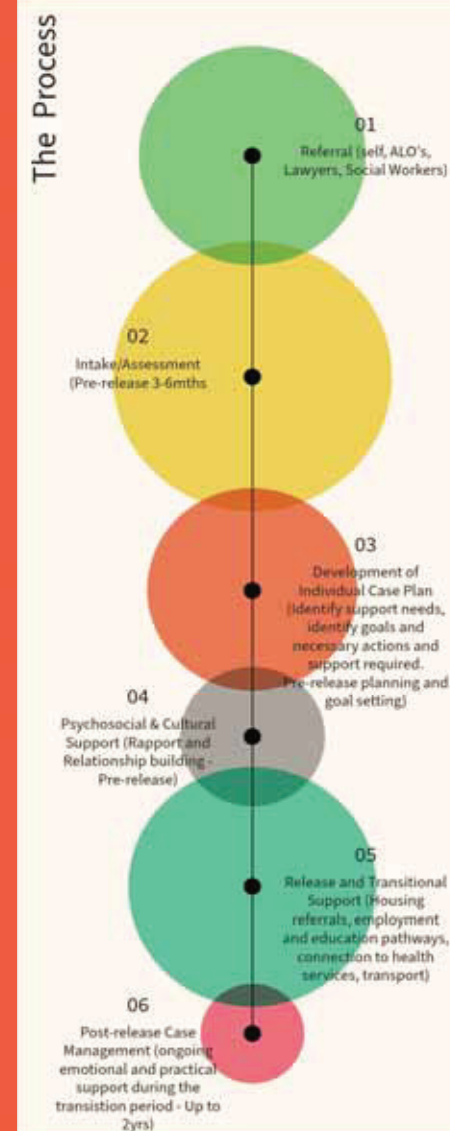
We provide culturally safe, holistic support to Aboriginal individuals as they transition from custody back into the community. Our services are designed to ease the challenges of reintegration and promote long-term well-being.

During this period, the Prisoner Care Program (PCP) provided culturally safe support and advocacy to **102 Aboriginal clients** in custody. This included: **89 men, 13 women**

Male participation was significantly higher in both halves of the year. Female representation increased slightly in the first half of 2025 compared to the second half of 2024. Overall participation remained consistent across the two periods.

Services delivered ranged from in-prison wellbeing support and throughcare planning to referrals for housing, health, and community reintegration. The program continues to prioritise holistic care and cultural connection for Aboriginal people in the justice system.

Current caseload – PCP is actively supporting **41 Aboriginal clients**. This includes **34 Men & 7 Women**. Of these, 11 clients are post-release, receiving ongoing support in the community: **9 men & 2 women.**



- The Prisoner Care Program Team proudly participated in several meaningful community events, including:
- **Reconciliation in the West** at Tauondi College on the 29th May 2025
 - **NAIDOC in the North** at John McVeity Centre on the 9th July 2025
 - **NAIDOC Family Fun Day** at Tarntanyangga on the 11th July 2025.
 - **NAIDOC Gala Ball** at Adelaide Convention Centre on the 12th July 2025
 - **YLP B Division NAIDOC BBQ** on the 9th July 2025

These events provided valuable opportunities to engage with community members, celebrate culture, and strengthen relationships.



Donna Williams
Program Coordinator

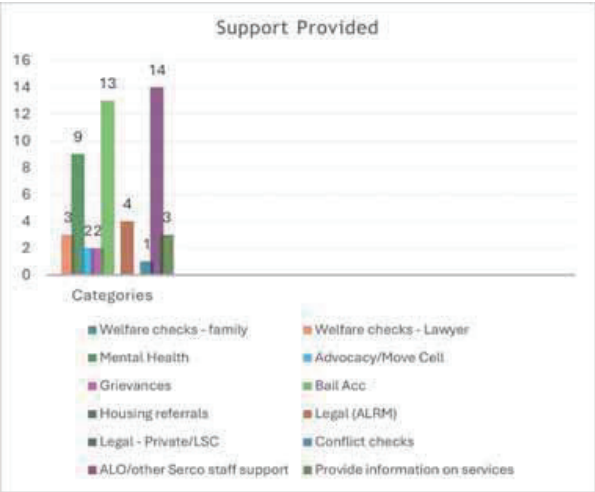


Aboriginal Visitors Program



On the 28th July 2025, we warmly welcomed **Jordan Brennan** as the new Aboriginal Visitor Program Officer. Jordan works closely with the Aboriginal Liaison Officer and Cultural Liaison Officer at the Adelaide Remand Centre, providing immediate care, comfort, and culturally responsive support to Aboriginal men on remand.

Since joining the team, Jordan has supported a total of **23 men**, averaging 2–3days per week at the ARC. His presence continues to strengthen our commitment to culturally safe practices and respectful engagement within the correctional environment.



Aboriginal Visitor Scheme



The AVS Service

The Aboriginal Visitor Scheme (AVS) was created to offer compassionate care and support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals held in police custody. This program emerged in response to a key recommendation from the **1988 Royal Commission** into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, which advised: *"In consultation with Aboriginal communities and their organisations, cell visitors' schemes should be introduced to service police lockups and watch-houses where practicable."*

AVS is designed to ease the emotional burden of detention and promote well-being among Aboriginal detainees. Its core objective is to help prevent incidents of self-harm and deaths in custody, while also addressing the broader social impacts these events have on families and communities.

Service Delivery

AVS conducted **321 visits** in the last year. Once recruiting initiatives are fully implemented, we expect the number of visits to increase further.

The Role of Visitors

AVS plays a vital role in supporting South Australia Police by helping to uphold their duty of care toward Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees. AVS personnel identify and communicate any medical, welfare, or service needs to police, ensuring timely attention and support.

Visitors also liaise with family and friends to arrange essential items such as medication and clothing and assist in securing legal representation. Beyond immediate needs, AVS connects detainees with local community services to provide ongoing support and address underlying factors that may contribute to offending.

Functioning as an **independent safeguard**, AVS ensures the well-being of Aboriginal people in custody. If a Visitor identifies unmet needs or concerns, these can be escalated for resolution. The scheme operates throughout South Australia – including metropolitan, regional, and remote areas – and is available outside standard business hours: from 5 pm to 9 am on weekdays, and 24 hours a day on weekends and public holidays.

Visitor Qualification and Experience

Many Visitors are employed full-time across the community, homelessness, and social service sectors, and choose to contribute their time to AVS as a way of supporting Aboriginal people during moments of acute vulnerability. Most Visitors identify as Aboriginal and bring **deep cultural insight** and **lived experience** to their roles.

They are well-connected within South Australia's community service landscape and possess extensive knowledge of the unique needs of Aboriginal detainees. The Visitor team includes individuals with qualifications such as a Master of Social Work, a Bachelor of Psychology, Aboriginal Studies, Community Services Certificates, and accreditation in Aboriginal health care.

Their professional backgrounds span a wide range of organisations, including Lifeline, Uniting Communities, Mission Australia, the Department of Education, CDEP, MADEC, Life Without Barriers, the Department of Corrections, and Aboriginal Support Services. Notably, one Visitor also serves as a religious Minister and social worker.

These networks and their understanding of referral pathways enable AVS Visitors to provide meaningful support. They routinely refer detainees to services for ongoing case management and welfare assistance, including Housing SA, homelessness services, DASSA, and mental health providers.



22

Case Studies

"Collaborative Intervention for a Long-Term Rough Sleeper: From Arrest to Resolution in Adelaide"

A long-term rough sleeper, who had been homeless **since 2020**, was arrested in Adelaide. The Custody Notification Service (CNS) contacted AVS and requested that homeless and case management support be organised. The AVS worker visited the detainee and completed a Toward Home intake via Homeless Connect. They organised case management through Wodliana at Baptist Care. They discussed withdrawal services available at Glenside through DASSA. CNS spoke with the detainee and organised a legal referral to court the next day. The ALRM lawyer advised the AVS Visitor the next day that the detainee had finalised all his matters.

"Supporting Cultural Needs and Wellbeing: AVS Assistance for an Aboriginal Man's Return to APY Lands"

SAPOL were having difficulty with a distressed traditional Aboriginal man and requested AVS. A Visitor attended and spoke with the detainee. His medication needs were identified, and AVS requested the on-site nurse assess him to organise a script. The man had been camping in the parklands but was keen to return to the APY lands to participate in Sorry Business for a family funeral. The AVS worker spoke with the Return to Country program and discovered a bus was leaving from WestCare in the city the next day to transport people up north. He provided information about WestCare's location and its service for meal provision and showers. AVS liaised with CNS to make a legal referral. The man was bailed the next day, and the AVS Visitor confirmed he had caught the Return to Country bus and returned to the APY.

Community Engagement

AVS attended the **Harmony week** event at Cooina Cultural Centre in Marion council chambers.



The AVS staff attended the Neporendi **NAIDOC in the South** event.

Department of Correctional Services Partnership Forum 2025.

The Custody Services Manager attended the Minister for Correctional Services Partnership Forum along with ALRM's policy manager and the Prisoner Through Care Program Coordinator. ALRM participated in practical and solutions-focused brainstorming regarding people in custody.



Eliana Truscott
Custody Services Manager

23

22

Our Field Officers

Aboriginal Field Officers continue to provide a valuable, culturally relevant role supporting our clients in their interactions within the criminal justice system.

As the first point of contact for clients and other agencies, our Field Officers are the vital link between clients, Solicitors, Police, Department of Correctional Services, and other community organisations. This is a unique service not provided by other organisations, or other legal representatives.

Our Field Officers:

- can Explain clients' rights and the criminal justice system in general,
- Provide in-person support during Police interviews, Bail Reviews, Forensic Procedures, and Court appearances,
- Attend Police interviews with detained clients in correctional institutions,
- Liaise with our Custody Notification Service (CNS) staff,
- Handle new client calls and queries,
- Offer advice on Police and Court processes,
- Attend residential addresses, and correctional facilities to obtain instructions for Solicitors,
- Respond to field calls from Criminal and Civil Solicitors, other ALRM staff, and clients,
- Be the contact point between clients and Police, and community organisations,
- Priorities juvenile clients, prisoners, and other vulnerable community members.

We have continued to provide these services to clients, working alongside other staff to achieve successful outcomes for all involved.

We provide direct in-person support to clients alongside our CNS 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, including all public holidays.

Adelaide-based Field Officers cover the Adelaide metropolitan and surrounding areas. Our regional Field Officers cover their corresponding regions in Port Augusta and Ceduna. The Supervising Senior Field Officer provides direction and backup support to all Field Officers across the State.

We have helped coordinate and attend various events in the community and correctional institutions, including NAIDOC and worked alongside criminal and civil Solicitors to deliver our Prisoner Information Sessions within correctional institutions.

Our Field Officers provide presentations outlining ALRM history and services to Police Cadets at the SAPOL Academy and support the CNS Manager with similar presentations to Police Security Officers.

Positive feedback has been received on our presentations, and we continue to update and improve the presentations as new legislation and processes are adopted.



Field Officer Court Support

Our Field Officers attend the following courts, supporting clients and our Solicitors as needed:

- Adelaide Magistrates Court
- Adelaide Youth Court
- District Court
- Port Adelaide Magistrates Court
- Elizabeth Magistrates Court
- Port Augusta Magistrates Court
- Ceduna Magistrates Court
- Port Lincoln Magistrates Court

Our regional Field Officers also provide support on the Coober Pedy Court Circuit, the Yalata Court Circuit, and the APY Lands Court Circuit by travelling alongside our Solicitors.

We have a dedicated Field Officer permanently stationed at Elizabeth Magistrates Court, providing support directly to our solicitors and clients. Their role includes attending field calls in the surrounding area.

ALRM Field Officers also attend the following various Aboriginal Courts as needed:

- Nunga Court in Port Adelaide Magistrates Court
- Aboriginal Community Court in Elizabeth (ACCE)
- Aboriginal Community Court in Adelaide (ACCA)

We thank the Aboriginal Field Officers who contributed during 2024-25.

We have continued to successfully deliver services to clients and provide support to our ALRM staff and look forward to the challenges in 2025-26 and beyond.

Robert Gillespie- Supervising Senior Field Officer
Lyndon Reid- Senior Field Officer-CLE
Jordan Agius- Field Officer
Kim Larkins- Field Officer
Darcy Coulthard- Field Officer
Owena Brady- Field Officer
Kirsty Sansbury- Field Officer
Vivian Sansbury- Acting Field Officer
Sianah Keast- Field Officer
Tina Morrison- Field Officer/Law Clerk
Chloe Kirk- Field Officer

‘Over 170 Non-Legal Field Support Services delivered Across South Australia - Empowering Communities, Connecting Clients’



Legal Policy and Advocacy

The Legal Policy and Advocacy Section is funded through the South Australian Attorney-General's Department to make submissions to government and other bodies on law and justice issues and their impacts on our clients. We work with all sections of ALRM to seek law reform for the benefit of our communities.

Advocacy Highlights

30+ Submissions to South Australian Government: Youth Justice, Child Protection, Suicide Prevention, Criminal Law Legislation and conditions for people in prison.

75+ submissions to Commonwealth, State Government bodies, Commissions, Parliamentary Committees and United Nations.

Launched ALRM's '**Unfinished Business**' Report on Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.

Our Advocacy Work During 2024–2025 includes:

- *Over 30 submissions* directly to the South Australian Government on issues ranging from youth justice, child protection, suicide prevention, criminal law legislation and conditions for people in prison.
- *Over 75 submissions* to other Commonwealth and State Government bodies, Commissions, Parliamentary Committees, as well as to the United Nations.
- Produced and launched ALRM's report '*Unfinished Business Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody*'.
- Two of our staff, Codi Buckskin and Nathaniel Keeler, won the inaugural Outstanding **First Nations Law Student Award**, being nominated for their work on ALRM's **Unfinished Business** Report.
- Consulted with staff, clients, community and stakeholders who courageously shared stories and experiences of injustice together with their wisdom and insight into the change required which we valued within our submissions.

Draft Child Protection Bill – We found deep flaws with this Bill, including: a lack of enforceability of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle, a focus on safety to the exclusion of the overall best interests of the child and prevention of courts from making decisions about contact and placement for children with their families. We worked closely with our Civil/ Family team and together wrote submissions to the government, agitated for a Legislative Council Select Committee to review the Bill and then made written and oral submissions to the Committee. Sharon Lucas, Klynton Wanganeen, and I appeared before the Committee with deep input from Dimitra Droulias. While we had some positive outcomes, the Court is still barred from making contact and placement orders, something we compared to the **Aborigines Act of 1911**.

Youth Justice – Our submissions included the Senate Inquiry into Youth Justice and Incarceration rates, the South Australian Attorney-General's Department regarding Bills impacting adversely on young people and a submission to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child. We worked closely with the Criminal Law team, including the Custody Notification and Field Work team, to inform these submissions. Klynton Wanganeen and Carrie Demertzis represented ALRM at the Youth Justice roundtable discussion held at Parliament House.

Royal Commission into Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence – we provided 3 written submissions along with oral submissions together with Justin Slater, Sharon Lucas, Eliana Truscott and Donna Williams. Written submissions are on the Royal Commission website and highlight the profound impact of colonisation and ongoing racist policies on rates of family violence and sought recommendations that centre on self-determination, responses that are Aboriginal-designed and led and are place-based, culturally appropriate, trauma-informed and wholistic. This is to ensure the whole family and the community's safety. All ALRM teams assisted with these submissions, in particular our Civil, Criminal, Prisoner Care Program and regional teams.

Transit Barring Orders – the Minister for Transport made regulations that enable police and transit officers to bar people suspected of disorderly conduct on or near public transport and mandate barring orders for people charged with those and more serious offences. Depending on the circumstances, barring orders can be for indefinite time periods with no right of review for 3 months. ALRM voiced our concern to Parliament through the Legislative Review Committee (Liz Bowering representing ALRM) and to Government ministers due to the adverse impacts we foresee. We seek people with barring orders to talk with us about their rights and what ALRM can do to assist.

Unfinished Business Launch

With **34 years** passing since the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody reported we gathered a team to research, consult and consider **130** of the **recommendations** made in the light of the **Closing the Gap targets**. We produced a detailed report of over 250 pages which found that 25 of the 130 have been fully implemented, 25 not implemented and the remainder had not been sufficiently implemented. Sadly, the issue we kept seeing was lack of self-determination for Aboriginal people with government and non-government organisations failing to apply principles of Aboriginal designed and led responses for issues impacting Aboriginal peoples.

In this work we want to honour those who have died, their families and communities who continue to experience deep loss and to seek justice. Our team of Codi Buckskin, Nathaniel Keeler, Liam Waddill, Khatija Thomas and I worked closely with community and our own ALRM teams, our CEOs (Chris Larkins and now Klynton Wanganeen), our PLOs (Chris Charles and now Liz Bowering) and our Board. Codi Buckskin designed the artwork for the report. The final report is available on our website.

We had **three events** surrounding the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody – a **legal history** (November 2024), a **Law Week** event on an overview of coronial inquests since the Royal Commission (May 2025) and the **launch of our Unfinished Business report itself** (June 2025). These were well attended by judiciary, government, parliamentarians, ACCOs, the legal profession and academics. We thank our presenters including Chris Larkin, Chris Charles, Klynton Wanganeen, Liz Bowering, Codi Buckskin and Nathaniel Keeler.

As manager I (Kathy Russell), thank each of the ALRM Board members and staff from the past and present CEO, past and present PLO, directors, managers, lawyers, PCP co-ordinator and staff, Field Officers and all staff on the ground who have provided their knowledge, expertise and time to each of these submissions while dealing with their busy workloads. We respect, value and thank each of them.

Kathryn Russell
Legal Policy and Advocacy Manager



Custody Notification Service

CNS delivers culturally safe welfare checks and provides legal information, advice, and support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people taken into police custody. Operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – including public holidays – CNS ensures continuous access to legal assistance and culturally informed support through Aboriginal Contact Officers (ACOs).

All CNS staff are trained in mental health first aid, with several team members holding qualifications in psychology. The service works in close partnership with the Criminal Law Division, the Aboriginal Visitor Scheme, and the Field Officer team to provide holistic and responsive care.

CNS in the South Australian Justice Landscape

While the CNS was originally established to provide wellbeing support, its integration within a legal service enables it to offer comprehensive legal advice, advocacy, and representation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in custody.

CNS lawyers participate in forensic procedure hearings, attend police interviews, review police decisions to refuse bail before an on-call Magistrate, and coordinate in-person support when needed.

CNS's after-hours Duty Solicitor work is especially impactful for children. While eligible adults in South Australia can only apply for a bail review if they cannot be brought before a court by the next business day, children are entitled to apply for a review daily. CNS conducts numerous bail reviews for children each week, helping to ensure they are returned to their caregivers whenever possible. For children in regional areas, this service is vital in preventing displacement to juvenile detention facilities located hundreds of kilometres away.

CNS also plays an important role in promoting culturally safe practices. Staff regularly remind police of key recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, such as ensuring access to medical care, contacting the Aboriginal Visitor Scheme (AVS), and placing Aboriginal detainees together when appropriate.

South Australia Police (SAPOL) actively engage CNS as a support service and frequently contacts the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement (ALRM) to speak with detainees who are experiencing distress.

SAPOL-CNS Operations Meeting

The South Australia Police and CNS hold monthly Operations Meetings to discuss emerging issues and operational concerns. The Custody Services Manager oversees CNS activities and identifies areas requiring attention. In preparation for each meeting, a briefing is provided to SAPOL on the Monday of the meeting week, detailing notable interactions and including ALRM's monthly log of self-harm incidents.

SAPOL's Custody Management team reviews all matters raised and delivers a formal response during the Operations Meeting. This collaborative process ensures timely resolution of issues and supports the smooth operation of CNS services across South Australia.

Training and Education Support

ALRM continues to support SAPOL through regular training sessions for staff and cadets. As part of this initiative, the Custody Services Manager delivers lectures at the police academy to cadets and police security officers, outlining the roles and responsibilities of ALRM, CNS, and the AVS.

Strategic Advisory Council for the CNS

Previously held as quarterly meetings between SAPOL and ALRM at the Assistant Commissioner and CEO level, strategic discussions have now resumed in the form of a tripartite Strategic Advisory Council. This committee includes representatives from SAPOL, ALRM, and the Attorney-General's Department.

11,842
Lives
Reached by
our CNS

The Council comprises senior leadership, including the Assistant Commissioner for Aboriginal issues, the Chief Inspector of Custody Management, ALRM CEO, PLO, Practice Manager of the Criminal Team. With its high-level representation, the Council is empowered to make policy decisions affecting both agencies. Meetings are held every six weeks to address long-term strategic priorities and guide the future direction of the CNS.

Stakeholder Engagement

Department of Human Services. In March 2025, CNS staff attended the Department of Human Services (DHS) Youth Justice Knowledge Sharing Event. ALRM's Criminal Practice Manager gave a lecture about our services. We engaged with many other stakeholders and academics whose work relates to custody services.

Nunga Court Magistrate's Retirement ALRM staff attended the retirement of Magistrate Paul Bennett, who has sat in the Nunga Court (Aboriginal Sentencing Court) for many years. This was an opportunity to engage with elders, Magistrates and case workers who assist our clients. Magistrate Bennett asked for a photo with the Aboriginal elders and workers present and invited ALRM to be part of that, reflecting our special position within the community.

“Supporting Thousands,
Impacting Generations
7,747 Men
4,064 Women
1,933 Children Helped
3,786 Referrals”



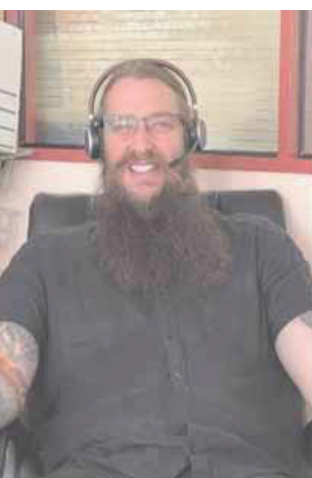


Eliana Truscott - Custody Services Manager
Emma-Lee Beckman-Collins - Aboriginal Contact Officer
Charlee Saunders - Aboriginal Contact Officer
Karen Lark - CNS Solicitor
Cameron Smith - CNS Solicitor
Joanna Smith - CNS Solicitor
Rachel Strickland - CNS Solicitor

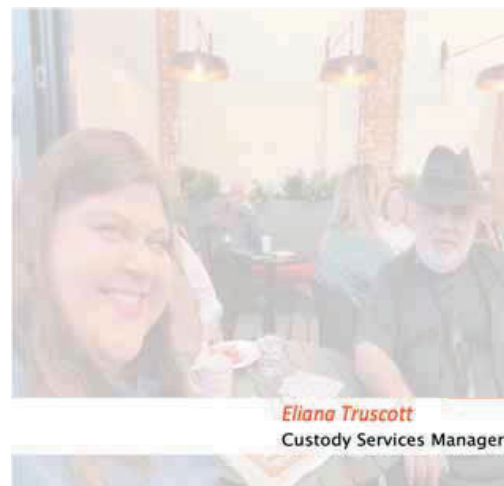
Case Studies



"Compassion in Crisis" A detainee with complex psychosocial needs was highly distressed at being arrested on a Parole Board warrant. On arrival at the cells, he self-harmed and was taken immediately to hospital for treatment of injuries. CNS provided welfare support on his return and made referrals to his lawyer for court attendance. They contacted the detainee's mother to visit him and bring a change of clothes. When the detainee was kept overnight, CNS provided ongoing welfare checks and organized the Aboriginal Visitors Scheme. CNS made a referral to ALRM's Prisoner through Care Program to see the man when he reached the Adelaide Remand Centre and assess him for intake to their wraparound support service. **CNS advocate for detained people and coordinate welfare supports.**



"Reuniting Youth, Restoring Hope" A CNS lawyer acted as Duty Solicitor in an after-hours bail review for a 17-year-old child who faced serious violence charges. When they probed the needs of the youth, it was clear he was culturally disconnected. Given he was nearly an adult, they recommended he connect with Tiraapendi Wodli, an Aboriginal Men's Group in his local area. CNS made a referral to ALRM's mental health worker to facilitate supports and organise anger management counselling for this young person. Having heard the level of intervention that was being implemented, the on-call Magistrate decided to grant this youth bail, notwithstanding the gravity of his charges. CNS contacted the youth's caregiver and ensured his collection from the cells. **CNS provides an after-hours Duty Solicitor service to ensure Aboriginal children return home instead of being exposed to the harm associated with imprisonment.**



Eliana Truscott
Custody Services Manager

Port Augusta Office

Lawyers As of 8th October 2025, Port Augusta office was staffed by two senior lawyers Ross Colthorpe and Evanthis Schindlbacher, and one junior lawyer, Tegan Blewett.

Prison Financial Counsellor Isabel Cano Garcia is our Prison Financial Counsellor, who works closely with ALRM Clients in the Port Augusta Prison and with their families on the outside. ALRM applied for and received funding from the Financial Counselling Foundation via a grant to develop and deliver programs in Financial Literacy to prisoners and their families and assist with any financial hardship/creditors bullying clients, Unfortunately this funding ceases in December 2026.

Financial Counselling ALRM provides a Financial Counselling service to the SA Aboriginal Community, This is a free and confidential service conducted on a one-to-one basis. Power issues, debt collectors, rent arrears, superannuation, housing and accommodation are some of the things a Financial Counsellor can help with.



Darcy changing tyre for NT Government Interpreters vehicle



Portion of a huge amount of boxes removed from Pt August office shed, Darcy cleared hundreds of files in a couple of months.

Field Officers Darcy Coulthard and Owena Brady are our two field officers who work closely with all staff including Lawyers, ALO's from the Prison, Court Staff and Adelaide Field Officers, They also alternate with Court Circuits to the APY Lands and Coober Pedy.

Legal Secretaries There are normally two Legal Secretary (L/S) positions based in Port Augusta. They provide support to Lawyers and communicate with clients' colleagues and other agencies and undertake a variety of administrative and clerical tasks, However we only have one Legal Secretary, Shakira Allen and have just interviewed for a replacement L/S who will commence at the end of October 2025.

Court Circuits Port Augusta Office staff attend Court Circuits *to the APY Lands 5 time per year and 6 times a year to Coober Pedy*, Our last circuit for APY Lands is from 11-18 October.

Client annual list for Port Augusta including APY Land and Coober Pedy is approximately 370 clients. *Coober Pedy has 3 Court Circuits left for 2025*;The next circuit is 3rd- 6th of November.

There have been no major changes in Pt Augusta this year, apart from two new staff members coming aboard this November 5th. We are presently down one lawyer who is on extended Carer's leave.

370 Clients
Served from Port
Augusta to the
APY Lands



Working in the remote office Iwantja community

Ralph Coulthard
Administrator Financial Counsellor

Service Snapshot

Representation

6,071

Duty Lawyer

2,387

Non-Legal Support

2,105

Legal Advice

778

Information

31

Referral

24

Total Services

11,396

Community Legal Impact at a Glance

Service Overview



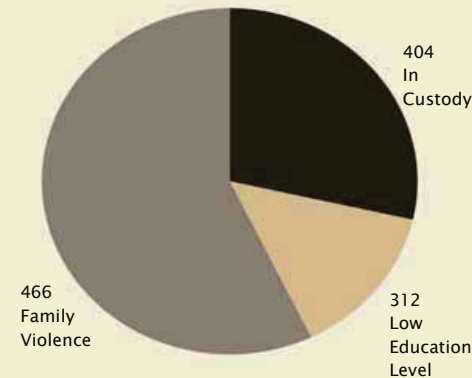
489 instances of family law support were delivered, assisting clients in navigating complex relationship, parenting, and protection matters.



1,083 civil law services addressed everyday challenges, from child protection and housing issues to discrimination and employment matters.

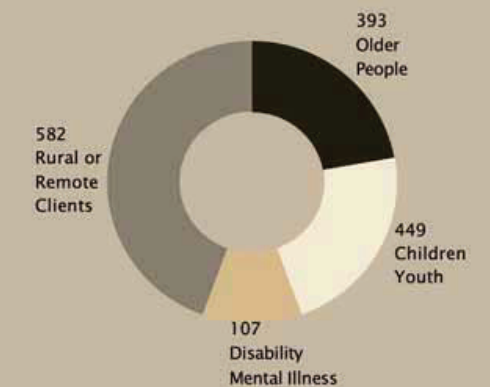


7,664 criminal law services supported individuals facing criminal charges, helping guide them through legal processes and protecting their rights.



Financial Assistance: 1,393 clients were financially disadvantaged, ensuring access to justice for those in need.

Total Clients Supported: 2,734 individuals received vital legal assistance, enhancing access to justice across our community.



Corporate Services

The 2024–2025 financial year has been one of many changes for ALRM, particularly at the leadership level. With the imminent retirement of our PLO and CEO, ALRM's succession plan commenced. In November 2024, Klynton Wanganeen commenced as Deputy CEO and in April 2025, Elizabeth Bowering commenced as PLO. We also welcomed Glynis Rosser as our dedicated HR Manager.

We bid farewell to Chris Larkin (CEO) and Christopher Charles (PLO) at the end of June 2025, and Klynton Wanganeen stepped into the role of CEO on the 1st of July 2025.

A new executive team was formed consisting of Klynton Wanganeen (CEO), Elizabeth Bowering (PLO), Glynis Rosser (HRM) and Amy Brooks (GM Corporate Services). In the second quarter of 2025, we welcomed Khatija Thomas to the executive in her role as deputy CEO. This team meets regularly to discuss strategic level issues that impact ALRM and the community that it serves.



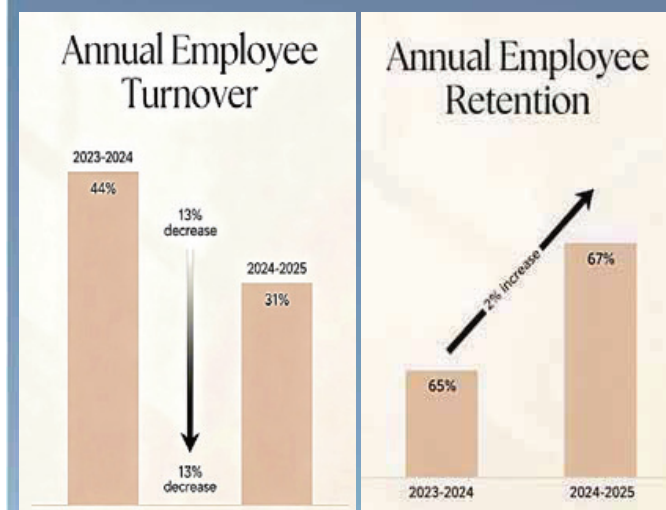
Human Resources

Between 2020 and 2023 the average annual employee turnover rate at ALRM was 53%. The efforts we have put in over the last few years continue to pay off with employee turnover falling to 31% by June 2025. This is a figure we would like to decrease even further next year.

In February 2024, we transitioned from a completely paper-based human resources system to a digital human resources management information system called Employment Hero. This will improve the way in which employees are onboarded into ALRM, along with many other benefits we expect to reap in the coming years.

The coming year will see a greater emphasis on:

- Improving our recruitment processes to meet international standard (ISO) 30405:2023 Human resource management – Guidelines on recruitment
- Improving clarity in job roles
- Developing a positive culture and wellbeing framework.



Properties and Site Visits

ALRM head office has been a bit cramped for some time. Earlier this year, we finally sourced an appropriate site not far from our head office where our Civil team is now located. We are unable to meet clients at the new site, so client visits still take place at head office.

Relocating the civil team has created more space at ALRM head office for future growth.

We are continuing on with a program of property maintenance to ensure a better working environment for our staff. This year we replaced the carpets at our head office branch.

The Ceduna office is currently only operational for court week, whilst we recruit new staff for the area.

Vehicle Fleet

In the coming year we will look at replacing our vehicle fleet.



EVENTS

ALRM's Events committee arranged a number of events this year, in which some of our team took part. These included **NAIDOC celebrations** held at Tarntanyangga and **Reconciliation in the West** held at Tauondi Aboriginal College in Port Adelaide.

A **gathering of thanks** was held on 25 July 2025 which was attended by ALRM staff and Aboriginal Liaison and Aboriginal Justice Officers from Adelaide Magistrates Court and the Adelaide Remand Centre.



Information Technology

In April, we welcomed *Venka Kumar*, who joined us as an ICT Field Services Officer. Venka brought with him a wealth of knowledge, skills and experience to ALRM. He quickly settled into his new role in the IT team and within the organization as a whole.

Major achievements this year included:

- Completion of Cybersecurity assessment for both our internal and external-facing ICT systems
- Upgrade of all our corporate laptops to Windows 11
- Setup of new ICT infrastructure at 337 King William Street for the Civil and Family Law team
- Upgrade of the audio-visual system in the Head Office Boardroom to allow for better collaboration between staff via TEAMS meetings
- Presentation to all staff relating to Cybersecurity Awareness
- Replacement of Multifunction printers in satellite offices (Elizabeth and Port Adelaide)
- Replacement of old computer screens with new 24-inch displays
- Implementation of live Data Dashboards to provide senior management with real-time statistics related to service delivery.

In addition, we have embarked on a **major project** to find a **replacement for our existing Client Management System (CMS)** – this has involved stakeholders from all sectors of the organization, some of whom have come together to form a dedicated ALRM Data Committee. Their role will be to steer this project forward, and to assist the IT team in selecting, testing and deploying an appropriate CMS solution, which can be used by and benefit all areas of the organization.

The **next 12 months** will bring more challenges and the opportunity to improve and strengthen our ICT environment. Planned projects include:

- Strengthening our cybersecurity posture by implementing recommended solutions to improve the security of our internal IT systems
- Replace our fleet of corporate laptops
- Replace our fleet of Multifunction copiers in Head Office and Port Augusta
- Refresh the look and feel of our Staff Intranet
- Further enhancements to the Custody Notification Service (CNS) systems
- Community BI Module Implementation to support comprehensive reporting solutions to support our Financial Counselling services
- Continue working on our CMS Replacement project

Here's to another year of innovative ICT solutions!



A major accomplishment by one of our Corporate Team members: Madhu Thonthiraju's graduation from her Master of Data Science (Applied) with a GPA of 6.2.

“Data reporting excellence: Zero ‘Other problem types’ in Civil & Family, 41% fewer in Criminal cases (2022-2025, ABS)”

Remo Mastrogiuseppe
IT Manager

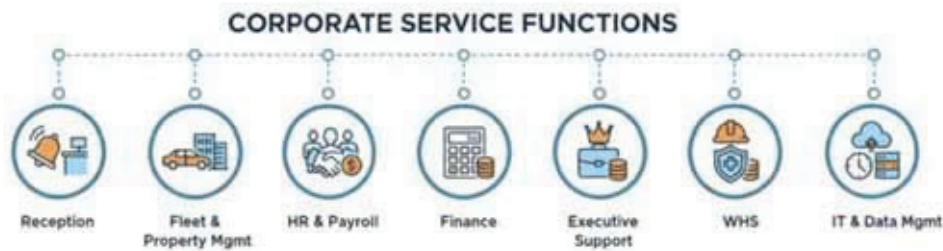
Finance

In October 2025, ALRM registered with the **SA Portable Long Service leave board** and will commence payments in January 2026 at a rate of 2.2% of gross wages per month. With a 22% growth in total assets, ALRM is well-positioned to cover this new cash outflow. Employees can find out more about how portable long service leave works by visiting <https://saplsl-community.org.au/workers/how-portable-long-service-leave-works>.

ALRM continues its growth trajectory this year with an 11% increase in Total income. This represents a 35% increase in total income since 2022. Expenditure has increased since 2022 by 14% however, only by 2% since 2024. This has resulted in a surplus of \$1,928,101 for 2025, which will support future board-led initiatives for ALRM.

We are striving to continue ALRM’s growth and are awaiting the outcome of two grant applications to support our financial counselling service.

I am proud of the accomplishments that our Corporate Services Team delivered this year and how they have embodied ALRM’s values of **Care**, **Share** and **Respect** in their daily activities. I look forward to facing the challenges that 2025–2026 will bring with this dedicated team.



From Left to right, Back: Madhu Thonthiraju, Carolyn Jenkins, Sherrie Angwin
From Left to right, Middle: Kim Scarce, Caron Brown, Rebecca Ma
From Left to right, Front: Amy Brooks, Remo Mastrogiuseppe, Aili Deng
Absent: Ada Gillespie, Andrew Truscott, Julie Batt, Laura Gollan, Glynis Rosser, Venka Kumar



Amy Brooks
General Manager, Corporate Services

Financial Statements

ABORIGINAL LEGAL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

ABN : 32 942 723 464

**FINANCIAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025**

ABORIGINAL LEGAL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

ABN : 32 942 723 464

FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

Directors' report	1
Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income	2
Statement of Financial Position	3
Statement of Changes in Equity	4
Statement of Cash Flows	5
Notes to The Financial Statements	6
Directors' Declaration	13
Auditor's Independence Declaration	14
Independent Auditor's Report	15

ABORIGINAL LEGAL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

ABN : 32 942 723 464

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
Revenue and other income	3	12,023,491	10,832,569
Employee benefits expenses	4	(8,032,505)	(8,067,955)
Depreciation and amortisation expense		(321,403)	(242,179)
Insurance		(168,897)	(156,280)
IT and computer expenses		(250,232)	(224,097)
Lease interest expense		(15,536)	(3,538)
Motor vehicle and travel expenses		(314,120)	(339,811)
Occupancy Expenses		(201,350)	(222,218)
Other expenses		(791,346)	(673,892)
Current year surplus before income tax		1,928,101	902,600
Income tax expense		-	-
Net Current year surplus		1,928,101	902,600
Other comprehensive income			
Items that will not be classified subsequently to profit or loss			
Fair value gains on land and buildings at fair value through other comprehensive income		-	1,052,427
Total other comprehensive income for the year		-	1,052,427
Total comprehensive income attributable to members of the entity		1,928,101	1,955,027

ABORIGINAL LEGAL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

ABN : 32 942 723 464

DIRECTORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

The directors present their report, together with the financial statements, on the company for the year ended 30 June 2025.

Committee members

The names of the directors in office at any time during or since the end of the year are:

Glen Wingfield	Chairperson
Karina Lester	Director
Anita Taylor	Director
Rosney Snell	Director (resigned 5/5/25)
David Rathman	Director
Michael Turner	Director
Yan Robson	Director (resigned 29/10/24)
John Chester	Director
Brenda Carter	Director (appointed 24/10/25)

Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the company during the financial year was to provide legal services to the Aboriginal Community in South Australia.

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

Significant Changes in the State of Affairs

There was no significant change in the state of affairs of the company during the year

Operating results

The surplus for the company for the year amounted to \$1,928,101 (2024: \$902,600 Surplus).

Subsequent events

There has not been any matter or circumstance occurring subsequent to the end of the financial year and not disclosed in the financial statements that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect, the operations of the company, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the company in future financial years.

Auditor's Independence Declaration

The auditor's independence declaration for the year ended 30 June 2025 has been received and can be found on page 14 of the financial report.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the board


Director


Director

Dated this 24 day of 10 2025

ABORIGINAL LEGAL RIGHTS MOVEMENT
ABN : 32 942 723 464

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	8,748,283	6,587,070
Trade and other receivables	6	61,150	120,336
Other current assets	7	377,617	274,120
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		9,187,051	6,981,526
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	8	5,810,595	5,886,488
Right of use assets	9	776,476	83,942
Other non-current assets	7	7,039	6,719
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		6,594,110	5,977,149
TOTAL ASSETS		15,781,161	12,958,675
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	10	1,046,541	752,648
Contract liabilities		2,339,308	2,460,869
Lease liabilities	12	182,011	68,535
Employee benefits	11	896,337	870,956
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		4,464,197	4,153,008
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Lease liabilities	12	622,052	18,455
Employee benefits	11	8,705	29,106
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		630,757	47,561
TOTAL LIABILITIES		5,094,954	4,200,569
NET ASSETS		10,686,207	8,758,106
EQUITY			
Retained surplus		5,314,375	4,172,655
Reserves	12	5,371,832	4,585,451
TOTAL EQUITY		10,686,207	8,758,106

ABORIGINAL LEGAL RIGHTS MOVEMENT
ABN : 32 942 723 464

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	Retained Surplus \$	Asset Revaluation Surplus \$	Special Reserve \$	Human Capital and Infrastructure Fund \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2023	3,281,229	2,635,535	589,006	297,309	6,803,079
Comprehensive income					
Net surplus for the year	902,600	-	-	-	902,600
Other comprehensive income for the year					
Fair value gains on land and buildings at fair value through other comprehensive income	-	1,052,427	-	-	1,052,427
Total comprehensive income for the year	902,600	1,052,427	-	-	1,955,027
Transfer to (from) reserve	(11,174)	-	7,426	3,748	-
Balance at 30 June 2024	4,172,655	3,687,962	596,432	301,057	8,758,106
Balance at 1 July 2024	4,172,655	3,687,962	596,432	301,057	8,758,106
Comprehensive income					
Net surplus for the year	1,928,101	-	-	-	1,928,101
Other comprehensive income for the year	-	-	-	-	-
Transfer to (from) reserve	(786,381)	-	783,530	2,851	-
Total comprehensive income for the year	1,141,720	-	783,530	2,851	1,928,101
Balance at 30 June 2025	5,314,375	3,687,962	1,379,962	303,908	10,686,207

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	Note	2025 \$	2024 \$
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Commonwealth, state and local government grants		12,833,459	11,956,066
Receipts from other income		79,411	115,005
Payments to suppliers and employees		(10,644,686)	(10,812,934)
Interest received		126,307	97,774
Interest paid		(15,536)	(3,538)
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities		2,378,955	1,352,373
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		18,000	-
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(133,961)	(296,304)
Net cash used in investing activities		(115,961)	(296,304)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES			
Repayment of lease liabilities		(101,781)	(52,237)
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities		(101,781)	(52,237)
NET INCREASE (DECREASE) IN CASH HELD		2,161,213	1,003,832
Cash at the beginning of the financial year		6,587,070	5,583,238
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE FINANCIAL YEAR	3	8,748,283	6,587,070

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

NOTE 1 - MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements cover Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement ("the company") as an individual company. Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement is an company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia and operating pursuant to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the Companies Act 2001, as appropriate for not-for-profit oriented entities.

The material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

New or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations adopted

The company has adopted all of the new or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ("AASB") that are mandatory for the current reporting period.

Any new or amended Accounting Standards or Interpretations that are not yet mandatory have not been early adopted.

Basis of Preparation

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures issued by the Australian Accounting Standards board (AASB) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. The company is a not-for-profit company for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

Australian Accounting Standards set out accounting policies that the AASB has concluded would result in financial statements containing relevant and reliable information about transactions, events and conditions. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of the financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless stated otherwise.

The financial statements, except for the cash flow information, have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs, modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities. The amounts presented in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

Accounting Policies

(a) **Income Tax**

The company is not subject to income tax and therefore no income tax expense or income tax payable is shown in the financial statements.

(b) **Property, Plant and Equipment**

Property, plant and equipment are measured at cost, less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses, except for land and buildings which may be carried at revalued amounts. Land is not depreciated.

Depreciation is recognised on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets, commencing when the asset is ready for use. The following rates are applied:

Buildings	3.2%-7.5%
Plant and equipment	16.67%
Furniture, fixtures and fittings	10.00%
Motor Vehicles	12.50%
Computer equipment (excluding laptops and desktops)	33.33%

Residual values and useful lives are reviewed at the end of each reporting period and adjusted if appropriate. Assets are derecognised on disposal or when no further economic benefits are expected. Gains and losses on disposals are recognised in profit or loss in the period in which they occur.

Land and buildings are periodically valued by independent valuers or by directors' assessment. Revaluation increments are credited to the revaluation surplus in equity unless they reverse a prior decrement for the same asset previously recognised in profit or loss. Directors also review key assumptions at each reporting date to confirm that carrying amounts do not exceed recoverable amounts.

(c) **Impairment of Assets**

At each reporting date the company assesses whether there is any indication that financial or non-financial assets may be impaired.

- Financial assets such as receivables are measured using the expected credit loss model under AASB 9. Losses are recognised in profit or loss when there is no reasonable expectation of recovery.
- Non-financial assets such as property, plant and equipment and intangibles are tested for impairment when indicators are present. An impairment loss is recognised when the carrying amount exceeds the recoverable amount of the asset or the cash-generating unit to which it belongs.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

(d) **Right-of-use assets**

Right-of-use assets are recognised at the commencement of a lease and measured at cost, adjusted for lease incentives received. They are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the lease term, or the useful life of the asset where ownership transfers at the end of the lease.

The company applies the practical expedients available under AASB 16 by not recognising right-of-use assets or lease liabilities for leases of low-value assets or with terms of 12 months or less. Payments for these leases are expensed as incurred.

(e) **Financial Instruments**

The company's financial instruments comprise cash, receivables, term deposits, payables, borrowings, and lease liabilities.

All financial assets and financial liabilities are measured at amortised cost. They are initially recognised when the company becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument and are subsequently measured using the effective interest method.

No derivatives or complex financial instruments are held.

(f) **Employee Benefits**

Employee benefit obligations are recognised as expenses when services are rendered by employees.

- Short-term benefits such as wages, salaries and leave expected to be taken within 12 months are measured at the amounts expected to be paid.

- Other long-term benefits such as annual leave not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months and long service leave are measured at the present value of expected future payments.

Employee benefit liabilities are classified as current unless the company has an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least 12 months.

(g) **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.

(h) **Revenue recognition**

Revenue - Government Grants

Government grants are the company's only material source of revenue.

Grants that include sufficiently specific performance obligations are recognised in accordance with AASB 15 Revenue from Contracts with Customers. Revenue is recognised in profit or loss as the company satisfies the performance obligations under the funding agreement. Where grants are conditional on the delivery of specified services or outcomes, revenue is recognised progressively as those obligations are met. Grants received in advance of satisfying performance obligations are recorded as contract liabilities until the obligations are fulfilled.

Where a grant does not contain sufficiently specific performance obligations, or involves the transfer of an asset such as a capital grant, income is recognised in accordance with AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities. For capital grants that fund the purchase or construction of an asset, income is recognised when the asset is acquired and controlled by the company.

Interest Income

Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method as it accrues.

Other revenue

Other revenue is recognised when it is received or when the right to receive payment is established.

(i) **Contract Liabilities**

Contract liabilities represent the company's obligation to transfer goods or services to a customer and are recognised when a customer pays consideration, or when the company recognises a receivable to reflect its unconditional right to consideration (whichever is earlier) before the company has transferred the goods or services to the customer.

(j) **Lease liabilities**

Lease liabilities are recognised at the commencement of a lease, measured at the present value of future lease payments discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease, or the company's incremental borrowing rate if the implicit rate cannot be readily determined.

Lease liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method and are remeasured when lease terms or payment indices change. Adjustments are recognised against the corresponding right-of-use asset, or in profit or loss if the asset has been fully depreciated.

The determination of the lease term, including whether options to extend or terminate are reasonably certain to be exercised, involves judgement and is assessed on a lease-by-lease basis.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

NOTE 2 - CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS, ESTIMATES AND ASSUMPTIONS

In preparing these financial statements, management has not made any significant judgements in the application of accounting policies, nor are there any key sources of estimation uncertainty that are expected to have a material effect on the amounts recognised. The financial statements are based on straightforward transactions, and the recognition and measurement of assets and liabilities do not involve complex or subjective assumptions.

(i) Performance obligations under AASB15

To identify a performance obligation under AASB 15, the promise must be sufficiently specific to be able to determine when the obligation is satisfied. Management exercises judgement to determine whether the promise is sufficiently specific by taking into account any conditions specified in the arrangement, explicit or implicit, regarding the promised goods or services. In making this assessment, management includes the nature/ type, cost/value, quantity and the period of transfer related to the goods or services promised

(ii) Lease term and Option to Extend under AASB16

The lease term is defined as the non-cancellable period of a lease together with both periods covered by an option to extend the lease if the lessee is reasonably certain to exercise that option; and also periods covered by an option to terminate the lease if the lessee is reasonably certain not to exercise that option. The options that are reasonably going to be exercised is a key management judgement that the company will make. The company determines the likelihood to exercise the options on a lease-by-lease basis looking at various factors such as which assets are strategic and which are key to future strategy of the company.

NOTE 3: REVENUE AND OTHER INCOME

	2025 \$	2024 \$
Revenue from contracts with customers:		
Grant income - Federal Government	9,396,851	8,159,083
Grant income - State Government	1,570,093	2,188,030
Other grants	850,098	312,862
Rental income	26,350	25,870
Recoveries	36,103	22,066
	<u>11,879,496</u>	<u>10,707,911</u>
Non-contract income:		
Interest received	126,307	97,774
Profit on sale of non-current assets	730	-
Other income	16,958	26,884
	<u>143,995</u>	<u>124,658</u>
Total revenue and other income	<u>12,023,491</u>	<u>10,832,569</u>

Disaggregation of revenue

The disaggregation of revenue from contracts with customers is as follows:

Revenue recognised over time		
Grant Income	<u>11,817,043</u>	<u>10,659,975</u>
Revenue recognised at a point in time		
Rental income	26,350	25,870
Recoveries	36,103	22,066
	<u>62,453</u>	<u>47,936</u>

NOTE 4 - DISAGGREGATION OF EXPENDITURE

	2025 \$	2024 \$
The disaggregation of employee benefits expenses is as follows:		
Salaries and wages	7,161,634	7,114,481
Superannuation	730,807	776,601
Fringe Benefits tax	84,541	50,000
Workcover	15,583	32,551
Other	39,940	94,322
	<u>8,032,505</u>	<u>8,067,955</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

NOTE 5 - CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENT ASSETS	2025 \$	2024 \$
Cash at bank	8,748,283	6,587,070
	<u>8,748,283</u>	<u>6,587,070</u>
NOTE 6 - TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES	2025 \$	2024 \$
Current		
Accounts receivable	41,060	21,336
Accrued income	20,090	99,000
	<u>61,150</u>	<u>120,336</u>
NOTE 7 - OTHER ASSETS	2025 \$	2024 \$
Current		
Prepayments	377,365	273,868
Credit cards	252	252
	<u>377,617</u>	<u>274,120</u>
Non-Current		
Rental bond	7,039	6,719
	<u>7,039</u>	<u>6,719</u>
NOTE 8 - PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	2025 \$	2024 \$
Land and buildings at independent valuation	5,894,927	5,894,927
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(727,562)	(683,197)
	<u>5,167,365</u>	<u>5,211,730</u>
Plant and equipment at cost	470,269	406,027
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(258,275)	(237,981)
	<u>211,994</u>	<u>168,046</u>
Furniture, fixtures and fittings at cost	209,898	208,535
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(206,958)	(202,875)
	<u>2,940</u>	<u>5,660</u>
Motor vehicles at cost	525,949	550,262
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(216,570)	(157,858)
	<u>309,379</u>	<u>392,404</u>
Computer equipment at cost	657,921	590,715
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(555,386)	(528,295)
	<u>102,535</u>	<u>62,420</u>
Computer software at cost	65,239	65,239
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(65,239)	(65,239)
	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Leasehold improvements at cost	90,754	90,754
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(90,754)	(60,908)
	<u>-</u>	<u>29,846</u>
Artwork at cost	16,382	16,382
	<u>16,382</u>	<u>16,382</u>
	<u>5,810,595</u>	<u>5,886,488</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

On 24 August 2023 the freehold land and buildings held by the company were valued by an independent valuer, Adelaide Property Valuers. The fair value of the freehold land and buildings was determined to be \$5,894,927. The net revaluation increment of \$1,052,427 was credited directly to the revaluation surplus in 2024.

At 30 June 2025 the board members reviewed the key assumptions made by the valuers at 30 June 2024. They have concluded that these assumptions remain materially unchanged, and are satisfied that the carrying amount does not exceed the recoverable amount of land and buildings at 30 June 2025.

Movements in carrying amounts

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year:

	Land and buildings \$	Plant & equipment \$	Furniture, fixtures and fittings \$	Motor vehicles \$	Computer equipment \$	
Balance at 1 July 2024	5,211,730	168,046	5,660	392,404	62,420	
Additions	-	65,391	1,363	-	67,206	
Disposals at book value	-	-	-	(14,771)	-	
Depreciation expense	(44,365)	(21,443)	(4,083)	(68,254)	(27,091)	
Balance at 30 June 2025	<u>5,167,365</u>	<u>211,994</u>	<u>2,940</u>	<u>309,379</u>	<u>102,535</u>	
			Computer Software \$	Art Work \$	Leasehold Improvements \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2024			-	16,382	29,846	5,886,488
Additions			-	-	-	133,960
Disposals at book value			-	-	-	(14,771)
Depreciation expense			-	-	(29,846)	(195,082)
Balance at 30 June 2025			<u>-</u>	<u>16,382</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,810,595</u>

NOTE 9 - RIGHT OF USE ASSETS

The company's lease portfolio includes equipment, motor vehicles and buildings.

i) AASB 16 related amounts recognised in the statement of financial position

Leased Buildings	906,545	149,598
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(130,069)	(80,150)
	<u>776,476</u>	<u>69,448</u>
Leased Office equipment	-	38,917
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	-	(29,347)
	<u>-</u>	<u>9,570</u>
Leased Motor vehicles	-	25,024
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	-	(20,100)
	<u>-</u>	<u>4,924</u>
Total Right of Use Assets	<u>776,476</u>	<u>83,942</u>

Movements in carrying amounts

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of right to use asset between the beginning and the end of the current financial year:

	Leased Buildings \$	Leased Office Equipment \$	Leased Vehicles \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2024	69,448	9,570	4,924	83,942
Lease adjustments	(7,911)	-	-	(7,911)
Additions	826,765	-	-	826,765
Disposals at book value	-	-	-	-
Depreciation expense	(111,826)	(9,570)	(4,924)	(126,320)
Balance at 30 June 2025	<u>776,476</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>776,476</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

	2025 \$	2024 \$
<i>ii) AASB 16 related amounts recognised in the statement of profit or loss</i>		
Depreciation charge related to right-of-use assets	126,320	49,400
Interest expense on lease liabilities	<u>15,536</u>	<u>3,538</u>
NOTE 10 - TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES	2025 \$	2024 \$
Current		
Unsecured liabilities:		
Trade and other payables	31,417	51,702
GST payable	195,242	179,047
Sundry payables and accrued expenses	<u>819,882</u>	<u>521,899</u>
	<u>1,046,541</u>	<u>752,648</u>
<i>Collateral Pledged</i>		
No collateral has been pledged for any of the accounts payable and other payable balances.		
NOTE 11 - EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	2025 \$	2024 \$
Current		
Provision for annual leave entitlements	590,712	550,345
Provision for long service leave entitlements	<u>305,625</u>	<u>320,611</u>
	<u>896,337</u>	<u>870,956</u>
Non- Current		
Provision for long service leave entitlements	<u>8,705</u>	<u>29,106</u>
	<u>8,705</u>	<u>29,106</u>
NOTE 12 - LEASE LIABILITIES	2025 \$	2024 \$
Current	182,011	68,535
Non-current	<u>622,052</u>	<u>18,455</u>
	<u>804,063</u>	<u>86,990</u>
NOTE 13 - RESERVES		
Asset revaluation surplus		
The revaluation surplus records revaluations of non-current assets at fair value and independent valuation.		
Special reserve		
The special reserve records funds set aside for future costs relating to non-grant funded expenditure of the company		
Human capital & infrastructure fund		
The human capital & infrastructure fund records monies set aside to meet service delivery obligations arising in the normal course of business		
NOTE 14 - KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL DISCLOSURES	2025 \$	2024 \$
Key Management Personnel Compensation		
The aggregate compensation paid to key management personnel (KMP) of the company during the year are as follows:		
Aggregate Compensation	<u>660,767</u>	<u>393,319</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2025

NOTE 15: RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Key Management Personnel

Disclosures relating to key management personnel are set out in Note 14.

Transactions with Related Parties

There were no transactions with related parties during the current and previous financial year.

Receivable from and Payable to Related Parties

There were no trade receivables from or trade payables to related parties at current and previous reporting date.

Loans to/from Related Parties

There were no loans to or from related parties at the current or previous reporting date.

NOTE 16: AUDITOR REMUNERATION

	2025 \$	2024 \$
During the financial year the following fees were paid or payable for services provided by Moore Australia Audit (SA/NT), the auditor of the company and related firms		
Audit of financial statements	21,350	20,800
Compilation of financial statements	<u>2,500</u>	<u>2,500</u>
	<u>23,850</u>	<u>23,300</u>

NOTE 17 - CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

There are no contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2025 (30 June 2024: None).

NOTE 18 - CAPITAL COMMITMENTS

There are no capital commitments as at 30 June 2025 (30 June 2024: None).

NOTE 19 - EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

No matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2025 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect the company's operations, the results of those operations, or the company's state of affairs in future financial years.

NOTE 20 - MEMBERS' GUARANTEE

The company is incorporated under the Corporations Act 2001 and is a company limited by guarantee. If the company is wound up, the constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of \$1.00 each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the company. At 30 June 2025, the number of members was 91.(2024: 91)

NOTE 21 - COMPANY DETAILS

The registered office and principal place of business of the company is :
Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement
321-325 King William street
Adelaide SA 5000

ABORIGINAL LEGAL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

The board of directors declare that, in the board's opinion:

1. The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 1 to 12, are in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and:

- a. comply with Accounting Standards – General Purpose Financial Statements – Simplified Disclosures, and other mandatory professional reporting requirements,
- b. give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement as at 30 June 2025 and of its performance for the year ended on that date.

2. There are reasonable grounds to believe that Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This statement is made in accordance with subs 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2022 and by resolution of the board:



Director



Director

Dated this 24th day of October 2025

AUDITORS INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION UNDER S 307C OF THE CORPORATIONS ACT 2001 AND SECTION 60-40 AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFITS COMMISSION ACT 2012 TO THE DIRECTORS OF ABORIGINAL LEGAL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

To the board of Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2025, there have been no contraventions of:

- the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



T A Basso - Director
Basso Newman Audit Pty Ltd
Chartered Accountants
286 Flinders Street, Adelaide
Dated this 27th day of October 2025

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ABORIGINAL LEGAL RIGHTS MOVEMENT



Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement ("the entity") which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of material accounting policies, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement is in accordance with Div 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- giving a true and fair view of the entity's financial position as at 30 June 2025 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended; and
- complying with Australian Accounting Standards—Simplified Disclosures and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulations 2022.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the entity in accordance with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, auditor independence requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* ("the Code") that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

Other matter

The financial report of the Company for the year ended 30 June 2024 was audited by another auditor who expressed an unmodified opinion on the financial report on 30 October 2024.

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

Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards—Simplified Disclosures and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the 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 entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intend to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

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

Basso Newman Audit Pty Ltd
ABN 98 618 562 824
286 Flinders Street
Adelaide, South Australia
Telephone: (08) 8224 0066
Facsimile: (08) 8224 0670
bnc@bassonewman.com.au
www.bassonewman.com.au
Liability limited by a scheme
approved under Professional
Standards Legislation

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ABORIGINAL LEGAL RIGHTS MOVEMENT



Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our 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 this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We 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 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 entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the management's 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 entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the 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.

We 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 control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide the those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

Trevor Basso - Director
Basso Newman Audit Pty Ltd
Chartered Accountants
286 Flinders Street, Adelaide
Dated this 27th day of October 2025

Acronyms & Abbreviations

ACCA	Aboriginal Community Court Adelaide
ACCE	Aboriginal Community Court Elizabeth
ADAC	Aboriginal Drug & Alcohol Council
AFCS	Aboriginal Financial Counselling Service
AFO	Aboriginal Field Officer
AGD	Attorney General's Department
AGM	Annual General Meeting
AJO's	Aboriginal Justice Officers
ALRM	Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement
APY	Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY Lands)
ARC	Adelaide Remand Centre
ATSILS	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services
AVS	Aboriginal Visitors Scheme
CARP	Contact Arrangements Review Panel
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CLE	Community Legal Education
CPD	Compulsory Professional Development
CSD	Corporate Services Division
DCS	Department of Correctional Services
EA	Executive Assistant
ILAP	Indigenous Legal Assistance Program
NAIDOC	National Aboriginal Islander Day of Celebration
NATSILS	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services
NIAA	National Indigenous Australians Agency
PADIC	Prevention of Aboriginal Deaths in Custody
PCP	Prisoner Care Program
PLT	Professional Legal Training
SACAT	South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal
SALAF	South Australian Legal Assistance Forum
SAPOL	South Australian Police



Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement (ALRM)

321–325 King William Street, Adelaide, SA 5000

Phone: (08) 8113 3777 (24-hour service for emergencies)

Email: info@alrm.org.au

www.alrm.org.au