



Environmental Defender's Office
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

ANNUAL REPORT

2016-2017

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT THROUGH THE LAW

Environmental Defender's Office (ACT)
2 Allsop Street
Canberra ACT 2601

GPO Box 574
Canberra ACT 2601

Telephone: (02) 6243 3460
Email: edoact@edo.org.au
www.edoact.org.au

OVERVIEW OF THE EDO (ACT)'S OBJECTIVES

- Vision:** To empower the community to protect the environment through the law.
- Mission:** To provide a community legal aid service to provide legal services on environmental and related matters to persons whose interests should be pursued as a matter of public interest taking into account their financial means.
- Values:** To address the disempowerment that results from an inability to access legal services in relation to matters affecting the natural and built environment and to promote access to the legal system for persons seeking to protect the environment.
- Objectives:** To provide a community legal service specialising in environmental law for the benefit of persons in the Canberra region whose interests should be pursued as a matter of public interest taking into account their financial means.
- To ensure that the EDO (ACT) is able to operate effectively and is accountable to its funding bodies

THE ROLE OF THE EDO (ACT)

The EDO (ACT) has three main functions:

- providing legal advice and representation on environmental law matters to members of the community and community groups interested in preserving the environment;
- undertaking community education about legal issues related to the environment and planning;
- researching and making submissions to government about reforms of laws and policies affecting the environment.

Specific EDO services to the ACT and regional community include:

- providing legal advice and representation to people and groups seeking to protect the environment;
- presenting environmental law seminars to the community, and presenting individually tailored talks to schools and environmental groups;
- providing environment and planning law information to the general public, such as the EDO's environmental law fact sheets and the ACT Environmental Law Handbook;
- researching public interest matters in environmental law; and
- promoting laws and law reform that helps to protect the environment including working with other ACT community legal centres, indigenous groups and environmental groups to make submissions proposing improvements to environment and planning policies and laws.

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS OFFICE (ACT) INC.

CHAIR'S REPORT

This has been an extraordinary year for EDO ACT which has seen us running right down to part time within the office; watching with interest the narrow federal election result (knowing national funding would have come with a Labor federal government); conducting a multi-pronged influential campaign over the course of the ACT election to gain the support of the ACT Greens, ACT Labor and consequently, and eventually, assured funding from the ACT government; we established and sustained the ANU Environmental Law Clinic; and continued to deliver fundamental legal services such as providing advice and acting on behalf of community organisations, as well as developing a more focussed strategic plan for the organisation which we trust can help is show more clearly how we are delivering on our goals.

Processes such as this are never easy and EDO ACT was lucky to secure the 'low bono' support of Mia Swainson who helped us through the pointy end of our new plan which ties measurables to all our good intentions. The way they always should. It can be found on our website.

At the same time we have continued to work with the other EDOs of Australia to develop a stronger national identity; including the ongoing exploration of a range of options for closer integration. There is no shortage of national (and global) environmental issues and challenges and the EDOs of Australia would very much like to work with and for others to address them.

I think that most of us got to the end of the 2016/17 financial year exhausted on the EDO front, but reassured that we aren't alone in understanding and valuing the role of the Office in public interest environmental law.

It is timely now to acknowledge the long lasting (and ongoing) support of Legal Aid ACT. Without a secure and affordable home no organisation, or person for that matter, can remain healthy, focus on its core work or be open to new opportunities. Legal Aid ACT and CEO John Boersig have stuck with us through all our hard times, helped us to remain connected to the legal and community service family of the ACT and provide a space from which we can now - with some luck - throw our doors even wider.

I would like to thank my fellow committee members, particularly Deborah Nesbitt and Susan Bell who have stood down in recent months. Sue had been a committed (but commuting) contributor to EDO ACT for many years, variously as our membership secretary, secretary and an active member of a range of subcommittees. Deb joined a couple of years ago and was a key driver of our vital campaign work last year as well as an important champion for the integration of communications and public affairs in all the work of the office. Both are still members of EDO ACT and we look forward to respectfully involving them in our ongoing growth and strategic development. I don't think this has been an easy year for committee members. Lee Nelson, our stoic and longstanding Treasurer has made a particularly significant contribution to the committee on a number of fronts this year, Kasy Chambers has continued to offer sage advice and ask important questions regarding our work as committee members and our direction as an organisation, Karl Goiser has asked thoughtful and sometimes surprising questions and Gabrielle Ho has made a great contribution as a link to the community environmental movement, a graduate from our intern program and now as Secretary.

I would like to offer the thanks of the EDO to the many volunteers and interns whose contribution really underpins - and has for many years - the work of our office. We are both a community legal service and a community organisation. This year we recognise and thank:

Percy Su

Jessica Evans

Margie Gaynor

Alex Ross

Jessica Day

Kathy Liu

Koranid Nopamornbodee

Ben Niles

Nathalie Tisserand

Barnaby Moore

Juhee Kim

Anna McNee

Anna Christoff

Grace Dudley

Matthew Kowaluk

Gina Zheng

Ciaran Monaghan, and

Catherine Pilley

Finally, I would like to thank our CEO and Principal Solicitor Camilla Taylor who has weathered a series of storms, dwindling uncertain funds, the intense demands of a campaign for survival and still delivered nonetheless on our key legal services, including both legal and strategic advice to community organisations, edited technical and background papers for the Australian panel of experts on environmental law, coordinated and delivered the ANU Clinic and worked with the Committee and consultant Mia Swainson on our new strategic and business plans. Please read Camilla's report for the details!

Over the last few years Camilla has established the ANU's Environmental Law Clinic, published a new edition of the ACT Environmental Law Handbook, updated a number of our important fact sheets, worked closely with many environment and community groups and strengthened our relationships with key personnel in ACT Government and the Australian environmental law community. We are now in a much stronger position both organisationally and financially than we were a year or two ago and I trust we can now take advantage of that enormous investment that Camilla particularly has made in the organisation this time.

There are a number of environmental issues that we face in the ACT. Increasing cross border development (ACT and NSW) is having a direct environmental impact and it's not yet clear how that will play out. EDO ACT will play an important role here. Similarly the ACT's place as perhaps the most progressive jurisdiction in Murray Darling catchment area, and as custodians of endangered and much depleted eco systems such as the yellow box red gum grassy woodlands reminds us that we need to build on our connections to the environment authorities and the many Canberra based scientific and community experts to ensure we can use the law to protect our environment *effectively*.

The ACT has a proud record of playing a leading role in climate change abatement, carbon emission targets and renewable energy take up. At the same time the population in Canberra – through its affluence, appetites and activity – still has an enormous and damaging impact on the health of planet. The Environmental Defender's Office along with other environmental and legal activists need to develop partnerships to really hold ourselves as that population to account.



Roland Manderson

Chair, Environmental Defenders Office (ACT)

21 November 2017

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS OFFICE (ACT) INC.

CEO'S REPORT¹

Introduction

The ACT Environmental Defenders' Office (EDO) is an independent, not-for-profit, community legal centre. The EDO is dedicated to the development, promotion and application of the ACT environmental laws in matters involving the public interest. The EDO offers a range of legal services that are unique in their public interest focus via the implementation of our core objectives outlined on page 2 of this Report. In the 2016–2017 year, EDO focused its resources on achieving these objectives to advise, educate and encourage increased public interest and participation in the environmental law.

Readers of the EDO ACT's previous reports would be aware that the EDO has experienced several years of funding uncertainty and within this period the office came very close to closing its doors on a number of occasions. This office has experienced a fortunate turnaround in its fortunes and was able to secure crucial financial support from the ACT government. Before the ACT Government election in October 2016, this office called on all candidates in that election to assist the EDO by providing funding necessary to keep its doors open. (The office had experienced a funding crisis since the Abbott federal government terminated all EDO funding in December 2013).² The issue of funding had become increasingly dire in the early half of 2016 when the EDO staff and Committee found itself with no financial support to allow it to continue past November 2016.

Prior to the ACT election, the question of the EDO's uncertain future was answered by the ACT Greens Party and the ACT Labor Party when both these parties made an announcement confirming their commitment to funding the EDO which was later formalised in the Parliamentary Agreement 2016 when the Green and Labor Parties formed the 9th Legislative Assembly for the ACT.

This welcomed news provided much relief to the EDO members and supporters who greatly assisted the EDO in communicating strong messages to the ACT election candidates, in particular, that they expected their government elect to support the EDO and to enable it to continue its important community work.

Why does the ACT need the EDO?

Although the ACT is a leading jurisdiction in Australia for its climate policies and legislated targets,³ as the ACT population rises and its urban footprint continues to expand, the natural environment in the ACT faces increasing development pressures. In some cases, this pressure is unprecedented as Canberra looks to its borders with NSW in which to continue its greenfield expansion.⁴ In turn this expansion requires more land and threatens the 'bush capital's' valued rural and bush setting as well as threatening important biodiversity and truncating connectivity between important ecosystems.

The EDO is the only affordable legal option for communities, landholders and interest groups who, when confronted with major development projects, wish to protect their local biodiversity, indigenous cultural

¹The EDO's CEO and Principal Solicitor, Camilla Taylor can be contacted on edoact@edo.org.au.

² In 2013/14 I gave a detailed report about the Federal Government's surprise announcement that it was terminating its funding agreements with all the EDOs nationally. Previously, the support provided by the Commonwealth was EDO ACT's primary source of funding.

³ Luke Kemp, Penny Sackett and Frank Jotzo (2015) 'Sub-National Climate Policies: How does the ACT compare?', Australian Capital Territory Climate Change Council, p.25.

⁴ http://www.planning.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/895076/2012_Planning_Strategy.pdf, p.33.

values, farmland, clean waterways and/or other public interests. The EDO assists these parties to use the law to improve environmental outcomes and provides a vital access to justice service for people who wish to stand up and protect their environment.

A publicly funded EDO provides expert legal support at no cost and fills a gap not otherwise provided anywhere in the ACT or Australia. Defending the diverse values of the natural and cultural environment is otherwise unaffordable for many Australians and the EDO is the only place where the bulk of our population can go to obtain legal advice on public interest environmental law matters when they feel threatened or affected by a development.

New Strategic Direction

With the certainty of secure funding, the EDO and its management committee were able to conduct a strategic planning day at the beginning of 2017 where we were free to recreate our vision and mission with the assistance of Jeff Smith. This meeting provided a spring board for a strategic planning phase undertaken for the

development of a new Strategic Plan and Business Plan for which we were able to harness the very effective skills of Mia Swainson, facilitator to assist the office in finalising these important plans. The EDO ACTs core outcomes are a new vision statement to achieve better environmental outcomes through law and a mission to provide access to justice for persons seeking to protect the environment through law. This vision will be realised by achieving certain agreed outcomes including the provision of effective protection of the environment through legal advice and representation, empowering the community to protect the environment, providing leadership and influence to protect the environment, and growing a sustainable, dynamic organisation. This planning also enabled the committee to decide how to best allocate our new resources and it was decided that the organisation invest in a new employee namely a Policy and Communications Director with an agreement to put plans in place for an appointment before the end of the calendar year.



Current EDO funding

I am pleased to report that the EDO now relies on a number of stable sources of funding and can be briefly described as follows:

ACT government funding:

In June 2017 the EDO entered into a Deed of Grant with the ACT government for an amount covering the second half of this financial year. Further, in its budgetary announcement, the ACT committed approx. \$285,000 over the period of 2 years until 30 June 2019.

ANU clinic

During the 2016-17 year the EDO continued its ongoing arrangement with the ANU to offer its law students an environmental law clinical program during semesters 1 and 2. The EDO is grateful to Associate Professor Dr Tony Foley, Professor Don Rothwell and Professor Peta Spender for the support they have given the EDO to ensure the clinic's ongoing success.

ACT Law Society

The ACT Law Society continued to provide funding to the EDO in the 2016–17 year from its statutory interest account. The EDO values its relationship with this important organisation and is very grateful for the Law Society's ongoing support.

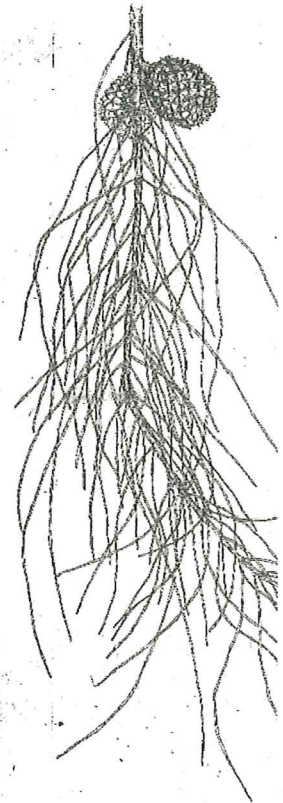
Legal Aid

The EDO is co-located with ACT's Legal Aid office and we are very grateful for the generous and continued support offered by Legal Aid and its CEO, Dr John Boersig PSM, including not only the use of their excellent office facilities, but provision of information technology and communication services. During our funding shortage, Legal Aid generously allowed the EDO to move to a smaller area and continue to operate from within its offices at a nominal rent. Without this support the EDO would not have been able to operate as effectively as it did whilst providing a convenient location for our clients.

EDO members and supporters

On behalf of the EDO ACT, I would especially like to thank our members, supporters and generous donors for their continued and valuable support around the various appeals EDO conducted throughout 2016-17, for example, our end-of-financial-year appeal, Christmas appeal and pre-election appeals. The support came in the form of both financial and non-financial.

I would also like to thank the generous support of business and community leaders who gave the EDO their valuable time and/or advice throughout the year including Professor Peta Spender (ANU), Tony Foley (ANU), Phil Gibbons (ANU), Chris McGrath, barrister, Mary Therese Daniels (ACAT), Dr James Prest (ANU), Professor Don Rothwell, Professor Murray Raff (UC), Andrew McIntosh (ANU), Kirsten Miller (Dept of Environment), Judy Lambert (EDOs of Australia Project Officer), Martijn Wilder (Baker and McKenzie), John Boersig (CEO, Legal Aid), Dr Hanna Jaireth (Law Council of Australia), Linda Crebbin (ACAT), Matthew Zagor (ANU), Judy Horacek, cartoonist and Michael King, barrister. I am also very grateful for the ongoing support the EDO and its environmental clinic receives each semester from the NSW Land and Environment Court, including Justices Rachel Pepper, John Robson, Nicola Pain, Chief Justice Brian Preston and his staff Edwina Chapman and Tristan Orgill. A special thanks also goes to Judith Preston (Macquarie University).



EDO services

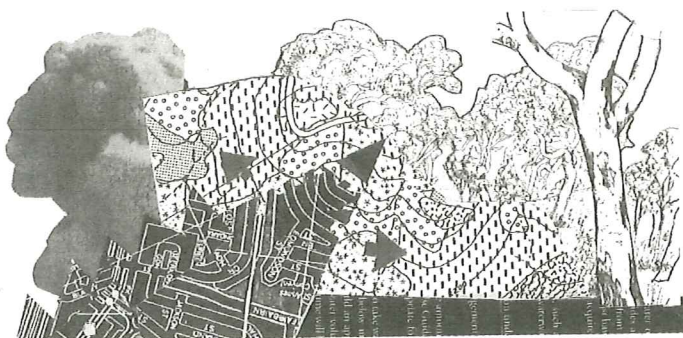
The EDO typically provides three main services to the ACT community: legal advice and assistance, community legal education and law reform.

Legal advice and casework

Most public interest environmental issues in the ACT are focused on the impact of the ACT's continuing planning and development pressures. Requests for advice often concern the community's concern for the conservation of biodiversity and the impact of planning on threatened species, sites of indigenous cultural significance, protected trees and heritage issues. Case work also addressed concerns around the ACT governments planning and approval processes including environmental impact assessment and development approvals. The EDO also provided advice on a range of other matters, including noise and air pollution, variations to the Territory Plan (rezoning), waste and defamation issues.

In 2016-17, legal advice was sought by a wide variety of individuals, community groups and environment organisations on an equally broad range of matters. The EDO assisted these clients by providing representation, written advices, one-off legal advices, mediation, information and ongoing case work assistance. This advice and information was delivered by telephone, face to face, and in written form.

In providing the casework and advisory service, the EDO ACT strives to assist the community in understanding their legal rights and opportunities as well as the legal processes surrounding decision making that impacts the environment.



Community legal education

In 2016–17, the EDO continued its important community legal education and development work. A significant project this year was the editing of the important work of the Australian Panel of Environmental Experts on Environmental Law (APEEL). APEEL is a panel of experts which has developed a blueprint for the next generation of Australian environmental laws with the aim of ensuring a healthy, functioning and resilient environment for generations to come. The Panel developed eight technical papers and one background paper which this office was assigned the task of editing the papers for publishing.

Online factsheets about the ACT environmental laws are also available on our up-to-date website (see below). Subject to resourcing constraints, the office also provides newsletters, environmental news updates and community forums.

Website

The EDO's website is an essential community education tool. The website provides the community access to the *ACT Environmental Law Handbook (3rd ed. 2015)*; our fact sheets; law reform submissions; reports; events and other environmental news. The website also acts as a notice board for our members and supporters and this proved an important tool for our communication with the ACT community throughout 2016/17.

Figure 1 below illustrates the monthly visitation statistics and Figure 2 shows the most popular pages.

Figure 1: EDO ACT Website Page View Jul 16 to Jun 17

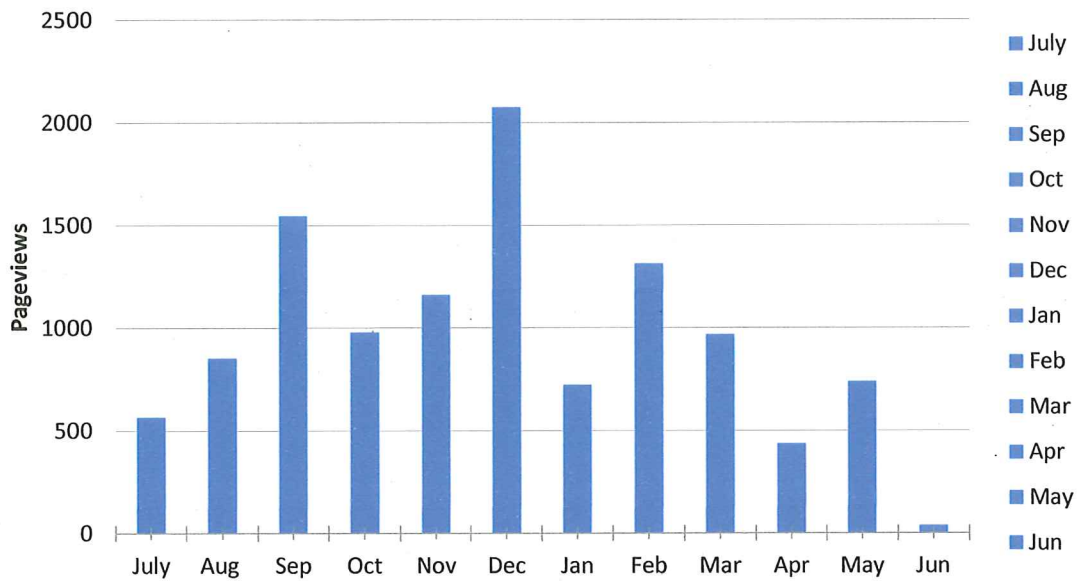
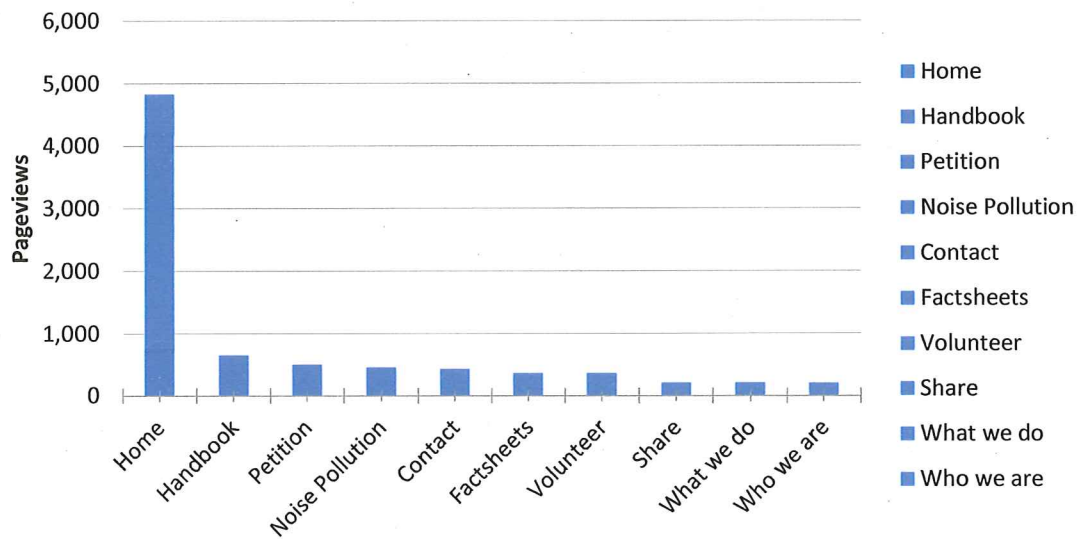


Figure 2: EDO ACT Website Unique Page Views Jul 16-Jun 17



Handbook and Factsheets

The online ACT Environmental Law Handbook (3rd ed.) fact sheets are important resources for the ACT community and continues to be the most utilised feature of the EDO website. Both the Handbook and collection of factsheets focuses mostly on ACT environmental and planning laws. The EDO also commenced

the preparation of fact sheets which are ultimately intended as a resource to assist the ACAT in their work of engaging and informing the ACT community.

Community development work

The EDO communicates regularly with its network of key stakeholders in the ACT environmental space and works closely with community groups, including the ACT environmental groups and community councils. The EDO presented to these groups where resources permitted and otherwise assists these groups in understanding the planning process as well as opportunities for involvement, and where possible the EDO assists the community in taking effective action to improve decision-making and improve all-over outcomes for the ACT environment.

In 2015/16, the EDO responded to inquiries about the ACT environmental legislation and gave law reform and policy information to interested stakeholders, including the opportunities provided by legislation to participate in environmental decision-making and how this process might improve outcomes.

Community education and development was also provided through contributions to the ACT Recent Developments section of the *National Environmental Law Review's* monthly *Bulletin*. The EDO continued its cooperative working relationship with other community legal centres, the government sector and legal aid service providers in the ACT. The ACT community legal centres have regular meetings to exchange information and collaborate to ensure effective and holistic service provision. The EDO participates in the ACT Legal Aid Forum (ACTLAF) which provides a useful opportunity to collaborate with other legal service providers and assists with appropriate referrals and opportunities for all community legal centres in the ACT.

Community seminars

The EDO continued this important work in the 2016-17 year and presented a seminar and resulting fact sheet for the EIANZ at the ANU about third party opportunities for protecting Commonwealth land and assisted in the planning for several national APEEL events.

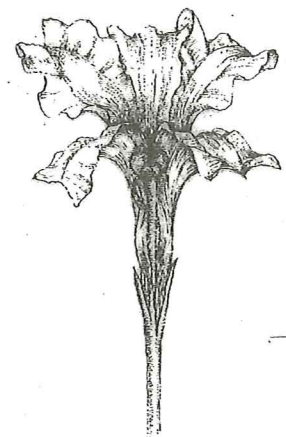
Staff

In 2016–17 the EDO employed one part-time staff member - Camilla Taylor, Principal Solicitor and CEO. Jason Parsons continued to provide the EDO with his valuable services as a part-time bookkeeper and administrator.

EDO Management Committee

The EDO's Management Committee continued to meet regularly and worked very effectively. A special mention is provided here for the time and effort our Committee took to dedicate their considerable talents towards communication with government and with our supporters which ultimately contributed in the ACT government agreeing to fund the EDO. It was a very successful outcome. Most members of the Committee contributed during the year to the EDO's successful operation, but special thanks are due particularly to the EDO office bearers:

- Roland Manderson (Chair)
- Deborah Nesbitt (Vice chair)
- Gabrielle Ho (Secretary)
- Lee Nelson (Treasurer)
- Jason Parsons (Public officer)

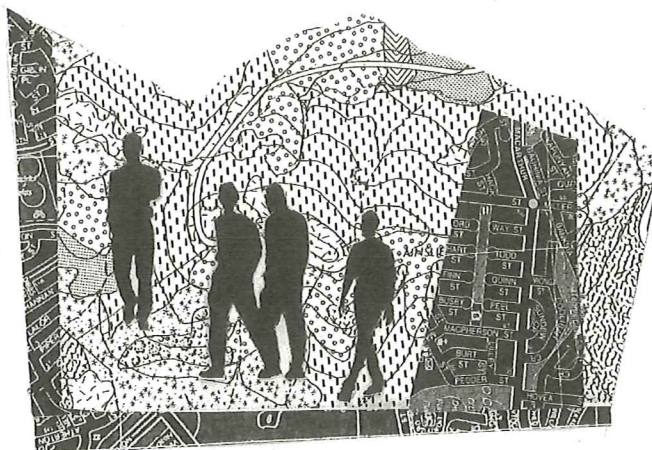


And to General Committee members Susan Bell, Kasy Chambers and Karl Goiser.

The EDO Committee provided an enormous amount of support and dedication during the 2016-17 year. EDO Chair, Roland Manderson was especially active (again) this year and on behalf of the EDO I would like to thank Roland for his unwavering efforts and support of this office. Early in the 2016-17 year, our Committee members especially Deborah Nesbitt, Julia Pitts and Roland Manderson worked with a volunteer, Andrea Simmons to develop an ACT Election campaign strategy. As mentioned above, this strategy was ultimately successful and the EDO's doors remain open as a result of the significant efforts of these individuals as well as countless supporters who rallied around us with their support.

Volunteers and interns

The EDO could not provide its services to the ACT community as broadly and as effectively without the constant support provided by the many reliable and dedicated EDO volunteers and interns. EDO volunteers are predominantly university students, members of the EDO's Management Committee and members of the legal profession. The contribution of volunteers amounts to many hours per week and enables the EDO to fulfil all its core objectives and functions even with its extremely limited staffing resources. In



2016-17, the EDO continued its volunteer commitment with the Australian National University (ANU) and the University of Canberra (UC) providing ongoing opportunities for students to work as paralegals or interns. I would like to acknowledge and thank all the volunteers and interns already mentioned in the Chair's report.

Conclusion

With our funding now secure, the EDO ACT is now able to build upon its strengths and will continue to be an important voice for the ACT community and their environment. The EDO ACT looks forward to achieving its objectives and strategic priorities as well as continuing its engagement with the ACT government concerning the environmental challenges that will inevitably occur as Canberra continues to grow. The EDO looks forward to expanding its relationships with members of the ACT community, to assist them in engaging with the processes contained in the ACT's environmental legislative framework and to help achieve improved environmental outcomes. I am very proud to report that the EDO is now (finally) in the exciting position to deliver its new strategic directions and fulfil its vision to provide better access to justice to the ACT community and achieve better environmental outcomes through the law.

Camilla Taylor
Principal Solicitor and CEO
Environmental Defenders Office (ACT)
21 November 2017

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS OFFICE (ACT) INC.

TREASURER'S REPORT

One of the fundamental responsibilities of any Management Committee is to monitor the financial performance of the organisation. The EDO (ACT) is continually reviewing and improving its financial reporting strategies and systems to enable the Committee to make pro-active decisions about expenditure of income in line with its strategic directions. Key goals are:

- improving the accuracy and timeliness of reporting;
- providing meaningful information in response to Committee needs; and
- seeking ways to ensure the organisations on-going financial viability.

The 2016/17 financial year generated a profit of \$42,883. This is due to a conscious decision by the Committee to limit expenditure, as Federal Government cuts continue to limit the financial viability of services like the EDO, and reflects the renewed commitment by the ACT Government to support public access environmental law - for at least the next two years.

In the meantime, the organisation is continually reviewing its financial options and key resource allocation to allow it to continue as an independent provider of high quality public interest environmental advocacy and legal education, and provide strategic environmental policy direction to governments. Fund raising and profile raising also needs to be a core function of the EDO, and we are looking at strategies to achieve greater financial independence from government.

We have moved into the 2017/18 financial year with a conservative budget reflecting decisions by the Committee to review resources in key areas. The financial position of the EDO (ACT) remains healthy despite funding cuts.

As always, we are grateful for the commitment of our members, volunteers and staff, without whose support we could not continue to operate.

As Treasurer, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Jason Parsons, the EDO (ACT) Office Administrator, for his dedication and guidance in all things financial.



Lee Nelson
Treasurer
16 November 2017

Certificate of Compliance

This Schedule is established in respect of the 2016-2017 Financial Year

Organisation: Environment Defenders' Office (ACT) Inc.

Contact Officer: Camilla Taylor, Telephone: 62433460

The above-named Organisation certifies that:

- (i) The Funds have been used for the purpose for which they were provided;
- (ii) The Terms and Conditions of this Agreement have been met; and
- (iii) The Audited Financial Statements in respect of the Funds have been certified by a person who is registered as an auditor in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001* and are attached; and
- (iv) Salaries and allowances paid to people employed using the Funds are in accordance with award salary rates or the general rates in force at the Organisation.

SIGNED for and on behalf of the
Environment Defenders' Office (ACT) Inc.



by Roland Manderson



in the presence of Lee Nelson
21 November 2017

ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS OFFICE (ACT) INC.

COMMITTEE'S REPORT

Your committee members submit the financial statements of the Environmental Defenders Office (ACT) Inc. for the financial year ended 30 June 2017.

Committee Members

The names of committee members throughout the financial period and at the date of this report are:

S Bell	1 July 2016 – 11 May 2017
K Chambers	1 July 2016 - 30 June 2017
K Gosier	1 July 2016 - 30 June 2017
G Ho	1 July 2016 - 30 June 2017
D Nesbitt	1 July 2016 - 30 June 2017
J Parsons	1 July 2016 - 30 June 2017
J Pitts	1 July 2016 - 22 November 2016
R Manderson	1 July 2016 - 30 June 2017
L Nelson	1 July 2016 - 30 June 2017

Principal Activity

The principal activity of the Environmental Defender's Office (ACT) Inc. during the financial period has been the provision of a public legal aid service on environmental matters.

Significant Changes

No significant change has occurred in the nature of the Environmental Defender's Office (ACT) Inc.'s activities during the financial period other than an increase in the fundraising activities.

Operating Result

The operating profit NIL.

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

Roland Manderson
Committee member (Chair)
21 November 2017

Lee Nelson
Committee member (Treasurer)
21 November 2017

**ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDER'S
OFFICE (ACT) INC.**

ABN 32 636 009 247

FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

30 JUNE 2017

Environmental Defender's Office ACT

GPO Box 574
Canberra ACT 2601

Surplus & Loss

July 2016 To June 2017

	2017	2016
Income		
Grant Income		
Commonwealth Grants	-	-
ACT Grants	58,979	-
Law Society ACT grant	14,814	19,432
Cheque Account Interest	2	6
Term Deposit Interest	368	764
Membership	40	20
Donations	9,396	19,012
Fundraising	-	5,005
ACT Environmental Law Handbook	150	-
External Activities	28,000	29,000
Total Income	<u>111,749</u>	<u>73,243</u>
Gross Surplus	<u>111,749</u>	<u>73,243</u>
Expenses		
Leave Taken To Be Cleared	1,538	-
Salaries Solicitor Paid	48,269	86,808
Provision Solicitor Rec Leave	2,256	-
Super Expense EDO Staff	4,560	8,068
Workers Compensation Insurance	716	1,023
Rent	1,658	6,631
Training	1,251	445
Office Supplies	78	42
Postage	269	287
Printing - Publications	223	5,506
Insurance (not Workers' Comp)	82	50
Audit	100	100
Bank Fees	53	90
Registrar General Fees	41	35
Bookkeeping	4,714	7,168
Membership Fees	385	-
Practising Certificate	414	-
Travel (Not Staff Training)	-	64
Advertising and Publicity	-	861
Forum Costs	-	525
Meeting Expenses	672	109
Sundry Expenses	-	182
Consultancy	-	4,175
Computer Software & Equipment	1,022	1,322
Website	372	564
D'pn Computer Equipment	193	924
Total Expenses	<u>68,866</u>	<u>124,979</u>
Operating Surplus	<u>42,883</u>	<u>- 51,736</u>
Net Surplus/(Loss)	<u>42,883</u>	<u>- 51,736</u>

Environmental Defender's Office ACT

GPO Box 574

Canberra ACT 2601

Balance Sheet

June 2017

	2017	2016
Assets		
Current Assets		
CBA 4609 - Cheque Account	64,282	29,259
Petty Cash	100	58
CBA 3990 - Term Deposit	10,817	20,449
CBA 9358 - Trust Account	1,140	98
Trade Debtors-owed to me	93,500	1,100
Total Current Assets	<u>169,838</u>	<u>50,963</u>
Fixed Assets		
Computer Equipment		
Computer Equipment Original Co	16,369	16,176
Computer Equipment Accum Dep'n	- 16,369	- 16,176
Total Computer Equipment	-	-
Total Fixed Assets	-	-
Total Assets	<u>169,838</u>	<u>50,963</u>
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Credit Card	-	41
Provision For Annual Leave		
Liability Rec Leave -Solicitor	3,795	1,420
Total Provision For Annual Leave	<u>3,795</u>	<u>1,420</u>
PAYG Liability		
PAYG EDO Staff	1,981	3,719
Total PAYG Liability	<u>1,981</u>	<u>3,719</u>
Superannuation Liability		
Super Liability EDO Staff	1,052	2,347
Total Superannuation Liability	<u>1,052</u>	<u>2,347</u>
GST Liability		
GST Liability	6,563	1,292
Total Current Liabilities	<u>13,390</u>	<u>8,819</u>
Grants Received in advance	70,000	-
Total Liabilities	<u>83,390</u>	<u>8,819</u>
Net Assets	<u>86,448</u>	<u>42,145</u>
Equity		
Retained Earnings	43,565	93,517
Current Year Earnings	42,883	- 51,736
Historical Balancing	-	364
Total Equity	<u>86,448</u>	<u>42,145</u>

Environmental Defender's ACT

	2017	2016
Net Suplus/Deficit	0	0
Approved Expenditure from Surplus	0	0
Net Suplus/deficity from previous year	0	0
CLSP Income		
Commonwealth	0	0
State	0	0
Service Generated Income	0	0
Total Income	0	0
CLSP Expense		
Salaries	0	0
Superannuation	0	0
On Costs	0	0
Rent	0	0
Repairs & Maintenance	0	0
Training	0	0
Staff Receruitment	0	0
Communications	0	0
Office Overheads	0	0
Insurance (excluding workers comp)	0	0
Finance and Accounting Fees	0	0
Library, Resources & Subscription	0	0
Travel	0	0
Programming and Planning	0	0
Client Disbursements	0	0
Minor Equipment	0	0
Depreciation	0	0
Other	0	0
Total Operating exoense	0	0
Total CLSP Expenses	0	0
Other Income	0	0

Environmental Defender's Office ACT
30 June 2017
Cashflow Statement

	2017	2016
Receipt	89,349	73,243
Interest	-	
Payments to Suppliers and employees	59,724	34,649
	<u>29,625</u>	<u>38,594</u>
Purchase Property, Plant and equipment	193	
Opening Bank Balance	49,805	88,399
Activities	- 26,433	38,594
Closing Balance	<u>76,238</u>	<u>49,805</u>

Auditors certification

Environmental Defenders' Office (ACT)

(A) I am not a principle, member, shareholder, officer, employee or accountant of the organisation or of a related body corporation as defined in section 9 of the corporations act 2001;

(B) in my opinion, the attached financial statements which comprise a statement of financial position, a statement of financial performance, a statement of cash flows, and notes to the financial statements of the above-mentioned organization (the organisation) for the stated financial year period are:


- based on proper accounts and present fairly in accordance with the applicable accounting standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements in Australia, and
- in accordance with the terms and conditions of the agreement between the organisation and the Commonwealth of Australia dated 1 October 2005, a copy of which has been made available to me, in relation to the provision of community legal services.

(C) the fourth quarter CLSIS funds report, containing details of the organizations transactions for the financial year, including audit adjustments, and the organizations grant position at the beginning and end of the financial year is provided in respect of the funds provided in accordance with the terms and conditions of the agreement referred to in bii above for all funding categories.

This is an unqualified audit report.

Unless written under separate cover, I hereby further certify that, in my opinion, there is no conflict of interest between myself and the organization or its management committee.

Auditors Details

Full Name:	Gary Williams
Name of Company	Rosenfeld Kant & Co
ABN Number	74 057 092 046
Registered Auditor	Yes
Registered No	4019
Signature	
Date:	18.11.2017

Environmental Defender's Office ACT

GPO Box 574
Canberra ACT 2601

The principal 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.

Basis of preparation

In the officers' opinion, the incorporated association is not a reporting entity because there are no users dependent on general purpose financial statements.

These are special purpose financial statements that have been prepared for the purposes of complying with the New South Wales legislation Associations Incorporation Act 2009, the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and associated regulations. The officers have determined that the accounting policies adopted are appropriate to meet the needs of the users.

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and do not take into account changing monetary values. The accrual and going concern basis have been adopted.

Income tax

As the incorporated association is a not-for-profit organisation, it has been granted exemption from the Commissioner of Taxation for payment of income tax.

Revenue recognition

Donations are recognised at the time the pledge is made.

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

Grants and subsidies are recognised as income over the period to which they relate.

Depreciation of property, plant and equipment

Depreciation is calculated on a straight line and diminishing value basis to write off the net cost of each item of property, plant and equipment (excluding land) over its expected useful life. Estimates of remaining useful lives are made on a regular basis for all assets, with annual reassessments for major items.

Trade and other payables

These amounts represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the entity prior to the end of the financial year and which are unpaid. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the entity has a present (legal or constructive) obligation as a result of a past event, it is probable the entity will be required to settle the obligation, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. The amount recognised as a provision is the best estimate of the consideration required to settle the present obligation at the reporting date, taking into account the risks and uncertainties

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of associated GST, unless the GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). In this case it is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of the expense.

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included in BAS receivable or BAS payable.