

2009 – 2010

Annual Report



*A community legal centre working to advance the rights of people
with an intellectual disability in New South Wales*

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A Word from the Chair

I am delighted to introduce this annual report for 2009-10. As usual this year has been a busy and demanding one for IDRS and much has been achieved.

One of the things that I think makes IDRS so special is its focus on leverage of its service through the volunteer and outreach networks and through delivery of its legal services both directly and by way of information, advice, advocacy and support provided to people with intellectual disability, their carers and those providing services to them.

Through this leverage IDRS helps a very large number of people with intellectual disability to ensure that their rights are respected and protected. We do this in a most effective way delivering a maximum return from the funding we rely on. I am proud to note that during the past 12 months through its various services, IDRS has provided direct assistance to more than 800 individuals with intellectual disability, not to mention those impacted through training and systemic change. All of this with a full time equivalent staff of just on 16.

At our meetings, as well as reviewing the progress and performance of the organisation, the Board gets to hear firsthand how IDRS has been able, at an individual level, to make a difference to the lives of people with disability. For us on the Board, this reinforces the reasons we give our time to IDRS.

Most of our funding comes from government grants from state and federal government. We are also grateful for funds from the Public Purpose Fund of the Law Society of NSW which has enabled us to pursue new challenges. IDRS receives invaluable assistance from some of the major Sydney law firms who have generously recognised the value of the work we do providing staff secondments, advice and research as well as pro bono work for our clients. In 2011 and onward we hope that this support will strengthen. It has the potential to make IDRS even more effective in assisting people with intellectual disability, both in scale and scope.

We are dependent on the skills, energy and hard work of our staff, and it is through their endeavours that we are able to achieve these results. On behalf of the Board I want to thank all the staff: legal, CJSN, education, reception, administration, IT and financial support; people who work so hard to ensure we live up to our objectives.

Our volunteers who give their time freely, many making themselves available twenty four hours a day seven days a week, empower IDRS in its work. Their generosity and dedication, as always, has been outstanding.

Continuing to steer and grow IDRS, we rely heavily on the energy, passion and commitment of our Executive Office Janene Cootes, Principal Solicitor Karen Wells and CJSN Manager Alex Faraguna, and the Board is very grateful to them for their achievements.

Finally I would like to thank the other members of the Board for their consistent focus and support. I would like to thank Michelle Pearson who is standing down after many years on the IDRS Board and to note the contribution made by our departing Chair Michael Small who has presided over a particularly successful part of IDRS history in the past four years.

Mike Sprange,

Chair IDRS

About IDRS

Vision, purpose, values & what we do

Introduction

The Intellectual Disability Rights Service (IDRS) is a specialist legal advocacy service for people with an intellectual disability. We work with and for people with an intellectual disability to exercise and advance their rights.

We do this by: providing legal advice, casework and support; advocating for improvements to laws and policies affecting people with intellectual disability; providing assistance to legal and other professionals supporting people with intellectual disability and providing information to service providers and the community about the rights and needs of people with intellectual disability.

IDRS strongly endorses the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The purpose of the Convention is to promote, protect and ensure the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by persons with disabilities.

IDRS is a community legal centre. IDRS receives its main funding from the NSW Department of Ageing, Disability and Home Care and the Commonwealth Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs.

Vision

Our vision is of a society that understands, respects, promotes and safeguards the rights of people with intellectual disability. A society where people with intellectual disability are able to fully exercise their rights.

Purpose

Our purpose is to work alongside people with intellectual disability to achieve our vision of a society where people with intellectual disability are able to fully exercise their rights as valued and respected citizens.

Values

We believe that people with intellectual disability are people first and are valued members of society entitled to:

- live in and be part of a diverse and inclusive community
- live free from discrimination and prejudice
- be provided with the support needed to exercise their rights
- be afforded social justice and equality
- be included in meaningful and empowering ways in matters that affect them
- be treated fairly as citizens including by the criminal justice system
- use mainstream services that meet their individual needs
- support and adjustments by social agencies to minimise their disadvantage as a right and not as the result of pity, charity or the exercise of social control.

We work towards creating a society:

- that is inclusive, supportive and respects individual difference
- that enables the full and effective participation and inclusion of people with intellectual disability
- that respects the inherent dignity and worth of all human beings
- where legislation, services and policies positively support and assist people with intellectual disability

We are an organisation that values:

- active and meaningful participation of people with intellectual disability in all aspects of our work including governance
- feedback about our work
- open communication, accountability, continual learning, innovation and excellence
- working collaboratively with people with intellectual disability and others to achieve our vision
- the integrity, skill and commitment of our staff, volunteers and Board

What We Do

We provide a state-wide service in the following areas:

- Direct legal work: including some casework representing clients, providing legal advice, support and referral to assist people with intellectual disability to get the best possible outcomes when they are involved in the legal system
- Support: providing support persons for people with intellectual disability at court and at police stations
- Law reform and system change: advocating for improvements to laws, practices and policies so that the legal rights and dignity of people with intellectual disability are protected and promoted
- Enhancing the skills of legal and justice professionals: assisting legal and justice professionals to communicate effectively with, and provide quality services to clients with intellectual disability
- Empowering people with intellectual disability: enabling people with intellectual disability to exercise their rights by providing assistance, information and support
- Enhancing support networks: assisting service providers, individuals and the community to better understand the needs of people with intellectual disability and to promote and respect their rights.

Legal Advice and Casework

IDRS delivers legal services by

- Providing free legal advice (or short term legal advocacy) by phone or in person to people with intellectual disability and to others who are calling for legal advice on behalf of a person with intellectual disability. IDRS also provides legal advice to people with acquired brain injury in recognition of the high need and lack of specialised legal services for this group;
- Providing referral to other legal and disability services including referring some clients to pro bono solicitors and barristers who generously give of their time and expertise;
- Providing information, training, resources and advice to lawyers in NSW who act for and assist clients with intellectual disability;
- Providing 24 hour legal advice every day of the week to people with intellectual disability who are in police custody anywhere in NSW via a network of volunteer solicitors;
- Providing legal representation to people with intellectual disability in a limited number of cases

The IDRS legal team comprises a Principal Solicitor and two full time solicitors. After 2 years as Principal Solicitor, Ben Fogarty moved on from IDRS in January 2010. IDRS thanks Ben for his dedication and great contribution to the work of IDRS during this time. Karen Wells took up the position of Principal Solicitor in March coming to IDRS from a background with the Aboriginal Legal Service and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The legal team staffing has been otherwise stable with Ali Craig and Radhika Kumar in the solicitor roles along with Elisabeth Coroneo who provides legal assistance to parents with intellectual disability in their interactions with DOCS and the Children's Court in Child Care and Protection Matters. The legal work of IDRS is greatly enhanced through the generosity of the

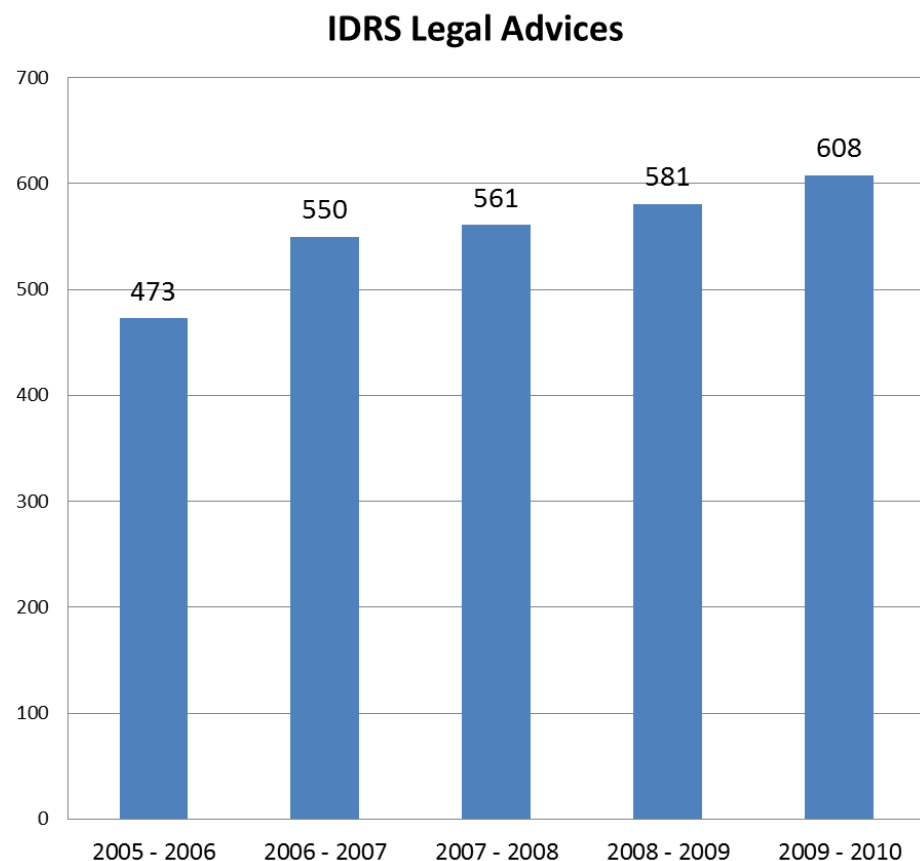
legal firm Blake Dawson in seconding a full-time solicitor to work at IDRS on a 6 monthly rotation. During this year the secondees from Blake Dawson have been Nicole Urban, Gemma Namey and Marie Youssef. Each has brought unique skills and knowledge to the position and to IDRS.

IDRS is fortunate to have the invaluable assistance of volunteer law students who give generously of their time, enthusiasm and skills to IDRS and our clients. This year we would particularly like to thank Liam James, Prianka Nair, Chris Dyer and Julia Foulkes. We wish them well as they launch into their legal careers.

Legal Advice (short term legal advocacy)

During 2009-10 IDRS provided 608 legal advices to people throughout NSW on a wide range of legal issues.

Please note: these numbers do not include legal advice provided to parents with intellectual disability in their dealings with DOCs and Children's Court which are covered in discussion of the Parents with Intellectual Disability in Child Care and Protection matters



Legal advice is provided by qualified solicitors directly to people with intellectual disability and sometimes through other people, such as guardians, family, disability workers or advocates who contact IDRS on behalf of the person with intellectual disability. Wherever possible our solicitors like to speak to the person with a disability as well as the person who may be supporting them.

Our Legal Advice System

When a person contacts IDRS for legal advice they are generally asked for some details of their problem and given an appointment time when one of the IDRS solicitors will contact them or see them in person. This allows the solicitor to do any necessary preparatory work before the call.

Urgent need for legal advice, for example, if the person is in police custody or has an impending court date or where a legal limitation period is about to expire, will be given immediate priority and responded to on the spot or within an hour or two. Through a network of volunteer solicitors, IDRS is able to provide legal advice to people with intellectual disability who have been arrested by the police 24 hours every day of the week. The number for afterhours help at a police station is 1300 665 908.

Being a statewide service we are pleased to report that at least half of our calls for legal advice come from outside the Sydney area so much of our advice work is done over the phone. However, anyone who would prefer to come to the office for legal advice is welcome to do so.

Most IDRS legal advices, particularly if the person does not have someone who can assist them, involve the solicitor in making follow up enquiries, writing letters or seeking further information to get a clear picture of the issue over several weeks as it is often difficult for the person to communicate their full story.

Problem Types – Legal Advice

Many requests for legal advice to IDRS are about criminal matters. This year crime was the identified problem type in 23% of advices.

The combination of IDRS legal advice and the individual support provided at police stations and court through our Criminal Justice Support Network (CJSN) provides vital assistance to people with intellectual disability facing criminal charges. Often in these matters the person will be represented at court by Legal Aid. IDRS solicitors, who have had extensive experience representing people with intellectual disability in local court matters, can provide advice and assistance to solicitors representing these clients. IDRS is only able to represent a limited number of people with intellectual disability at court in criminal matters.

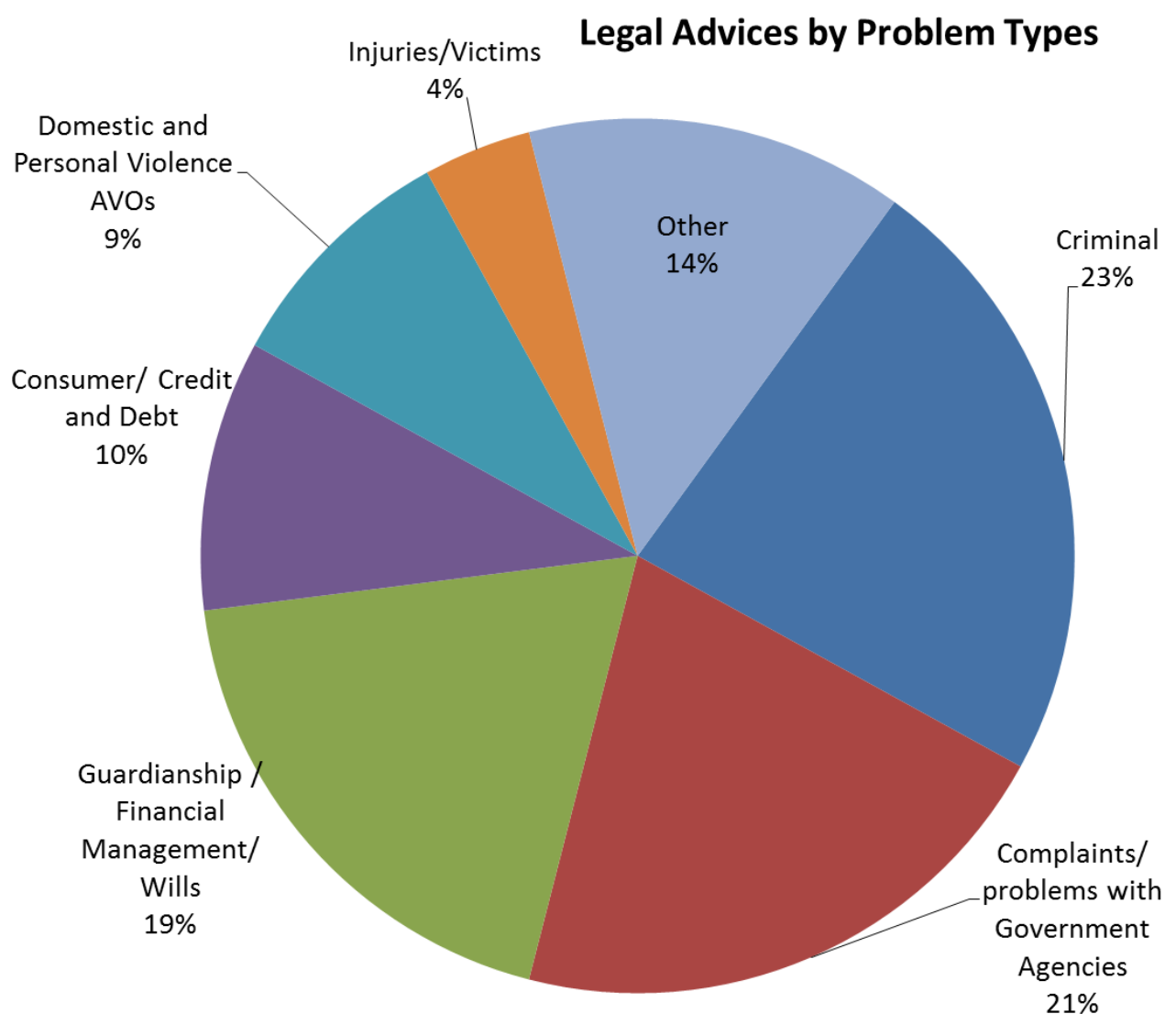
In a further 21% of advices this year the identified problem was a complaint or a difficulty with a government agency. Areas of government service provision that featured prominently in the difficulties of callers were Ageing Disability and Home Care, Police, Education, Medicare and Centrelink. Problems with Community Services are discussed later.

Some recurring problems were taken up at a systemic level with the relevant agency. One example concerns changes to the Continence Aid Payments Scheme which failed to provide a workable system for a person who was unable to deal with the required paperwork due to their disability to be able to claim the benefit. There had been no system provided to enable a carer or advocate to liaise on the person's behalf. To their credit, the Department of Health eventually devised a solution to this issue. In the meantime poor communication, confusion and delay caused a great deal of anxiety and distress to many struggling carers.

Issues relating to guardianship and financial management were a concern for 19% of callers. These included people who sought assistance in having financial management orders revoked or changed or who were subject to exploitation.

Consumer problems and credit and debt accounted for 10% of calls. Common problems were with mobile phone contracts and accumulated fines. Domestic and personal violence and neighbourhood disputes often leading to Apprehended Domestic Violence Orders or Apprehended Personal Violence Orders were a issue in a further 9% of advice calls. People with intellectual disability have problems both as people in need of protection and as those accused of threats and violence in these matters.

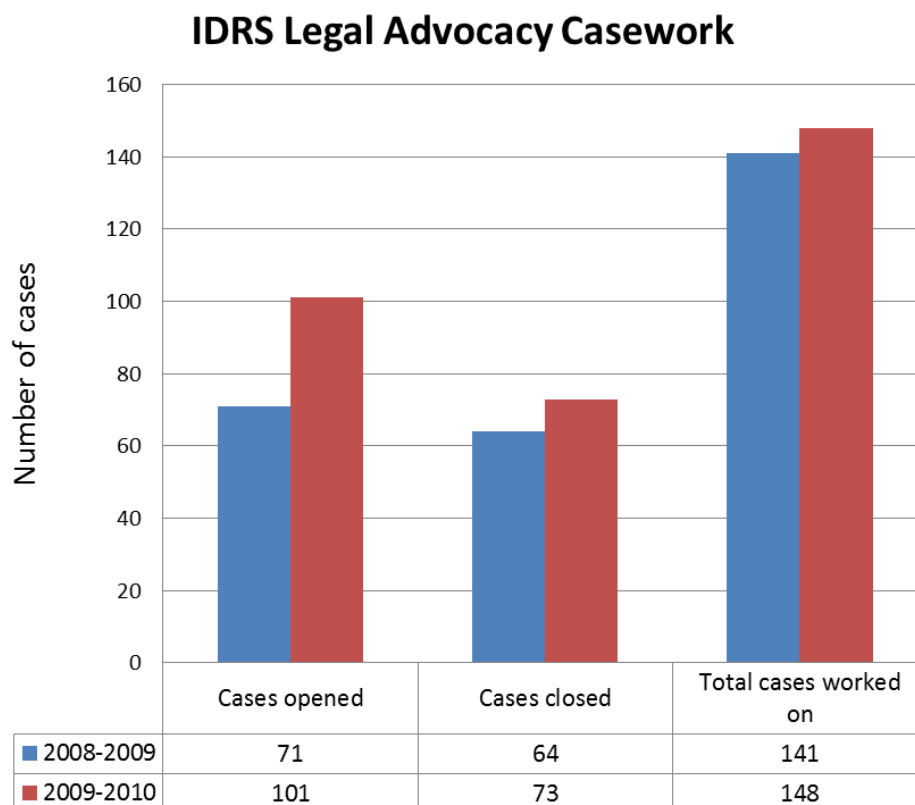
Other legal advices concerned injuries and compensation, employment, tenancy and discrimination.



Legal Casework (longer term legal advocacy)

In 2009-10 IDRS solicitors provided free legal casework and representation to people with intellectual disability in a broad range of legal matters. It is not possible for IDRS to represent people on all legal matters arising from legal advice. Factors considered in deciding which cases have priority to be taken on as an ongoing legal case are:

- The merits of the case and whether it has reasonable prospects of success;
- Whether the person has access to alternate appropriate legal assistance/representation;
- The strategic value and potential for positive systemic outcomes that the case presents for people with intellectual disability;
- Whether IDRS is the most appropriate service to act for a client including whether IDRS is skilled in the particular area of law;
- IDRS capacity to take on the case;
- Any conflict of interest that exists especially IDRS involvement in past matters concerning other parties in the matter



When IDRS cannot provide legal representation directly, we endeavour to link the person to an appropriate alternate source of legal assistance. IDRS is also pleased to provide assistance to other solicitors who are assisting a person with intellectual disability.

This year IDRS has worked on 148 legal cases including 101 new cases opened during the 2009-2010 year.

While IDRS aims to gradually reduce the number of criminal defence matters in the legal team caseload, demand for IDRS representation for people with intellectual disability who are defendants in criminal matters remains extremely high. IDRS continues to have a very high success rate in achieving diversion of clients from the criminal justice system. Criminal matters represent 45% of IDRS legal casework matters this year. Most of these involve representation of defendants in the Local Court. A small proportion (6%) involve assisting people with intellectual disability who have been victims of crime including Victims' Compensation Applications and assisting victims in following up on police reluctance to pursue charges in some matters.

CASE STUDIES 2009-2010

Following are some case studies based on the work of the Legal Team during 2009-2010.

Please note: While these case studies are based on actual cases, identifying details have been changed.

Victims' Compensation

Tanya was recently awarded maximum compensation in a Victim's Compensation Tribunal application. She has intellectual disability and had been sexually assaulted by a family member who was subsequently found guilty on one count of sexual assault. As well as compensation for the matter where there was a conviction, IDRS also successfully argued for compensation for the effect of ongoing sexual assaults over a significant period of time for which there was no conviction.

It can be difficult to achieve a conviction in sexual assault matters where the victim has intellectual disability. It is important to realise that a conviction is not necessary for an application for Victim's Compensation for the harm suffered by the victim to be successful.

Tanya's case is also important because the Victim's Compensation Tribunal accepted evidence of an increase in challenging behaviour as evidence of psychological harm for the purpose of compensation.

You're suing me?

A man injured in a motor vehicle accident while crossing the road spent a significant amount of time in hospital and contacted IDRS when he received a letter of demand from an insurer about damage to the vehicle that collided with him. He didn't really understand the letter but was very worried because he didn't have the money to pay. After follow up and letters from IDRS on behalf of the client, the insurer eventually discontinued the claim.

Communication Breakdown

Branco has significant physical and intellectual disabilities. His brother contacted IDRS after receiving notification of a Guardianship Tribunal hearing about an application for the NSW Trustee to be appointed as financial manager for Branco. A service provider had made the application due to concerns that the family were misusing Branco's pension and savings. Having spoken with the family members and examined the financial records, the IDRS solicitor formed the view that there were clear explanations for the way Branco's money was being managed and that there was no basis to believe that the arrangements were not in his interest. There was no reason to believe that he would benefit from the appointment of the NSW Trustee.

It is important to note that the IDRS client in this matter was Branco and not his brother or any other family member. The solicitor had to assess the matter and be satisfied that she could be involved in promoting Branco's best interest as Branco himself was unable to provide instructions. It seemed that there had been a breakdown in communication between the service and the family and a misunderstanding had developed. The family were of a non-English speaking background and were concerned that they would be unable to present their information effectively at the Guardianship Tribunal Hearing.

The IDRS solicitor made submissions to the Guardianship Tribunal and attended the hearing where the concerns were examined with everyone present. Ultimately, an agreement was reached and the service withdrew their application.

Concerns about the effect of Apprehended Violence Orders (AVO) in Group Homes

Two women with intellectual disability were placed together in a group home some years ago despite known incompatibility. They did not choose to live together. The accommodation provider was aware of the problems at the time but they were accommodated together anyway.

Inevitably problems arose and culminated in one person assaulting the other. The police were called but no charges were laid. A staff member then assisted one of the women to take out an interim AVO against the other who was by then in hospital. The AVO prevented her returning to the home.

IDRS assisted the solicitor acting for the woman against whom the AVO was made. Should she just agree to the AVO? A major issue in this matter was the question of whether the client had capacity even to understand and participate in court proceedings. A subsequent report by a treating psychiatrist indicated that she did not. If a final order were made did the client have any capacity to understand and adhere to the conditions of the order? This seemed unlikely.

In the experience of IDRS, AVO's are regularly sought and made against people with intellectual disability living in group home situations. While safety and protection from harm are of utmost importance for residents, we are concerned at the potential effects of these orders where the defendant lacks capacity. We are also concerned that situations of known incompatibility can result in legal orders against a person with intellectual disability without other avenues being pursued to resolve the problem.

The purpose of an AVO is to deter behaviour that causes fear or harm to another person. The likelihood of compliance with these orders by people who have diminished capacity is poor, due to their disability. The purpose of the order in deterring behaviour is not likely to be achieved. Breaches of the obligations imposed by an AVO result in potential criminal sanctions and may have serious consequences for the person.

In this case, the Local Court decided to make an Apprehended Domestic Violence Order. The people concerned no longer live together. IDRS would like to further explore and test the law on this issue. We would also like to raise discussion with service providers about why so many AVOs are sought in group home situations. The law is a blunt tool to solve such problems. We would like to pursue other solutions.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

Education and Training is a vital part of the work of IDRS. Our education and training has a dual purpose. We aim to develop the knowledge and ability of people with intellectual disability themselves as well as those who assist them – carers, friends, advocates and disability workers – to better recognise and understand legal and human rights and how they can be protected and promoted for people with intellectual disability. We also aim to educate the community, particularly those working in the legal/justice sector about how they can more effectively assist people with intellectual disability in their work.

Our educators are Pan Pemberton and Rachel Spencer (part-time). IDRS also employs people with intellectual disability on a casual basis as co-educators. This year James Condren, Frances Cetinich, Robert Strike and Kim Walker have continued to share their experience, knowledge and insights as co-educators for IDRS and we have been excited to have Danielle Pham and Daniel Ward join us as new co-educators in 2010. Co-educators are involved in most IDRS education and have enormous impact and influence on the people with intellectual disability, volunteers and justice personnel they teach.

Participants	Training Sessions	Total Participants
People with intellectual disability		
Rights Leadership Courses	7 courses	56 people
	44 sessions	
Other training - people with intellectual disability	6	51
Carers/Families	6	91
Disability Service staff		
Dealing with Cops and Court	6	141
Other	5	92
School and TAFE Staff – Using the Getting Arrested Training Kit	4	82
Police Training		
Custody Managers	12	294
Joint Investigative Response Teams	5	79
Other justice agency staff	3	35
TOTAL	90	921

Training for people with Intellectual Disability

The Rights Leadership Course teaches people with intellectual disability about their legal and human rights as well as promoting self advocacy skills to assist participants to stand up for their rights and the rights of others. The course is presented by IDRS educator Pan Pemberton with one of the co-educators. It emphasises the balance between rights and responsibilities which are really about respecting the rights of others. Participants receive a Rights Kit and a Certificate at the conclusion of the course.

Rights Leadership Courses are usually run over six sessions of 2 hours with groups of 6-10 people. Participants get together for a refresher reunion 6 weeks after the course is completed. This year there have been 7 Rights Leadership Courses. There is no cost for this training. However, some assistance with travel costs enables us to take the course to regional areas.

Most Rights Leadership Courses have been conducted in partnership with disability service organisations. This year's courses have been at Karelle Life Enrichment Service Rooty Hill, Job Centre Australia Gosford (2 groups) and Job Centre Australia Wyong; Up and Away Group Sutherland; Eurella Community Services Burwood and Greenacres North Wollongong. We were also pleased to have the opportunity to present two training sessions on Rights and Responsibilities to people with intellectual disability in Dubbo with the assistance of Westhaven Association. IDRS appreciates the support of these organisations in making these courses possible.

In an effort to promote training for people with intellectual disability about what to do if they are ever arrested, our CJSN educator Rachel Spencer has this year trained 82 high school and TAFE teachers in the use of the "Getting Arrested" training kit developed by IDRS in 2004. It is our hope that these educators will use this training with their students.

Families and Carers

IDRS receives regular requests for information to assist families with planning ahead in relation to wills and estate planning. Stephen Booth from Coleman and Greig Solicitors and Anne Cregan from Blake Dawson continue to give generously of their time and expertise in IDRS workshops for families on this important topic. Stephen and Anne are working with IDRS to develop workshops for solicitors to promote better understanding of this area of law. These will commence during 2010.

Disability Services Training

Cops and Courts

Many people with intellectual disability become involved with the criminal justice system. The Cops and Courts training aims to provide disability workers with a very practical understanding of the Criminal Justice System so that they have the confidence and skills to assist people with disability through the system when necessary.

During this year Rachel Spencer and the CJSN Outreach worker Leonie Kirwan have presented this training in Cooma, Coff's Harbour, Port Macquarie and Castle Hill.

Common Legal Issues

Our solicitors and educators have combined to present three one day workshops on Common Legal Issues for People with Intellectual Disability to disability service providers. The content of these workshops reflects the most common legal issues raised by those who seek legal advice from IDRS. Topics include fines, the guardianship and financial management systems, dealing with government and services, assisting victims and defendants in the criminal justice system, understanding AVOs and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.

CJSN volunteer prompts Sheriffs training

A CJSN volunteer raised a concern about a Sheriffs Officer's lack of understanding of a young man's intellectual disability leading to poor treatment of the young man in court. CJSN raised this concern with the Sherriff's Office and offered training for officers to assist them to recognize that someone at court might have an intellectual disability to work more effectively with people with intellectual disability at court. This training has since been provided to a group of Sheriff's Officers. Hopefully a win-win for everyone.

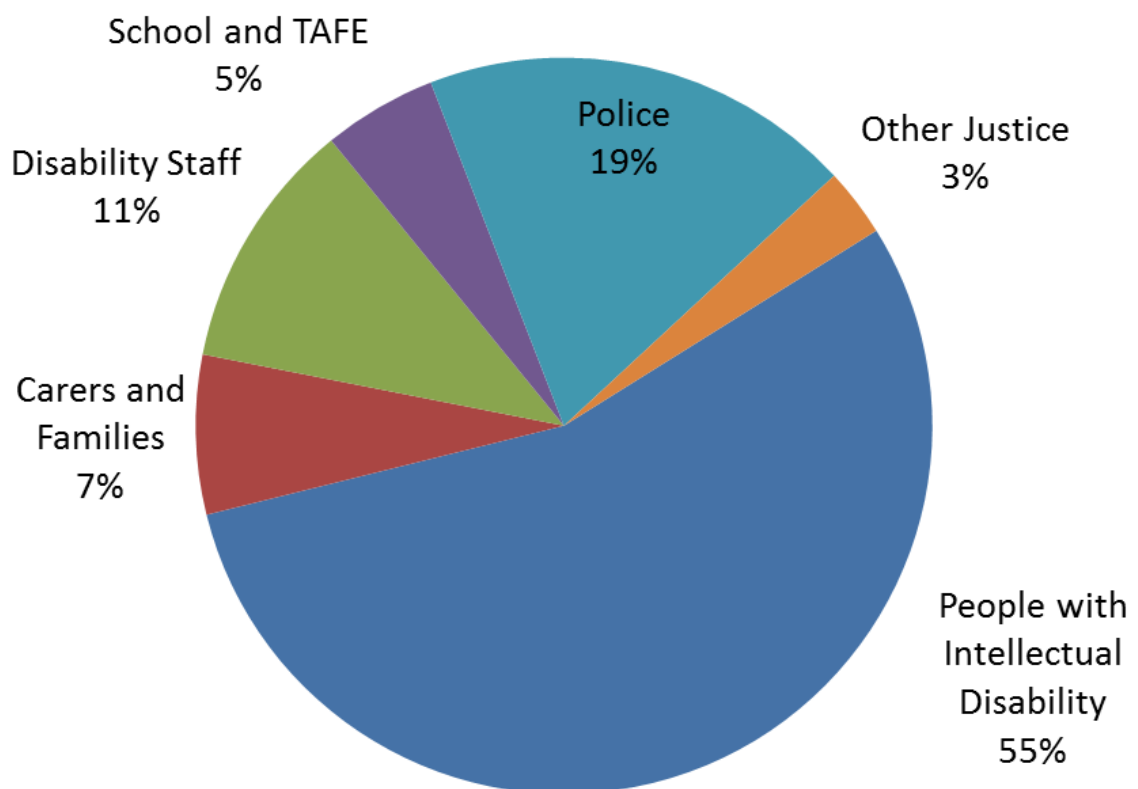
Justice Sector Training

Training of police continues to be a priority for IDRS. During this year IDRS has participated in the training of 294 police undertaking the Safe Custody Course at Hurstville and Goulburn.

While we have observed some improvement, police failure to recognise that a person has an intellectual disability and then to adjust police practice, for example by calling a support person for those in police custody continues to present a challenge.

IDRS provides training to Department of Community Services officers and police who are undertaking training to work on the Joint Investigative Response Teams which investigate serious child abuse.

Training Sessions Provided to...



Criminal Justice Support Network

The Criminal Justice Support Network (CJSN) provides support persons for people with intellectual disability when they come into contact with the criminal justice system as defendants, victims or witnesses of crime. Support is provided at police stations, court, interviews with legal representatives, juvenile justice conferencing, community sentencing forums and court ordered mediations.

CJSN has regional co-ordinators based in Sydney, Newcastle, Wollongong, and in Gosford. The co-ordinators recruit, manage and support networks of volunteers throughout greater Sydney (from Katoomba to Campbelltown); Newcastle, Hunter Valley and Taree; Wollongong, Nowra, Bateman's Bay and also the Central Coast. The coordinators also follow-up on the needs of clients, liaise with their legal representatives and search out and refer to services that may be able to assist.

CJSN makes every effort to arrange support for people with intellectual disability in other areas of the state but with current resources, is limited in its ability to achieve this goal.

CJSN relies on a network of trained and dedicated volunteers to provide most supports to people with intellectual disability at court and at police stations.

CJSN Staffing

CJSN is managed by Alex Faraguna who is based in the Sydney Office. Rachel Spencer is the CJSN educator working part-time. Sydney region has two part time co-ordinators, Mitch Fraser and Joanne Karcz, each working 3 days per week. Corinna Nolan is the coordinator in the Wollongong/Shoalhaven region. Kathy Speers very ably filled this role for 5 months of this year during Corinna's absence. Kenn Clift coordinates Newcastle/ Hunter/Taree working 4 days per week while Rory Brooks is based at Central Coast Disability Network in Gosford 20 hours per week managing the Central Coast region. The CJSN Outreach Worker, Leonie Kirwan finished up with CJSN on 30 June 2010 after 5 years in the position. CJSN is supported by casual administrative staff for 6 – 8 hours per week in each region except in the Central Coast and shares administrative support and resource development staff with other IDRS projects.

CJSN Support Statistics

Court Related Supports

Year	2007-08	2008-09	2009-2010
Court support defendants	468	809	947
Court support witnesses	56	56	55
Legal appointments	*	*	97
Other (mediation/ juvenile conferencing/ parole)	*	*	8
Total	524	865	1107

** included with court support statistics*

Police related supports

Year	2007-08	2008-09	2009-2010
Police support defendants	46	44	67
Police support witnesses	22	21	26
Total	68	65	93

Increasing Demand and Activity for CJSN

The past year has seen growth in all areas of CJSN activities. As in previous years, the vast majority of CJSN supports are for defendants in court. During 2009-10 there has been a 28% growth in court supports provided. Our statistics show that, on average, a CJSN volunteer is present with a person with intellectual disability in at least 4 courts in NSW every court sitting day of the year. They are also present in the prisons with defendants with intellectual disability as they attempt to make sense of court over audio-visual links.

These volunteers are the eyes and ears of the service and provide a wealth of knowledge and understanding of the experience of people with intellectual disability in the criminal justice system in NSW.

We can also report a 55% increase in supports at police stations for people with intellectual disability who have been arrested over the past year. However, it is still the case that most of the defendants CJSN supports at court have not had the benefit of a support person when they were arrested. We hope that the growth in police station support will continue.

The continuing growth in demand for supports places great pressure on the resources of CJSN, particularly in Sydney where growth has been greatest.

Sydney is the busiest region due to the high number of courts and higher population; with court supports expanding dramatically.

Support provided by staff and volunteers

During 2009–10, CJSN coordinators have worked hard to increase the proportion of supports provided by volunteers rather than staff. This is the only way that the service can continue to meet demand. Averaged over the whole service 70% of supports are provided by volunteers.

In Sydney where demand is greatest, 552 supports or 92% of the total, have been provided by volunteers this year. This is a huge achievement by the Sydney coordinators. It is difficult to envisage that the proportion of supports provided by volunteers can increase much further in Sydney as the complexity and immediacy of some supports mean that staff involvement is necessary.

Use of volunteers has grown in all regions:

Region	Total Supports	Supports by volunteers	% Supports by volunteers
Sydney	599	552	92%
Newcastle/Hunter	278	228	82%
Wollongong/ Shoalhaven	231	146	63%
Central Coast	80	34	43%
Outreach	41		

CJSN's 24-hour service

CJSN provides a 24 hour/7 day per week service for people with intellectual disability who need support at a police station. This service also links these clients to legal advice from volunteer solicitors. CJSN staff are rostered to manage after hours calls one week in six.

Due to the high number of inappropriate calls received after hours often from people without intellectual disability looking for legal services, a new system of responding to calls was put in place in February 2010. Callers now initially go to message bank which is checked immediately and appropriate calls are responded to. This has meant that many more calls answered are relevant to CJSN and more often result in support being provided.

Total After Hours Calls	376
Calls that initiated a police station support	42
Calls that initiated a court support	21

Regions

Illawarra/ Shoalhaven

The CJSN office relocated to new premises in July 2009. The office space is shared with a private psychologist, which reduces the rent and helps a little with the isolation that can stem from working alone in an office.

Regional Coordinator, Corinna Nolan took extended leave to travel overseas and Kathy Speers acted as Regional Coordinator from February, with Deihan Paulson as Administrative Assistant. In Corinna's absence, Kathy and Deihan did a great job of running the service.

Hunter

Due to local demand and interest in the service, CJSN Hunter region has extended to Taree with volunteers being trained and ready to provide both police station and court support in the area during this year.

The Hunter Regional Coordinator made a successful funding submission to the Co-operative Legal Services Delivery (CLSD) fund. The funding paid for Mental Health First Aid training for volunteers and staff as well as other CLSD partners. The training was delivered in Newcastle and in Taree in May, by John Sharples, the Clinical Nurse Consultant based at Newcastle court. This training would not have been possible without the support of the local CLSD.

Sydney

The year's main theme for Sydney has been the rapidly continuing growth of the service, particularly court support for defendants which has expanded by 59% compared with last year. Part of the increase is the high demand for support for clients appearing in court from correctional centres via audio-visual link.

Police station supports in Sydney have also grown by 50% in the past year.

The Regional Coordinators are finding it a major challenge to maintain a high quality of service as the number of supports rises, and to support and retain volunteers. As previously discussed the level of usage of volunteers to meet the demand is unlikely to expand much further. We continue to try to find ways of meeting this challenge. However, without additional staff resources, CJSN in Sydney, will not be able to meet the continuing demand on its service.

Central Coast

IDRS took over the provision of pilot project providing police station and court support on the Central Coast at the request of the Central Coast Disability Network (CCDN) in 2008. CCDN had received funding from the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW for a pilot project trialling a corporate model of volunteering and partnering with local disability organisations who agreed to volunteers, from amongst their staff, providing court and police station supports as part of their employment. When it took over this project CJSN expanded the service beyond the scope of the original project funding. This was made possible by a donation from the Staff Charity Committee of Blake Dawson. The Law and Justice Foundation funding has long since expired.

Evaluation of the Corporate Volunteering Pilot Project on the Central Coast

An evaluation of the pilot project was completed in November 2009. An analysis of the potential advantages and disadvantages to various stakeholders was conducted.

While twelve organisations had originally expressed interest in partnering with CCDN in a corporate volunteer arrangement, when the new CJSN Coordinator, Rory Brooks revisited these agencies only three organisations Sunnyfield, Life without Barriers (LWB) and the Central Coast Disability Network (CCDN) were able to provide commitment to donating staff time to CJSN supports. Factors including competing priorities; insufficient staffing to consider being able to donate any time, or the perception that the role was not within their agency's scope were barriers for the non-participating agencies.

Ultimately, Sunnyfield agreed to donate 8 hours per volunteer a total of 40 hours per month; Life without Barriers agreed to donate 10 hours per month per volunteer a total of 50 hours per month; the Central Coast Disability Network agreed to donate 8 hours per month per volunteer a total of 8 hours per month.

These agencies demonstrated flexibility and sensitivity to client needs when considering whether to participate in the project and are to be commended for their commitment and generous donation of staff hours to CJSN's clients. CJSN is grateful for their support.

The evaluation of the project included:

- Ongoing service quality evaluation from start of pilot – support statistics and other activities reported on monthly, supervision by CJSN manger
- Data collection
- Structured interviews with various stakeholders, including the CJSN Coordinator, the CEO of the Central Coast Disability Network, managers of agencies participating in the corporate volunteering project, clients of the project and their carers, corporate volunteer support persons, solicitors representing people with intellectual disability at court

Seventy four supports were provided to clients during the pilot. The majority of supports, 66%, were with defendants at court, consistent with CJSN experience in other regions. Of the total supports, only 11% were provided by corporate volunteers while the remainder were provided by the CJSN Regional Coordinator or by other volunteers.

A total of 11 corporate volunteers were trained – 5 for police station support and 6 for court support. Despite extensive promotion and training with police on the Central Coast, the take up of using CJSN to provide support persons at police stations has been disappointing. Since almost half the corporate volunteers had been trained for this role, the low referral rate from the police and short notice for supports resulted in very few viable opportunities for the volunteers to provide police station support.

CJSN found that, despite the best of intentions, corporate volunteering agencies were generally unable to release staff due to the demands of their own work, particularly when supports were required at short notice.

It became clear that the service could not rely on corporate volunteering from disability agencies alone and therefore additional community volunteers were recruited.

Benefits of the corporate volunteering model identified by the evaluation were that the corporate volunteers are highly skilled and experienced, and provided high quality support. An added bonus was that their knowledge of services in the local area meant that they were able to refer in an appropriate and timely manner to other services to assist clients in various areas of need. Having corporate volunteers also helped to raise the profile of CJSN amongst disability and legal services on the Central Coast and raised awareness in participating agencies of legal needs of their clients.

Participating agencies identified that their staff gained additional skills which could contribute to their own agency's work. Individual corporate volunteers identified new skills gained that were readily transferable to their current and future workplaces as well as job satisfaction in being able to help people in stressful situations which can have a considerable negative impact on the person's life.

Very few disadvantages were identified for any stakeholder group, with benefits outweighing difficulties. The significant difficulty identified with the model was with the availability of corporate volunteers due to the workloads of the volunteering agencies and the difficulty in being able to guarantee release of staff, particularly at short notice.

While the corporate volunteering model produces positive outcomes for all stakeholders, the pilot suggests that corporate volunteering alone is insufficient to sustain an effective court and police station support service. Recruitment of community volunteers is also necessary in order to meet client demand.

CJSN has continued to operate a service on the Central Coast with coordinator Rory Brooks being hosted by Central Coast Disability whose assistance is greatly appreciated. Financially maintaining the service on the Central Coast is a continuing challenge. The Central Coast Cooperative Legal Services Delivery program has provided a funding grant of \$5,600 to assist CJSN to recruit and train additional volunteers in the area and to meet the expenses of these volunteers in providing court and police station support.

Outreach

Unfortunately, CJSN does not have sufficient funding to establish regional services across the State. During this year, CJSN Outreach worker Leonie Kirwan has continued to promote the needs of people with intellectual disability in regional areas outside those area covered by CJSN. Through networks and sheer determination Leonie has been able to arrange support person for 40 people during this year. We recognise that the Outreach strategy of training disability workers in regional areas in the hope that they might be able to provide support to people referred to CJSN for court or police station support is not adequate. While willing, many of the workers trained were not able to be available as a support person when called upon.

During the coming year CJSN will work to recruit and train volunteers in a few selected areas of the state rather than focussing our support training on disability workers across NSW. Sadly after 5 years leading the CJSN outreach effort, Leonie Kirwan will not be here to help us with this task as she retires from her position on 30 June.

Dunghutti Community Justice Group, Kempsey, Court and Police Support Training Pilot

One of the highlights of the year was piloting training for Aboriginal Justice Groups.

Following Tom Calma's report on Indigenous young people with cognitive disabilities, CJSN contacted the Kempsey Dunghutti Community Justice Group, one of approximately 20 Aboriginal Community Justice Groups in NSW, managed by the Department of Justice and Attorney General. These are local groups of Aboriginal people who come together to develop ways to address local law and justice issues.

Kempsey was targeted as it has the highest number of young Aboriginal people in NSW who are most at risk of being involved with the criminal justice system. Furthermore, young Aboriginal

people in the criminal justice system are 4 – 5 times more likely to have a cognitive disability than the general population. CJSN offered to assist with training of local people to be able to support people within their community in criminal justice system.

The Outreach worker attended four meetings with the Dunghutti Community Justice Group, allowing the group to 'size up' the Outreach worker and CJSN and providing the Outreach worker with a better understanding of local issues within the Aboriginal community. A good rapport was steadily built and the detail of training was worked out.

It was agreed that a 'train the trainer model' be recommended. This was readily agreed to by the Dunghutti group who indicated they would like to take the training to other Aboriginal Community Justice Groups. This approach to training would also give the Dunghutti group ownership of future training. CJSN/IDRS would provide the initial training and mentoring. CJSN/IDRS would cover the cost of training while Dunghutti would provide venue and catering. An important part of the initial agreement was that this would be a pilot program which could be modified.

Of most concern was how volunteers would feel about past and existing issues involving the police. It was agreed that this needed to be raised early in training so people could raise any concerns and discuss how best to deal with these ever present challenges. It was acknowledged that there was a power imbalance between the police and the Aboriginal people of Kempsey. To help overcome this, the group discussed the idea that 'knowledge was power' and in a police custody area, volunteers needed to have as much knowledge as the custody manager on the rights of vulnerable people.

Another important modification was the sensitive issue of intellectual disability. Aboriginal communities are inclusive of people with disabilities. On this basis it was decided that intellectual disability would not be emphasised but training would simply stress that both people with disabilities and Aboriginal people are disadvantaged in the Australian community and both groups are classified as 'vulnerable people' with regard to their rights while in police custody.

There were many obstacles and delays in completing the training. Later, the co-ordinator said that many of the people who had wanted to train as police station support people didn't understand that they would need to be on call at night. This was difficult for them as most had health, family caring or transport problems. Ultimately, a group of 10 participants completed training and were enthusiastic and keen to commence work as police station support volunteers.

Evaluations were extremely positive with comments such as 'an eye opener', 'knowledge is power', 'a steep learning curve', and 'excellent'. The training, provided by educator Rachel Spencer, was innovative and well received by participants. This pilot was instructive and very worthwhile. CJSN were also on a steep learning curve and many lessons were learned.

The project proved that the knowledge, skill and experience that CJSN and IDRS have amassed, are unique, valuable and transferrable to other vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in our community.

Volunteers

At the end of June 2010, CJSN had a total of 90 volunteers across the four regions. Sydney, Wollongong and Hunter recruited new police and court volunteers during the year and streamlined their interview, training and support methods. Volunteer refreshers and get togethers have been held regularly to keep volunteers up-to-date, provide extra training, encourage peer support and strengthen the volunteer community.

There has been a shift towards training volunteers who are experienced in providing court support to do police supports. People already trained in court support have some experience with our clients in a less risky and fraught situation and can easily be kept busy with a combination of court and police supports.

We are proud to report that Jillian McCarthy won the Regional Volunteer of the Year Award for the Western Region.

Volunteer Training

During this year court support training has been provided to an additional 38 volunteers in Gosford, Taree, Wollongong, Penrith and Newcastle. While police station support training has occurred in Sydney, Wollongong and Taree for 19 new volunteers. Each of these courses involves a two day commitment by the new volunteers.

Juvenile Justice

This year stronger links have been forged with Juvenile Justice in terms of awareness of and referrals to CJSN, utilising support persons at JJ conferencing, and the introduction of the Bail Assistance Line.

Regular meetings with stakeholder agencies

CJSN has continued to hold bi-annual meetings with Statewide Disability Services (Corrective Services) staff and quarterly meetings with staff at ADHC's Community Justice Program. These meetings aim to discuss arising issues and streamline ways in which the agencies work together.

Queensland Advocacy Inc.

The Justice Support Coordinator from Queensland Advocacy Inc. spent two days with the CJSN Manager in December, learning how CJSN operates, with a view to establishing a similar service in Queensland.

Sexual assault project funded by the Corrective Services Victims of Violent Crime Fund

Resources have been developed to be used by the members of NSW police when dealing with people with intellectual disability reporting sexual assault. Initial research indicated that frontline police officers were one of the major barriers for people with intellectual disability in reporting sexual assault. The resource pack includes a poster, a booklet and a referral checklist. These are to be incorporated into existing police procedures and be distributed to all police stations in NSW, highlighted in the monthly police journal and added to the police intranet.

Reference group

The reference group has continued to meet and discuss ideas around some of CJSN's major projects and issues.

Reference group members include:

- Pam Olsoen, Attorney General's Department
- Kathy Saul Acting Manager Additional Support Unit, Corrective Services
- Susan Laguna, Multicultural Disability Advocacy Association of NSW
- Judy Hunt, Office of the Public Guardian
- Julia Haraksin/Jenna McNab, Diversity Services, *Department of Justice and Attorney General NSW*
- Kelly Fishburn, ADHC CJP
- Superintendent Robert Redfern, NSW Police
- Denise Hanley, Juvenile Justice
- James Condren, NSW Council for Intellectual Disability

Special Thanks Go To...

Leonie Kirwan for her years of service to CJSN

Jillian McCarthy who has made herself available throughout the year to help the Sydney CJSN region by filling in for staff when they are on leave.

Jenny Mackelin at the Central Coast Disability Network – for the support they have given the Central Coast office.

Detective Inspector Paul Jacob at the NSW Police Sex Crimes Squad for his assistance and support of the sexual assault project

Reference group members for their ongoing commitment and input into CJSN planning and projects.

Our biggest and most important thanks go to the volunteers who make the service possible and so effective. To the volunteer solicitors who are willing to be woken at night to give advice to people who have been arrested and to the 90 exceptional support volunteers who are so generous with their time and patience and skills. You make such a personal difference to the experience and often outcomes which people with intellectual disability have in the criminal justice system.

Parents with Intellectual Disability Project

About the Project

The Project for Parents with Intellectual Disability in Care and Protection proceedings is a 3 year project funded by the Public Purpose Fund of the Law Society of NSW. The overall aim of the project is to improve justice for parents with intellectual disability by addressing the disadvantage they experience in the Child Care and Protection System through:

- The provision of legal and non-legal advice and casework to parents with intellectual disability and their support network regarding care and protection matters.
- The piloting of a court support program for parents
- The development of accessible information for parents with intellectual disability about child protection and their rights and responsibilities.
- The provision of training and information regarding parenting with intellectual disability to key stakeholders such as lawyers, magistrates and child protection workers.

The project employs a Support and Development Worker, Dr Margaret Spencer who works 4 days per week and a solicitor, Elisabeth Coroneo, who works 3 days per week.

Advice & Casework

The tables that follow outline the number of legal and non-legal advices and cases dealt with by the Project in 2009–2010 financial year.

Many requests for legal advice and casework have involved parents who have already had Final Orders made in the NSW Children's Court. Some are seeking advice due to concerns about the standard of care being provided to their children in out of home care. Others want advice about the failure on the part of Community Services and NGO foster care agencies to comply with Contact Orders or to provide information to the parents about the welfare of their children. Parents express confusion and frustration with the process and outcome of their court matters.

Legal Advice	37
Legal Cases	33
Non-legal Advice	8
Non-legal Casework	13

What is poignantly evident with this group of parents is the ongoing experience of powerlessness, grief and loss. Once Final Orders are made in the NSW Children's Court, parents have very little legal recourse.

We have found that advice and casework, have been most effective when parents are referred to our project prior to giving birth. Early involvement has enabled us to work with the parent or parents, their support network, service providers and Community Services to facilitate more considered intervention by Community Services.

Lila was pregnant with her first child. She has a history of mental health problems and intellectual disability. She had a good history of engaging with support services. Her disability and mental health workers had been trying to get assistance from Community Services well before the birth. They felt Community Services were blocking referrals to support services to assist Lila with the baby. Community Services seemed to think there was no point making referrals as they were going to court to have the baby removed when it was born.

Lila's mental health worker called IDRS. The IDRS solicitor wrote to Community Services reminding them of their obligations under the legislation and invited Community Services to contact IDRS to discuss concerns they had about Lila's ability to parent or Lila's parenting support needs. Community Services responded positively admitting they did not know much about intellectual disability and invited training for their officers.

Lila went home from hospital with her baby. No court application was filed and Community Services helped line up support services.

Intervention by the project's support and development worker has also helped to achieve positive outcomes in some cases.

Note- The cases studies are based on actual cases; while the families involved have given consent for their stories to be used, some identifying details have been changed.

A Change of Plan – Give Them a Chance

Matt and Wendy both have intellectual disability. They have been in a stable and loving relationship for 8 years. They decided to start a family. Matt's parents were supportive of their decision and willing to lend a hand as they lived nearby.

During the pregnancy their baby boy, "Toby" was found to have a significant congenital abnormality. They were given the option to terminate the pregnancy. They chose not to. When Toby was born he required immediate and subsequent surgery. Matt and Wendy were constantly

by his side willing him to live. Matt and Wendy worked as a team. They readily took advice from nursing and medical staff and put into practice what they were taught so as to care for Toby.

After 6 weeks sitting by their son's crib day and night, they were visited by Community Services. A report had been made questioning Matt and Wendy's capacity to care for Toby and Community Services were planning to assume care of Toby.

IDRS was contacted. Margaret Spencer visited the couple to discuss their rights as well as to explore what support they may need. With the parent's permission, she spoke with all stakeholders, allayed fears, corrected assumptions and encouraged them to think positively and laterally about supporting the family.

Community Services agreed to give Matt and Wendy "a chance". A staged transition was planned from hospital to home via a short stay with Matt's parents.

After a few months with Matt's parents, Matt and Wendy decided to return home with Toby. Matt's parents supported this move confident that Matt and Wendy were attentive to Toby's needs. Community Service rejected this proposal stating they would start care proceedings if Matt and Wendy left the paternal grandparents' residence. Matt's mother contacted IDRS again. Margaret Spencer met with Matt and Wendy, health professionals and community workers involved with the family and managers and caseworkers at the local Community Services Centre. Once again she allayed fears and encouraged them to think positively and laterally about supporting the family.

Soon after Matt, Wendy and Toby went back to live in their own home. Toby has had some medical emergencies unrelated to his care and these were handled promptly and appropriately by his parents.

When Toby was 7 months old, a case conference was called by Community Services. The family asked Margaret Spencer to attend. Margaret advocated that the family's Child Protection file be closed and the family be treated like any other family caring for a child with special needs. This proposal was agreed upon by all in attendance. Matt and Wendy and Toby are no longer clients of Community Services and doing well.

Court Support Pilot

The Court Support Pilot was launched at the beginning of March 2010 at Campbelltown Children's Court. The Pilot provides support to parents with intellectual disability involved in care proceedings in order to compensate for the disadvantage they experience. It is the Project's aim not only to demonstrate the value of supporting parents with intellectual disability in care proceedings but to identify practices in the system which work against parents with intellectual disability in order to lobby for systemic change. The Pilot will run until June 2011.

The initial plan was to recruit and train a group of volunteer support workers who could accompany parents to court, meetings with Community Services and legal appointments to assist them to communicate effectively with the various stakeholders, to understand their situation and the process they are going through and to advocate for fair treatment.

The plan has changed for several reasons. Despite an extensive and well advertised recruitment drive volunteers were not forthcoming. Also it soon became apparent that the support required by parents was more complex and challenging than could be expected of a volunteer. Early experience in supporting parents taught us that the emotional toll not only of sadness but also of anger at the experience of these parents may be an unacceptable burden to place on volunteers. Support has been provided by staff.

Since the commencement of the Court Support Pilot, IDRS has worked in collaboration with the disability advocacy organization People With Disability (PWD). Using temporary disability advocacy brokerage funds made available through Information on Disability and Education Awareness (IDEAS), PWD has been able to dedicate an advocate 2.5 days a week to work with parents referred by the IDRS Court Support Pilot. The availability of this advocate, Orna Marks, has been an invaluable support to the project and the parents she has worked with in this project.

The story of one couple IDRS met through the Court Support Pilot

For parents with intellectual disability the possibility of losing their child is always in the forefront of their minds. Even parents who are doing well know that their capacity to parent will come under question. They live with the fear that DOCS will come knocking on their door.

Mike and Jenny had their hands full caring for their three children all under the age of five. They knew that they were being watched. Community Services had been involved since their first child started at child care and questions were posed regarding the parents' capacity.

From Jenny's point of view, when Community Services found out that they were expecting their fourth child "they were angry with us, thought we were irresponsible...from then on everything we did was not good enough."

When Jenny was five months pregnant she developed gestational diabetes. Community Services removed the three children and commenced care proceedings. Mike recalls being scared about going into court alone, he couldn't read the pile of documents given to him. He was scared about "having to go in the witness box". Mike's legal representative offered him an out. He had a Guardian ad Litem appointed. Jenny was unwell and in hospital and was unable to attend court. Before they knew it, the matter was settled, Final Orders were made giving Parental Responsibility for the three children to the Minister for Community Services until they each reach 18 years of age.

And Margaret Spencer's experience in assisting these parents at court...

Jenny gave birth to their fourth child, a son, the first week of the Court Support Pilot. Jenny and Mike arrived at the Court unsupported. IDRS Support & Development Worker, Margaret Spencer, offered assistance at the court. Jenny had had a caesarean section four days prior. Community Services had assumed care of their son straight after birth.

Jenny was in pain and Mike looked worn-down. Interim Orders were made in favour of Community Services. Both parents wept inconsolably.

As we left court, they asked if they could see their baby before he was taken from the hospital. The response of the Community Service worker was, "Only if you get to the hospital before we do!" Mike said, "We don't have the money to get back!" The workers response, "that's your problem!" I was crushed by the heartlessness.

I organized a taxi and got them to the hospital before the Community Service workers arrived. I met with the Special Care Nursery Staff and rallied their support to enable Mike and Jenny to dress their baby and say goodbye. We took photos and they had some time alone.

Afterwards I offered to drive them home. Mike and Jenny explained they were now homeless because they had lost their house when the three children were removed. What I discovered was that no one had explained to Mike and Jenny about having their public housing rent recalculated based on their reduced income after the removal of the children. Mike and Jenny didn't understand the letters that arrived from the Tenancy Tribunal and before they knew it they were evicted. Not only had they lost their children then, they had lost their home.

Education & Awareness Raising

In the early days of the project, Margaret Spencer was consulted by Community Services about the review of training module on parents with disability in the Community Services Care and Protection Caseworker Training. Margaret has extensive experience in training in this field and offered to re-write the curriculum, an offer which Community Services accepted. Despite enquiries, we do not know how much of Margaret's work has been taken up in the training module.

In the past year, the project has had the opportunity to promote knowledge and awareness about parents with intellectual disability. Elizabeth Coroneo presented information about the Project as well the issues confronting parents with intellectual disability at several Keeping them Safe Seminars including a presentation to the staff of the newly formed Wellbeing Units.

Margaret Spencer presented at the Australian New Zealand Association of Psychiatry, Psychology and Law 2009 Conference. She also gave the Keynote Lecture at this year's NSW Children's Law Conference attended by magistrates, lawyers and clinicians working in the NSW Children's Court. Margaret has also given several in-services to Child Protection managers in Community Services Centres in South West Sydney.

Systemic Advocacy

The Project has been in dialogue with the NSW Ombudsman about issues for parents with intellectual disability in the child care and protection system. We have also met with the Legal Branch of the Department of Justice and Attorney General about parents with intellectual disability and possible adjustments to the Guardian ad Litem Program.

The Project has chaired meetings with other agencies aware and interested in the plight of parents who have their parental rights terminated.

Challenges and Priorities for the Project in the next 12 months

- Continuing to assist parents with intellectual disability through legal advice and support
- Directing energies to systemic advocacy and lobbying
- Focusing on training for stakeholders
- Developing accessible resources for parents and professionals

Law Reform & Systems Change

Consultation and Submission to the Shadow Report on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

On 28 January 2010 IDRS held a consultation day with current and former clients to hear their views on the Government's protection of their human rights. The purpose of the consultation was to collect submissions for inclusion in the Shadow Report to the United Nations on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). The CRPD is an international human rights treaty which outlines the human rights of persons who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments.

The consultation took place at Redfern Town Hall and 17 clients attended on the day. Gemma Namey, the current Blake Dawson secondee at IDRS, gave a presentation on the CRPD and human rights and conducted a workshop on human rights in our lives. Blake Dawson summer clerks (final year law students) then assisted clients to write individual submissions on areas where the Government could do more to protect their human rights. Pan Pemberton and Robert Strike also assisted throughout the day.

Some common themes in the submissions included the need for more assistance to people with disabilities to find work and the need for ongoing support in the workplace; difficulties in communicating with government departments, especially Centrelink; and greater assistance in supporting parents with disabilities in raising a family.

The client submissions will be included in the Shadow Report which is being drafted by the law firm DLA Phillips Fox.

Criminal Justice

IDRS has continued to meet with government agencies including Legal Aid, Department of Justice and Attorney General and Juvenile Justice in relation to the recommendations of the Enabling Justice Report.

In February 2010, IDRS took a major role, on behalf of the Coalition on Intellectual Disability and Criminal Justice, in the organising a Criminal Justice Forum at the University of NSW which brought together over 100 people from the disability and legal sectors. Speakers at the forum were Associate Professor Eileen Baldry whose paper 'Pathways to Prison – Intellectual Disability' presented the findings of her recent research and Don Ferguson, Senior Practitioner, Ageing Disability and Home Care who spoke on 'Advances in Understanding and Practice – the Role of Disability Services for Offenders with Intellectual Disability.

Submissions

NSW Parliament Standing Committee on Social Issues' Inquiry into Substitute Decision-making for People Lacking Capacity Ben Fogarty and Janene Cootes also gave evidence at a Public Hearing of this inquiry

Shadow Report on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability being drafted by DLA Phillips Fox

Participated in consultation on the Review of the National Disability Services Standards

Participation in External Working Groups and Committees

Government

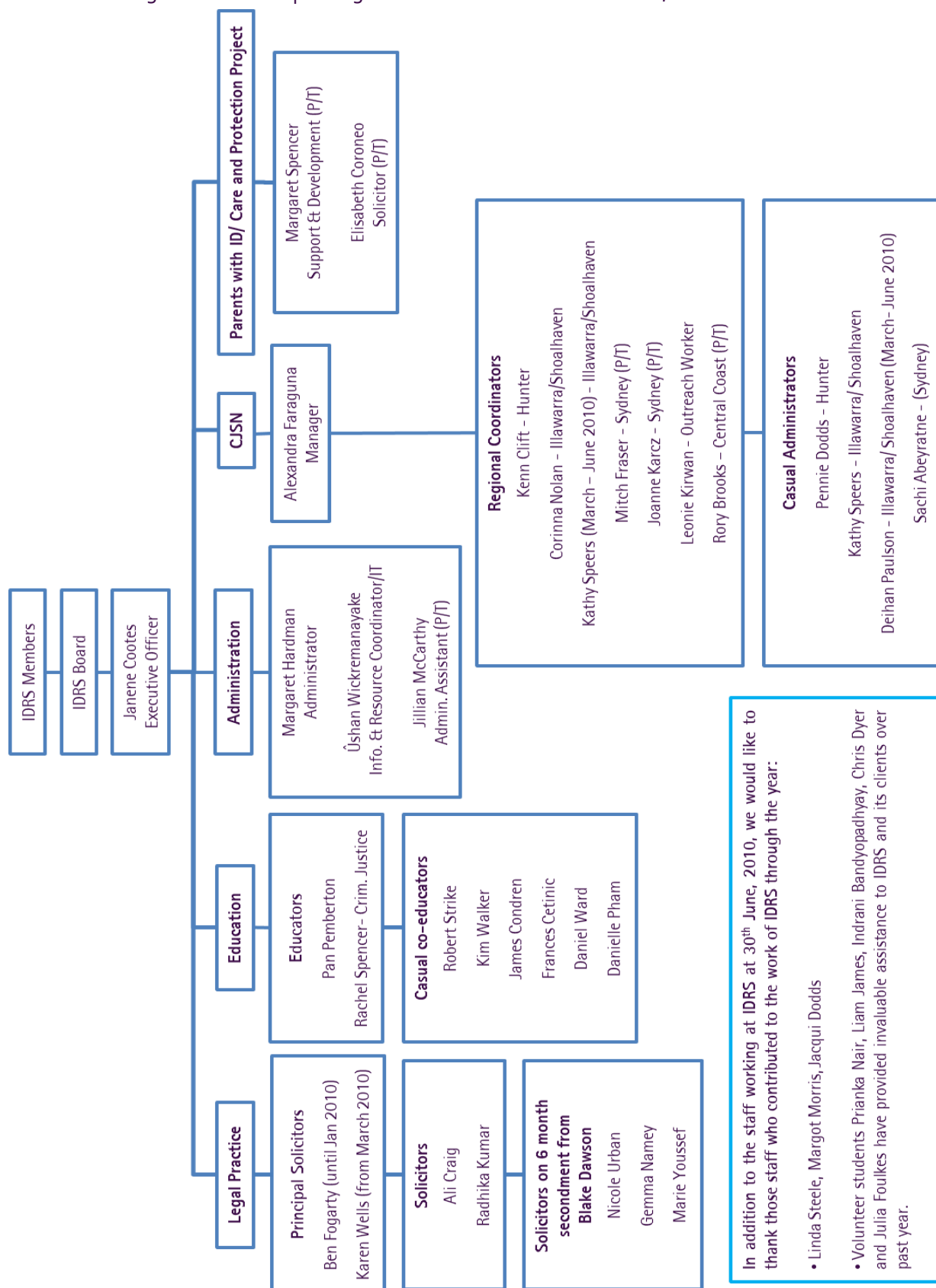
- Department of Ageing Disability and Home Care, Community Justice Program External Reference Group
- NSW Police Force Disability Advisory Council
- Court Referral of Eligible Defendants into Treatment (CREDIT) pilot program steering committee

Community working Groups

- Australian Disability Rights Network
- Women's Domestic Violence Court Assistance Scheme Steering committee
- Criminal Justice and People with Intellectual Disability Coalition
- Co-operative Legal Services Delivery Groups Central Coast and Hunter
- Court User Forums for Manly Court and Downing Centre Court
- Home for Good Coalition Newcastle
- Project Committee Mental Health Legal Service of Public Interest Advocacy Centre
- Women in Prison Advocacy Network
- Human Rights Charter Group, Public Interest Advocacy Centre
- Management Committee Hunter Community Legal Centre
- Mental Health in Prisons Network – Public Interest Advocacy Centre
- Mid North Coast Community Legal Centre Committee
- Project Advisory Group – Disability Rights Centre convened by Disability Discrimination Rights Centre

IDRS Staffing

The staff and the organisational reporting structure of IDRS on June 30, 2010



Members of the IDRS Board

The ability of an organisation to achieve its outcomes is dependent on the people who work within and for the organisation. IDRS depends on the time, energy and expertise of the Board of Directors to steer its work. We are fortunate to have the benefit of a Board of Directors who bring a wealth of skills and experience to their role. Their commitment to the rights of people with intellectual disability and the work of community legal centres is clearly demonstrated through their generous voluntary contribution to IDRS.

In June 2010, Michael Small stepped down as Chair of IDRS Board. IDRS thanks Michael for his leadership and commitment to IDRS during the past 4 years as Chair. Mike Sprange was elected as the new Chair of IDRS at the June meeting.

The members of the Board in 2009 – 2010 were:

July 2009 – December 2009

Ann Bolt
Melissa Clements
Therese Griffith (Treasurer)
Jenny Klause
Edwina MacDonald
Michelle Pearson
Carmelo Raspanti
Tamara Sims
Michael Small (Chairperson)
Mike Sprange
Janene Cootes (ex officio)

January 2010 – July 2010

Ann Bolt
Melissa Clements
Therese Griffith (Treasurer)
Jenny Klause
Edwina MacDonald
Michelle Pearson
Carmelo Raspanti
Tamara Sims
Michael Small (Chairperson till 15 June 2010)
Mike Sprange (Chairperson from 15 June 2010)
Janene Cootes (ex officio)

Support and funding

IDRS operates on a not-for-profit basis, expending all income on the provision of services and the operation of the organisation. IDRS is a public benevolent institution.

In order to provide services for people with an intellectual disability, IDRS relies heavily on government funding

During 2009–10 IDRS received its core funding from

- NSW Department of Human Services – Ageing Disability and Home Care
- Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- Specific Project Funding was received from
- Public Purpose Fund of the NSW Law Society
- NSW Department of Corrective Services – Sexual Assault Project
- Cooperative Legal Services Delivery Central Coast
- Cooperative Legal Services Delivery Hunter
- Ageing Disability and Home Care

IDRS greatly appreciates the support of these organisations

The Financial Statements in this Report are for the Service as a whole.

IDRS was able to earn additional income which is applied to the cost of providing services, from a variety of sources. IDRS is eligible to apply for grants of legal aid in some cases when we represent clients with intellectual disability. Further income is derived from bank interest, the sale of publications and some education projects that are done on a fee-for-service basis.

IDRS would also like to acknowledge the invaluable support received from a number of organisations and individuals who have assisted us in our work this year

The solicitors, barristers and legal firms who have provided pro bono legal assistance for IDRS and its clients:

Solicitors and Barristers:

- Anne Cregan, Blake Dawson
- Stephen Booth , Coleman Grieg
- Andrew Haesler SC, Public Defenders Office
- Mark Ierace, Public Defenders Office
- Mike Heffernan SC, Ian Byrne Solicitors
- Dominique Burns, Barrister

Law Firms for their pro bono assistance to IDRS

- Blake Dawson
- Gilbert & Tobin
- DLA Phillips Fox
- Henry Davis York

A special thank you is due to Blake Dawson for the continued secondment of a solicitor to IDRS. This contribution contributes greatly to the work we are able to do for people with intellectual disability.

Detailed Financial Account Report

**INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY RIGHTS SERVICE
INCORPORATED**

DETAILED FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2010

Intellectual Disability Rights Service Incorporated

Board Report

Your Board Members submit the financial report of the Intellectual Disability Rights Service Incorporated for the financial year ended 30 June, 2010.

Board Members

July 2009 – June 2010

Qualifications

Ann Bolt	Community Member
Melissa Clements	Senior Officer, NSW Public Sector
Therese Griffith (Treasurer)	Senior Administrative Officer, NSW Public Sector
Jenny Klause	Tribunal Member, Non Government Agency Officer
Edwina MacDonald	Solicitor
Michelle Pearson	Community Member
Carmelo Respanti	Community Member
Tamara Sims	Solicitor
Michael Small	Senior Policy Officer, Federal Public Sector
Mike Sprange (Chairperson)	Community Member
Janene Cootes (ex officio)	Executive Officer IDRS

Principal Activities of the Association

The principal activity of the Association during the financial year was to advance the rights of people with an intellectual disability and to ensure that they have the same rights and the same opportunity to exercise their rights as other people in the community.

Changes in State of Affairs

During the financial year there was no significant change in the state of affairs of the Association other than that referred to in the financial statements or notes thereto.

Trading Result

The operating deficit amounted to \$73,366 (2009 surplus \$11,856)

Dividends

The entity is an incorporated association and the Board is prohibited from distributing funds to members.

Operations of the Association

A review of the operations of the Association during the financial year and the results of those operations are as follows:

The operations of the Association during the financial year involved the receipt of grant income from various government bodies, which it used to provide legal assistance and advice, conduct education programs for people with intellectual disability and others, produce resources about the rights of people with intellectual disability and to provide support to the people with intellectual disability who are in contact with criminal justice system.

Future Developments

The Association intends to continue its operations as outlined above. The ability of the Association to continue its operations is dependent upon continuing financial support by state and/or Federal Government department and other parties.

Subsequent Events

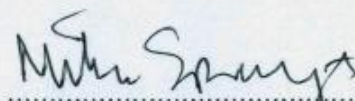
No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year.

Indemnification of Auditors and Officers

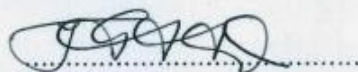
Since March 2003, Intellectual Disability Rights Service Incorporated has held a Directors and Officers Liability Insurance Policy which covers Board members and employees of the Association.

The liabilities insured include costs and expenses that may be incurred in defending civil or criminal proceedings that may be brought against the officers in their capacity as officers of the Association.

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



Board Member



Board Member

Dated this 28 day of October 2010

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY RIGHTS SERVICE INCORPORATED

PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	Note	2010 \$	2009 \$
Revenue from ordinary activities	3	1,379,111	1,206,260
Expenses from ordinary activities		1,452,477	1,194,404
(Deficit)/Surplus from ordinary activities	4	<u>(73,366)</u>	<u>11,856</u>
Income tax expenses		-	-
(Deficit)/Surplus from ordinary activities after income tax		<u>(73,366)</u>	<u>11,856</u>
Total changes in equity other than those resulting from transactions with members		<u>(73,366)</u>	<u>11,856</u>

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY RIGHTS SERVICE INCORPORATED

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 JUNE 2010

	Note	2010 \$	2009 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash	5	950,993	870,747
Receivables	6	26,649	35,952
Other	7	6,427	7,068
		<u>984,069</u>	<u>913,767</u>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, Plant and Equipment	8	59,113	83,980
		<u>59,113</u>	<u>83,980</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>1,043,182</u>	<u>997,747</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Grant Received in Advance		501,549	417,815
Payables	9	73,557	58,153
Provisions	10	53,830	45,238
Other	11	-	-
		<u>628,936</u>	<u>521,206</u>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	12	37,924	26,852
		<u>37,924</u>	<u>26,852</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES		<u>666,861</u>	<u>548,059</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>376,321</u>	<u>449,687</u>
ACCUMULATED FUNDS			
Capital Equipment Reserve		40,000	40,000
Accumulated Funds	13	336,321	409,687
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS		<u>376,321</u>	<u>449,687</u>

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY RIGHTS SERVICE INCORPORATED

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	Note	2010 \$	2009 \$
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
RECEIPTS			
User Charges		128,538	157,943
Interest		33,683	47,574
CASH FLOWS FROM GOVERNMENT			
Receipts from Government Grants		1,309,927	1,018,852
PAYMENTS			
Wages & Salaries		(863,119)	(743,233)
Payments to Suppliers		(526,221)	(474,237)
Cash Surplus/(Deficiency) from Operating Activities	15	82,808	6,900
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payment for Purchase of Plant and Equipment		(13,845)	(8,095)
Proceeds from Sale of Plant and Equipment		11,283	-
Net Cash Used in Investing Activities		(2,562)	(8,095)
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash Held		80,246	(1,195)
Cash at the Beginning of the Reporting Period		870,747	871,942
CASH AT THE END OF THE REPORTING PERIOD	14	950,993	870,747

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY RIGHTS SERVICE INCORPORATED
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

1. Limitation of Liability

The Association was incorporated in New South Wales on 5 July 1995 under the Associations Incorporations Act 1984. The rules of the Association provide that individual members of the Association are not personally liable to contribute towards the payment of debts and liabilities of the Association or the cost, charges and expenses of the winding up of the association.

The Association is not a reporting entity because in the opinion of the directors there are unlikely to exist users of the financial report who are unable to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs. Accordingly, this "special purpose financial report" has been prepared to satisfy the directors' reporting requirements.

The financial report has been prepared on the basis of historical cost and except where stated, does not take into account changing money values or current valuations of non-current assets. Cost is based on the fair values of the consideration given in exchange for assets.

The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the disclosure requirements of Accounting Standards AASB 108 "Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors" and AASB 101 "Presentation of Financial Statements".

2 Statement of Accounting Policies

Accounting policies are selected and applied in a manner which ensures that the resulting financial information satisfies the concepts of relevance and reliability, thereby ensuring that the substance of the underlying transactions or other events is reported.

The following significant accounting policies have been adopted in the preparation and presentation of the financial report.

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY RIGHTS SERVICE INCORPORATED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

Statement of Accounting Policies (continued)

a) Fixed Assets

Property, plant and equipment are brought to account at cost less any accumulated depreciation or amortization.

The gain or loss on disposal of all fixed assets is determined as the difference between the carrying amount of the asset at the time of disposal and the proceeds of disposal. It is included in operating surplus of the Association in the year of disposal.

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets is depreciated on a straight line basis over the useful lives to the Association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use by the Association.

b) Employee Entitlements

Provision is made for benefits accruing to employees in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave, long service leave, maternity leave and sick leave when it is probable that settlement will be required and they are capable of being measured reliably.

Provisions made in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave, sick leave, and other employee entitlements expected to be settled within 12 months, are measured at their nominal values.

Provisions made in respect of other employee entitlements which are not expected to be settled within 12 months are measured as the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made by the association in respect of service provided by employees up to reporting date.

c) Cash

Cash includes cash on hand and at call deposits with banks or financial institutions, investments in money market instruments and net bank overdrafts.

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY RIGHTS SERVICE INCORPORATED
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

Statement of Accounting Policies (continued)

d) Income Tax

The Association is exempt from income tax under section 50-10 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

e) Revenue

Grant income and interest income are recognised on an accrual basis

f) Goods and Services Tax

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognized net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the taxation authority, it is recognized as part of the cost of acquisition of an asset or as part of an item of expense.

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY RIGHTS SERVICE INCORPORATED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	2010	2009
	\$	\$
3 Income from Ordinary Activities		
Income from Ordinary Activities includes the following revenue		
Operating Revenue		
Interest Revenue	33,683	47,574
Grant & Subsidies	1,345,428	1,158,686
	<u>1,379,111</u>	<u>1,206,260</u>
4 Surplus from Ordinary Activities		
Surplus from Ordinary Activities has been determined after charging:		
Expenses		
Audit Fees	6,000	5,697
Depreciation	25,602	27,899
5 Cash		
Cash on Hand	800	800
Cash at Bank - Cheque Account	16,458	39,830
- Cash Mgt /CBA Bus Online Saver	929,734	826,117
Term Deposit	4,000	4,000
	<u>950,993</u>	<u>870,747</u>

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY RIGHTS SERVICE INCORPORATED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	2010 \$	2009 \$
6 Receivables		
Accounts Receivable	1,439	10,742
Rental & Security Deposits	<u>25,210</u>	<u>25,210</u>
	<u>26,649</u>	<u>35,952</u>
7 Other		
Prepayments	<u>6,427</u>	<u>7,068</u>
8 Property, Plant and Equipment		
Tenancy Work	27,975	27,975
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>16,650</u>	<u>13,852</u>
	<u>11,325</u>	<u>14,123</u>
Furniture & Fittings	51,915	39,797
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>31,204</u>	<u>25,434</u>
	<u>20,711</u>	<u>14,363</u>
Equipment	169,139	167,412
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>142,062</u>	<u>126,846</u>
	<u>27,077</u>	<u>40,566</u>
Motor Vehicle	-	19,959
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>-</u>	<u>5,031</u>
	<u>-</u>	<u>14,928</u>
	<u>59,113</u>	<u>83,980</u>
9 Payables		
Sundry Creditors	43,935	39,159
Goods & Services Tax Payable	<u>29,622</u>	<u>18,994</u>
	<u>73,557</u>	<u>58,153</u>

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY RIGHTS SERVICE INCORPORATED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	2010 \$	2009 \$
10 Current Provisions		
Employee Entitlements - Annual/Maternity Leave	53,830	45,238
	<u>53,830</u>	<u>45,238</u>
11 Other Current Liabilities		
Accrued Expenses	-	-
12 Non-Current Provisions		
Employee Entitlements - Long Service Leave	37,924	26,852
	<u>37,924</u>	<u>26,852</u>
Number of Employees at Balance Date	18	18
13 Accumulated Funds		
Opening Balance	409,687	397,831
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(73,366)	11,856
	<u>336,321</u>	<u>409,687</u>

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY RIGHTS SERVICE INCORPORATED

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

NOTES TO THE STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS

14 Reconciliation of Cash

For the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash includes cash on hand, cash at bank and investments in money market instruments. Cash at the end of the reporting period as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position as follows:

	2010 \$	2009 \$
Cash	946,993	866,747
Deposit at call	4,000	4,000
	<u>950,993</u>	<u>870,747</u>

15 Reconciliation of Cash Surplus from Operating Activities to Operating Result

	2010 \$	2009 \$
Operating Result	(73,366)	11,856
Depreciation	25,602	27,899
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors	15,404	(25,100)
Increase/(Decrease) in Grant Received in Advance	83,734	26,387
Increase/(Decrease) in Provision & Accrual	19,664	(25,865)
(Increase)/Decrease in Receivables	9,943	(8,277)
Loss on Sale of Plant & Equipment	1,827	-
	<u>82,808</u>	<u>6,900</u>
Cash Surplus from Operating Activities	<u>82,808</u>	<u>6,900</u>

**INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY RIGHTS SERVICE INCORPORATED
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	<u>2010</u> \$	<u>2009</u> \$
16. Segment Reporting		
The Association operates predominantly in one industry. The principal activity of the Association is to advance the rights of people with an intellectual disability. The Association operates in predominantly one geographical area, being Australia.		
17. Commitments to Expenditure		
Non-cancelable operating leases		
Not longer than one year	90,100	75,536
Longer than 1 year and not longer than 5 years	<u>65,125</u>	<u>11,950</u>
	<u>155,225</u>	<u>87,486</u>

18. Other Information

Registered office and principal place of business:

Suite 2C, 199 Regent Street, Redfern NSW 2016

19. Australian equivalents of International Financial Reporting Standards.

The financial report of Intellectual Disability Rights Service Incorporated complies with all Australian Equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (AIFRS).

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY RIGHTS SERVICE INCORPORATED

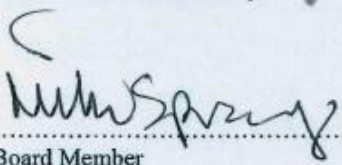
STATEMENT BY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

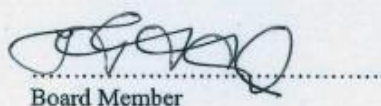
The committee has determined that the Association is a non-reporting entity because in the opinion of the committee there are unlikely to exist users of the financial report who are unable to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs. Accordingly this special purpose financial report has been prepared to satisfy the members reporting requirements under the Association's Constitution.

In the opinion of the committee the financial statements

- a) Present fairly the financial position of the Intellectual Disability Rights Service Incorporated as at 30 June 2010 and the results of the Association for the year ended on that date in accordance with applicable Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements as set out in Note 1 to the financial statements.
- b) At the date of the statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Intellectual Disability Rights Service Incorporated will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the committee and is signed for and on behalf of the committee by:


.....
Board Member


.....
Board Member

Dated this 28..... day of October.. 2010

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY RIGHTS SERVICE INCORPORATED

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of Intellectual Disability Rights Services Incorporated,

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of Intellectual Disability Rights Services Incorporated ("the Association"), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2010, profit and loss statement, cash flow statement for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies, other explanatory notes and the statement by the management committee.

Management Committee's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The management committee of the association is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial report, are appropriate to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981* and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The management committee's responsibility also includes establishing and maintaining internal controls relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

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

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the management committee's financial reporting under the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981*. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

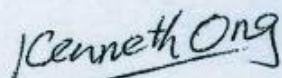
We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of Intellectual Disability Rights Services Incorporated is in accordance with the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981*, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of Intellectual Disability Rights Services Incorporated's financial position as at 30 June 2010 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981*

Cohen & Krass



Kenneth Ong
Registered Company Auditor
Suite 1205
Level 12, 109 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY NSW

Dated this 28th day of October 2010

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY RIGHTS SERVICE INCORPORATED

COMPILATION REPORT

We have compiled the accompanying special purpose financial statements of Intellectual Disability Rights Service Incorporated, which comprise the balance sheet as at 30 June 2010, profit and loss statement, cash flow statement for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies, and other explanatory notes. The specific purpose for which the special purpose financial statements have been prepared is set out in Note 1.

The Responsibility of the Management Committee of Intellectual Disability Rights Service Incorporated

The management committee of Intellectual Disability Rights Service Incorporated, is solely responsible for the information contained in the special purpose financial statements and have determined that the significant accounting policies adopted as set out in Note 1 to the financial statements are appropriate to meet their needs and for the purpose that the financial statements were prepared.

Our Responsibility

On the basis of the information provided by the management committee of Intellectual Disability Rights Service Incorporated, we have compiled the accompanying special purpose financial statements in accordance with the significant accounting policies adopted as set out in Note 1 to the financial statements and APES 315: Compilation of Financial Information.

Our procedures use accounting expertise to collect, classify and summarise the financial information, which the management committee provided, in compiling the financial statements. Our procedures do not include verification or validation procedures. No audit or review has been performed and accordingly no assurance is expressed.

The special purpose financial statements were compiled exclusively for the benefit of the management committee of Intellectual Disability Rights Service Incorporated. We do not accept responsibility to any other person for the contents of the special purpose financial statements.

Cohen & Krass



Anthony Cohen
Suite 1205
Level 12, 109 Pitt Street,
SYDNEY NSW

Dated this 28th day of October 2010

INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY RIGHTS SERVICE INCORPORATED

INCOME & EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2010

	2010	2009
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Interest	33,683	47,574
Grants & subsidies		
Commonwealth Dept of Family & Community Services	193,907	200,334
Department of Ageing, Disability & Home Care (NSW)	905,184	761,212
Grant - Miscellaneous	127,102	30,919
Other Income	119,235	166,221
	<u>1,379,111</u>	<u>1,206,260</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Accounting & Bookkeeping	26,362	26,602
Admin. Charges	103,400	4,350
Advertising	1,117	7,499
Annual Leave & Maternity leave	8,592	8,854
Audit Fees	6,000	5,697
Bank Charges	1,333	1,016
Cleaning	7,205	6,646
Consultancy Fees & Outsourcing	3,065	3,150
Depreciation	25,602	27,899
Electricity	8,919	7,273
Host Agencies	25,853	28,134
Hire Equipment	5,026	5,085
Insurance	12,952	10,904
Information Technology Support	9,616	15,745
IT Web Maintenance	261	10,261
Legal Cost and Disbursements	6,107	3,926
Long Service Leave	11,071	9,186
Loss on Disposal of Fixed Assets	1,827	-
Motor Vehicle Expenses	3,936	2,338
Photocopying, Printing & Stationery	23,608	28,541
Postage & Couriers	4,155	4,940
Practising Certificates & Professional Supervision	2,632	1,781
Purchase of Minor Fixed Assets & Rebuild Network	6,444	1,052
Rent	82,327	78,909
Regional Training	164	284
Repairs & Maintenance	5,508	5,479
Salaries & Wages	863,119	743,233
Staff Redundancy Expenses	-	(36,413)
Staff/Volunteer Training & Continuing Education	28,764	28,913
Storage	1,676	1,855
Subscriptions & Library	7,009	7,953
Sundry Expenses	1,648	818
Superannuation	81,049	71,089
Telephone	34,736	35,336
Travelling & Accommodation Expenses	41,391	36,070
	<u>1,452,477</u>	<u>1,194,404</u>
OPERATING (DEFICIT)/SURPLUS	<u>(73,366)</u>	<u>11,856</u>

Intellectual Disability Rights Service Inc.

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