



University of
South Australia

Legal Advice
Clinic

LEGAL ADVICE CLINIC ANNUAL REPORT 2020

unisa.edu.au/legal-advice-clinic



**The Legal Advice Clinic
is an initiative of
University of South Australia**



TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 4 VISION, MISSION & VALUE STATEMENT
- 5 LAW DEAN'S MESSAGE
- 6 MANAGING SOLICITOR'S REPORT
- 8 STAFF
- 10 STUDENT ADVISORS
- 11 TEACHING INNOVATIONS
- 12 WHAT WE DO
- 14 CITY WEST CAMPUS CLINIC
- 15 OUTREACH SERVICES
- 16 SERVICE DELIVERY DURING PANDEMIC
- 18 COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION
- 19 STATISTICS
- 20 CLIENT FEEDBACK
- 21 CASE STUDY OF CLIENT ASSISTANCE
- 22 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

VISION, MISSION & VALUE STATEMENT

Vision

The UniSA Legal Advice Clinic will develop a reputation as the most innovative, most respected, best resourced, most research-active clinical legal education program in Australia. It will be recognised as a national leader in clinical legal education in its teaching, research and community involvement, and an international authority on clinical legal education. The Clinic will be the focus of the UniSA law degree's 'capstone' year, providing all law students with the benefits of clinical legal education and will be recognised nationally and internationally as providing a 'best practice' model.

Mission

The Clinic's Mission is:

- To provide an educational environment which promotes access to justice, fosters a 'pro bono' culture, and encourages law students to be client-centred, ethical practitioners.
- To provide an educational framework which assists law students to develop practical legal skills and adopt ethical practices.
- To provide competent and timely free legal advice to members of the public, particularly to those who might otherwise be denied access to justice because of financial or social disadvantage.
- To provide a referral service to members of the community where the Clinic is unable to assist (for both legal and non-legal services).
- To develop and consolidate relationships and generate synergies with other organisations in a manner which is mutually beneficial for those other organisations, clients, students and the University of South Australia.
- To strengthen a research culture which promotes the Clinic as an international leader in clinical legal education.

Values

Values drive an organization's culture and priorities and provide a framework in which decisions are made.

The values of the Clinic are:

- Innovative, interesting and challenging educational opportunities for law students.
- A commitment to ongoing research and innovation.
- A belief in, and a commitment to, access to justice for everyone.
- An educational environment where all students are encouraged to ask questions and learn from their mistakes.
- A commitment to reflective practice.
- A pedagogy that encourages the development of practical legal skills and ethical legal practice.



The South Australian community continues to benefit from the pro bono legal work undertaken by the University of South Australia Legal Advice Clinic (“the Clinic”). The Clinic has provided free legal assistance to people who might otherwise be denied access to justice because of financial or social disadvantage. Since its inception in 2011 and up until December 2020, the value of legal advice provided by the Clinic has surpassed 2.2 million dollars and over 2470 South Australians have received legal assistance. These milestones are a testament to the vital work performed by hundreds of law students who have undertaken a placement at the Clinic during its nine years of operation.

The Clinic provides services at the University of South Australia City West campus and outreach services at the Port Adelaide and Elizabeth Magistrates Courts, and the Health Justice Clinic at the Salvation Army community support centre Adelaide. In response to the Covid-19 pandemic the Clinic found it necessary to cease operation of face-to-face outreach services on 23rd March 2020. However, the Clinic has been able to continue to assist the wider South Australian community with the introduction of videoconference and telephone appointment services.

The Legal Advice Clinic is an instrumental part of the law program, where all University of South Australia law students can choose a placement in the Clinic. The Clinic continues to be recognised nationally if not internationally as providing a ‘best practice’ model for clinical legal education. To date, the Clinic has provided a placement to over 486 law students. Forty-eight students completed a placement in the Clinic in 2020, and the value of pro bono work provided during that time has been calculated as \$109,741.

The Clinic is staffed by Matthew Atkinson (Senior Lecturer and Managing Solicitor), Paraskevi Kontoleon (Lecturer and Supervising Solicitor), Ricardo Villegas (Senior Lecturer and Supervising Solicitor), Daniel Wasiewicz (Supervising Solicitor) and Debra Morriss (Academic Services Officer: Legal Advice Clinic). The Law Foundation of South Australia Inc has assisted the Clinic in maintaining its current staff resources. The assistance of the Law Foundation is greatly appreciated and has been critical for the proper functioning of the Clinic and its outreach programs.

We are very proud that the UniSA Legal Advice Clinic helps to advance access to justice in South Australia, while providing our students with the opportunity to develop their professional skills and to help make people's lives better.

Sincerely

**Professor Vicki Waye,
Dean of Law**

MANAGING SOLICITOR'S REPORT



The Legal Advice Clinic continues to play an important role in the justice landscape of South Australia. In 2020, we passed the \$2.2M milestone of pro bono legal work provided to the community. Commencing operation almost a decade ago, we've assisted thousands of South Australians and provided hundreds of UniSA law students an opportunity to experience the law in action. These two pillars – education of law students and service to the community – are the essence of our work. In late March 2020 when the country went into lockdown, the Legal Advice Clinic had this essence challenged. Lockdown was problematic for our service (and indeed most clinical legal education programs across the country) because providing services to the community and educating law students necessitates connection between law students, clinic supervisors and members of the public who need legal help.

When our Clinic first moved to a working from home arrangement, clinic supervisors and students continued to help clients by communicating by telephone and email. The clinic supervisor would interview and communicate with clients on the telephone. The client's instructions and documents were then passed onto the students for them to do the work. Getting clients wasn't a problem. There was no shortage of people who needed help with everything from tenancy to domestic violence, to a flood of consumer disputes where people were seeking a refund on cancelled travel plans. The problem our service had was with having students communicate directly with clients in a confidential manner in a supervised environment. At the Legal Advice Clinic, students interview clients in pairs under close supervision of a legal practitioner. Students are not permitted to provide any advice to a client without having it approved by the supervisor. This means that students must move between speaking with a client and a supervisor during the interview; the supervisor is not present in the interview room. Obviously, the logistics of this arrangement are problematic when the students, supervisor and client are confined to their respective houses.

I'm of the view that students should take responsibility for communication with clients. Students in traditional law school curriculum courses are trained to solve legal problems on paper. After students read a pile of court judgments on a particular area of law, law teachers come up with weird and whacky scenarios that require students to discuss the legal position of those involved in that weird and whacky problem. Generally, law students are pretty good at solving legal problems on paper, especially when they're in their last year of study. What law students are not that good at is solving legal problems when they involve speaking to a human with a legal problem. At the Legal Advice Clinic, students learn about humans and their legal problems. They learn about the law in its broader context and see how the law impacts individuals and the community. Students discover that complexity in legal work is not generally with the legal problem but rather with helping the client. Let me give you a crude example. Legally, when someone has punched somebody in

the face, the legal answer is generally straightforward – it's assault. However, communicating effectively and ethically with someone who has been charged with assault about their options, especially when they have never been to court, and don't think that they've done anything wrong when the evidence suggests otherwise, is not straightforward. This is especially the case when you're still in law school and have not had any experience with this kind of situation. Such experience when it is accompanied by a structured opportunity to reflect on its meaning in legal practice and the broader context provides rich opportunities for learning. This is what the Legal Advice Clinic and clinical legal education is all about.

So how does one get a pair of law students to interview a client under the supervision of a legal practitioner when everyone is in their own home? The answer is not Zoom but something similar. The Clinic used videoconferencing software called, NeoRehab. This software is used by medical and allied health practitioners and it uses encrypted point to point technology, which ensures that the confidentiality of communication is maintained. Although NeoRehab runs in a similar manner to Zoom, students can interview the client then use a breakout room to speak with the supervisor during the interview.

The Legal Advice Clinic used NeoRehab exclusively during one teaching period this year and has continued to use it with a mix of in person and telephone appointments since returning to campus. This initiative has proven to be a success. Through interviewing on a video platform, we're able to assist a wider range of people. Students have been able to see what access to justice means in ways they have not considered. It opens discussion about the provision of legal services in regional and remote areas. It provides for discussion about the provision of legal services to people who are mobility impaired and cannot easily access in person legal services. This has been one up-side to the Covid-19 pandemic. Our response has ultimately allowed us to expand our reach in providing legal services. It also has provided for new and relevant educational experience for students – no doubt, operating in a digital environment will continue to become an ever-increasing part of the legal landscape.

While I hope for a more settled 2021 and beyond, I'm very proud that the Legal Advice Clinic has continued to play an important role in providing access to justice and educating law students throughout the Covid 19 pandemic.

Sincerely



Matthew Atkinson
Senior Lecturer/Managing Solicitor

STAFF



Matthew Atkinson is a Senior Lecturer and the Managing Solicitor of the Legal Advice Clinic. He has been involved in the Legal Advice Clinic since its inception and his teaching experience includes Clinical Legal Education, Criminal Law, Legal Ethics, Legal Skills: Interviewing and Work Integrated Learning. Matthew holds a Bachelor of Business (BBUS) from Charles Darwin University and a Bachelor of Laws and Legal Practice (LLB/LP Hons) from Finders University. He is currently undertaking a Graduate Diploma in Digital Education where he intends to build on his current research interests in clinical legal education and ethics in a digital era.

Matthew has extensive experience in the legal profession and the community legal centre sector, having practised in a variety of areas of law including family law, criminal law, consumer credit law and dispute resolution. Prior to taking up his current position Matthew was the Principal Solicitor at the Northern Community Legal Service Inc, and he has worked in the community legal centre sector for approximately ten years. Matthew has significant experience in providing legal assistance at the coal face with some of the most vulnerable people in our community.

Matthew's current research interests include clinical legal education, experiential learning, access to justice and criminal law. Matthew has published numerous journal articles on a variety of areas of law, legal ethics and legal education.

Matthew is a member of the Indigenous Law Students Mentoring Committee and the Law Society of South Australia.



Ricardo Villegas is a Senior Lecturer and a Supervising Solicitor at the Legal Advice Clinic. He has supervised students in the Legal Advice Clinic since 2020, shortly after beginning his employment at the University of South Australia. As a Supervising Solicitor at the Legal Advice Clinic, Ricardo aims to inspire students to find their true passion. He creates a compassionate and efficient work environment where students are given autonomy and respect.

Ricardo's current research interests lie in the very act of learning and how students can best capture the valuable skills essential for their thriving future. He is passionate about the art of visual teaching in law. In the Legal Advice Clinic, Ricardo has put his visual design skills that he uses in his other courses that include commercial and partnership law to good use. He has created visual workflow maps that allow students in the Legal Advice Clinic to track their progress on any given matter. He also uses other visual tools to help students develop an understanding of the legal concepts involved with a matter before they dive into the details of legal analysis.

Previous to joining UniSA, Ricardo practised in migration law and was also a lecturer in law in Sydney. He is a current member of the Law Society of SA and takes a keen interest in providing access to justice to persons who cannot otherwise obtain legal help in their local community.



Paraskevi Kontoleon is a Lecturer and Supervising Solicitor of the Legal Advice Clinic, who has always had a keen interest in undertaking pro bono work. She graduated from the University of Adelaide with a Bachelor of Laws (Honours), Bachelor of Arts and Graduate Diploma in Languages (Modern Greek), and has practised as a Solicitor since 2005. Prior to joining the Legal Advice Clinic in 2014, Paraskevi worked as a legal practitioner in the field of civil litigation.

Since commencing employment with the University of South Australia, Paraskevi has taught a variety of law courses. Despite her main role being in teaching, Paraskevi is an active researcher in the fields of Education, Intellectual Property and Clinical Legal Education. She is the author of a book entitled '*Music and the Law*'. Paraskevi is an avid supporter and contributor to the entertainment and arts scene in South Australia. She is a musician, and features in a number of local bands playing in Adelaide.



Daniel Wasiewicz is a Supervising Solicitor in the Legal Advice Clinic. He graduated from the University of South Australia with a Bachelor of Laws in 2012. Having worked previously as a generalist Solicitor in a regional community legal centre in the South Australian Riverland and currently as a generalist Solicitor at the Northern Community Legal Service in Salisbury, he brings an extensive range of expertise in many areas of the law. He is interested in the importance of access to justice for every member of the community and strives to ensure that a high level of legal expertise is available to those who are the most vulnerable. Having previously been a student advisor at the University of South Australia's Legal Advice Clinic while studying law in 2012, Daniel is extremely well versed in how the clinic operates and is able to relate to and teach the student advisors as they embark on their future within the legal profession.



Debra Morriss has been providing support to students and staff at the University of South Australia in a variety of roles since January 2012. In her current position she provides administrative support for the operations of the Legal Advice Clinic. Debra is also responsible for arranging law student placements in host organisations, including state government legal services, private law firms, community legal centres and other justice oriented non-government organisations.

STUDENT ADVISORS



In 2018, the Legal Advice Clinic became part of the Honours capstone courses. The Clinic is now an instrumental part of the law program, where all University of South Australia law students can choose a placement in the Clinic at its City West campus and outreach services.

A clinical placement in the Legal Advice Clinic provides final year law students with the opportunity to do legal work under the supervision of qualified legal practitioners. Undertaking the role of Student Advisor in the Clinic, equips students with the experience they need to meet clients' needs once they begin their professional career. Students Advisors gain invaluable experience in interviewing clients, taking relevant notes, maintaining files, conducting research, drafting documents and providing written advice. During their clinical placement, students have the opportunity to discuss issues including legal ethics, professionalism, access to justice, and the role of the law and lawyers. 2020 was another busy and successful year for the Legal Advice Clinic with 48 students undertaking a Clinic placement. To date, the Clinic has provided placements to over 491 law students since it opened its doors in 2011.

Student feedback

"Choosing to enrol in the Legal Advice Clinic was a fantastic decision, as it provided an authentic and first-hand introduction to legal practice whilst being within the familiar walls of the campus. The opportunity afforded to student advisors to personally interact with clients through the interview process allowed me to develop and build upon my professional skillset; and the varied range of matters meant that no two days were ever the same. As intimidating the prospect of legal practice may be, the ability to work with peers and under the watchful gaze of supervisor Daniel, whose experienced observations and no-nonsense but charming demeanor made for a relaxed and enjoyable environment that truly allowed me to display my skills. For this experience to be available as a part of my degree made the choice a no-brainer; and the practical experience in file maintenance, client correspondence and the processes involved in legal practice have positioned me well to help transition into professional life. I would highly recommend the Legal Advice Clinic to all law students."

Student Advisor, Jacob Stevens

"Undertaking placement at the Clinic was the best decision I could have made. Feeling hesitant to enter legal practice with no prior practical legal experience was a daunting concept to me, and so, easing my way into the industry - in a relaxed, hands-on and invigorating environment was the perfect way to settle my nerves and commence my journey into the legal profession (props to supervisor Daniel for his easy-going attitude and intellectual insights which heavily assisted in this). Every week reaped new rewards when interviewing clients and listening to their stories, not only thrusting my interviewing skills into the spotlight, but strengthening my capacity to research and manage client files. I could not recommend the Clinic enough, as I believe that this experience has put me in perfect stead to move leaps and bounds upon embarking into real-life practice."

Student Advisor, Isabella Candeloro

Using Blogs to Develop Reflective Practice and Writing Skills

Legal Advice Clinic is a clinical legal education course designed to give law students an opportunity to reflect and think critically about the law. The course focuses on access to justice, the role of lawyers and connects the practise of law to broader social and economic contexts. Students are encouraged to reflect not only on their performance but on how law can be utilised to promote a just society. Experience plus reflection equals education.

Teaching and facilitating reflective practice and writing in a law course is challenging. Students are generally unfamiliar with these activities and the *Legal Advice Clinic* course is often the first time they are exposed to them. Writing in first person, thinking about one's feelings towards law and experience in it, is very different to thinking analytically about judicial pronouncement of legal principle and its application to a case. Each year, our teachers (like many other teachers in clinical legal education) need to help students with their ideas for reflection because they "don't know what to talk about" or assure them that their reflected topics are "ok".

To help students develop their reflective practice and writing skills, blogging has been utilised in the *Legal Advice Clinic*. Blogging is popular among some students and fosters a shared, collegial learning environment. It permits peer-to-peer reflection and immediate peer-to-peer (and teacher) feedback. This year, Margaret Castles (University of Adelaide) and Matthew Atkinson published research into the pedagogical benefits of using blogs in clinical legal education. Their findings suggest that some of the traditional ideas about privacy and self-disclosure in reflective writing are not of significant concern to students, who see benefit in sharing experiences with each other as part of a learning community.



To learn more about this research and to generate further ideas for promoting reflective learning, please see: Matthew Atkinson and Margaret Castles, 'Blogging, Journaling and Reflective Writing: A Snapshot of Students' Preferences and Perceptions from Two Australian Universities' (2020) 27(2) *International Journal of Clinical Legal Education* 155.

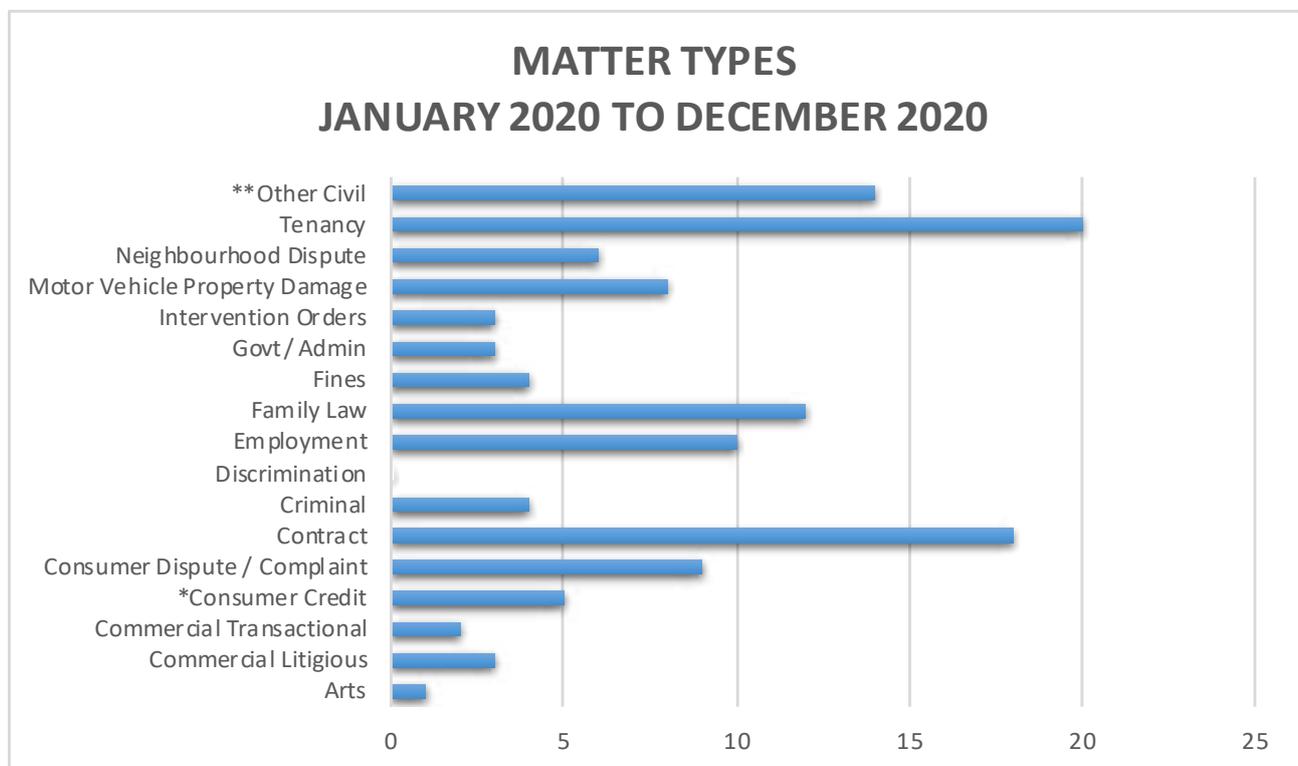
WHAT WE DO

Advice and Assistance

The Clinic provides free confidential legal advice in a variety of areas of law, including criminal, family law, civil disputes, car accidents and fines, debt claims and consumer disputes, fencing and other neighbour disputes. The Legal Advice Clinic has provided legal assistance to over 2,471 South Australians since it opened its doors in 2011.

As at 31 December 2020, the Clinic had provided in excess of \$2.2M worth of pro bono legal advice to clients since commencement of its operation in 2011, with \$109,741 being in the 12 months from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020.

Matter Types



* Consumer Credit: Includes advice and assistance concerning a person's rights in respect to personal loans, credit cards, mortgages and other credit contracts.

** Other Civil: Matters listed in this category relate to subject matters that fall outside of the other listed matter types.

The process of student interaction with clients:

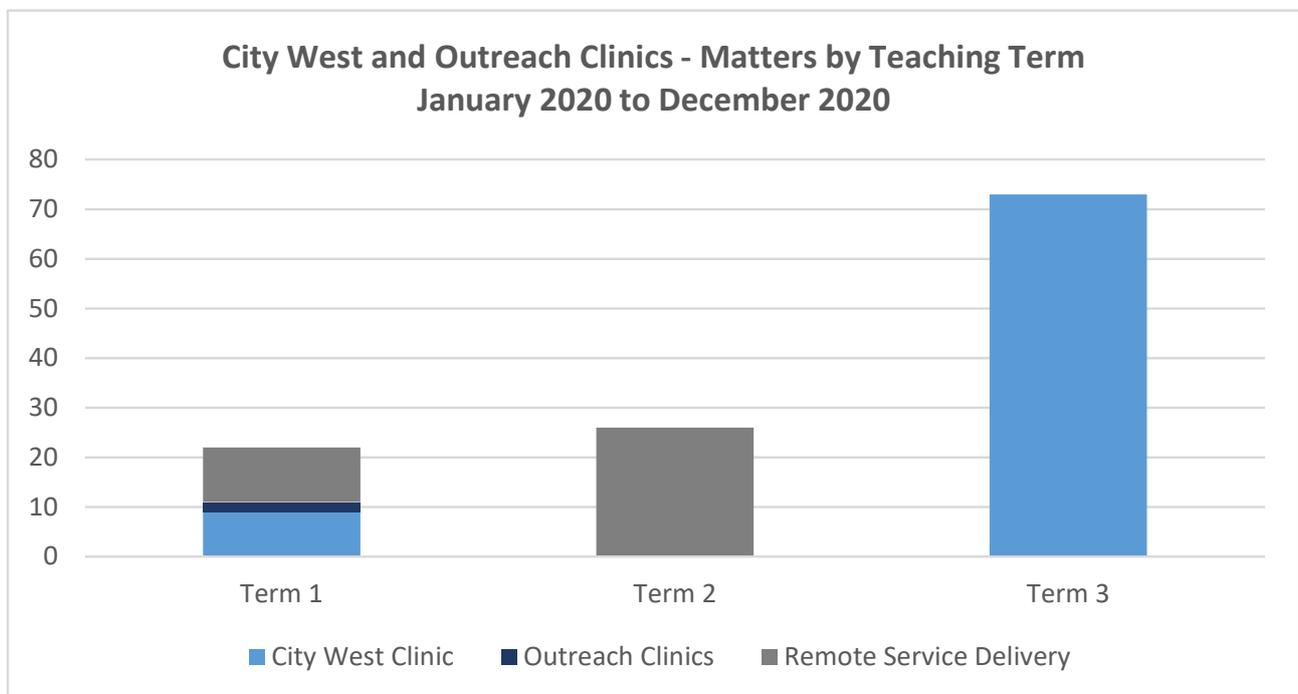


CITY WEST CAMPUS CLINIC



City West Clinic

The Legal Advice Clinic commenced its operations at the University of South Australia City West campus, in February 2011. The student-run, in-house Clinic equips students with the legal skills and knowledge required for the practice of law.





Port Adelaide Outreach

The Port Adelaide Outreach operates as a drop-in service on Wednesday during teaching term. The outreach service provides advice on a range of matters to unrepresented persons appearing before the Port Adelaide Magistrates Court. Student Advisors gain extensive experience while helping members of the community navigate court processes, and understand their legal rights and obligations.

Health Justice Clinic

This student led initiative is possibly an Australian first and it involves a cohort of health and law students working together in providing services to the public. In addition to providing a much-needed services, it has also allowed UniSA to engage in cross-disciplinary research to assess the feasibility and the legal need for a Health Justice Clinic.



Elizabeth Outreach

The Elizabeth Outreach operates at the Elizabeth Magistrates Court during the Investigation Summons Hearings. It is run in collaboration with the Northern Community Legal Service and other financial counselling services to complement the advice provided by the Clinic. Student Advisors assisted clients with consumer debt related matters.



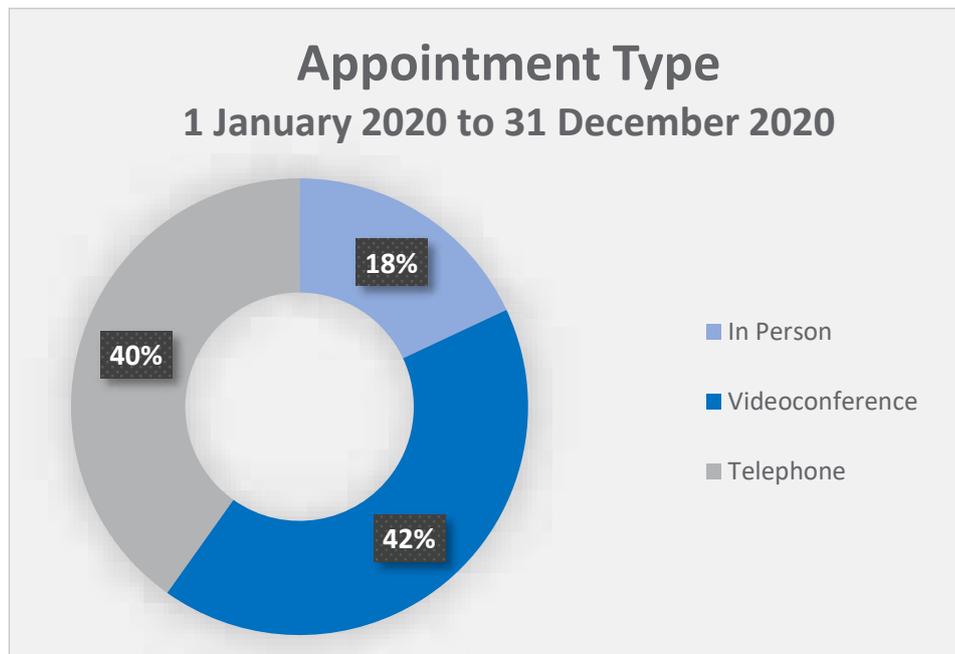
SERVICE DELIVERY DURING PANDEMIC

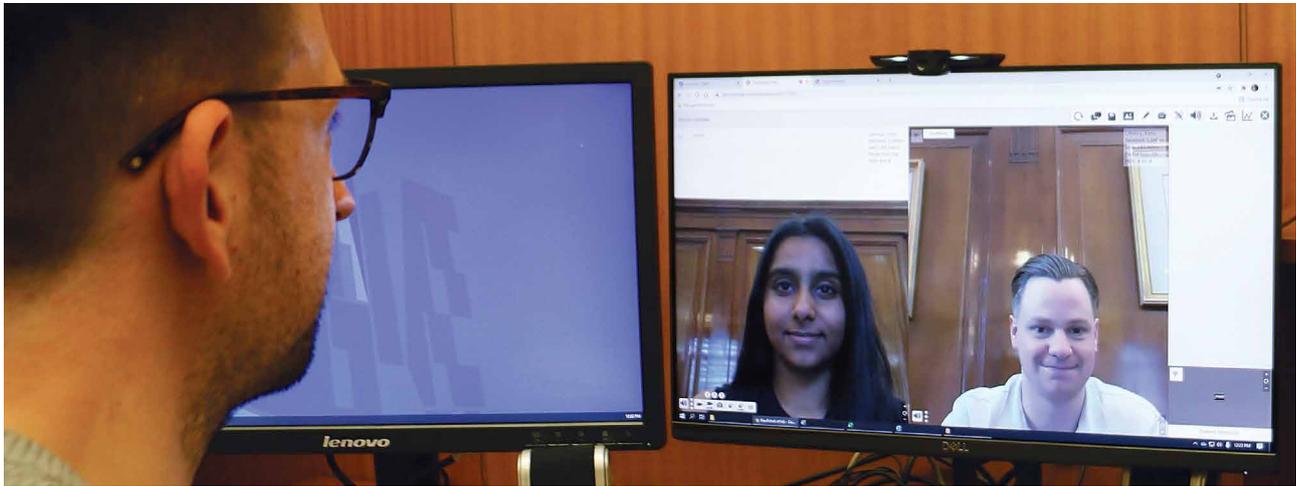
Delivery of services during Covid-19 pandemic

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, UniSA decided temporarily to cease all face-to-face teaching on Monday, 23 March 2020. This decision had an immediate, significant impact on the Legal Advice Clinic's ability to see clients and supervise law students at City West campus and its outreach services at two Magistrates' Courts and Salvation Army offices in the CBD. For the Legal Advice Clinic to continue its operations it would need to do so remotely.

At the outset, students were supervised remotely, and supervisors led all communication with clients by telephone and email. With this new arrangement it became clear that for the Legal Advice Clinic to continue to be a student-led service, it would need to quickly develop an online service delivery model. Through networking with the UniSA Health Clinics, NeoRehab videoconferencing software, which enables confidential face-to-face discussion and document exchange through an online medium, was discovered. This videoconference platform encrypts all video data end-to-end to keep information safe and private. The platform is fully compliant with international standards including the HIPAA standard (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act 1996) and conforms to the strictest requirements around data privacy and security which is designed to safeguard medical information.

In early April 2020, the Legal Advice Clinic began testing how it could use the NeoRehab videoconference platform to deliver tele-law services. From this initial testing, it appeared the videoconferencing platform would be suitable for its operations. With generous financial support from the Law Foundation of SA, the Legal Advice Clinic was able to proceed with students conducting videoconference interviews with clients under close supervision until they were able to return to campus in August 2020. This initiative facilitated law students learning how to use a videoconferencing platform to effectively conduct interviews and provide online legal services. Moreover, students developed a deeper understanding of how technology can be used to promote access to justice. Undoubtedly, these outcomes are beneficial for law students, the legal profession, and the wider community, now and into the future.





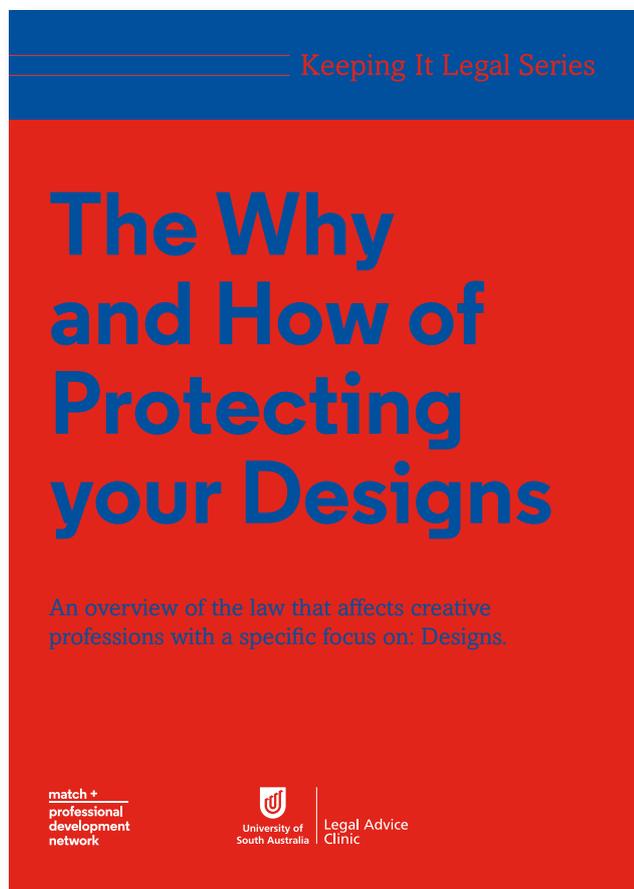
Preliminary research into students' perceptions about the use of NeoRehab was conducted in late 2020. As part of this research, students were surveyed about their experiences. Students generally viewed videoconferencing positively and commented that it allowed the Legal Advice Clinic to:

- Assist clients when they are unable to physically to do so.
- Facilitate a client interview over the internet and promotes access to justice.
- Be more flexible; you can book in appointments last minute.
- Communicate with those that need legal advice from anywhere at anytime.

When students were asked if the Legal Advice Clinic should continue using NeoRehab (or other videoconferencing software) for client interviews, this response stood out:

The opportunity to use NeoRehab for the Legal Advice Clinic course not only provided the students an opportunity to practice providing legal advice but also provided an opportunity to learn how to use a Tele-law service and the technology within that. This allowed us as students more value for money from the course as we had the opportunity to learn more than how to provide legal advice and the art of lawyering. NeoRehab was a fantastic experience and if I had the opportunity to do Legal Advice Clinic again and had the choice of NeoRehab or an in-person setting, I would choose NeoRehab.

When students returned to the City West campus in August 2020, the outreach services remained closed. However, due to the addition of tele-law services, the Legal Advice Clinic was able to provide services to the clients of our outreach services and additionally to people located in remote and regional areas of the state. For the remainder of 2020 the Legal Advice Clinic offered a choice of interview formats to the public including videoconferencing, telephone and in person interviews at the City West Clinic. Tele-law services continued to be popular during 2020.



Community Legal Education and Reform Database (CLEAR)

The Community Legal Education and Reform Database showcases community legal education and law reform projects undertaken by Australian Community Legal Centres and other non-profit legal services. The Clinic's 'Pleading Guilty - Know Where You Stand', 'Setting Aside Judgment in the Magistrates Court', 'Licences and Traffic Offences', 'Judgment Debts and Investigation Summons Hearings' and 'The Why and How of Protecting your Designs' self-help booklets are all published on the CLEAR database.

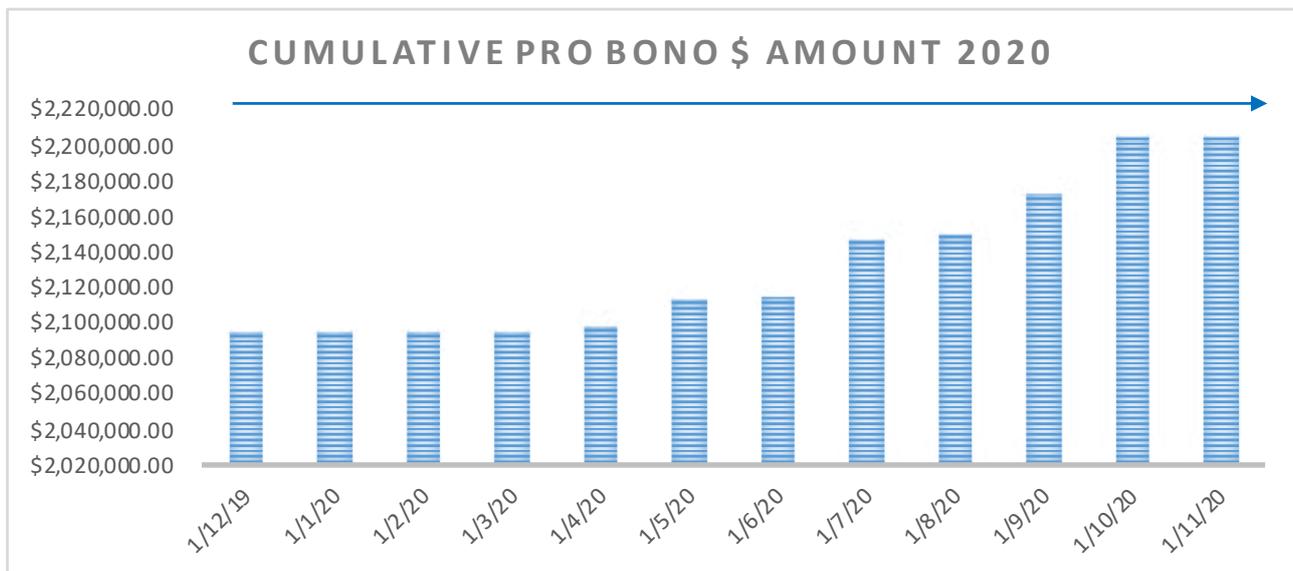
Presentations

Matthew Atkinson, 'Running the Legal Advice Clinic using NeoRehab' University of South Australia Teaching and Learning Retreat, UniSA Magill Campus, 28 August 2020.

Publications

Matthew Atkinson and Margaret Castles, 'Blogging, Journaling and Reflective Writing: A Snapshot of Students' Preferences and Perceptions from Two Australian Universities' (2020) 27(2) *International Journal of Clinical Legal Education* 155.

The services provided by the Legal Advice Clinic are free for all clients. To date, the Legal Advice Clinic has performed over \$2.2M worth of pro bono work, and provided legal assistance to over 2,471 South Australians since it opened its doors in 2011. Student Advisors performed \$109,741 worth of pro bono work during 2020.

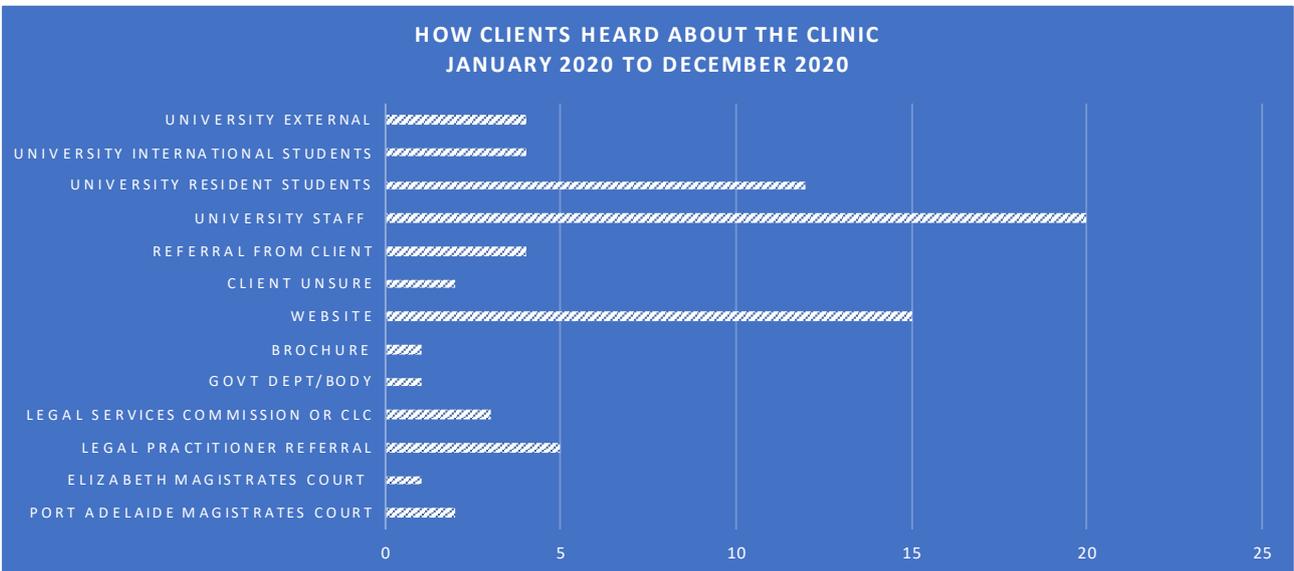


CLIENT FEEDBACK

“Thank you for your thoughtful reply and quality work. We are very grateful for your time and effort in this matter.”



“Thank you for your email. I found the letter to be clear and useful. Thank you for your kind assistance.”



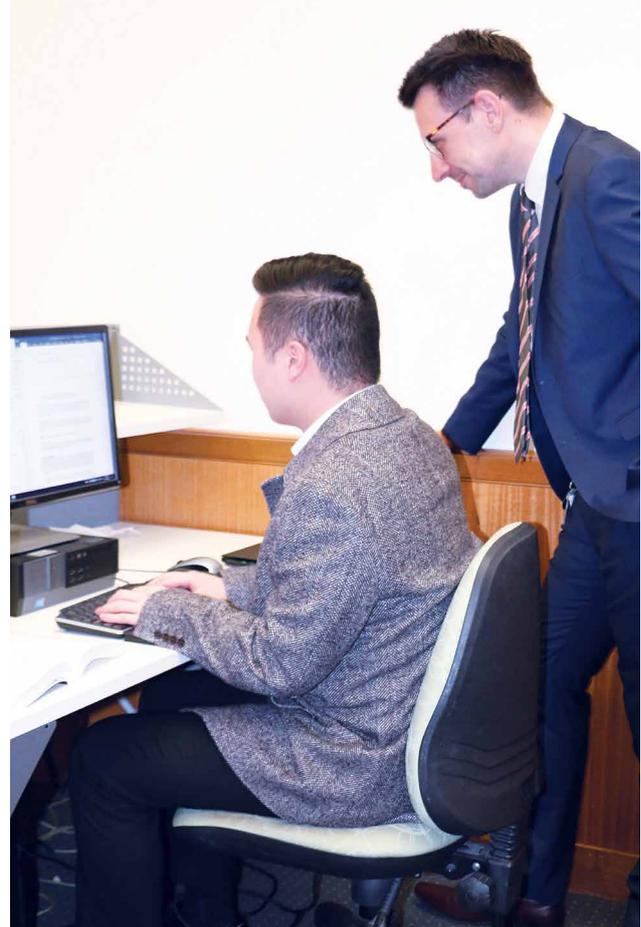
Clients heard about the Clinic from a variety of sources. During 2020, 36 clients heard about the Clinic's services via UniSA staff and student announcements. Records show that 15 clients gained knowledge of the Clinic via the website and 8 clients were referred by the legal industry. The Clinic's internal and external marketing continues to increase awareness within the South Australian community.

"One client who presented to the Clinic requested that we help her with an issue that had come up during the sale of a property that was owned by the client and her ex-husband following the breakdown of their relationship and subsequent property settlement. The client told us that orders were made in the Federal Circuit Court of Australia that the matrimonial property be sold, which required both parties to sign the contract of sale to allow for the property to be sold. We were advised that the client's ex-husband was refusing to sign the contract of sale, and thus not complying with the orders made by the Federal Circuit Court of Australia. This particular client provided us with instructions that she wanted a way to force her ex-husband to sign the contract of sale pursuant to the orders made by the Court in order to carry out the sale of the property.

After conducting some research, we noted that the orders provided that the Court was able to sign off on the contract of sale for the matrimonial home if the ex-husband refused to sign the contract. As the client required an enforcement application, we assisted with the drafting of an application of enforcement and supporting Affidavit for the client to be lodged with the Federal Circuit Court. Specifically, we sought that an officer of the Court sign on behalf of the ex-husband. The client lodged the documents we had drafted and attended the hearing. At the hearing, the Court granted the orders the client sought and the contract was signed by an officer of the Court.

This was an excellent result for the client as she was pleased that the property was sold without the need for the ex-husband's signature or involvement."

Mark Yeatman, Student Advisor



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Law Foundation of South Australia Incorporated

Funding provided by the Law Foundation of South Australia Incorporated for the period 2019 - 2021 (3 years) has enabled the Clinic to continue to provide a unique learning environment where law students can further develop their professional skills and their recognition of the ethical framework of legal practice in a 'real life' scenario. This experience allows students to better equip themselves to meet clients' needs once they begin their professional careers. Notably, the grant has assisted the Clinic in maintaining its current staff resources, which has enabled larger numbers of students to undertake a Clinic placement. In addition, the funding assists the Clinic in providing a much needed service to the community, particularly to those people who would not otherwise have access to justice.

The funding has also allowed the Clinic to renew its 2020/2021 subscriptions of the Magistrates Court SA and Motor Vehicle SA publications, which form an essential part of the Clinic's library and provide a valuable resource to student advisors.

During 2020, the Law Foundation of South Australia Incorporated provided an additional grant for funding to upgrade technology to facilitate online remote service delivery to Legal Advice Clinic clients during and after the Covid-19 crisis. This grant has enabled the Legal Advice Clinic to quickly react and adapt to the challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic. The funding has provided us with the resources needed to implement videoconference appointments in order to continue providing our free legal advice service to the South Australian community. With these additional resources we have been able to provide services to more locations and we now have the capacity to set up and manage interviews with clients in their own town or region. Law students are learning how to use a videoconferencing platform to effectively conduct interviews and provide legal services under close supervision. They are also developing a deeper understanding of how technology can be used to promote access to justice. Undeniably, these outcomes are beneficial for law students, the legal profession and the wider community, now and into the future.

Undoubtedly, the Law Foundation's kind support has been integral to the Legal Advice Clinic's operations during 2020.





University of
South Australia

Legal Advice
Clinic

If you would like legal advice or wish to discuss other matters, please contact us:

University of South Australia Legal Advice Clinic

t: +61 8 8302 7436

e: lawclinic@unisa.edu.au

www.unisa.edu.au/legal-advice-clinic

Acknowledgment: This publication has been produced with funding from the Law Foundation of South Australia Inc.

Information correct at time of printing (November 2021)
CRICOS provider number 00121B