

University of
South Australia

Legal Advice
Clinic

LEGAL ADVICE CLINIC ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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



TABLE OF CONTENTS

4	LAW DEAN'S MESSAGE
5	MANAGING SOLICITOR'S REPORT
7	WHAT WE DO
8	THE PROCESS OF STUDENT INTERACTION WITH CLIENTS
9	CITY WEST CAMPUS CLINIC
10	TELE-LAW SERVICES
11	CASE STUDY OF CLIENT ASSISTANCE
12	CLIENT FEEDBACK
13	LEGAL ADVICE CLINIC STAFF
15	STUDENT ADVISORS
16	STUDENT FEEDBACK
17	VISION, MISSION & VALUE STATEMENT
18	STATISTICS
19	COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION
20	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

LAW DEAN'S MESSAGE



The South Australian community continues to benefit from the pro bono legal work undertaken by the Legal Advice 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 2021, the value of legal advice provided by the Clinic has surpassed 2.3 million dollars and over 2618 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 ten years of operation.

Fifty-three students completed a placement in the Clinic in 2021, and the value of pro bono work provided during that time has been calculated as \$181,639. To date, the Clinic has provided a placement to over 539 law students. Tele-law services implemented in 2020 have remained popular with clients during 2021. During this period the City West Campus Clinic provided 147 clients with a range of services including face-to-face, telephone and videoconference appointments. The Clinic's services are now accessible to all South Australians, irrespective of their geographic location, health concerns, mobility impairment or caring commitments.

In 2021 the Clinic commenced a new collaboration with the Working Women's Centre SA Inc (WWC SA). WWC SA is a non-government organisation that provides free advice and confidential information, support and representation to vulnerable workers residing in South Australia about their rights at work. This initiative has enabled the City West Campus Clinic to provide eight employment law clinics during 2021.

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.

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 Tele-law services.

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 year 2021 marks a decade of operation of the University of South Australia Legal Advice Clinic (“the Clinic”). In a decade, hundreds of our law students have helped assist thousands of South Australians with legal problems. To be precise, in the past ten years, 539 law students have provided legal help to 2613 members of our community who might not have been able to get help elsewhere. In addition, in 2021, the Clinic passed the milestone of providing \$2.3M of pro bono legal services to the community. I’m proud to say that the Legal Advice Clinic continues to play an essential role in the educational and justice landscape of South Australia.

University of South Australia law student graduates who undertook a placement at the Clinic can be found worldwide in diverse legal roles. These roles are in law firms, community legal centres, governments (state, federal and overseas) and even the UNHCR. I’ve had the good fortune of continued contact with many former Clinic students. My conversations with these former students are always uplifting because they all have spoken about the Clinic’s instrumental role in professional development.

The Clinic’s design had the University of South Australia’s seven graduate qualities in mind. My former colleague, Dr Rachel Spencer, detailed in the first Annual Report how the Clinic contributes to these graduate qualities. As a decade has passed since the Clinic commenced operations, it is timely that this exercise is revisited.

GQ 1: Able to operate effectively with and upon a body of knowledge of sufficient depth to begin professional practice.

Clients who access the Clinic can be in crisis, and all need help solving legal problems that have real consequences. Therefore, the legal advice and assistance students provide to clients (under close supervision) must be appropriate, effective, and practical. This requires drawing on and applying a body of legal knowledge. For example, students need to consider property, contract, and criminal law when a client comes to the Clinic seeking help with eviction because their roommate won’t pay their promised share of the rent due to drug addiction. This experience allows students to perform professional practice while drawing upon their legal knowledge to help people with genuine legal problems that need solving.

GQ 2: Prepared for lifelong learning in pursuit of ongoing personal development and excellence in professional practice.

The Clinic not only provides students with opportunities to put their knowledge of the law into practice but also exposes them to the inherent uncertainty in legal practice. When students study a legal case in the classroom (a famous example might be the Mabo case), the facts and legal outcomes are given to them. Students learn to analyse legal cases and predict future legal outcomes when legal cases are applied to other factual scenarios. In legal practice, facts are rarely given and accurately predicting legal outcomes is a fraught activity. Legal professionals must work with clients to discover facts, decide which are essential, and consider a range of possible legal results and consequences. The Clinic provides students with such an experience. Students spend time working with clients where facts can be elusive and a wide range of legal results are possible – no two clients are alike, and the law is dynamic. This experience helps students to prepare for lifelong learning and to appreciate that such learning is imperative for excellence in professional practice.

GQ 3: An effective problem solver, capable of applying logical, critical and creative thinking to a range of problems.

The preceding discussion about the Clinic and its role in exposing students to the uncertainty inherent in legal practice highlights how this graduate quality is developed. Students find early on in their placement that legal problem-solving is not a formulaic, mechanical process. They discover that clients are not a discrete set of legal problems with a person attached. Students learn that clients are people and that legal problems are intertwined with a range of non-legal issues that must be considered. For example, legal problems can be connected to finance, health or trauma, such as domestic violence. In the Clinic, students experience the rich complexity of the law when it involves working collaboratively and empathically with people. To be effective problem solvers for clients, students often need to think critically, creatively and holistically. Students will frequently help clients to identify and connect to other organisations that can aid with complex issues such as financial literacy, mental health, and domestic violence.

GQ 4: Able to work both autonomously and collaboratively as a professional.

Students work together in the Clinic to assist clients. Students interview clients in pairs and work closely with a supervisor, who is a qualified legal practitioner. While the supervisor is present to ensure that clients receive an appropriate standard of care, students are responsible for the work performed. The Clinic is a student-led service where supervisors support students to take leadership and share in the responsibility for the legal work provided to the community. This model ensures that students work professionally, autonomously, and collaboratively, thus developing this graduate quality.

GQ 5: Committed to ethical action and social responsibility as a professional and a citizen.

Student involvement in the Clinic requires knowledge and appreciation of lawyers' ethics and professional responsibility. Students must complete a pre-requisite course in the law program that helps to ensure they understand how to react to professional and ethical situations that might arise in legal practice. The Clinic enables students to experience what that understanding means in actual legal practice. At the Clinic, there is also an emphasis on access to justice and fostering a pro-bono ethos amongst the student cohort.

GQ 6: Able to communicate effectively in professional practice and as a member of the community.

Further to the discussion above at GQ 1 and GQ 3, the Clinic experience provides an opportunity for students to put their legal knowledge into practice and be effective problem solvers who can think critically and creatively when helping clients. Through this experience, students can learn how to communicate effectively in professional practice. When students are placed at the Clinic and help clients with their legal problems under quality supervision, they learn about communication, active listening, and empathy. These skills are developed during student interactions with clients and other members of the Clinic community, including peers, supervisors, and stakeholders.

GQ 7: Able to demonstrate international perspectives as a professional and as a citizen.

Students gain international perspectives through their Clinic experience. Many clients who come to the Clinic seeking assistance are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. In addition, the laws of other countries are often vastly different to Australia. Students work with clients in a culturally sensitive manner and assist them in understanding the options available in the Australian legal system.

There is much to be proud of in the Clinic's decade of operation. May it help develop law students into consummate, ethical professionals irrespective of their chosen career path and provide a much-needed legal service to the community in the future.

Sincerely



Matthew Atkinson
Senior Lecturer/Managing Solicitor

WHAT WE DO

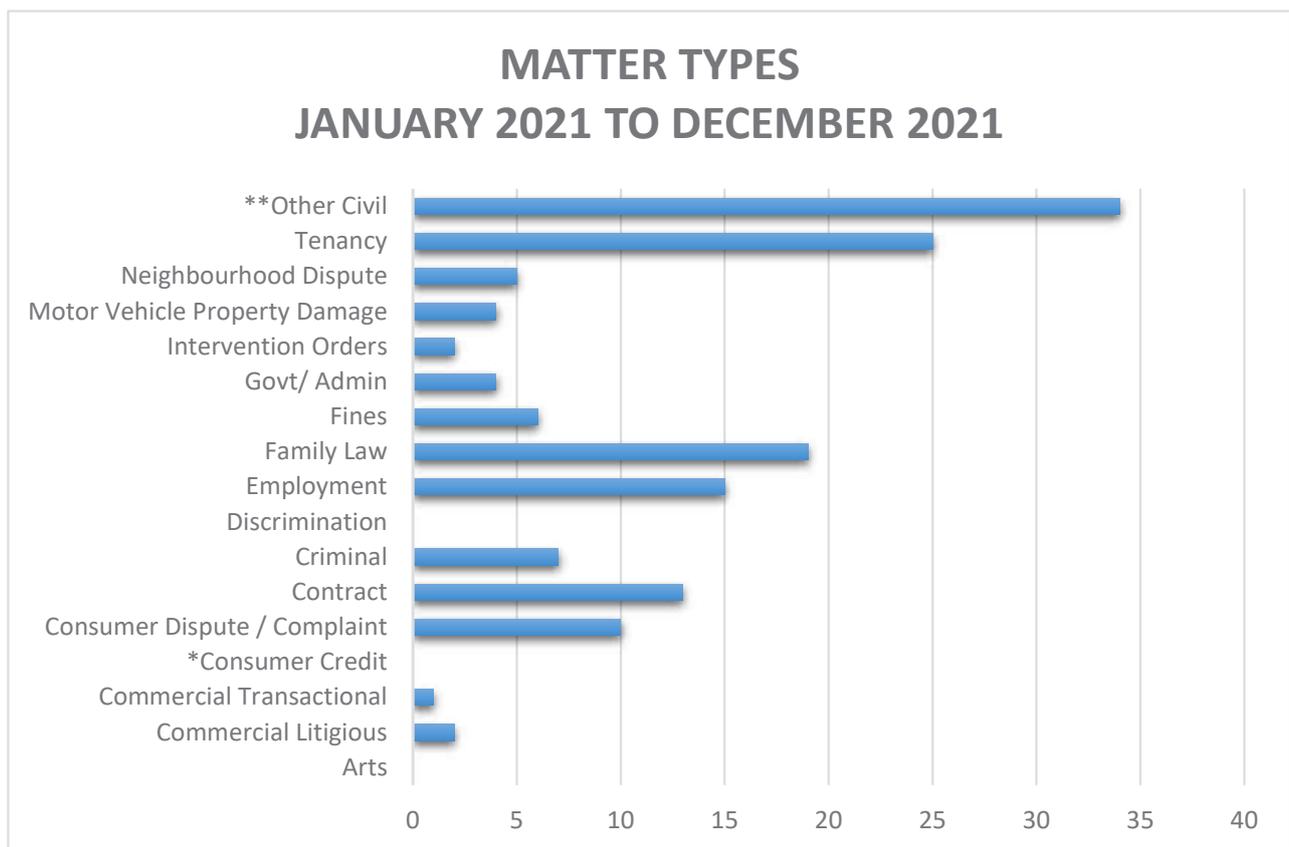
To date, the Legal Advice Clinic has provided legal assistance to over 2,618 South Australians and performed over \$2.3M worth of pro bono work since it opened its doors in 2011.

Advice and Assistance

The Legal Advice Clinic provides free confidential legal advice in a variety of areas of law, including: criminal, family law, civil disputes, car accidents, fines, debt claims, consumer disputes, fencing and other neighbour disputes. The Clinic has provided legal assistance to over 2,618 South Australians since it opened its doors in 2011.

As at 31st December 2021, the Clinic had provided in excess of \$2,300,000 worth of pro bono legal advice to clients since commencement of its operation in 2011, with \$181,639 being in the 12 months from 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2021.

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

STAGE 1: PRE-INTERVIEW

Student Training	Client Appointments	Interview
<p>All student advisors undertake rigorous training, complete confidentiality undertakings and become familiar with the clinic's policies and procedures together with relevant professional rules and guidelines. Additionally, all students who undertake placements in the Clinic must first complete a compulsory 'Lawyers, Ethics and Society' course, which is part of their Bachelor of Laws degree.</p>	<p>Clinic appointments are generally made by telephone, and student advisors are responsible for this process. When student advisors make an appointment, they ask basic questions to ascertain if the Clinic is able to assist. The students then conduct a conflict check. If the Clinic is unable to assist, student advisors provide referrals to other organisations, which may be able to help.</p>	<p>Interviews take place via videoconference, telephone or in person. For in person interviews the student advisors ensure that the interview room is in order and the table and chairs are arranged in a way so as to safely conduct the interview.</p>

STAGE 2: INTERVIEW

First Stage of Interview	Second Stage of Interview	Third Stage of Interview	Fourth Stage of Interview
<p>Student advisors greet the client, introduce themselves and tell them about the Clinic. Student advisors explain the interview process to the client, and that they are closely supervised by a legal practitioner. All clients are required to sign a retainer agreement, which sets out the terms of the Clinic's assistance.</p>	<p>The client explains their matter to the student advisors. The students record accurate notes and confirm their understanding of the matter with the client. If the client has any documentation relating to their matter, students also go through this information with the client. Once the students have an understanding of the client's matter, they let the client know that they must confer with the Clinic supervisor.</p>	<p>Students consult with the Clinic supervisor and also present the client's documentation. The Clinic supervisor helps the student advisors to decide what advice should be given to the client. Students take notes regarding the discussion with the Clinic supervisor and provide the advice that has been approved by the Clinic supervisor.</p>	<p>Students return any original documents to the client and provide the client with advice approved by the Clinic supervisor. If the client gives further instructions, students return to the Clinic supervisor to discuss these new instructions. No advice can be provided to the client without the Clinic supervisor's approval.</p>

STAGE 3: FILE MANAGEMENT

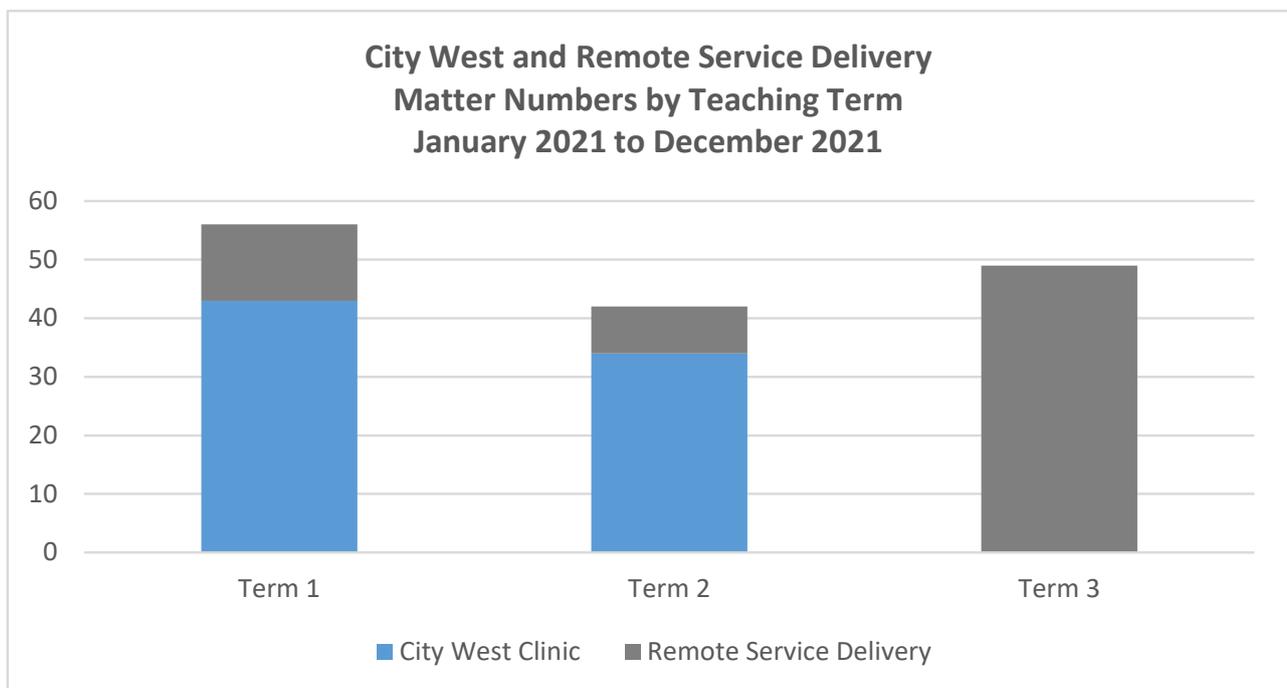
Post Interview Actions	Client Correspondence	Clinic Feedback
<p>Student advisors ensure all necessary forms are complete, diarise any follow up appointments, critical dates and a review date. Students undertake research regarding the client's legal issues, type up file notes and draft an 'Initial letter' to the client (if appropriate).</p>	<p>All correspondence is approved by the Clinic supervisor to ensure that it meets the necessary professional standards prior to being sent to the client.</p>	<p>Clients and students are asked to provide feedback to the Clinic so that the service can be continually improved and the educational experience is developed and enhanced.</p>

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. Notwithstanding the travails of Covid 19, the Clinic's face-to-face services provided at the City West campus continued in terms 1 and 2, 2021.

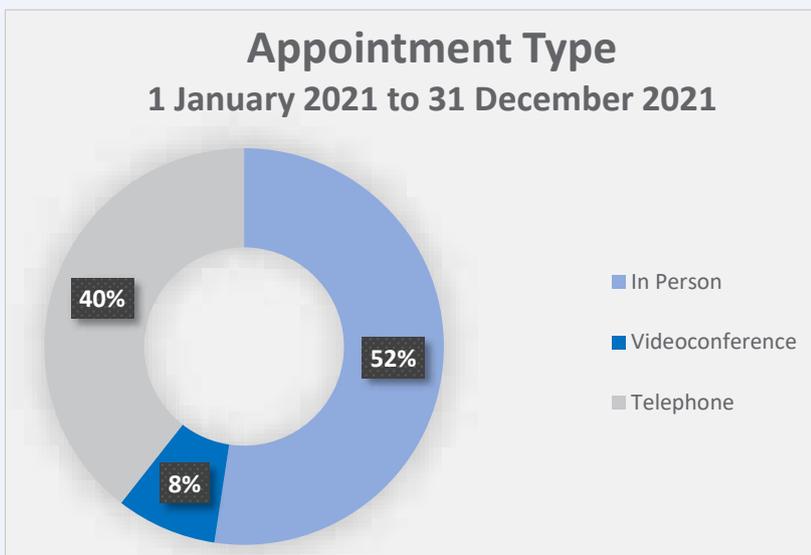


TELE-LAW SERVICES



Service delivery during Covid-19 pandemic

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Legal Advice Clinic implemented new Tele-law services during 2020. Throughout 2021, the Clinic has continued to provide videoconferencing and telephone services, making appointments accessible to South Australians irrespective of their geographic location, health concerns, mobility impairment or caring commitments. During 2021, the Clinic was unable to recommence face-to-face outreach services at Port Adelaide Magistrates' Court and the University of South Australia's Allied Health Clinics, nonetheless we have continued to provide services to our outreach clients by providing videoconferencing and telephone appointments. In addition, Tele-law service have allowed us to helped people across regional South Australia.



During 2021, the Clinic performed 58 client interviews by telephone and 12 interviews by videoconference.

CASE STUDY OF CLIENT ASSISTANCE

"One client we had the pleasure of advising sought the Clinic's help regarding a property valuation matter. The client informed us that the capital value of her property had recently been increased through a decision of the Valuer-General, that in turn, had increased her council rates. Dissatisfied with this sudden significant increase in the property's capital value, the client disputed the decision. However, her objection was dismissed by the Office of the Valuer-General. Consequently, the client lodged a review with the South Australian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (SACAT) to appeal the decision. However, she was quite confused with the process, which led her to seek the Clinic's advice and assistance.

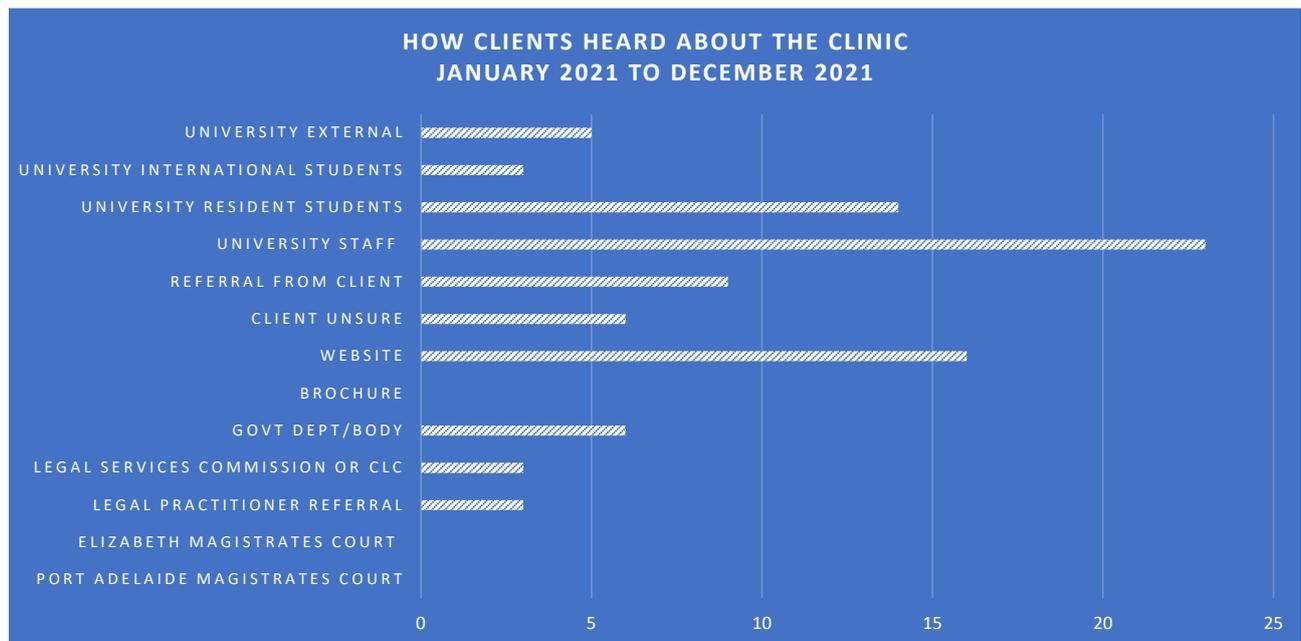
The Client explained that she was seeking to have the decision of the Valuer-General changed to a fairer value. She instructed us to help clarify the SACAT process, and outline whether she had a strong case and how to strengthen it.

After conducting some research, we noted the function and process carried out by the Valuer-General and confirmed her case's strength and advice on how to make

it stronger. We also explained that her evidence supported her case, although we did not have enough details to comment appropriately. We explained the decisions the Tribunal may make as a result of her presenting her case, and we suggested she contact SACAT.

Correspondence with the client appeared positive and informative, with her updating us every step of the way. Ultimately, the Valuer-General made a settlement offer to decrease the capital value considerably to a much more reasonable value, which the client was delighted to accept. The client was overjoyed with her success in her self-titled 'David v Goliath battle'. From our perspective, as Student Advisors, it was a very educational and satisfying experience. This is because we could practice interview control with the client as, while we were acknowledging the client's story, we focussed her attention on the relevant legal issues and explained why specific issues were not relevant, enabling the client to focus on the real issues at hand. We are pleased with our efforts and grateful for being able to assist in a successful case."

Sarah Sard and Alexander Rice, Student Advisors



Clients heard about the Clinic from a variety of sources. During 2021, 40 clients heard about the Clinic's services via UniSA staff and student announcements. Records show that 16 clients gained knowledge of the Clinic via the website and 6 clients were referred by the legal industry. The Clinic's internal and external marketing continues to increase awareness within the South Australian community.

CLIENT FEEDBACK

“Oh this is fantastic! Thank you all so much. You are all amazing! It was a delight to engage with you all... This is an excellent result. I’m very happy with it. I appreciate all of your time today putting this document together. We will work on the detail and I feel very confident about lodging this... There is no way I could have put something like this together. I look forward to further engagement if it will be appropriate. It’s an excellent outcome at such short notice and I can’t thank you all enough for your professionalism and attention to detail. I am so very impressed...”

“Thank you so much for the time you invested with me yesterday clarifying my situation... Thank you for your follow up email. Objectively it is my opinion that you and UniSA’s law clinic have contributed considerably towards my knowledge and understanding of how best I may present my objection and given my option to attend in person I will continue to independently refine my substantiating material... Thank you...”



“Thanks a lot for the advice. The consultation/meeting was immensely helpful and I do not have enough words to thank you all. I greatly appreciate the time dedicated by everyone involved...”

LEGAL ADVICE CLINIC 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), Bachelor of Laws and Legal Practice (LLB/LP Hons) and Graduate Diploma in Education Studies (Digital Learning). He is currently undertaking a PhD. 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 to 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. 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.



Dr Paula Zito is a Lecturer and a Supervising Solicitor at the Legal Advice Clinic. She has been involved in the Legal Advice Clinic since her commencement at UniSA in July 2022. Paula enjoys mentoring students in the Legal Advice Clinic and supporting them in their learning journey about what it means to be a lawyer. She inspires them to contribute their legal skills and knowledge, that they have been learning throughout the course of their law degrees at UniSA, to help those in need in the community. As a practicing solicitor since 1998, Paula brings a depth of practical experience to her role in the Legal Advice Clinic, helping students learn in a hands on way how to run a client file and how to advise clients, while also teaching them about their legal professional and ethical duties as lawyers. She also teaches Civil Litigation and Dispute Resolution to many of the students participating in the Legal Advice Clinic and so is able to build on the relationship she establishes with students and assist them in being career ready for their legal profession of choice. Paula's specialty areas include Intellectual Property and Commercial Law, as well as Food Law, International Trade and Property Law. Prior to joining UniSA, Paula taught law at The University of Adelaide for over 10 years, where she also undertook and completed her doctorate in Intellectual Property Law.



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.

STUDENT ADVISORS

All University of South Australia law students can choose to undertake a placement in the Legal Advice Clinic. A clinical placement 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. Student 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.



STUDENT FEEDBACK

“For me, the practical element of law has been an intense love-hate relationship. On the one hand, I’m excited to step out and become a solicitor. On the other, there are anxious feelings of inadequacy and uncertainty about which field of law I should pursue. Considering these factors, I knew enrolling in the Legal advice Clinic was a no-brainer. The Clinic provided a safe space for me to shift my learning into the practical side of the law, client interviews, researching relevant legislation and writing letters of advice. Regular lectures, and a supportive, easy-going supervisor (Thank you, Daniel!), allowed me to overcome my anxiousness and enjoy this stage of my degree. The Clinic also showed me I don’t need to pick one field now, and I could enjoy the law career ride and see where my degree takes me. Finally, there is the Clinic’s essential aspect: helping the community, particularly those in vulnerable financial positions, as opposed to fictional characters in assignments. If you need a safe and enriching learning space for practical aspects of law, look no further than the Legal Advice Clinic!”

Student Advisor, Narelle Perry

“Participating in the Legal Advice Clinic was one of the most important and rewarding experiences of my law degree. It was invaluable for several reasons. Firstly, it provided the environment to put what I had learnt in coursework into actual practice. Secondly, it helped me become job ready by giving me face to face client experience. And finally, and perhaps most importantly, it exposed me to the importance of social justice and the true impact that legal assistance can have on the lives of people.”

Student Advisor, Bill Allert



2021 was another busy and successful year for the Legal Advice Clinic with 53 students undertaking a Clinic placement. To date, the Clinic has provided placements to over 539 law students since it opened its doors in 2011.

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:

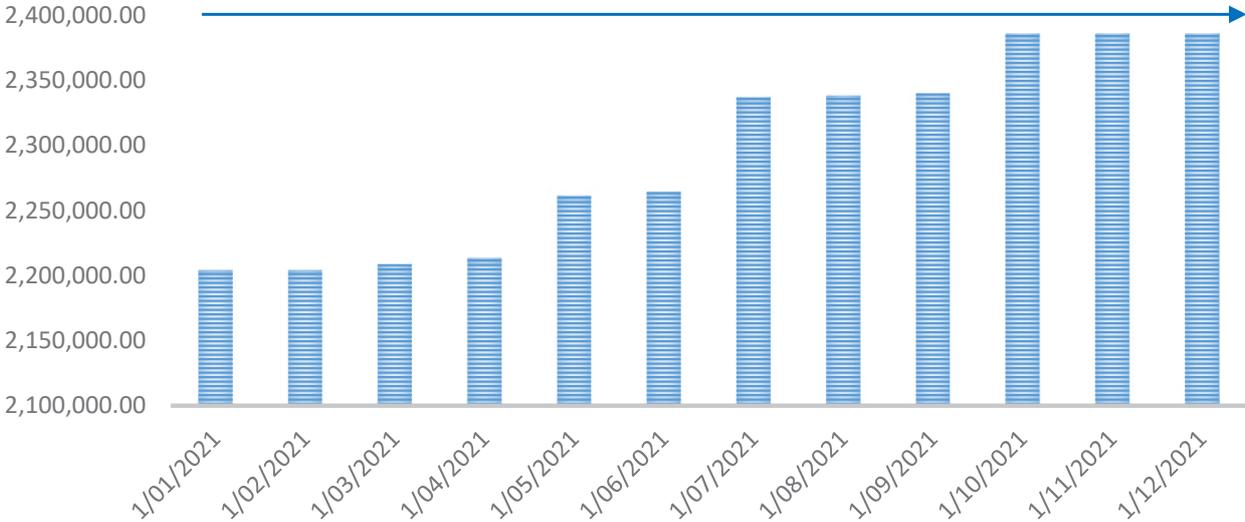
- Innovative, interesting and challenging educational opportunities for law students.
- A commitment to ongoing research and innovation.
- A belief in, and a commitment to, access to justice for everyone.
- An educational environment where all students are encouraged to ask questions and learn from their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

STATISTICS

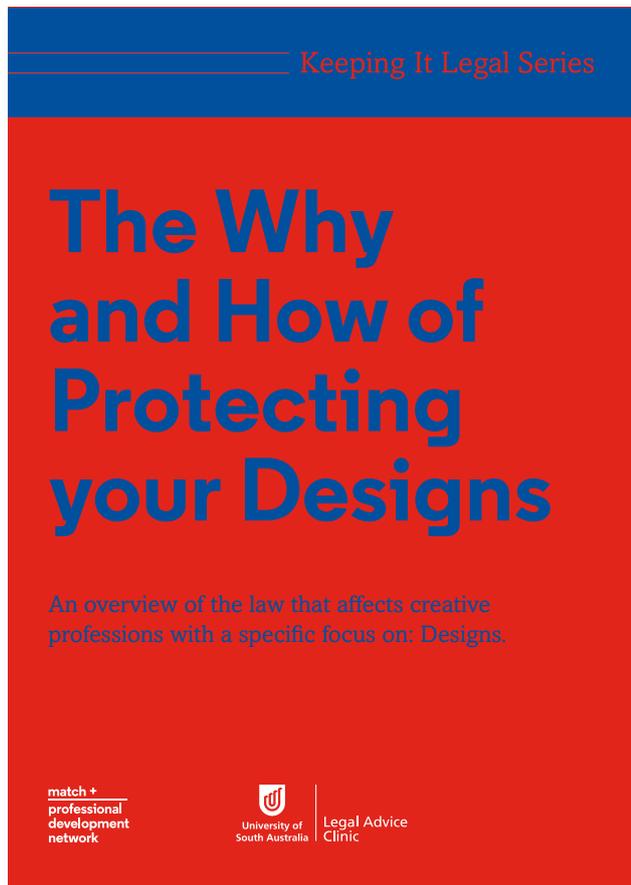
To date, the Legal Advice Clinic has performed over \$2.3M worth of pro bono work, and provided legal assistance to over 2,618 South Australians since it opened its doors in 2011.

The services provided by the Legal Advice Clinic are free for all clients. Student Advisors performed \$181,639 worth of pro bono work during 2021.

CUMULATIVE PRO BONO \$ AMOUNT 2021



COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION



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, 'Legal Advice Clinic & Opportunities for the Innovation Collaboration Centre' Presentation and Discussion, Innovation Collaboration Centre, University of South Australia, North Terrace, Adelaide, 24 August 2021.

Activities

- Collaboration with Working Women's Centre to create employment law Clinics.
- Collaboration with Centre of Restorative Justice to teach client communication skills in UniSA clinical legal education courses.
- Collaboration with United Care Wesley Bowden with the teaching of access to justice and the role of financial counsellors in disputes involving debt.
- Participation in the South Australian Legal Assistance Forum and UniSA Telehealth Advisory Group.

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 2021/2022 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. Law Foundation of South Australia Incorporated funding has enabled us to renew our videoconference software subscription for 2021. This has allowed us to continue to provide our free legal advice service to the South Australian community via videoconference appointments throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. This service has also allowed us to set up and manage interviews with clients in their own town or region. Additionally, 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 2021.



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





University of
South Australia

Legal Advice
Clinic

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

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

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Artist: Ngupulya Pumani

Acknowledgement of Country

UniSA respects the Kaurna, Boandik and Barnjarla peoples' spiritual relationship with their country. We also acknowledge the diversity of Aboriginal peoples, past and present.

Find out more about the University's commitment to reconciliation at unisa.edu.au/RAP

Australia's University of Enterprise