



Collaboration for change

Annual report 2023-2024

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Acknowledgement of country

Health Justice Australia acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters where we work, and pays respect to Elders past and present. We recognise the strength and resilience of First Nations people. We are committed to reconciliation with, and self-determination of, First Nations peoples.

Sovereignty has never been ceded.

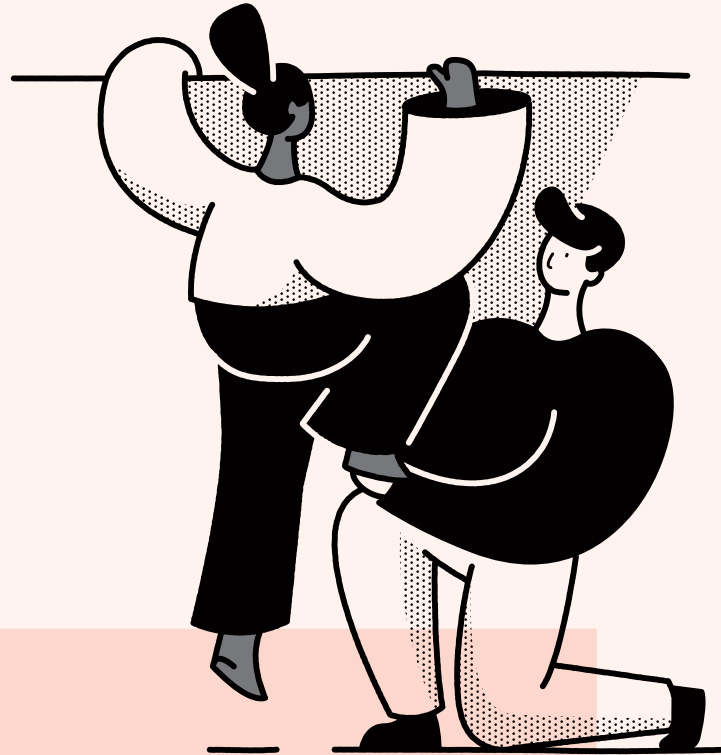
Always was, always will be Aboriginal land.



About Health Justice Australia

Health Justice Australia is the national centre of excellence for health justice partnership (HJP), supporting collaborations between services to achieve better health and justice outcomes for vulnerable communities.

Our work builds expertise, identifies system barriers, creates opportunities for systems change, and enables health justice partnerships to expand and increase their impact.



Health justice partnerships (HJPs) integrate legal help into services that support people's health and wellbeing. HJPs assist:

- individuals, through direct service provision in places that they access
- partnering practitioners and services, by integrating service responses around client needs and capability
- people and communities vulnerable to complex need, through advocacy for systemic change to policies and practices that affect the social determinants of health.



Mission

We strive to reshape health, social care and legal service systems so they are better able to respond to people's needs. In turn, this will lead to improved health and wellbeing for people, particularly groups facing complex, intersecting problems. We do this through our role as a knowledge hub by connecting research, experience from practice and policy advocacy.



Values

Curiosity

We value and welcome opportunities to learn. We actively listen and reflect, including where there is uncertainty and ambiguity. We seek out expertise and experience that is different to our own.

Courage

We are ambitious in our purpose and scope. We adapt and change through what we learn. We acknowledge what is hard and where we can do better.

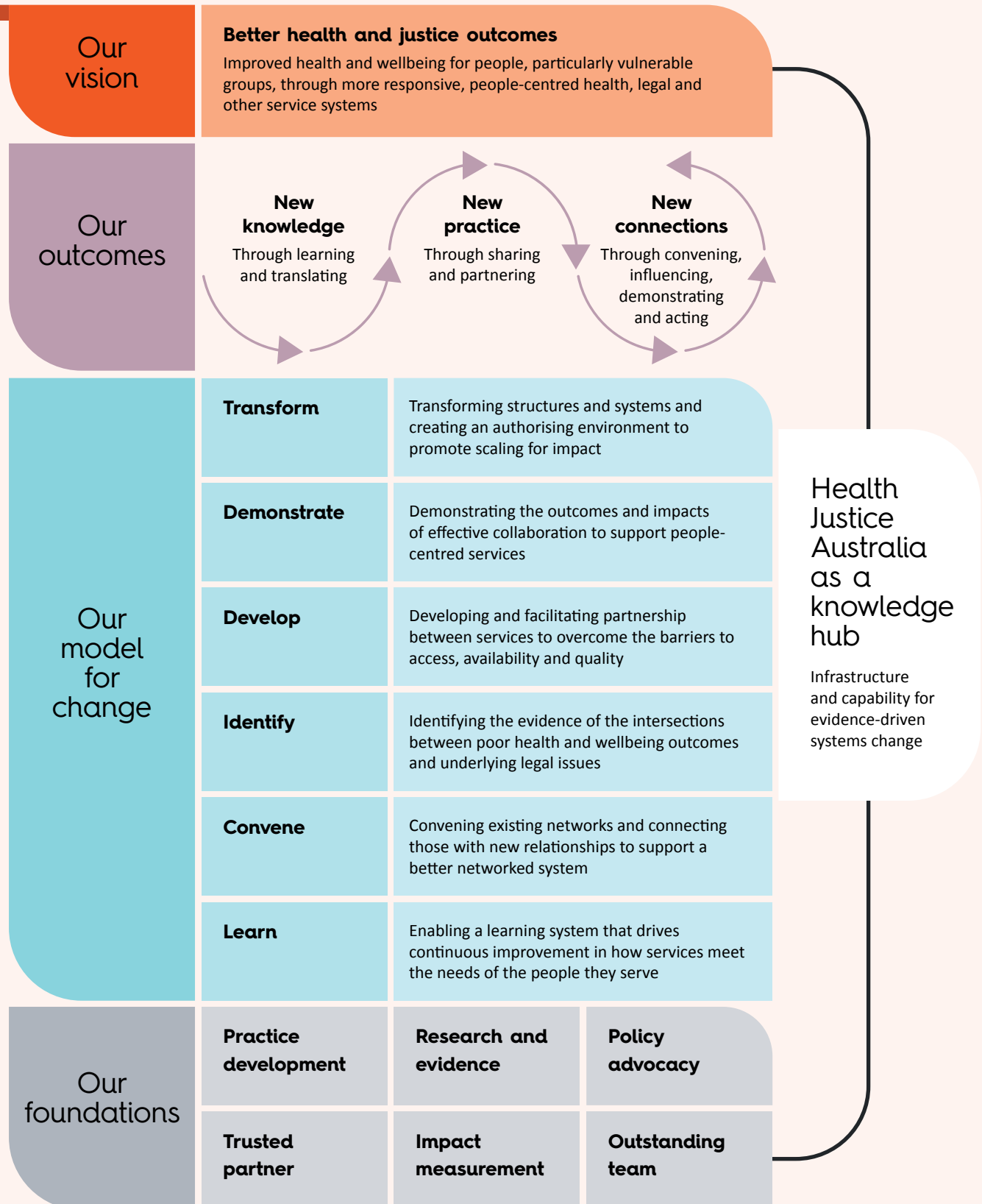
Integrity

We are authentic and genuine in how we engage. We are transparent in our decision making. We are accountable for the resources we use and the purpose we put them to.

Respect

We work with, alongside and for others by building trusted, respectful relationships. We are intentional about where we lead, where we collaborate and where we follow. We value the wellbeing of our people and the people we work with and for.

Theory of change



Message from the chair

Dear friends and supporters,

I'm excited to share our first Annual Report with you, marking a significant milestone for Health Justice Australia as we reflect on our progress and achievements over the past year.

One of the standout themes this year has been the growing recognition of the vital role legal assistance plays in improving social and health outcomes for people dealing with multiple complex challenges. Health Justice Australia is pleased to have been able to contribute to major health and well-being strategies including the draft National Suicide Prevention Strategy; a number of Centres for Research Excellence looking at childhood adversity, early intervention for families and integrated health and social care; and the major review of the National Legal Assistance Partnership Agreement.

This year has also brought transition within our organisation. After leading the organisation through its first 8 years, setting strong foundations for the future, we bid farewell to our inaugural CEO, Dr Tessa Boyd-Caine, in early 2024, and welcomed Sheree Limbrick in April. We are excited about the fresh perspective and leadership Sheree brings as we continue our mission and seek to scale our impact.

Additionally, we've been refreshing our Board, welcoming Paula Head and Peter Noble in June. I'd like to extend my heartfelt thanks to my fellow Board members, our dedicated CEOs, the entire Health Justice Australia team, and our wonderful supporters and partners. Your commitment makes our ambitious goals in systems change possible.



As we look ahead, we know that meaningful change requires long-term thinking and dedication. Thank you for being a part of this journey with us.

Warm regards,

Michael Broadhead
Board Chair

Message from the CEO

It is with great pleasure that I write my first Annual Report as Chief Executive Officer of Health Justice Australia. It is an exciting and unique position to be working at the intersection of health, community service and legal systems to bring about and support change at practice, policy and systems levels.

I pay tribute to my predecessor, inaugural Chief Executive Officer Dr Tessa Boyd-Caine, for her leadership, passion and vision. I also thank most wholeheartedly our Acting co-CEOs, Adjunct Associate Professor Suzie Forell and Lottie Turner, for their careful stewardship of the organisation before my commencement.

Whilst this, our first Annual Report, focusses on the 2023-24 period, I cannot let the opportunity pass to acknowledge the incredible work undertaken since Health Justice Australia's establishment in 2016. Over this time, we have seen a significant increase in the number and location of Health Justice Partnerships across a broad range of settings, we are seeing an increase in recognition of legal need and legal support options among health and community service researchers, policy makers, funders, leaders and practitioners, and we know that practitioners working with people experiencing multiple, complex problems benefit from working in partnership.

The work of Health Justice Australia does not happen in a vacuum nor in isolation. The shifts we advocate for, observe and support are made and reinforced every day by hundreds, if not thousands, of practitioners, managers, agency leaders, research partners, advocates, policy and decision makers – I thank them all for their work and their connection with Health Justice Australia, and



I especially thank all who I have had the chance to meet and engage with directly as I have joined this far-reaching and diverse network.

As you will read throughout this report, Health Justice Australia is supported by many colleagues and like-minded change agents – in this regard I want to especially acknowledge the support of our Justice Equity Centre and Our Community House colleagues, with whom our Melbourne and Sydney teams feel very much at home, and to Justice Connect who continue as a member of Health Justice Australia since our inception. I also want to recognise the ongoing support of the Paul Ramsay Foundation and other philanthropic and government funders, without whose support, engagement and encouragement we would simply not be able to do what we do.

The year ahead presents us with yet more opportunities and challenges as we continue to deepen our understanding and evidence of the

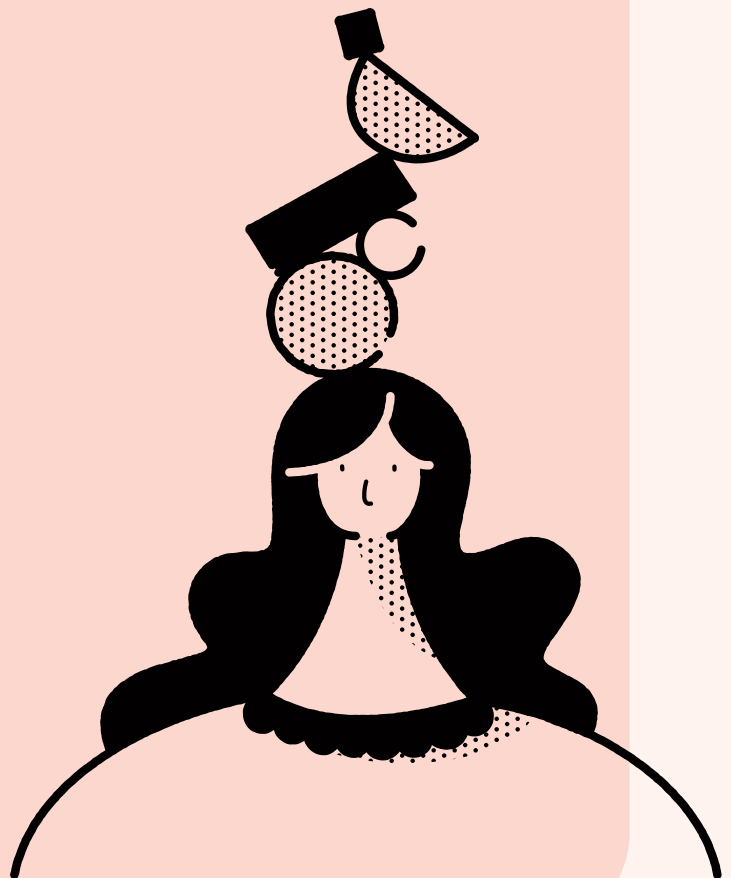
effectiveness of health justice partnership through our multi-year multi-site evaluation project, we advocate alongside our legal, health and community service sector colleagues for increased access and equity to legal assistance, and we continue to grow and support this movement for change which results in accessible, timely and appropriate services where people need them, when they need them, and in a manner that they need.

The coming year also sees Health Justice Australia embark on the development of our next Strategic Plan, as we look to new horizons and innovations to continue to disrupt, shift and ultimately change complex systems to be able to respond more equitably to our communities.

In closing, I want to thank Michael and members of the Board for placing your trust in me to lead Health Justice Australia into our next exciting phase, and for your support as I have taken up my role. Also, to the incredibly skilled, supportive, caring and enthusiastic Health Justice Australia team – thank you for making me so welcome and for your ongoing commitment and passion to create more just communities.



Sheree Limbrick
Chief Executive Officer



Our year at a glance

Our activity

Supporting practice

Hosted

38 events

to build skills and share knowledge

Supported an active network of

441 practitioners

working in health justice partnership

Building knowledge

Published

5 pieces of original research

Participated in

8 research partnerships

Had

3 articles published in academic journals

Strategic advocacy

Participated in

14 advisory panels

and policy working groups

Made

8 submissions

to government policy processes

Provided

5 briefings

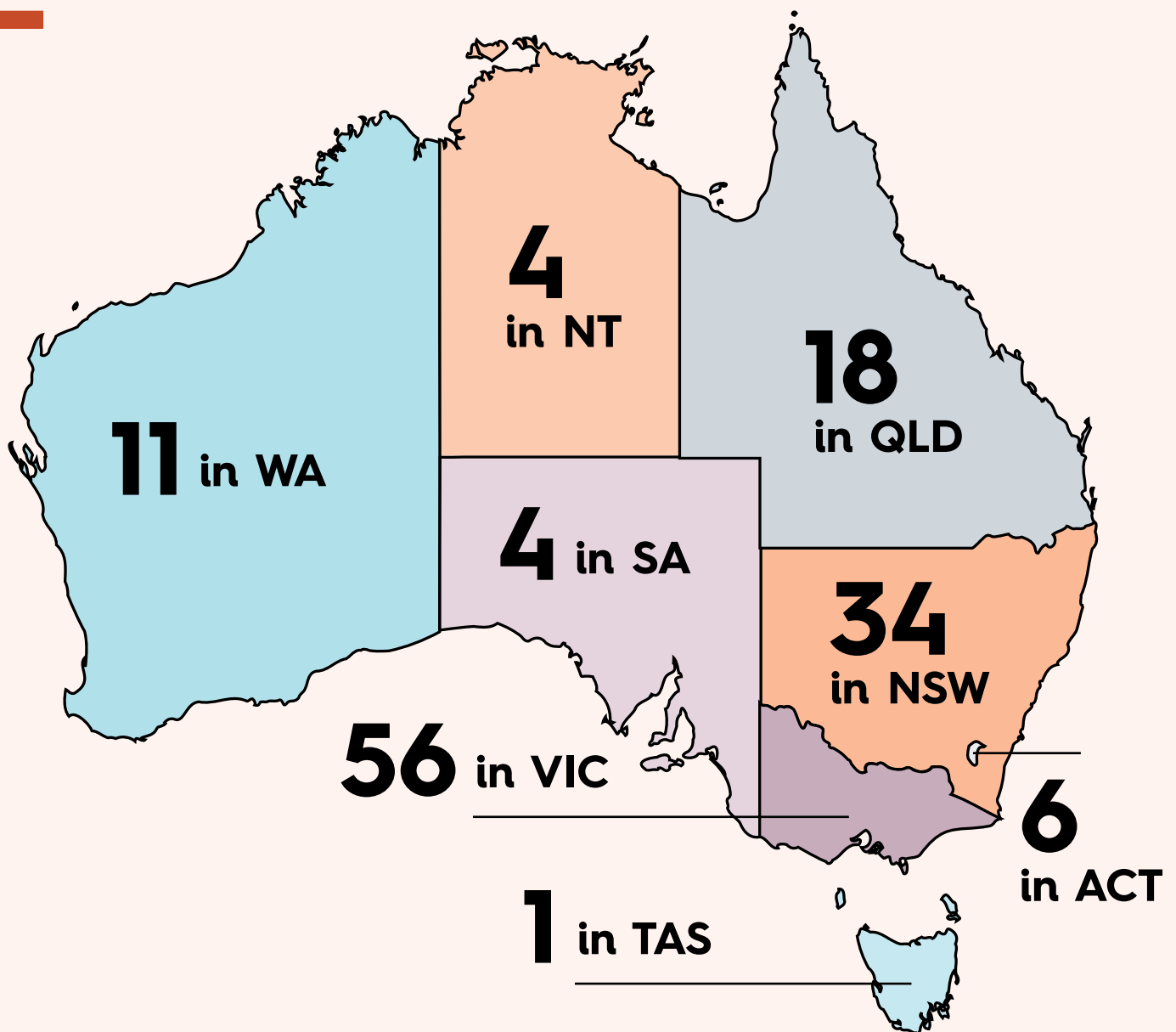
to parliamentarians and their offices

Provided

5 departmental briefings

Health justice partnerships

Across Australia, to the end of June 2024, there are 134 active health justice partnerships:



There are currently 12 partnerships in development
1 partnership ceased or became inactive during this period

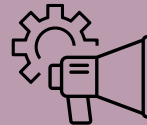
Strategic priorities



Building the knowledge base

Health Justice Australia is the only organisation on the health justice landscape that plays a cross-sectoral role at the intersection of research, advocacy and policy, while working closely with service delivery on the ground. This allows us to bring together knowledge from across these sectors, creating space for interdisciplinary dialogue and shared learning.

- We connect the evidence, expertise and experiences of a diverse range of professionals, researchers and communities around a shared interest in addressing inequity in health and justice.
- We partner on strategic research initiatives, joining researchers from different disciplines who are interested in understanding and addressing complex, intersecting problems.
- We develop and translate knowledge gained through our research in a variety of ways. Our papers, tools, templates and guides are valued by practitioners, researchers, policy makers and funders.



Strategic advocacy

The evidence is clear that people often experience multiple, intersecting health, social and legal problems. By contrast, services are designed and funded in a way that treats these clustering problems as discrete and unrelated. As a result, people with complex needs can be poorly served by existing services. Our goal is to reshape these service systems so they better serve people experiencing complex and intersecting problems. One of the ways we are working towards this is through reforms in policy settings, service design and funding.

- We identify the structural barriers in policy, funding and service system design that add to the complexity of issues people face and ultimately undermine the effectiveness of service responses.
- We work to improve the way services and systems respond to complex need by leveraging the existing capacity of Australia's health, legal assistance and other services and supporting them to work better together around multiple, intersecting health, social and legal issues.
- We enhance this systemic impact by identifying the lessons from health justice partnership and using them to drive improvements in the design, funding and delivery of the service system.



Supporting health justice practice

Working in partnership takes investment, not just in dollars but in relationships, skills, knowledge, culture and process. We provide opportunities for practitioners and services to build these skills.

- We use our connections with services working in partnership to gain unique insights into what is needed to form and sustain effective, purpose-driven collaboration.
- We provide mentoring and coaching, practical tools, webinars and conferences, and place-based training and support.
- We convene a national network of practitioners to learn from and support each other.



Building the knowledge base

We are uniquely placed to gather, translate and share knowledge about the intersections of health and justice. We do this by making connections across networks and disciplines, bringing together existing knowledge to glean new insights, and partnering in research.

Multisite evaluation of health justice partnerships

Over the years, evaluations have been undertaken of a number of individual health justice partnerships (HJPs), but gaps in evidence about outcomes remain a key barrier to the expansion of this collaborative service model. The multi-site evaluation of HJPs responds to this need for evidence.

We have brought together a group of 11 HJPs in NSW and Victoria under this multi-year research project, with partnerships in a variety of healthcare settings like major tertiary hospitals, community health centres and clinics, and therapeutic communities.

Evaluating this cohort together will help us understand more about how and what HJP can achieve for people in our community experiencing vulnerabilities such as mental ill health, addiction, low income and risk of violence, with intersecting health, social and legal problems. It will also explore how the experience of working in HJP impacts health and legal practitioners.

This year, we commenced the first of four sub-studies, which will identify and describe the features of HJP and their service contexts that may contribute to outcomes through a literature review, interviews and analysis of administrative data.

The Centre of Research Excellence into Childhood Adversity and Mental Health

Health Justice Australia's Research Director, Adjunct Associate Professor Suzie Forell, has been an Associate Investigator in the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and Beyond Blue co-funded Centre for Research Excellence (CRE) into Childhood Adversity and Mental Health, which formally ended in December 2023. Our participation in the CRE has been a game changer, with the achievement of new knowledge, new relationships and new influence well beyond the investment.

This research relationship has made a significant contribution to our understanding of the place and value of HJP in supporting children and families. It has:

- identified legal assistance as a key component of emerging Child and Family Hubs and provided the opportunity for ongoing engagement through the National Child and Family Hub Network
- given us insight into the profile of families that can be reached with legal assistance in these hubs
- identified HJP and legal assistance more broadly as part of the solution to addressing childhood adversity by highly respected health researchers in academic health journals and conferences
- facilitated participation by Professors Sharon Goldfeld and Harriet Hiscock in Health Justice Australia's advocacy into a major review of the national funding framework for legal assistance service design and delivery, providing insight to the reviewer about the value of legal help from a health perspective
- led to our involvement in the following two CREs.

CRE into Integrated Health and Social Care

Health Justice Australia is an associate investigator in this five-year CRE, funded by NHMRC, to explore reducing hospitalisation through innovative, high quality, collaborative research of home and community-based service systems, including

the development of digital and virtual modes of community-based service delivery. Led by Sydney Local Health District, a key focus of the study is the evaluation of the Health Homes and Neighbourhoods (HHAN) program.

STAR CRE (Supporting child and family health for priority populations)

Our involvement as an associate investigator in the STAR CRE into “Supporting child and family health for priority populations: Addressing inequity and supporting positive life trajectories through strengths based tiered access and resources” has seen us undertake a legal needs and opportunity assessment as part of the codesign of the Fairfield Child and Family Hub.

This will identify the likely needs of families from diverse backgrounds with children experiencing developmental delay, together with the needs and capabilities of other practitioners in the hub to see and respond to legal issues. This provides important opportunities to continue to gather evidence on HJP as early support for families.

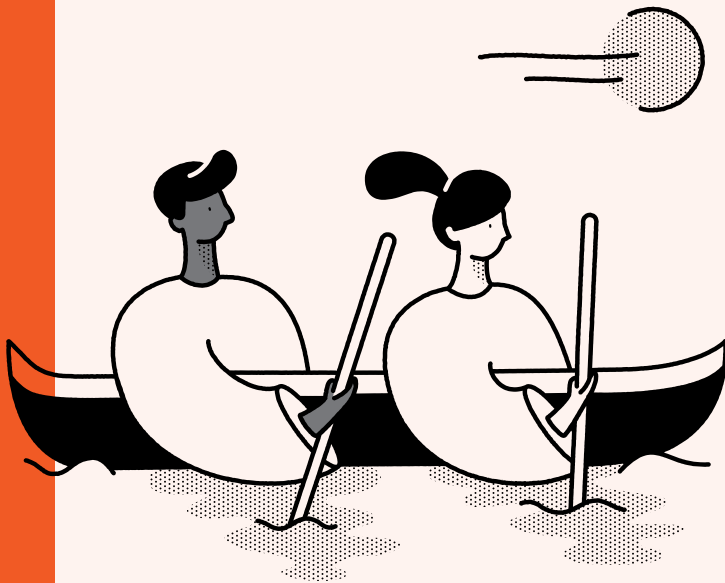
Our work with Neami National

Health Justice Australia has been working with Neami National to explore the needs and opportunities for health justice partnership in mental health settings across Australia. Neami National is a community-based organisation providing services around Australia to improve mental health and wellbeing in local communities. Neami National’s employees include peer support workers, clinical staff, and a range of other support workers who support consumers with a broad range of issues that can impact upon mental health. Within Neami National’s network are Head to Health services, services providing urgent mental health care, mental health, homelessness, suicide prevention support and throughcare for people exiting the justice system.

Part of our work has been a research collaboration between the Health Justice Australia and Neami National research teams to explore how health justice partnership may complement and support the work of Neami National staff and services on the ground. We have published the results of our research with Neami National on the legal needs of consumers and the capability of health practitioners to identify and respond to legal need in health service settings: Assessing legal needs and capability for health justice partnership: The experience at Neami National

Other active research partnerships

- Victorian Collaborative Planning Outcomes Working Group, testing outcome measures for legal assistance services, including HJPs.
- Testing and supporting outcome measurement in 3 Victorian health justice partnerships.



Publications

Other Health Justice Australia published research:

[Health Justice Partnership as early support for children and their families](#)

[Health justice partnership and financial wellbeing](#)

[Health justice landscape: December 2023 snapshot](#)

[Sustaining health justice partnerships: learning from the experience of the Integrated Services for Survivor Advocacy partnership](#)

Academic journal articles:

Tobin-Tyler, E., Genn, H., Boyd-Caine, T., & Ries, N. M. (2023). "[Health Justice Partnerships: An International Comparison of Approaches to Employing Law to Promote Prevention and Health Equity.](#)" *The Journal of Law, Medicine and Ethics* 51: 330-341.

Hall, T. et al (2023). "[Identifying and responding to family adversity in Australian community and primary health settings: A multi-site cross sectional study.](#)" *Frontiers in Public Health* 11: 1147721

Forell, S., & O'Connor, S. (2024) Legal Needs Arising in Mental Health Settings and Staff Capability and Support to Respond. *International Journal of Integrated Care*, 2024; 24(1): 19, 1–9. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5334/ijic.7693>

Defining health justice partnership

This year, we broadened our understanding of 'health justice partnership' from legal help in a 'health setting or team' to legal help in 'services that support health and wellbeing'. The broader description of settings recognises that settings that are outside the traditional understanding of a 'health setting', such as child and family hubs, family violence support services, drug and alcohol services and other services that support people's wellbeing are increasingly implementing health justice partnership. While we have always had such partnerships on our landscape, this broader definition recognises the value of legal assistance in these settings, particularly with the increased focus on integrated service delivery and hub models of care in health and community service contexts.



Strategic advocacy

Health Justice Australia is working to improve the way services and systems respond to complex need that affects people's health and wellbeing. HJP demonstrates how this can be achieved, by leveraging the existing capacity of Australia's health, community and legal assistance services, and supporting them to work better together around multiple, intersecting health, social and legal issues.

Health Justice Australia seeks to support systemic impact by identifying lessons from health justice partnership and using them to drive improvements in the design, funding and delivery of the service system.

Our strategic advocacy work has seen us leverage relationships that we have established and fostered over previous years to support our agenda to influence policy design and reform to better support cross-portfolio collaboration.

Legal assistance funding

A well-resourced legal assistance sector is critical for the sustainability and effectiveness of health justice partnership. To this end, over the past 12 months, we have focused our advocacy on the independent review of the National Legal Assistance Partnership (NLAP), and the development of the new National Access to Justice Partnership (NAJP).

In September 2023, we convened a roundtable for Dr Warren Mundy, the government-appointed independent reviewer for the NLAP. This roundtable was the only structured opportunity for Dr Mundy and the review team to engage directly with health and social service leaders around the contribution of legal assistance to broad cross-government priorities beyond justice outcomes, including primary prevention and early intervention.

The roundtable was attended by a range of leaders in the health and social service sectors, including senior representatives from Danila Dilba Health Service, Neami National, Cohealth, and Murdoch Children's Research Institute.

The opportunity to convene this workshop was enabled through:

- **Our relationship with the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department:** The NLAP review team had structures in place to engage with the legal sector peaks in relation to the review. As Health Justice Australia is not a funded peak, we were not included with these processes. However, our existing, strong relationship with the Attorney General and his department enabled both an individual meeting with Dr Mundy and his agreement to a focused roundtable.
- **Our place as an organisation that sits across, but independent of, the legal assistance sector, and our work that connects research, policy and programming knowledge spanning legal assistance, health and social sector priorities:** Health Justice Australia advocated strongly for increased funding to the legal assistance sector in support of collaboration and partnership approaches.

- **Our focused engagement with social and health organisations:** Over years, Health Justice Australia has built relationships and collaborated with the organisations involved in the roundtable. We worked with Neami National to scope and establish HJP in their services and research the potential for HJP in mental health settings. Our role in the Murdoch Children's Research Institute CRE into Childhood Adversity and Mental Health led to our involvement with the national Child and Family Hubs Network. Both Cohealth and Danila Dilba have long standing HJPs and have been involved with our HJP network for several years.

- Our submission to the NLAP review was endorsed by the organisations involved, and video testimonials produced for use in our ongoing advocacy.

When published in May 2024, Dr Mundy's review report found HJP to be an effective cross-sector service response to intersecting legal and social need. It recommended core investment in existing HJP and future growth in the model, particularly in relation to early intervention and prevention, and in support of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled service responses.

Health justice partnership as early support

Health Justice Australia aims to support service systems to intervene earlier and more effectively in the lives of individuals and families. Our work helps to build the capability of services and practitioners to work collaboratively to prevent issues from escalating to crisis.

This year has seen us engage with building and sharing knowledge, and exploring policy and service responses, to support **early access to legal help for families and children**. Evidence from health justice partnerships (as published in our insights paper, *[Health justice partnership as early support for children and families](#)*) indicates the opportunity for legal help to be part of early intervention to help families address issues that may lead to child protection notifications and removal. This includes the opportunity to work with families before the birth of their children.

We briefed the **Department of Social Services, Children's Policy Division, Safe and Supported Workforce and Wellbeing** on the role of legal assistance as part of early support for families and their children at risk of interaction with child protection systems.

We also used the insights paper as an advocacy tool to brief policy makers from the Australian Government Department of Social Services and Department of Health, in relation to the **National Framework for Australia's Children**.

We contributed to the strategy development for the **National Child and Family Hub Network**, highlighting the interaction of legal needs with social and health needs of families accessing the hubs.

In late 2023, with support from the Menzies Foundation, we convened a workshop with Hands up Mallee in Mildura to explore the issues around child protection and unborn reports, and the potential role of legal assistance in early support for local families. We provided a policy brief to Hands up Mallee to support their role in place-based change, working with services around early legal intervention for families at risk of child protection notifications. Since then, a new HJP focused on domestic and family violence has launched in Mildura, and Victoria Legal Aid are exploring the role of their Independent Advocacy and Family Support program in the region.

Policy processes and submissions

Health Justice Australia continues to actively contribute to policy processes across government portfolios that relate to our advocacy agenda. In addition to legal sector reform agendas, we have been engaged with broader health and community sector reform processes that support cross-sector collaboration and partnership. This includes through our membership in the Australian Council for Social Services, and contribution to national consultation processes such as the **Not-for-Profit Sector Development Blueprint** and **A stronger, more diverse and independent community sector**.

A stronger, more diverse, and independent community sector was a November 2023 Department of Social Services Issues Paper. Our response drew on insights from our network in relation to structures and policies that support or hinder service collaboration, and highlighted the system and policy enablers and barriers to service collaboration and partnership.

In September 2023, we made a submission to the National Women's Advisory Council on reducing gender bias in healthcare and improving outcomes for women and girls in Australia. This submission drew on evidence from health and legal practitioners working in a 28-year-old health justice partnership

(the Integrated Services for Survivor Advocacy), and well as clients of the service. [Our report on this service](#) examined what success in a service partnership looks like from each perspective, as well as looking at what has sustained such a long-running collaboration.

Other submissions made during the year were:

- Annotated Bibliography submitted to the Review of the National Legal Assistance Partnership (August 2023)
- Submission to the Department of Treasury and Finance Victoria market sounding on the Empowerment Fund (October 2023)
- Responses to the Review of the National Legal Assistance Partnership (November 2023)
- Submission to the Department of Social Services Issues Paper Blueprint Expert Reference Group paper on Developing a Not-for-Profit Sector Development Blueprint (December 2023)
- 2024-25 Federal Budget Submission (Jan 2024)
- Australian Law Reform Commission Inquiry into Justice Responses to Sexual Violence (May 2024)

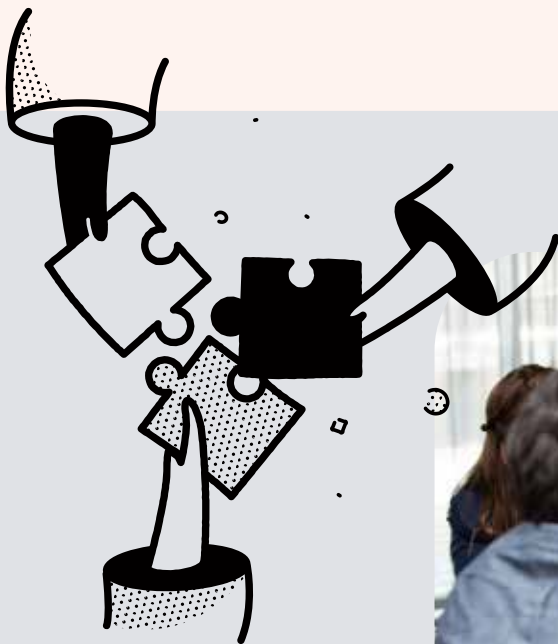


Advisory panels, working groups and communities of practice

This year, we have been involved with the National Suicide Prevention Office Services Working Group supporting the development of the draft **National Suicide Prevention Strategy**. The strategy has a focus on early intervention, including through addressing social determinants and other contextual factors that can escalate to become contributing factors in suicide. Our contribution focused on how the strategy (and subsequent policy and investment initiatives) could support the capacity of the service system to intervene early in people's lives through integrated, cross-sector service approaches in settings where issues may be identified, such as health, social support and educational settings.

We also contributed our knowledge and expertise as members of the following groups:

- National Mental Health Training Project Expert Panel ('With you')
- Integrated Legal Practice Advisory Group
- National Legal Assistance Advisory Group, Commonwealth Attorney General's Department
- Mental Health and Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Group Expert Reference Group, Australia Government Department of Health and Aged Care
- Victorian Collaborative Planning Committee Outcomes Pilot Working Group
- Child Maltreatment Prevention National Advocacy Working Group
- International Federation on Integrated Care (IFIC) Australia – Partnership Committee
- Social Policy Research Centre Advisory Group
- With You Trauma Informed Community of Practice
- Victorian legal assistance sector measurement and evaluation community of practice
- PRF systems change evaluation community of practice (co-hosted by Health Justice Australia and Justice Reform Initiative)





Supporting health justice practice

There are practical and cultural challenges to partnering across different systems, but these challenges have been surmounted by many of the services we have supported. Now, as a result of working together, they have been able to see problems differently and respond with new knowledge and capacity to provide responsive, people-centred services to the people who need them most.

Working with Hume Riverina Community Legal Service

We have been providing a partnership development program for Hume Riverina Community Legal Service through in-depth coaching and mentoring. Four ‘partnership champions’ (health justice partnership lawyers) from within the organisation were chosen by their executive to participate in six sessions with Health Justice Australia. The goals were to embed partnership skills within the organisation, to continue to implement what has been learnt and to establish a peer support group focussed on partnership skills.

The topics covered common challenges faced by HJPs across the landscape and included how to be a new lawyer in an established partnership, building buy-in and equity in partnership, refreshing and reviewing HJP and referral or triage processes in HJP.

The success and lessons from this small, focussed, in-depth coaching and mentoring format will be generalised into the overall capability building program for 2025.

Allyship with cultural educators and cultural mentors to train general practitioners

We were invited by the NSW/ACT branch of the Joint Colleges Training Services (JCTS, a national joint venture of the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine and the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners which delivers cultural education for GPs and provides GP training support to the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service sector) to present on HJP, legal need and access to legal assistance as a determinant of health

and wellbeing at a conference convened by the National Network for Cultural Educators: Cultural Mentors.

We have subsequently been invited to embed our training into JCTS’s cultural program, with further opportunities to present to large groups of GPs and GPs in training, NSW/ACT based ACCHO staff and Aboriginal Medical Services, as well as a select, diverse group of government, health, disability and social services.

The National HJP Practitioner Network

We convene a national network of hundreds of practitioners and advocates working at the intersection of health and justice, and those interested in health justice partnership as a tool for better outcomes. Through this network, we provide a range of supports, including free tutorials and regular email newsletters.

Our **program of regular tutorials** gives practitioners opportunities for skill building, networking and peer learning. This year, tutorial topics included:

- Building HJPs in hospital settings
- Person centred practice in HJP
- Navigating power dynamics and building equity in partnership

We also provide ongoing advice and knowledge through **blogs** published on our website and distributed to network members. This year, topics covered included:

- Where to start when building an HJP
- Rumbling with the other “p” in partnership: power
- Need an MOU? We have a template that can help!
- Helping funders understand the value (and cost) of partnership

- How to have difficult conversations
- Offering training to partner organisations: where should you begin?
- Maintaining momentum in partnership

Email bulletins are another way we share knowledge with practitioners. This year, we sent 15 email bulletins to the network, providing information and resources to support partnering, news of upcoming events, networking opportunities and job vacancies. We also released a resource for practitioners: [Reviewing the way you partner](#)

HJP Leaders’ Forum

In recognition of the leadership required to create real, lasting change, we convene a network of experienced health justice practitioners in senior partnership roles who are engaging in strategic and systems level thinking and advocacy.

This year, we convened four meetings of this group to create a dialogue around advancing, challenging and innovating practice at the intersection.

UTS Law Health Justice Community Advocacy Clinic

We partnered with the University of Technology Sydney, Faculty of Law, to pilot an inaugural Law Health Justice Clinic.

Health Justice Australia, academic supervisors and community partners provided content, facilitation and guidance to five health science and two law interns exploring a systemic problem in the context of service provision and unmet legal needs that impact on health.

The clinic was not a source of one-on-one advice for people, rather it responded to a shared community problem to provide information and advocate for change. Discussion and planning is underway to provide the clinic again in 2025.

Other training and presentations

- Presented on the national HJP landscape and Health Justice Australia’s work for the Queensland HJP cross sector symposium in March 2024; facilitated a 2 hour in-person partnership development workshop to the cross-sector audience.
- Presented to the Queensland Association of Mental Health (QAMH) members forum on HJP

as a possible response to the needs of people experiencing mental health challenges.

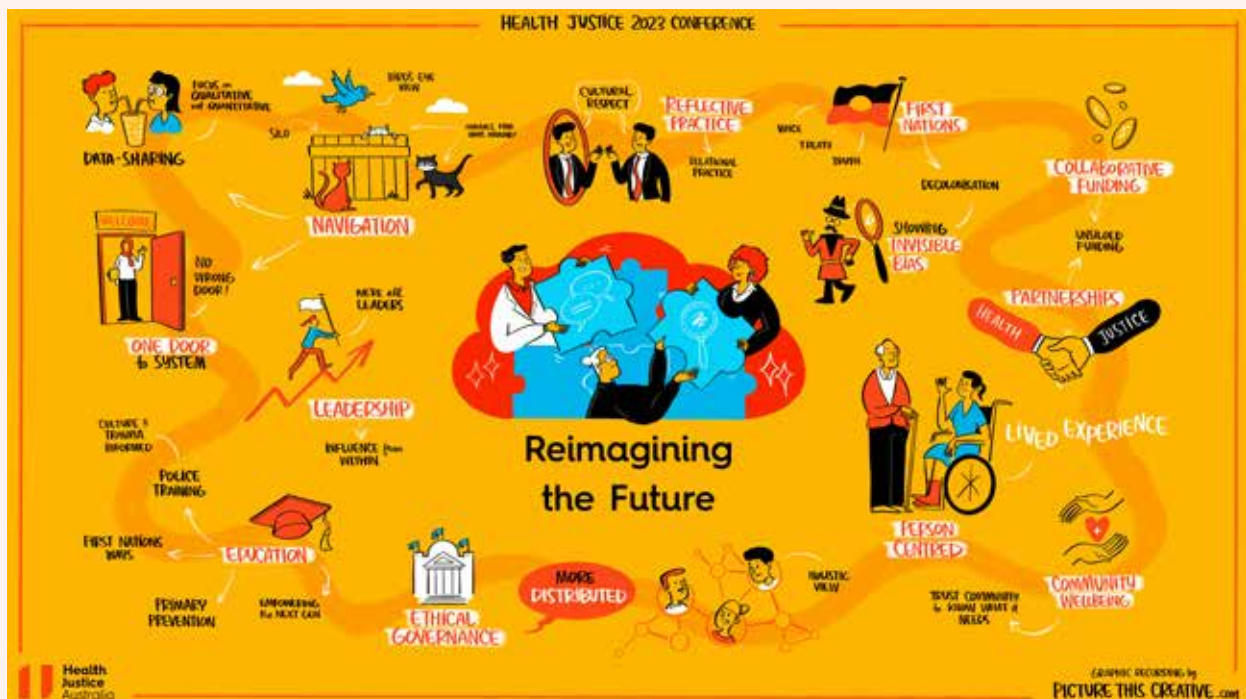
- Continued our collaboration with Neami National (mental health service provider) and provided four hours of foundational online training across jurisdictions to support them in their partnership development skills and collaboration with legal services.

Health Justice 2023

In November 2023, we held our third national conference, Health Justice 2023, providing an opportunity for participants to connect across sectors and experiences, with a diversity of expertise to draw from in plenary and breakout sessions.

We were joined by 160 attendees from across health, legal and social sectors, including government and sector policy makers, peak bodies, researchers, practitioners, tertiary educators and people with lived experience.

We worked with The Australian Centre for Social Innovation to develop an interactive and experimental program designed to enable an examination of the current state and to imagine future states drawing on the expertise of everyone in attendance.



We examined two key topics that are foundational to the work and impact of health justice partnership:

1. What does it look like when services work with the communities they serve?
2. How might we support access to legal help as part of early support?

In our interactive plenary-meets-workshop sessions, delegates put collaboration theory into practice to tackle how to reshape service collaborations around the people they serve, and what kind of future we'd all like to see for the system.

A number of grants allowed us to support the participation of people with lived experience expertise, expanding our bursary program to three times the size of the previous conference.

Each day ended with a frank and fearless lived experience review plenary panel, elevating reflections from participants with lived experience expertise.

In feedback from conference attendees, we found:

- 100% felt they learnt something new to inform their work
- 95% made new connections
- 86% felt more energised about their work.

Health Justice 2023 was the result of an extraordinary effort from all the Health Justice Australia staff team, supported wonderfully by volunteers Julia Caruana, student from Melbourne Law School University of Melbourne, Shaun James, Volunteer Law Clerk from West Heidelberg Community Legal, and Ellie Watts, social work student at Women's Legal Service Victoria.

“

I had a wonderful time at the conference. It was fantastic being around like-minded people and hearing their experiences.

– conference participant

”

“

This has been amazing. Last night I told my friends, I've never been to a conference like this and I'm going to come every year.

– conference participant

”

“

[I] was very impressed at how Health Justice Australia curated the space for people to speak vulnerably. [I] loved the opportunity to talk at the roundtables (table discussions in plenary). That was much more manageable than unstructured discussions at morning teas and lunch. Some of the tables I sat at were just so interesting. At one table there was a paediatrician, a couple of lawyers, a couple of mental health workers and me – and just to learn about how they are thinking about things.

– conference participant

”

Corporate governance

Our board

Our directors in 2023-24 were:



Michael Broadhead
– Chair
(commenced
February 19, 2018)



Sarah Dalton
(commenced
October 8, 2019)



Sharon Friel
(commenced
October 1, 2019)



Paula Head
(commenced
June 1, 2024)



David Hillard
(commenced
July 11, 2016)



Fiona McLeay
(commenced
June 27, 2016)



Peter Noble
(commenced
June 1, 2024)

- Eligible, attended
- Eligible, did not attend
- Not eligible

BOARD DIRECTORS

	Broadhead	Dalton	Friel	Head	Hillard	McLeay	Noble
4-Aug-23	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
14-Aug-23	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
30-Oct-23	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
4-Dec-23	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
26-Feb-24	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
23-Apr-24	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
4-Jun-24	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
TOTAL	7/7	6/7	6/7	1/1	5/7	4/7	1/1

Our team



Dr Tessa Boyd-Caine,
Chief Executive
Officer

(until January 2024)



Sheree Limbrick,
Chief Executive
Officer

(from April 2024)

Research



Suzie Forell,
Research Director

Dr Devon Indig,
Research Lead

(October to December
2023)

Dorothy Drabarek,
Research Lead

(from April 2024)

M. N.,
Knowledge
Management Lead

(on parental leave from
January 2024)

Ruth Pitt,
Research &
Evaluation Lead

(until May 2024)

Strategic advocacy



Kate Finch,
Strategic Advocacy
Manager

Emily McCarron,
Policy Advocacy
Lead

Practice



Lottie Turner,
Partnerships
Director

(on parental leave from
March 2024)



Cathy Bucolo,
Partnerships
Manager

(from March 2024)

Karyn Gellie,
Practice
Development Lead

(from April 2024)

Elizabeth Marton,
Content
Coordinator

Communications



Stephanie Colls,
Communications
Manager

Rena Frith,
Communications
Lead

Maggie Korenblum,
Content
Coordinator

Operations



Scott Holz,
Operations
Manager

Denise Aitken,
Knowledge &
Systems Support
Lead

Farah Chaar,
Events &
Engagement
Coordinator

Emily Liew,
Executive
Operations
Assistant

Our funders and supporters

Our work to change service systems to better support people facing complex and intersecting problems is made possible through the generosity of our funders.

Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care
Ecstra Foundation

Equity Trustees

Paul Ramsay Foundation

The Sir Robert Menzies Memorial Foundation Limited

Victorian Legal Services Board + Commissioner

Health Justice 2023 was made possible through the support of:

Australian Government Attorney-General's Department

Australian Government Department of Social Services

Centre for Innovative Justice, RMIT University

Legal Aid New South Wales

The Jack Brockhoff Foundation

The Wyatt Benevolent Institution Inc

Victoria Legal Aid

Victorian Legal Services Board + Commissioner

Health Justice Australia Ltd

ABN 55 613 990 186

Concise Financial Report

For the Year Ended 30 June 2024

Comprehensive Audited Financial Statements are available at
<https://healthjustice.org.au/annual-report-financials>.

Health Justice Australia Ltd

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2024

	Notes	2024 \$	2023 \$
Revenue			
Revenue from contracts with customers	4	2,094,983	1,888,601
Other income	5	143,888	53,251
Total revenue		2,238,871	1,941,852
Expenses			
Depreciation		(41,602)	(8,044)
Employee benefits		(1,696,386)	(1,380,618)
Lease payments for short-term/low-value leases		(45,472)	(10,426)
Operating and other expenses		(376,409)	(466,367)
Total expenses		(2,159,869)	(1,865,455)
Surplus before income tax		79,002	76,397
Income tax expense			
Surplus for the year		79,002	76,397
Other comprehensive income			
Total comprehensive income		79,002	76,397

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Health Justice Australia Ltd

Statement of Financial Position**As at 30 June 2024**

	Notes	2024 \$	2023 \$
ASSETS			
Current			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	2,127,148	2,152,951
Trade and other receivables	7	51,324	40,480
Other assets	8	10,757	9,356
Total current assets		2,189,229	2,202,787
Non-current			
Property, plant and equipment	9	56,402	20,833
Intangible assets	10	115,464	144,330
Total non-current assets		171,866	165,163
Surplus before income tax		2,361,095	2,367,950
LIABILITIES			
Current			
Trade and other payables	11	130,293	170,498
Provisions	12	84,328	128,504
Contract liabilities	13	1,268,674	1,252,840
Total current liabilities		1,483,295	1,551,842
Non-current			
Provisions	12	64,423	81,733
Total non-current liabilities		64,423	81,733
Total liabilities		1,547,718	1,633,575
Net assets		813,377	734,375
Equity			
Reserves		49,105	
Accumulated funds		764,272	734,375
Total equity		813,377	734,375

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Health Justice Australia Ltd

Statement of Cash Flows**For the Financial Year Ended 30 June 2024**

	Notes	2024 \$	2023 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Receipts from grants, other funding and other sources		2,369,760	2,460,790
Payments to suppliers and employees		(2,425,668)	(2,080,106)
Interest received		78,410	53,251
Net cash provided by operating activities		22,502	433,935
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		(48,305)	(18,971)
Net cash used in investing activities		(48,305)	(18,971)
Cash flows from financing activities		-	-
Net cash provided by financing activities		-	-
Net change in cash and cash equivalents		(25,803)	414,964
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year		2,152,951	1,737,987
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	6	2,127,148	2,152,951

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Contact details:
+61 2 8599 2183
healthjustice@healthjustice.org.au
www.healthjustice.org.au

