

ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023

Court Network



Acknowledgment to Country

Court Network proudly acknowledges the Traditional Owners and custodians of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to Elders of past, present and future.



Who we are

Court Network is a dynamic, front-line community organisation dedicated to supporting all court users to access justice fairly and equitably. For more than 40 years, Court Network has sought to equip people to better understand and navigate the court system. In doing so, the organisation also strives to ensure service users are treated with dignity and respect.

As a free and confidential service, Court Network's highly trained volunteers, known as Networkers, provide support, information and referral services on an impartial and non-judgemental basis to all persons, including applicants, respondents, victims, witnesses, defendants, and their families and friends.

In addition to in-court support, Networkers assist court users via telephone support and online hearing support. The integration of existing and new service models has ensured court users get the help they need before, during and after their court hearings.



OUR MISSION

To provide the community with volunteers who stand beside, empower and instil confidence in all court users.



OUR VISION

To be a nationally recognised organisation, providing the community with volunteers to support all court users and enhance access to justice.

OUR VALUES

INCLUSION & EMPOWERMENT



We respect, support and value diversity of experience and diversity of thought.

CURIOSITY & COURAGE



We have courage to inquire and are prepared to take on new challenges. We are committed to continuous learning, innovation & growth.

EXCELLENCE



We strive to be our best and meet the highest standards.

COLLABORATION



We work collaboratively to achieve shared goals and greater impact.

EMPATHY & COMPASSION



We support each other and people we serve with kindness, empathy and compassion and without judgment.

INTEGRITY



We act ethically, honestly, with fairness and impartiality

President and Executive Director’s Report

DEAR COLLEAGUES, FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS,

It is our great pleasure to present to you Court Network’s 2022/2023 Annual Report.

2022/2023 has been a year of consolidation and continuous improvement.

We are very grateful to all those at Court Network (staff and volunteers) who have worked hard to make a positive difference in the courts during this period.

A number of significant events took place during the past year:

- Networkers continued their return to in-court support in Victoria after a long hiatus due to the pandemic.
- Court Network focussed on volunteer workforce renewal, with increased recruitment and training of volunteers to empower people dealing with the stressful navigation of the court process.
- Court Network was represented by Executive Director, Julie Jones, at the opening of the new Law Courts in Bendigo, where Networkers have been offering services since 1981 at Court Network’s first branch established outside Prahran Court.
- A new Court Network service was established within the Werribee Magistrates Court.
- Court Services Victoria consulted with Court Network in relation to the layout and design of the new Wyndham Law Court, giving the organisation an early foothold for the provision of services when the Court opens in 2025 (funding permitting).
- Court Network began to develop and implement the new Safety Net Program to support users of the Family Court, with the exciting prospect of extending the program to a total of five states over the four-year funding period.

- Court Network continued to progress and enhance its digital and data transformation, to roll out the Client Relationship System (CRM) and to transfer its telephone service to Aircall as provider.

Funding

In 2022/2023, Court Network entered into four-year funding agreements with Court Services Victoria as well as the Commonwealth Government (in relation to the Safety Net Program).

In addition, the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing and the Queensland Department of Justice, respectively, continued to support and fund Court Network’s provision of services to court users in Victoria and Queensland.

Changing of the Guard

Executive Director

We would like to pay special tribute to Maya Avdibegovic whom Court Network farewelled as Executive Director last November.

During her years at the helm, Maya provided strong and steady guidance to the governance and operational processes of Court Network and her leadership was particularly crucial during the very difficult period of the Covid pandemic. She made an immense contribution to Court Network over the last four years and ensured it not only survived, but thrived during this time. We thank her for her guidance and support.

State Managers

Whilst we farewelled Maureen Dawson-Smith and Arlene Morley this year, we welcomed new State Managers in Victoria and Queensland. Both Sarah Harris and Grant Robin share their experiences and their highlights of the past year later in this report.

Thanks

Once again, we thank all the volunteers who have continued to support Court Network. We are so grateful to you for the time and care you have dedicated to making such a difference to the experience of so many court users in 2022/2023.

Thank you, too, to Court Network’s patrons, partners and valued stakeholders: the funders, heads of jurisdictions, members of the judiciary, court staff, broader community partners and supportive organisations with whom Court Network works closely. Its ability to support thousands of vulnerable court users depends upon the trusted relationships it has with you and your continued assistance, encouragement and advocacy.

Yet again, we acknowledge the essential ongoing support of our founder, Carmel Benjamin AO. She continually inspires us all and generously gives advice and guidance.

We add our thanks to our two valued Court Network Ambassadors, Barbara Rozenes OAM and Nicky Bromberg, who continue to play a vital role as insightful advocates working to promote the interests of Court Network.

And finally, to our Board and staff – thank you for your hard work, dedication and valuable contributions to Court Network.

We look forward to the coming year when, together, we will continue to devote ourselves to the achievement of Court Network’s mission by providing volunteers to support all court users and enhance access to justice.

The Honourable
Kathy Williams
President

Julie Jones
Executive Director

Victoria State Manager's Report

As the Victorian State Manager of Court Network, I am pleased to share the remarkable achievements of our Networker teams and employees in Victoria for the 2022-2023 year. The hard work and service that has been provided reflects our unwavering commitment to facilitating access to justice for court users in Victoria.

At Court Network, our focus is clear: we empower court users to better understand and navigate the complex legal landscape. We have three key pillars as to how we do this: support, information and referral. Throughout the year we have focused on the integration of the telephone, online and in-court support services, allowing us to engage with service users pre-court, during court and post-court. The continuity of support that stems from our in-court volunteer networking teams, when a phone number is provided to court users for follow-up questions, or to book a support person if they are coming back to court, further empowers court users in their journey through the court system. Our telephone service actively books referrals for court users attending court in any of our 29 court locations.

The cornerstone of our success is the dedicated team of volunteer Networkers who selflessly devote their time and expertise to serve court users. Our Networkers are the heart of Court Network, and their contributions are immeasurable. Over the past year, they have delivered exceptional service, providing invaluable support to 54,240 court users throughout Victoria. In a post COVID world, the face of volunteering looks considerably different, yet our Networkers have been inspirational in showing their flexibility, dedication and support. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all Networkers who are providing support and education to new trainees moving into vacant positions. Without this peer support, it is difficult to navigate these complex spaces. The experiences and knowledge that Networkers are able

to share is assisting the growth of our team. This is essential if we are to meet the needs of all court users across the state.

The continued patronage and support for our work from the judiciary, court, staff, stakeholders and funders allows us to focus on best practice service delivery, supporting service users and focusing on meeting the non-legal support needs of service users across the state. Our service relies on the great relationships and participation from our stakeholders within the courts and community. These relationships enable us to make improvements and innovations to the work that we do.

Highlights in Victoria for 2022-23

- The roll out of the Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system to courts across Victoria and to the telephone and online services, providing one central system of data for referrals and incident reporting, has taken enormous commitment by Court Network staff. Networkers have shown incredible professionalism when embracing change and learning new processes for service provision. The support that has been given to this piece of work is incredible and highly appreciated. The CRM is expected to develop over time to meet the needs of the organisation.
- The launch of in-court services at Werribee Court in September 2022. DFFH funding has allowed us to provide a Networker team, supported by Program Management staff, at Werribee for the first time.
- The roll out of the Family Violence e-learning modules to all courts, which is now embedded in the training program for new recruits in all services.
- The 16 Days of Activism campaign, supported by Networkers and staff, to engage with community and speak about family violence. This was captured through a social media campaign.



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At Court Network, our focus is clear: we empower court users to better understand and navigate the complex legal landscape.

- National Volunteer Week in May 2023 showcased the great relationships we have with community-based organisation, MINUS 18, and the LGBTIQ+ workers in the Magistrates' Court Victoria, highlighting the way in which we work with court staff to support and provide inclusive practice. We celebrated the amazing work that our Networkers perform across all services.
- The Material Aid pilot project ran at both Broadmeadows and Mildura, providing material support in the form of food vouchers and travel vouchers for court users on their day in court. The project concluded in March, with a final evaluation completed in May 2023.
- Our Lunch and Learn series ran throughout the 2022-2023 year. Once a month, Networkers are provided with an opportunity to Zoom into an online information-based session with community organisations. These sessions are designed to build knowledge, understanding and referral pathways.
- Our Networkers moving into the new Bendigo Law Courts: this came after two and a half years, with multiple stakeholder engagement workshops, operational discussions, and many meetings to consider the design of the building.
- The successful application for funding Networker teams at the Federal Circuit and Family Court

(FCFCOA) in Brisbane, Melbourne and Dandenong, and the national expansion of the telephone service for FCFCOA in Queensland, New South Wales, South Australia, and Tasmania over the next three years.

Our highlights in Victoria for 2022 - 2023 reflect the achievements of a combined team effort of our amazing frontline Networkers, our Program Managers, Program Coordinators and all support staff that pull together and ensure all service users can receive support through the court system.

As we celebrate our achievements, we also look to the future with optimism. Court Network remains committed to best practice service provision, improving access to justice, and enhancing the support we provide to court users. We will continue to work closely with the funders, stakeholders, community organisations and volunteers to achieve these goals.

In closing, I want to express my deepest gratitude to our dedicated team, and the resilient court users who inspire us every day. Together, we have made a difference in the lives of many individuals who have faced the challenges of the court system.

Sarah Harris
Victorian State Manager

Queensland State Manager's Report

I am pleased to report that during the 2022-2023 year, I was appointed as the Queensland State Manager, taking over the reins in September.

Court Network provides court reception services for Specialist Domestic and Family Violence (DFV) Courts at Southport, Beenleigh, Brisbane, and Ipswich.

During the year, we have set about establishing our strengths, foremost as a high-quality, unique volunteer service. While continuing to invest in our current services, we have revisited additional opportunities that sit within the potential growth of the DFV Specialist Court model. Consolidating our current and ongoing performance has been a multifaceted effort, in upholding Court Network's professional reputation and ensuring quality outcomes and transparent, effective, and cost-efficient services.

Highlights in Queensland for 2022-23

- Partnered closely with our Learning and Development Team in reviewing, improving, and refining the DFV Volunteer training program, ensuring that we attract, retain, and effectively onboard new volunteers.
- Worked closely with our stakeholders, particularly the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, through recognized operational working groups in preparation for future potential growth and expansion opportunities across the DFV space.
- Improved our communication, relationships and collaboration with the critical support services that complement the specialist courts, including Community Justice Groups, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service, the Domestic Violence Action Centre, Legal Aid Queensland, Minter Ellison Legal, Caxton Law, Uniting Care (Men's Support), and Anglicare.
- Played a key role in the establishment and ongoing Magistrate-led stakeholder meetings at the Ipswich Magistrates' Court.
- Ensured an increased Networker presence within reception services for call-over days for each respective court.

- Built towards having a full complement of Networkers on each respective roster across all call-over days.
- Enhanced consistent application of leading service delivery by a team of fully committed staff and passionate Networkers.
- Sought further opportunities, providing a quote to expand our services to Cairns and an additional two days at Ipswich (to commence in July 2023).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues and Networkers in their passion, energy and commitment to the essential and valued services we provide as part of Court Reception Service for the Domestic Family Violence Courts.

Grant Robin
Queensland State Manager



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During the year, we have set about establishing our strengths, foremost as a high-quality, unique volunteer service.



PRIORITY

SERVICE

Ensuring everyone gets the help they need, when they need it most

The Safety Net Program

During this year, Court Network secured funding from the Attorney-General’s Department of the Australian Government to introduce a new service aimed at providing support to court users and their family and friends when accessing or engaging with the Family Courts.

Over a span of four years, a telephone support service and online chat will be progressively rolled out across five states. The program will focus on providing assistance to court users at pre, during and post court stages. Within this program, limited in-court support services will be available at three focal locations: the Brisbane, Dandenong, and Melbourne Family Court.

The Safety Net Program will provide an enhanced model of support, fostering collaboration between our Networkers, court users, in-court services and systems, including but not limited to Family Advocacy and Support Services (FASS) and legal services.

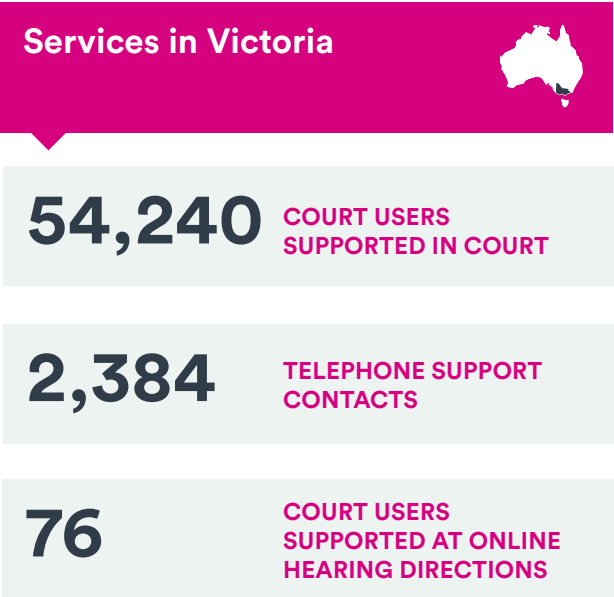
Court users navigating the intricacies of the Family Court system can often present with various complex needs related to situational family dynamics. They could be attending court for matters involving divorce, spousal support, child support, property division, child custody, or visitation arrangements, all of which can be highly emotional and overwhelming. Court users may have already engaged with the Magistrates’ Court for Family Violence Intervention Orders, mediation or dispute resolution processes and may not have been able to resolve their issues or concerns.

In addition, the Family Court focuses on the welfare of children as its primary concern. When decisions are being made about custody, visitation and support, they are done so in the best interests of the children, adding an additional layer of complexity. Given these pre-determined conditions for being at Family Court, court users are often involved in a combination of legal, emotional and logistical complications. Moreover, a person may be simultaneously experiencing family violence, have a disability, or mental health needs, or be struggling financially, all of which adds to the difficulties they face.

Due to the above complexities, the program will aim to support court users to bridge service gaps and ensure court users are emotionally supported throughout their court journey and empowered to actively engage in court processes.

The Safety Net Program is designed to be an expansive telephone service, ensuring Court Network maximises its reach to as many court users as possible. This will encompass Victoria, Queensland, New South Wales, Tasmania, and South Australia. The program’s rollout will be gradual, unfolding year-on-year to 2026. The initial focus of the telephone service in 2023-24 will be in Victoria and Queensland, providing an array of support functions, including:

- Pre-court assistance, guidance during court proceedings, and post-court support.
- Information about navigating electronic hearings.
- Preparation before court.
- Guiding court users, families, and friends through practical requirements, and support prior to, during, and after court engagements.
- Establishing pathways for referrals to vital support services such as FASS, the Lighthouse Model, Community Legal Centres, family services, and family violence services.
- Furnishing insights into court terminology and procedures and offering guidance on navigating the court environment on the day.
- Extending emotional support during hearings, as well as before and after their scheduled court appearance.
- Facilitating the booking of in-court support services at available locations.



Case Study – Sunshine Magistrates’ Court

UNIDENTIFIED NAME OF COURT USER: Jane Doe

BRIEF HISTORY: Jane Doe, a female applicant in her 20s, is experiencing family violence and has attended court to apply for an Intervention Order. She has disclosed to the Networker that she is 5 months pregnant and has expressed her desire to have an abortion due to fear for the safety of her unborn child. Jane has shared that her ex-partner has threatened the life of her other son. Additionally, she described a pattern of escalating control and abuse by her ex-partner after their religious but nonlegal marriage. She also mentioned that her ex-partner is legally married to other women whom he has financially abused and manipulated for visa purposes. Jane has experienced multiple instances of physical assault, some of which occurred in the presence of family members. She has completed the application for an Intervention Order but is seeking further support and reassurance.

PURPOSE FOR ATTENDING COURT: Jane is attending court to seek an Intervention Order due to family violence.

NEEDS OF THE COURT USER: Jane requires support and assistance throughout the court process. She is feeling isolated and lacks support services. Additionally, she seeks guidance and reassurance regarding the application for the Intervention Order.

COURT NETWORK ROLE PROVIDED: The Networker accompanied Jane to the safe room while waiting for the Applicant practitioner. The Networker inquired about the services Jane had utilized, and she mentioned previous contact with Safe Steps and The Orange Door, which had helped her relocate her belongings when she left the shared house with her ex-partner. The Networker provided emotional support, directions, and relevant pamphlets from the court network office. Jane expressed appreciation for the pamphlet from Legal Aid outlining the Intervention Order process. After the practitioner finalized the application form, the Networker accompanied Jane to the counter for submission. The hearing was prioritized for the next morning, and arrangements were made for Jane to appear online to ensure her comfort and safety.

OUTCOME: The Networker provided Jane with referrals to support services such as Safe Steps, The Orange Door, and Legal Aid. Additionally, the Networker advocated for Jane’s needs, including ensuring the provision of an interpreter if required.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE RECEPTION DESK CONTACTS*

Beenleigh:	16,329 (9 months)	21,772 (12 months)
Brisbane:	9,373 (9 months)	12,497 (12 months)
Ipswich:	6,657 (9 months)	8876 (12 months)
Southport:	21,367 (9 months)	28,489 (12 months)
TOTAL:	53,726 (9 months)	71,635 (12 months)

* Due to upgrades in our CRM system, accurate data for this period has only been captured from October 2022. Approximate numbers have been included for the full 12-month period.



PRIORITY

VOLUNTEERS

Supporting our communities with compassion and kindness

Recruitment, Training and Development

2022-2023: A Year of Recovery

Throughout 2022-2023, pre-service training for new volunteers continued at an accelerated rate, as COVID recovery continued to improve volunteerism across Australia.

COVID had a devastating impact on the volunteer sector, contracting volunteer numbers and productive hours considerably. Volunteering Victoria highlighted significant changes to volunteer motivation, availability and commitment. This, coupled with increasing cost of living pressures, has significantly impacted the profile and availability of volunteers across Australia.

Court Network is fortunate to have bucked declining national volunteerism trends, maintaining continued interest in volunteering throughout the pandemic,

through to present times. Court Network’s volunteer profile has, however, shifted considerably because of these changes. Increasingly, our Networkers are leaving active volunteering to return to paid employment. Additionally, a large portion of volunteers remain cautious about entering public spaces and being in close contact with unfamiliar people, limiting their active participation as Networkers.

Responsive to this shift, we find more effort and time is now required for volunteer recruitment, training, and support. This year alone 14 trainee cohorts, totaling 160 new volunteers, commenced training. Our synchronous and asynchronous training program continues to be strengthened and refined to enable high-volume volunteer recruitment, compliance, training and onboarding.

New Volunteers

160

New volunteers, in Queensland and Victoria were recruited, matched to service vacancies and accepted a place in the pre-service training program.

6

Groups of trainees participated in the Queensland domestic violence court reception service training

8

Groups of trainees participated in the Victorian – in court, online and phone service training.

89

Queensland and Victorian trainees graduated- becoming Networkers and Members of Court Network.



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Our synchronous and asynchronous training program continues to be strengthened and refined to enable high-volume volunteer recruitment, compliance, training and onboarding.



Our Volunteer Training Program

10:20:70

Continuous Learning Model

PRE-SERVICE TRAINING

10

- A series of structured and facilitated online training sessions introducing key practice concepts and constructs essential for impartial and non-judgmental practice
- A series of eLearning modules
- Structured reflective practice
- Service observation
- Introduction to tech and tools

SUPERVISED PRACTICE

20

- Service induction
- Experiential learning:
 - Practice shadowing
 - Peer to peer learning
 - Supported service provision
- Dynamic feedback & coaching
- Reflective practice
- Facilitated practice development discussions (building rapport & Support, Information & Referral)
- Family violence training program
- Individualised development planning

STRUCTURED, INFORMAL AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

70

- Implementation of individual development plan
- Learning by doing: service provision
- Peer learning (coaching & support)
- Dynamic feedback
- Facilitated practice development discussions
- Continuing education program: lunch and learn series, elearning and other practice development and information sharing opportunities

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Decision Point GRADUATION



Training Program Focus

KEY NETWORKER ATTRIBUTES AND SKILLS

PERSONAL
ORGANISATION &
MANAGEMENT

BUILDING RAPPORT

ACTIVE PRESENCE
AND SUPPORT

VALIDATION

IDENTIFY AND
CLARIFY NEED(S)



PROVIDE OPTIONS
AND CHOICES

PROVIDE INFORMATION
AND REFERRAL
ACCORDING TO NEED

FAMILY VIOLENCE
PRACTICE

SELF AWARENESS
AND REGULATION

SELF CARE



A Trainee's Perspective - Becoming a Networker in the Post COVID era

Australian trends in volunteerism have fluctuated over time. Between 2006 and 2010, Australian Welfare Surveys reported that more than 1 in 3 people, aged 18 and over, disclosed volunteering through an organisation in the previous 12 months. In 2019, this had decreased to 29%. Parallel to the decline in formal volunteering was a rise in informal volunteering, from 49% in 2010 to 53% in 2019. The arrival of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic further accelerated changes in volunteering trends.

With this in mind, I have been reflecting upon what this means for our new volunteers. I'm curious about what brings new volunteers to Court Network, what are they wanting from this volunteering opportunity and, what it means to volunteer in this 'post-COVID' era?

By chance, I had the opportunity to chat with a new trainee, Annie, and gain some insight from her experience coming on as a new trainee with Court Network. Sitting in the head office foyer, we explored what had led her to Court Network's complex volunteering service. Annie began by addressing what she wanted from this volunteering opportunity, which evolved into bigger a conversation about her personal journey to becoming a Networker.

Annie completed her volunteering Expression of Interest in June 2022, following a medically necessitated early retirement, which Annie tells me wasn't a pleasant or welcomed experience. The transition from purposeful and impactful employment as the CEO of a not-for-profit organisation to premature retirement was difficult.

Following the EOI submission, Annie was invited to complete an application to join our telephone service team. Having completed the full application, she was selected and offered a place in an upcoming training program. Annie's enthusiasm and passion was the first thing I noticed about her in training. She brought candour and depth to our group discussions as we

explored the complexities of impartiality, empathy, and unconscious bias. Annie approached the in-court reflective task with gusto, finding her way to lunch with a lawyer who she struck up a conversation with and who, it turned out, was an ex-Networker.

During our conversation in the foyer, Annie told me that she was well on the way to full health and had been looking for ways to become more engaged in the Melbourne community having moved from a regional city just as the COVID pandemic started. Annie said she was looking for a volunteer role that would enable her to use her skills, learn something new, and be in an environment that she would find both stimulating and useful. Through her previous work, Annie was introduced to the court system and had learnt some of the issues that young people and their families encountered at court when they were brought into contact with her organisation's network.

Once in Melbourne, Annie looked around for ways to meet new people and reengage with the court system in a volunteer capacity, hoping to join a team where she could contribute in some sort of helpful role.

"I couldn't believe there was an actual Court Network that I could belong to, as well as engage in training that would introduce me to new ideas and new people".

Annie is almost through her training period and says she loves having the opportunity to study again. She is enjoying the mix of people in her training group, especially the up-and-coming young lawyers who are making sense of Uni theory by applying it to the Court Network experience. Annie says she really enjoys listening to their personal stories and tertiary course insights, and is learning a lot from them. Annie will be joining the phone service team and at some stage is keen to try some in-court Networking. She says she can't wait to get going and we are delighted to welcome her to Court Network!



Pathways to Volunteers

6%

COURT NETWORK WEBSITE

10%

COURT STAFF, SERVICES
(INCLUDING WEBSITE)

4%

LEGAL PRACTITIONERS

28%

INTERNET SEARCHES- JUSTICE
SECTOR VOLUNTEERING

5%

LOCAL COMMUNITY & STATE
VOLUNTEERING NETWORKS

4%

MEDIA (RADIO, ADS, ARTICLES)

2%

OBSERVED NETWORKERS
PRACTICE

2%

PREVIOUS SERVICE USER

19%

TERTIARY EDUCATION PROVIDERS
RECOMMENDED

20%

WORD OF MOUTH & FRIEND
REFERRAL



New Graduate Profile

Expectations From Trainees

Develop interpersonal skills	20%	Contribute to improving court user experience	15%
Create connections	6%	Gain a sense of satisfaction and positively contribute to the community	21%
Understand court operations	18%	Gain a sense of belonging and personal fulfilment	12%
Learns about supports available to court users	8%		

22%

New graduates were born overseas

22

Different languages are spoken by our new graduates



Trainee Support



Pre-service training



Team leadership & management



'On the job' induction, orientation & training



Continuing Education



Practice Feedback and Review



Employee Assistance Program

PRIORITY

PARTNERSHIPS

Expanding our reach and influence across the country

A Message from Court Network’s Ambassadors

Barbara Rozenes

Court Network remains at the forefront when it comes to assisting court users throughout the entirety of their experience at court. Many changes have occurred within the courts post covid. This was most recently pointed out at a meeting with the Chief Justice of the County Court. With technology being increasingly relied upon, we need to embrace this and embark upon a different way of working.

As Court Networks Ambassador I am proud to advocate and share our story and heighten awareness wherever it can be heard. Every court user deserves the right to our bipartisan support in any and every court. Technology can never replace the person-to-person interaction and professionalism that we provide, however it is an important and essential tool. Together we can embrace and enhance the court



Nicky Bromberg

I was surprised and delighted to be appointed as an Ambassador for Court Network at the Annual conference in 2022. Having recently stepped down from the Board after two terms, this new opportunity means I can be involved in activities beyond volunteering in the courts, and contribute to Court Network in a broader way.

I have begun work with Court Network’s Executive Director, Julie Jones, to set goals for our volunteers, Court Network’s partnerships and service provision, and look forward to reporting more fully during the coming year.



National Volunteer Week Event

This year, Court Network celebrated National Volunteer Week with multiple events across Victoria and Queensland. This year’s theme, The Change Makers, brought a focus on the volunteer sector’s “power to drive change and ensure volunteering is inclusive of all members of the Australian community.”

On Thursday, 18 May 2023, Court Network celebrated National Volunteer Week, bringing together Networkers and guest speakers for an in-person and live-streamed event. Court Network staff and Networkers heard from Education Presenter, Max, at Minus18 and Eve Breitzke, LGBTIQ+ FV Practice Manager from the Magistrates’ Court of Victoria. Court Network Founder,

Carmel Benjamin, and Board President, the Honourable Katharine Williams, were both in attendance.

In the same week on Friday, 19 May 2023, Court Network staff and Networkers in Queensland attended a celebratory breakfast hosted at the Minter Ellison offices in Brisbane. Both teams discussed collaborative initiatives and work that had been progressed so far in the DFV space. Guests also heard from the Women’s Legal Service in Queensland, providing a stakeholder perspective on DFV courts and additional support available to families affected by domestic violence. Board Member and Networker, Samantha Willets, was also in attendance.



Conference & Recognition 2022

The Court Network Annual Conference was held in November 2022, reaching 185 registered attendees in-person and live-streamed. The theme was 'Meeting the Challenge' with keynote speakers of The Honourable Deputy Chief Judge Meryl Sexton and Natalie Walker, CEO of PartnerSPEAK. The event also included a compelling panel discussion on 'Working with Men who use Violence', with guest speakers Dr Tracy Castelino, CEO and Founder of Shantiworks, Del Aulich, Service System Navigator at The Orange Door and Denise McAloon, Team Leader of the Family Advocacy Support Service Program at No To Violence. Attendees also enjoyed an address by Court Network Founder, Carmel Benjamin, Court Network Ambassador, Barbara Rozenes, and newly appointed Ambassador, Nicky Bromberg.

Approximately 23 graduates received their certificates and a further 16 volunteers were recognised for service ranging between 5-30 years. This is a fantastic achievement, and we continue to celebrate the support that all new and existing volunteers give to Court Network.





PRIORITY

ORGANISATIONAL CAPABILITY

Strengthening our foundations

Digital and Data Transformation

The Client Relationship Management (CRM) Platform: Benefits and Long-Term Impact

On Monday, 3 October 2022, the CRM platform went live for Court Network services at the Melbourne, Sunshine and Werribee Magistrates’ Court, the County Court of Victoria, the Brisbane, Beenleigh and Southport Magistrates’ Court, the Ipswich Court, and Court Network’s telephone and online service Networkers. Over the course of the last year, Court Network has continued to implement the CRM in other metropolitan and regional courts.

The CRM has provided many benefits to court users, Networkers, staff, and the service. Court Network has taken progressive and innovative steps by introducing technology that will enable the organisation to expand and develop its programs, services, and scope, while simultaneously maintaining focus on the core business of supporting court users. Staff have seen a significant improvement in the collection of data as well as the increased efficiency in service provision. The CRM platform has provided a new and effective way for referrals to be relayed back to Networkers at court and has helped to capture new, much-needed data for analysis points. This has assisted the organisation in finding new ways to provide court users with the best service possible.

In comparison to the previous system, there are astronomical benefits and improvements. Some examples are as follows: increased confidential practices surrounding court user data, reduction in service user re-traumatisation, and the ability to map accessed pathways of support and how service user needs have been addressed. The CRM provides a more holistic view of the court user’s journey through Court Network’s services, as well as the challenges, complexities, and issues they face when accessing the justice system. The system is not a case management system, and accordingly, the information captured is limited to identifying specific needs and next steps.

“The CRM assists me to instruct the Telephone Service Networkers on the support needs required for the court user. Without the CRM, it would be difficult to understand

the court user’s needs and deliver the services. The CRM can collect quantity of services for an individual and this enables allocating in-depth referrals for in-court service. This decreases the need for the court user to re-share their experience and prepares the in-court Networkers to support the court user.” – Sarah Castle, Program Coordinator, Telephone Service

Optus Loop to Aircall: Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP)

VoIP is a technology that allows you to make voice calls using a broadband Internet connection instead of a regular (or analogue) phone line. Court Network’s Telephone Service has engaged the Optus Loop app since May 2020. As the service has continued to be refined and grow, and due to the limitations of Optus Loop, other VoIP options were explored in early 2023. Court Network officially moved to Aircall in June 2023 where more features, such as texting, live and dynamic dashboards, and call coaching, have seen huge enhancement in the way telephone support gets delivered to court users over the phone.

SLACK: A new way to communicate with Networkers

The introduction of Slack has been extremely successful in maintaining effective and regular communication with the Networker team. First used with trainees in early 2021, Slack has become an informal communication app used daily for Duty Leads, Program Coordinators, and Networkers to contact each other and receive information about training, events, and updates. The free app enables calls, chat groups, and videos. This offers a platform to easily communicate and support Networkers while they are on shift. Slack offers several channels which enable staff to post key practice issues and promotional referral pathways, request support for referrals, or for Networkers to fill shifts.

“

Court Network has taken progressive and innovative steps by introducing technology that will enable the organisation to expand and develop... while maintaining focus on the core business of supporting court users.

The Court Network Board

President The Honourable Kathy Williams Appointed April 2021

Katharine Williams is a former Judge of the Victorian County Court and the Supreme Court of Victoria. During her time on the Supreme Court, she led the Court's Common Law Division and also served as President of the Forensic Leave Panel. Kathy was appointed to the bench in April 1999 and retired in February 2015. Prior to that she was a Barrister specialising in commercial law. Kathy currently sits on the Board of Launch Housing, a community organisation committed to ending homelessness. She is also a Director of St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research. Kathy experienced what she regards as the invaluable work of Court Network, both as a barrister and as a Judge.

Vice President | David Bartlett Member | Appointed AGM 2019

Dr David Bartlett is a consultant criminologist who focuses on helping organisations solve governance, risk and compliance challenges. David commenced his career in Queensland's Magistrates Courts Service, where he developed a strong appreciation for the important contribution made by court volunteers. Today he brings over 20 years government experience, board expertise and more than a decade of teaching at one of the world's largest criminology schools. David currently serves on several not-for-profit Boards and committees across the justice, health and education sectors. He is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and holds qualifications in psychology, criminology and management.

Treasurer | Juan Munoz Appointed AGM 2019

Juan was admitted as a lawyer in 2009 and has experience advising boards and in relation to strategy, risk management and governance. Juan holds a Bachelor of Laws (Hons) and Bachelor of Arts (Hons) from Monash University. Juan has been a member of Finance Committee at Court Network and served as Chair of Finance Committee and Treasurer.

Secretary | Shirley Fraser Networker & Member | Appointed AGM 2021

Shirley became a volunteer Networker at the Ballarat courts in 2018. She has been an active participant in new key developments at Court Network, including the telephone service and online hearing support. Shirley has held a number of different roles within the Federation University of Australia, including Executive Director of Federation College, Associate Professor with Federation University and the Head of Western Campuses. Her qualifications include a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) and Graduate Diploma in Business with the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Shirley has held numerous positions on different non-for-profit boards.

Brigita Cunningham Member | Appointed AGM 2017, re-elected 2020

Brigita is currently the Acting Executive Director of the Magistrates Courts Service in Queensland. She has extensive experience in the justice portfolio working in various legal, policy and management roles. She was admitted as a barrister of the Supreme Court of Queensland in 2000 and practiced in native title law including at Crown Law. She has been employed in various roles in Queensland Courts since 2006 including as Director of the Office of the State Coroner and Director of Courts Innovation Program.

Catherine Hopper Member | Appointed AGM 2019

Catherine Hopper is a finance professional with over fifteen years of experience in corporate finance within investment banking, funds management and Australian corporates. She brings a range of skills to the board, particularly strategic and financial expertise focused on strategic planning and financial governance. Catherine holds a Master of Applied Finance from Macquarie University and a Bachelor of Laws (Hons) / Bachelor of Commerce from Monash University. She is also a Certified Practising Accountant (CPA) and a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD) with a strong understanding of financial and tax matters for not-for-profit entities.

Karen Gelb Member | Appointed AGM 2019

Dr Karen Gelb is an experienced criminologist, social scientist and researcher. She is passionate about the need for informed, data-led and evidence-based policy to underpin practice in the justice arena. Karen has spent more than two decades researching the criminal justice system, including eight years with the Victorian Sentencing Advisory Council and 10 years as a consultant. Her key areas of expertise are family violence, sex offenders, public opinion, youth justice and female offenders. She has extensive experience in critically analysing research material, quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis, stakeholder consultation and writing accessible reports. Karen is currently a Consultant Criminologist, a Senior Lecturer at the University of Melbourne's Department of Criminology and the Manager of Research and Workforce Development at Penington Institute. Karen brings to Court Network her expertise around monitoring and evaluation, data collection, and compliance.

Susan Wakeling Member | Appointed AGM 2019

Susan Wakeling is a Victorian Magistrate with over 20 years of experience and currently holds the position of Deputy Chief Magistrate of the Magistrates' Court of Victoria. Prior to undertaking this role, Susan held the position of Regional Coordinating Magistrate at Heidelberg and at Melbourne Magistrates Courts and of Supervising Magistrate of the Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal for 5 years. Susan is a member of the Court's Family Law and Family Violence Portfolio Committee, Criminal Law Committee and Sexual Offences Committee. Susan's particular interest is in the challenge of facilitating a court experience which is safe and meaningful for every participant. Prior to her appointment as a Magistrate, Susan worked as a solicitor advocate in criminal law, family law and family violence. In her experience as a legal representative and as a Magistrate, Susan has observed the invaluable contribution made by Court Networkers to the justice process.

Martin Mowlam Networker & Member | Appointed AGM 2020

Martin is retired and has been a Networker at the Supreme Court since 2012 and a member of the Education Team at the court. Martin has also been a volunteer Independent Third Person with the Office of Public Advocate attending police interviews of people with acquired brain injuries, mental health issues and drug dependence. Martin is tertiary educated and his working background has been in the sports, exhibitions and entertainment industries as a manager, director and producer, both in Australia and the US. Immediately prior to retirement he was a postman in the city sorting and delivering mail. Martin brings an empathy and understanding to his role as a Court Networker. His life and professional experience and knowledge and his diverse background bring value to the Court Network Board.

Samantha Willetts Networker & Member | Appointed AGM 2020

Samantha is an experienced Queensland Victim Support Unit volunteer. She is also an experienced nurse, with a degree from Queensland University of Technology, with expertise in mental health, theatre and post-operative nursing with adults and children. Samantha is also currently undertaking her second Degree in Psychology (honours) at the University of Queensland. Samantha has always been passionate about helping others. She has a thorough understanding of the needs of others and the importance of advocacy for those who feel disempowered. As a Court Network volunteer, Samantha is very much aware of the importance of what Court Network volunteers do and how they make a difference. The skills that Samantha brings to the Board include her people skills, problem solving, diplomacy, advocacy, teamwork, crisis management and decision making in complex situations.

Wendy Bradly

Networker & Member | Appointed AGM 2022

Wendy began networking at Ringwood Law Courts in 2018. In 2020, she joined Court Network's telephone service and remains an active volunteer for the program. Wendy is also involved with Court Network's online service model, which enables court users to access support remotely. In her professional life, Wendy has had a number of roles in the education sector including Group Manager, Communications and Research with the Victorian Institute of Teaching, Research Officer in the Department of Education and Training, Campus Coordinator of a VCE campus at a large government secondary school, and VCE teacher. She holds a Master's degree and post graduate Diploma in Education and a Bachelor of Arts. Wendy has served on primary and secondary school councils both as a parent and teacher as well as on the board of management of a community neighbourhood centre. Prior to joining Court Network, Wendy was a volunteer tutor at Swinburne University supporting the Migrant English Program.

Amanda Shipway

Member | Appointed AGM 2022

Amanda Shipway has worked for the Department of Justice and Attorney-General since 2009. Her first role with the DJAG was at Victim Assist Queensland where she worked for five years as the Victim Services Coordinator, before moving to her current role as Director of Integrated Service Response, Office for Women and Violence Prevention, within the Deputy Director-Generals office. She is responsible for the contracts for domestic and family violence, sexual assault and wellbeing services in Queensland, and has oversight of Queensland's nine High Risk Teams and 24 staff members located across the state. Amanda has extensive experience in stakeholder engagement and management, with connections in the Queensland Public Service, Queensland Corrective Services, and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. She is currently Chair of the Integrated Service System Oversight Committee, which has representation from all Queensland Government agencies and the domestic and family violence sector. The committee is tasked with overseeing four recommendations from the Women's Justice and Safety Taskforce.

Treasurer's Report

We are pleased to present the financial statements on Court Network for the year ended 30 June 2023.

Despite changes in the court settings at which we volunteer and new trends in volunteering across Australia, Court Network has continued to implement innovative practices and secure new funding for its face-to-face networking and provision of telephone and online support services. Court Network has introduced new strategies to provide a more comprehensive, expansive service, particularly through ongoing investment in technology and volunteer recruitment to ensure court users are supported.

Funding

Court Network receives funding from Court Services Victoria, the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department, the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing Victoria and the Queensland Department of Justice.

The organisation's total income for the year was \$3,845,412 compared to \$2,625,716 for FY22. This difference is attributed to the FY23 year benefiting from new funding from the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department. In FY23, Court Network's unspent grants, to be used to further Court Network's mission, as well as reserves for unexpected or sudden costs, were also recorded as income, consistent with applicable accounting standards. This is another reason for the difference in income to FY22.

In FY23, Court Network entered into a four-year agreement with Court Services Victoria, which will allow us to continue to deliver core program services in Victoria. This year also saw funding from the Commonwealth government to implement a new service in the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (FCFCOA) to assist users in family court matters. This funding is committed until June 2026. We have also continued to receive funding from the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing Victoria and the Queensland Department of Justice. We are very grateful for the support of our funders which enable us to provide our wonderful services and programs.

Expenditure

Expenditure for the year decreased by \$321,971, totalling \$2,289,604. The result was influenced by reduced employment costs, attributable to several staff vacancies, reduced travel, and reduced IT and equipment costs. In FY24 we have budgeted for an increase in employment expenses due predominantly to the FCFCOA new Safety Net Program.

Financial Position

Court Network continues to diligently manage its cash reserves to ensure the organisation remains solvent and can meet its financial obligations. The FY23 year has again demonstrated the importance of Court Network's strong cash position. The financial position of the organisation remains sound with a cash balance of \$2,834,256 and net assets of \$2,367,448. This includes reserves retained to meet future contingencies. The strong financial result for FY23 has been achieved through capable management and our ongoing partnership with key funders.

I would like to extend my thanks to Ms Ming Zhou, Court Network's Finance Manager, for her support during the year and for her skilled stewardship of Court Network's financial matters. I would also like to thank all the staff and volunteers for another excellent year at Court Network.

Juan Munoz
Treasurer

Financials

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	NOTE	2023	2022
		\$	\$
INCOME			
Grants from Government and Statutory Bodies	3	3,828,212	2,600,081
Interest Revenue		9,110	3,305
Other Revenue		8,090	22,330
		3,845,412	2,625,716
EXPENDITURE			
Employment Costs		1,778,357	2,063,915
Travel Expenses - Staff		38,335	28,619
Volunteer Expenses		20,812	28,078
Telecommunication Costs		30,200	30,515
Board Costs		1,341	1,103
Consultants		13,912	32,826
AGM and Conference Event		25,232	1,922
IT and Office Equipment Maintenance		63,206	89,755
Publications, Marketing, Printing and Stationery		15,342	19,866
Staff Recruitment, Learning and Amenities		22,432	8,002
Depreciation		-	787
Court Support and Meetings		6,474	5,407
Insurance		1,814	4,820
Rent		277,824	276,726
Other Administration Expenses		15,303	20,337
Provision for Project		(20,980)	-
		2,289,604	2,612,678
OPERATING RESULT FOR THE YEAR		1,555,808	13,038
Other comprehensive income for the year		-	-
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR		1,555,808	13,038

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Financials

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2023

	NOTE	2023	2022
		\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	2,834,256	2,275,649
Receivables and Prepayments		11,022	478,677
		2,845,278	2,754,326
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Fixed Assets	5	-	-
		-	-
TOTAL ASSETS		2,845,278	2,754,326
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Creditors and Accruals		193,655	190,530
Income in advance	6	99,315	1,486,840
Provisions	7	184,860	265,316
TOTAL LIABILITIES		477,830	1,942,686
NET ASSETS		2,367,448	811,640
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Accumulated Surplus		2,367,448	811,640
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		2,367,448	811,640

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Financials

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	TOTAL
	\$	\$
Balance 1 July 2021	798,602	798,602
Surplus for the Year	13,038	13,038
Balance 30 June 2022	811,640	811,640
Surplus for the Year	1,555,808	1,555,808
Balance 30 June 2023	2,367,448	2,367,448

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Financials

COURT NETWORK INC. STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023

	NOTE	2023	2022
		\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts			
Grants from Government and Statutory Bodies		2,847,279	2,287,554
Interest		9,110	3,305
Other		8,090	22,330
Payments			
Employment Expenses		(1,837,833)	(2,075,318)
Supplies		(468,039)	(300,507)
Net cash provided from/(used in) operating activities	8	558,607	(62,636)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Payments for purchase of plant and equipment		-	-
Net cash used in investing activities		-	-
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		558,607	(62,636)
Cash at the beginning of the financial year		2,275,649	2,338,285
Cash at the end of the financial year	4	2,834,256	2,275,649

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Financials

The financial statements cover Court Network Inc (the Association) as an individual entity. Court Network is a not-for-profit association incorporated in Victoria under the *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic)*. Court Network is registered with the ACNC under the *Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission Act 2012* (the Act).

The principal activities of the Association for the year ended 30 June 2023 was providing personal support, non-legal information and referral to those in contact with the justice system. The Association provides support, information and referral to persons attending court and to advocate for the needs of all court users.

The functional and presentation currency of Court Network Inc is Australian dollars.

Unless otherwise stated, all accounting policies are consistent with those applied in the prior year. Where appropriate comparative figures have been amended to accord with current presentation.

The financial statements and Committee's Report have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

New or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations adopted

Unless otherwise stated, the Association has adopted all of the new or amended Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ('AASB') that are mandatory for the current reporting period.

New Accounting Standards and Interpretations not yet mandatory or early adopted

Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations that have recently been issued or amended but are not yet mandatory, have not been early adopted by the Association for the annual reporting period ended 30 June 2023.

NOTE 1: Basis of Preparation

In the opinion of the Committee of Management, the Association is not a reporting entity since there are unlikely to exist users of the financial statements who are not able to command the preparation of reports tailored so as to satisfy specifically all of their information needs. These special purpose financial statements have been prepared to meet the reporting requirements of the Act.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of AASB 101 *Presentation of Financial Statements*, AASB 107 *Statement of Cash Flows*, AASB 108 *Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors*, AASB 1048 *Interpretation of Standards* and AASB 1054 *Australian Additional Disclosures*.

These special purpose financial statements comply with all the recognition and measurement requirements in Australian Accounting Standards except as noted below.

For 2022 figures, the recognition and measurement requirements that have not been complied with are those specified in AASB 15 *Revenue from Contracts with Customers* and AASB 1058 *Income of Not-for-Profit Entities* as, in accounting for income, recognition of all grant income has been deferred until the related expenses are incurred without assessing whether there are enforceable performance obligations to transfer a good or service to a third party which are sufficiently specific to know when the performance obligation has been satisfied.

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING ESTIMATES

The preparation of the financial statements requires the use of certain critical accounting estimates. It also requires management to exercise its judgement in the process of applying the incorporated association's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or complexity, or areas where assumptions and estimates are significant to the financial statements, are disclosed in note 2.

NOTE 2: Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

REVENUE

Revenue is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the Association and the revenue can be reliably measured. The following specific recognition criteria must also be met before revenue is recognised.

INTEREST INCOME

Interest revenue is recognised on a proportional basis taking into account the interest rates applicable to the financial assets.

Financials

Grant Income

The association receives various grants, some are recognised under AASB15: Revenue from Contracts with Customers and some are recognised under AASB1058: Income of Not-for-Profit Entities. Treatment under each standard is detailed as follows;

- Grants - AASB15: Revenue from Contracts with Customers
The association receives a number of funding streams that contain sufficiently specific performance obligations within the funding contract. Grant revenue pertaining to these contracts is recognised in profit or loss when the company satisfies the performance obligations stated within the funding agreements in accordance with AASB15: Revenue from Contracts with Customers.
- Grants - AASB1058: Income of Not-for-Profit Entities
The association receives a number of funding streams that do not contain sufficiently specific performance obligations. Where there are no sufficiently specific performance obligations present, the association recognises revenue on receipt of funds in accordance with AASB1058: Income of Not-for-Profit Entities.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX ("GST")

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office. In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense. Receivables and payables in the balance sheet are shown inclusive of GST.

Cash flows are presented in the cash flow statement on a gross basis, except for the GST component of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

INCOME TAX

Court Network Inc. is not liable for tax as it is recognised as a public benevolent institution by both Federal and State legislation. Donations to Court Network Inc. in excess of \$2 are eligible for a tax deduction.

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in values.

FIXED ASSETS

Fixed assets are carried at cost or fair value as indicated, less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation or impairment losses.

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

The depreciation rates used for fixed assets are 10% - 40%. The assets' residual value and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each balance sheet date.

The residual values, useful lives and depreciation methods are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each reporting date.

An item of plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when there is no future economic benefit to the incorporated association. Gains and losses between the carrying amount and the disposal proceeds are taken to profit or loss.

IMPAIRMENT OF NON-FINANCIAL ASSETS

At each reporting date, the Association reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value.

Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the profit and loss.

Financials

TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

Trade payables and other payables are carried at amortised cost and represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the Association prior to the end of the financial year that are unpaid and arise when the Association becomes obliged to make future payments in respect of the purchase of these goods and services. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Short-term employee benefits

Liabilities for wages, salaries and annual leave that are expected to be settled within 12 months of the reporting date represent present obligations resulting from employees’ services provided to reporting date. They are calculated at undiscounted amounts based on remuneration wage and salary rates that the Association expects to pay as at reporting date including related on-costs, such as workers compensation insurance.

Other long-term employee benefits

The liability for annual leave and long service leave not expected to be settled within 12 months of the reporting date are measured at the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date using the projected unit credit method. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the reporting date on national government bonds with terms to maturity and currency that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflow.

Superannuation

The amount charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Income in respect of superannuation represents the contributions made by the Association to superannuation funds.

OTHER PROVISIONS

Provisions are recognised when the Association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

LEASES

The Association is using office space provided by the Court Services Victoria (CSV). Resources received free of charge are recognised as rent expense based on payment in kind determined by CSV under AASB 1058.

CRITICAL ACCOUNTING JUDGEMENTS, ESTIMATES AND ASSUMPTIONS

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts in the financial statements. Management continually evaluates its judgements and estimates in relation to assets, liabilities, contingent liabilities, revenue and expenses. Management bases its judgements, estimates and assumptions on historical experience and on other various factors, including expectations of future events, management believes to be reasonable under the circumstances. The resulting accounting judgements and estimates will seldom equal the related actual results. The judgements, estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities (refer to the respective notes) within the next financial year are discussed below

Employee benefits provision

As discussed in note 1, the liability for employee benefits expected to be settled more than 12 months from the reporting date are recognised and measured at the present value of the estimated future cash flows to be made in respect of all employees at the reporting date. In determining the present value of the liability, estimates of attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation have been taken into account.

Revenue Recognition

For many of the grant agreements, the determination of whether the contract includes sufficiently specific performance obligations was a significant judgement involving discussions with a number of parties at Court Network, review of the underlying documents prepared during the grant application phases and consideration of the terms and conditions. Grant income received by Court Network has been accounted for under both AASB 15 and AASB 1058 depending on the terms and conditions and decisions made.

Financials

	2023	2022
	\$	\$
NOTE 3: GRANTS FROM GOVERNMENT AND STATUTORY BODIES		
Commonwealth Attorney-General’s Department	300,000	-
Court Services Victoria	2,567,718	1,446,887
Victoria Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	736,725	483,376
Queensland Department of Justice	223,769	669,818
	3,828,212	2,600,081
NOTE 4: CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS		
Cash on Hand	743	755
Cash at Bank	2,308,889	1,758,482
Cash on Deposit	524,624	516,412
	2,834,256	2,275,649
NOTE 5: FIXED ASSETS		
Office Equipment	31,464	35,094
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(31,464)	(35,094)
	-	-
NOTE 6: INCOME IN ADVANCE		
Court Services Victoria	-	1,120,209
Queensland Department of Justice	-	45,658
Victoria Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	92,450	309,342
Victoria Magistrates Court Fund	6,865	5,964
Baer Family Trust	-	5,667
	99,315	1,486,840
NOTE 7: PROVISIONS		
(a) Employee Entitlements		
Annual Leave and Other Entitlements	131,583	182,548
Long Service Leave	53,277	61,788
	184,860	244,336
(b) Other		
Quality Management	-	20,980
	-	20,980
	184,860	265,316

Financials

NOTE 8: CASH FLOW RECONCILIATION

Reconciliation of net cash used in operating activities to operating results

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Operating Result	1,555,808	13,038
Depreciation	-	787
Movement in:		
Receivables and Prepayments	467,655	(430,102)
Creditors and Accruals	3,125	(22,493)
Provision for Entitlements	(59,476)	(18,167)
Other Provisions	(20,980)	-
Income in Advance	(1,387,525)	394,301
Cashflows from/(used in) operations	558,607	(62,636)

NOTE 9: LEASE COMMITMENTS

Low value Lease commitments in relation to the rental of photocopying equipment.

Payable - Minimum Lease Payments (inclusive of GST):

- not later than 12 months	2,340	2,340
- between 12 months and 5 years	1,950	4,290
	4,290	6,630

NOTE 10: REMUNERATION OF AUDITORS

Audit fees	7,050	6,300
	7,050	6,300

The Association’s auditor is Crowe Audit Australia.

NOTE 11: CONTINGENCIES

The Association had no contingent liabilities as at 30 June 2023 (30 June 2022: nil).

NOTE 12: EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

No matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2023 that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect the Association’s operations, the results of those operations, or the Association’s state of affairs in future financial years.

NOTE 13: RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Key Management Personnel

The totals of remuneration paid to key management personnel (KMP) during the year are as follows:

Key management personnel compensation	356,535	296,085
No. of key management personnel	2	2

Financials

COURT NETWORK INC.

STATEMENT BY THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 2 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial report:

- Presents fairly the financial position of Court Network Inc. as at 30 June 2023 and its performance for the year ended on that date.
- At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Court Network Inc. will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

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

Katharine Williams (President) Juan Diego Munoz (Treasurer)

Dated: 20 Sep 2023

Independent Auditor’s Reports

Independent Auditor’s Report



Crowe Audit Australia
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**INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF
COURT NETWORK INC**

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Court Network Inc, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and statement by members of the committee.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Association is in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Association in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic), the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

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Independent Auditor’s Report



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INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT
TO THE MEMBERS OF
COURT NETWORK INC

- Concludes on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If the auditor concludes that a material uncertainty exists, the auditor is required to draw attention in the auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify the auditor's opinion. The auditor's conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of the auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
 - Evaluates the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation. The auditor communicates with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that the auditor identifies during the audit.
- The auditor communicates with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that the auditor identifies during the audit.

Other Information

The committee are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Association's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2023, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

CROWE AUDIT AUSTRALIA

Natasha House
Registered Company Auditor (ASIC RAN 520891)
107 West High Street
COFFS HARBOUR NSW 2450

Dated: 21 September 2023
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Thank you to all Court Network volunteers, staff, supporters and friends for making 2021/22 another successful year!



