





# Year In Review and AustLII Foundation Limited

Annual Report

# Australasian Legal Information Institute

Australia's largest provider of online free-access legal materials www.austlii.edu.au

AustLII is a joint facility of UTS and UNSW Faculties of Law





#### **AUSTLII CELEBRATES 20 YEARS**

During November AustLII celebrated the Twentieth Anniversary of its establishment with a number of events and activities. Key stakeholders - including data providers, contributors and senior figures from government, the judiciary, academia and the legal profession joined AustLII board members, management and staff to celebrate. In Sydney the Honourable Justice Steven Gageler of the High Court of Australia spoke at a function in the new Frank Gehry designed Dr Chau Chak Wing Building at UTS and in Melbourne the Honourable Justice Cameron McCauley, Chair of the Law Library of Victoria hosted an evening in the Supreme Court Library. During these events a new publication on the development and history of AustLII was launched.

#### LAW VIA THE INTERNET CONFERENCE RETURNS TO AUSTRALIA

After 12 years, AustLII was delighted to once again host the Law via the Internet Conference and to chair the associated meeting of the Free Access to Law Movement from 9 to 11 November. Over 100 delegates from more than 20 countries attended. The Conference was opened by NSW Attorney General the Honourable Gabrielle Upton. More than 40 papers were presented over the two days of the Conference.

#### 'SIGNED BY AUSTLII' – A SECURE DIGITAL FORMAT FOR CASE LAW

In March 2015 AustLII released a digitally signed and watermarked ("signed by AustLII") version of most of the judgments that it holds (around 600,000 cases), from all Australian courts and Tribunals, most of

which do not appear in any conventional reports. In the first year of availability, 274,683 'Signed by AustLII' versions were downloaded. A number of courts and tribunals have issued Practice Directions recognizing the 'Signed by AustLII' format as 'accepted' versions of their decisions.

#### DEVELOPMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL LAW LIBRARY

This ARC LIEF funded project to transform the International Law Library on the AustLII-operated WorldLII system progressed significantly during 2015. 18 new databases are in the process of being added and a further 17 existing databases are being extensively updated, Other aspects of the project, including international law journals, a database of historical scholarship on international law, and a revamp of the interface to the Library are in progress and enhancements to citations will improve discoverability of international cases within the LawCite citator and provide other valuable metrics.

#### AUSTRALIAN LEGAL HISTORY PROJECT – STAGE TWO

The first year of this LIEF project saw a significant increase in the amount of new historical material added, including Australian legal monographs published before 1900, back-capturing Acts as made from various jurisdictions, the SA Gazettes and assorted small reports series such as Knox and Pelham. In addition, a new software platform is being developed to enable interested scholars to efficiently capture 'recovered' case law from the Trove collection of digital newspapers.



#### Australasian Legal Information Institute (AustLII)

AustLII Research Centre A joint facility of UTS and UNSW Faculties of Law AustLII Foundation Limited ACN: 134 717 972 ABN: 41 134 717 972

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# AUSTRALASIAN LEGAL INFORMATION INSTITUTE

# 2015 YEAR IN REVIEW

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What a difference 20 years can make!

As we celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the founding of AustLII last November, we reflected in some wonderment at how access to legal information and resources had been transformed over the last twenty years. And especially upon the truly "game-changing" consequences they had for courts, lawyers, students, businesses, and individuals. Professor Glenn Wightwick and Justice Stephen Gageler also provided us with some intriguing speculations about where the next 20 years might take us. I expect that most of those at the celebration experienced, as I did, great pride and satisfaction at the contribution which AustLII has made to the free and comprehensive access to law to date, and an awed excitement at what AustLII will now need to do to take full advantage of those twenty years.

In AustLII, Co-Founders Graham Greenleaf and Andrew Mowbray launched a project to provide the community with a key prerequisite for the Rule of Law—free and easy access to the laws by which we are governed. In the context of the times that appeared to be "an impossible dream", even to enthusiasts for the cause. Apart from the technical and technological challenges, there were seemingly insurmountable barriers such as copyright, authenticity requirements, and territoriality and entrenched traditions. Somehow, these challenges and barriers were negotiated, avoided, or possibly simply ignored as the "impossible dream" increasingly became an actuality.

The AustLII Foundation was established in 2008 in recognition of the very substantial progress which Greenleaf, Mowbray, Philip Chung and their team had made in establishing a comprehensive Australian free-access online public law library and what would be required to ensure appropriate and reliable supporting infrastructure on a sustainable and ongoing basis. It is very pleasing to be able to report that the Board is confident it has continued to fulfill that basic responsibility effectively throughout 2015 with the fulsome support of many key stakeholders and an encouraging incremental level of community recognition and support. This Annual Report documents the progress and achievements of 2015, acknowledges the many and varied contributions and support activities

which underlay them and points to future priorities and directions.

Underpinning everything has been the considerable ongoing support of AustLII's two member universities: the University of Technology Sydney and the University of New South Wales. Equally vital have been the donations and contributions which once again exceeded one million dollars, bringing their total since 2008 to more than six million dollars from more than 500 organizations and individualsmany on a continuing basis. These included federal and state government departments and agencies; courts, tribunals and regulators; the legal profession; the wider business community; law schools and faculties across Australia; and individuals and not for profit community organizations. During 2015 key collaborative partners on AustLII's initiatives included NT Law Society Public Purpose Trust, State Library of South Australia, ATO, Legal Practitioners' Liability Committee, CCH Australia, and Standards Australia.

As always, the management and staff of AustLII have provided an exceptional service during 2015 and have identified several major ways to re-inforce and "future-prepare" AustLII's services which the Board has adopted and resourced. The internship program is also continuing to show its worth.

I would like to thank Professor Graham Greenleaf, co-founder of AustLII, who has announced that he will be stepping down from the Board in June 2016. I am very pleased to report, however, that he will continue to work with the AustLII team in many exciting and innovative projects. Similarly, I want to thank Professor David Dixon who is about to end his term as Dean at the Law School, UNSW and thereby leave the Board (of which he has been a member since its inception). The Board will miss him. I look forward to working with his successor, Professor George Williams.

It has continued to be a pleasure and a privilege to Chair the Foundation's Board during 2015 and to work with its members during the year. I look forward to future developments with great anticipation.

*Jeff FitzGerald (Chair, AustLII Foundation Limited)* 

## AUSTLII CO-DIRECTORS' REPORT

2015 marked the twentieth anniversary of the founding of AustLII. Milestones and time markers are often used to focus and crystallise ideas concerning the development of organisations and institutions. In this year we have taken time to reflect upon our journey so far, to re-affirm our deep engagement with our international colleagues and to consider how the next twenty years of the AustLII story might unfold.

AustLII was created to 'free the law' by providing free access to the Australian public to the essential legal information needed for the rule of law and democracy to function effectively. In addition we intended to provide a service of value to academic research, the legal profession, the business community and to courts and governments as well.

AustLII remains determined to provide the Australian community with a comprehensive free-access resource for electronic legal materials and related services. To this end we continue to: expand our collection of primary and secondary legal resources; respond to the needs of our extensive user base; support the requirements of those who provide legal information data to us for republication; seek partnerships with other organisations for mutual benefit and solicit all those that use our service to contribute funding to ensure that we can continue to provide legal information for free.

Looking to the future AustLII intends to maintain its position as the leading comprehensive free-access source for all Australian electronic legal materials and related services. We will continue to expand our primary legal resources with more contemporary content and greater historical depth including case law 'recovered' from early newspapers; further develop data mining approaches to add value to all existing databases by improved cross-referencing and the addition of metrics and statistics on usage and citations; improve the user interface and search capabilities via the AustLII 20.0 platform (to be released in 2016); and develop a new AustLII Communities platform to encourage and facilitate users to generate useful new secondary content such as law handbooks, plain language guides to the law, and other commentary.

AustLII was delighted to host the 15<sup>th</sup> Law via the Internet Conference during our anniversary celebrations in November. The Conference was opened by NSW Attorney General Gabrielle Upton and included over 100 delegates from over 20 different countries addressing 16 topics in over 40 presentations. AustLII also chaired the annual meeting of the Free Access to Law Movement.

Internationally, AustLII will strive to enhance the resources discoverable through the international portals including expanded coverage of the history of the common law.

The AustLII Foundation Ltd had a good year financially with an increase in the number and value of contributions. We remain grateful to all the organisations and individuals who fund our service. A deeper engagement with our community will sustain a robust funding model that supports the ongoing development of AustLII.

We also thank our partner universities and other partner organisations and investigators involved in AustLII's various research and research infrastructure projects.

We would like to thank our Law Deans (Prof David Dixon and Prof Lesley Hitchens), the Chair of the Foundation, Dr Jeff FitzGerald, and the members of the Foundation Board and the AustLII Research Centre Management Committee for their work and support in 2015.

We acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our small team of staff, including those students from our host universities who gain valuable experience working with us as interns and volunteers. The success of AustLII is due to their hard work and on-going commitment.

Andrew Mowbray, Philip Chung and Graham Greenleaf (Co-Directors, AustLII)

# ABOUT AUSTLII

The Australasian Legal Information Institute (AustLII) was founded in 1995. It is the largest free-access provider of online Australian legal materials, a founding member of the Free Access to Law Movement, and one of the largest providers of world-wide free-access legal content. AustLII collaborates with other free access LIIs around the world to operate three international multi-LII systems for legal information: Asian Legal Information Institute (AsianLII); Commonwealth Legal Information Institute (CommonLII); World Legal Information Institute (WorldLII); as well as developing the LawCite international citator with the same group of collaborators. In addition, AustLII jointly operates the New Zealand Legal Information Institute (NZLII) and the LII of India, in cooperation with local partners in those countries.

AustLII comprises the AustLII Research Centre and the AustLII Foundation Limited, a not-forprofit company limited by guarantee operating as a charity. The Foundation raises donations to operate and maintain AustLII's Australian infrastructure and services. The AustLII Research Centre conducts research and is responsible for AustLII's international collaborations including AsianLII, CommonLII and WorldLII.

AustLII is part of the international Free Access to Law Movement and adheres to the following principles:

- Public legal information from all countries and international institutions is part of the common heritage of humanity. Maximising access to this information promotes justice and the rule of law;
- Public legal information is digital common property and should be accessible to all on a non-profit basis and free of charge;
- Organisations such as legal information institutes have the right to publish public legal information and the government bodies that create or control that information should provide access to it so that it can be published by other parties.

The AustLII Foundation Limited's objects are to:

- Be a not for profit entity to promote the sound administration and development of the law by:
  - Promoting and supporting free and effective access to public legal information in Australia by means of an electronic public library;
  - Providing, and supporting the provision by its members of, free anonymous public access in Australia to a searchable and regularly updated comprehensive and reliable internet-based electronic public library of Australian public legal materials;
- Maintain systems, programmes and databases for the effective handling of an electronic public library of information and related policy development, collaborate with other researchers and providers of such information, and develop, implement and disseminate improvements and associated technical assistance and advice;
- Advance legal education by promoting and encouraging research in the field of legal information systems and dissemination of the useful results thereof; and
- Do all other things as may be incidental or ancillary to the attainment of these objects.

The AustLII Research Centre's mission is to be a centre of excellence in the development of legal information systems through research, the operation of public free access legal research facilities, and education in legal research techniques and infrastructure. In doing so, AustLII will

advance the public interest in free access to public legal information within Australia and internationally.

By pursuing its mission, the AustLII Research Centre advances the missions of each our Law Faculties to be recognised as national leaders in research, research infrastructure provision and legal education; to contribute to broader community objectives; and to be recognised as Law Faculties of international standing with a major commitment to engagement in international legal affairs of significance to Australia.

The AustLII Research Centre aims to achieve its mission by pursuit of the following objectives:

- 1. Research and development
  - To conduct international standard research in technologies for developing legal information systems, and in the development of standards necessary to make such technologies operational.
  - To develop AustLII's own tools for building legal information systems wherever appropriate, so as to maintain AustLII's public access facilities as innovative examples of international standard systems.
  - Where consistent with AustLII's other objectives, to provide innovations developed by AustLII as open source software and standards to enable their use by others.
- 2. Public policy
  - Through our advocacy and example, to achieve and defend free public access via the Internet to public legal information in Australia.
  - Through our advocacy and example, our assistance to others by making available AustLII's expertise and software, and our collaborations with other parties, to assist others internationally to achieve free public access via the Internet to public legal information from all countries.
  - To uphold the Declaration on Free Access to Law adopted by AustLII and other Legal Information Institute in Montreal in 2002.
- 3. Public access law facilities
  - To build cost-effective free access public facilities for access to law by maximising the automated conversion and processing of legal information and minimising the necessity for hand editing.
  - To provide on AustLII's Australasian service (the 'AustLII' website) a comprehensive collection of the most important databases of Australian public legal information (legislation, case law, treaties, law reform reports and others of like importance); legal scholarship that is available for free access; and other legal databases of strategic importance in advancing the public interest, and which advance AustLII's research activities.
  - To provide on international services operated by AustLII (including WorldLII, CommonLII, AsianLII and LawCite), or through collaboration with other free access providers of legal information in the operation of those international services, free access to legal information of value to Australian legal researchers, and to legal information which contributes to AustLII achieving its other objectives.
  - To provide on all of the services operated by AustLII the most effective access mechanisms to online legal information.
  - To achieve a high level of user satisfaction for all of the services operated by AustLII.

- Through open standards, and through tools AustLII provides, to enable others to build value-added legal services which make appropriate use of data located on services operated by AustLII, but which also respect AustLII's interests in the value it adds to its source data and which also respect the interests of others in that data.
- 4. Operational
  - To advance the missions of our host Law Faculties by pursuit of consistent goals.
  - To provide a stimulating and satisfying long-term work environment for AustLII staff.
  - To maintain free access to services operated by AustLII, with no access charges to end-users, and with the maintenance of user's reasonable expectations of privacy and freedom from manipulation.
  - To cooperate with other providers of legal information, both free access and commercial, in Australia and internationally, to maximise the public benefit in obtaining free access to as wide a range of resources as is feasible.

# GOVERNANCE

The AustLII Foundation Limited is an income tax exempt charitable organisation, incorporated as a company limited by guarantee. The Foundation has obtained Deductible Gift Recipient status from the Australian Taxation Office, hence donations are tax deductible. It is governed by an independent Board of Directors.

The AustLII Foundation Limited Board as at 31 December 2015 is comprised:

- **Dr Jeff FitzGerald (Chair)** (appointed to the Board on 22 December 2008) Former Registrar of the University of Technology Sydney; former Deputy-Secretary of the Victorian Attorney-General's Department
- **Prof Carrick Martin (Chair, Finance Committee)** (appointed to the Board on 22 December 2008) Former Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration, Macquarie University
- **Dr Philip Chung (Managing Director)** (appointed to the Board on 23 June 2009) Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, UNSW Australia; Executive Director, AustLII Research Centre
- **Prof Graham Greenleaf AM(Executive Director)** (appointed to the Board on 22 December 2008) Professor, Faculty of Law, UNSW Australia; Co-Director, AustLII Research Centre
- **Prof Andrew Mowbray (Executive Director)** (appointed to the Board on 27 April 2009) Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Technology Sydney; Co-Director, AustLII Research Centre
- **Mr Tim Bugg AM**(appointed to the Board on 23 June 2009) Partner, Dobson Mitchell & Allport; Chair, International Legal Services Advisory Council (ILSAC); Past president of the Law Council of Australia
- **Prof David Dixon** (appointed to the Board on 22 December 2008) Dean, Faculty of Law, UNSW Australia
- **Mr Ian Govey AM** (appointed to the Board on 23 June 2009) Australian Government Solicitor, The Australian Government Solicitor (AGS)
- **Prof Lesley Hitchens** (appointed to the Board on 18 February 2013) Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Technology Sydney

The Company Secretary until the end of 2015 was Giovanni Crasto (appointed 31 Jan 2014).



AustLII Foundation Limited Board of Directors - Front row (L to R):,Dr Jeff FitzGerald (Chair), Prof Lesley Hitchens and Prof David Dixon Back row (L to R): Mr Ian Govey, Prof Carrick Martin, Mr Tim Bugg, Prof Andrew Mowbray (Executive Director), Prof Graham Greenleaf (Executive Director) and Mr Philip Chung (Managing Director).

The AustLII Research Centre is a joint facility of the Faculties of Law at the University of Technology, Sydney and the University of New South Wales and is governed under an MOU between the two Law Schools. It is governed by a Management Committee that comprised the following:

- **Dr Philip Chung** (Executive Director, AustLII Research Centre; Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, UNSW Australia)
- **Prof David Dixon** (Dean, Faculty of Law, UNSW Australia)
- **Prof Lesley Hitchens** (Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Technology Sydney)
- **Prof Andrew Mowbray** (Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Technology Sydney; Co-Director, AustLII Research Centre)
- Mr Paul Holt (Faculty Manager, Faculty of Law, University of Technology Sydney)
- **Ms Fei Wong / Ms Gemma Nevin** (Faculty General Manager, Faculty of Law, UNSW Australia)

# MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

#### **Managing and Executive Directors**

The AustLII Research Centre is jointly managed by three co-directors:

- Andrew Mowbray (Professor of Law and Information Technology, Faculty of Law, UTS) (Co-Director)
- Philip Chung (Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, UNSW) (Executive Director)
- Graham Greenleaf (Professor of Law and Information Systems, Faculty of Law, UNSW) (Co-Director)

The Managing Director of the AustLII Foundation Limited is Philip Chung. Graham Greenleaf and Andrew Mowbray serve as Executive Directors of the Company.



#### Full-time Staff

- Giovanni Crasto (Finance and Administration Manager)
- Richard Hunter (Development Manager)
- Chris Kenward (Australian Databases Manager)
- Jennifer Kwong (Project Officer)
- Jones Olatunji (Systems Administrator)
- Cathy Quigley (Administrative Officer)
- Kent Soesanto (Project Officer)
- Armin Wittfoth (Project Officer)

#### Part-time Staff

- Chris Connley (Project Officer) from June 2015 to October 2015
- Stijn Denayer (Project Officer) from December 2015
- Matthew Dickinson (Project Officer) to October 2015
- Hannah Figueroa-Crisostomo (Project Officer)
- Jill Matthews (Project Officer)
- Trevor Roydhouse (Systems Developer)
- Robert Size (Project Officer) from December 2015
- Dominic Smith (Project Officer) from August 2015
- Michael Xia (Project Officer) from November 2015

#### Interns / volunteers

An initiative introduced in 2013 was the AustLII intern / volunteer programme. This program is available to law students from UNSW and UTS. Interns / volunteers are able to participate in AustLII's projects including digitisation of historical legal materials in print (using both destructive and non-destructive scanning approaches), extraction of metadata, as well as stakeholder engagement activities.

The interns / volunteers in 2015 were: Claire Achermann, Shelley Chen, Karee Gurtman, Vanessa Ho, Jonathan Mo, Imelda Payne, Robert Size, Dominic Smith, Michael Xia and Jeffrey Yuan.

Robert Size, Dominic Smith and Michael Xia joined AustLII as part-time staff members after the completion of their internships.



# AUSTRALIAN DEVELOPMENTS

#### NEW DATABASES ON AUSTLII

In 2015, 39 new databases as well as one new library (Australasian Modern Law Library 1951-2000) were added to AustLII.

In addition, a number of existing databases were significantly expanded as a result of the Legal Scholarship project of back-capturing digitized data of relevant legal journals, newsletters and industry publications.

The following **new Australian legal databases** were added in 2015:

- Alternative Criminology Journal 1975-1983
- Australian Colonial Law Monographs 1846-
- Australian Competition and Consumer Commission Journal 1996-2004
- Australian Competition and Consumer Commission Update 1998-2012
- Australian Crime Prevention Council Forum: Quarterly Journal of the APC 1978-1985
- Australian Crime Prevention Council Journal 1986-1993
- Australian Crime Prevention Council Newsletter 2008-
- Australian Crime Prevention, Correction and After-Care Council National Newsletter 1970-1973
- Australian Environmental Law News 1992-
- Australian Journal of Environmental Law 2014-
- Australian Journal of Gender and Law 2008-
- Australian Journal of Law and Society 1982-2000
- Balance : Journal of the Northern Territory Law Society 1991-
- Bar News: The Journal of the New South Wales Bar Association 1985-
- CLC Communications Update 1993-2005
- Communications Law Bulletin 1981-
- Computers and Law: Journal for the Australian and New Zealand Societies for Computers and the Law 1983-
- Eastern Suburbs Football Association 2008-
- Eastern Suburbs Football Association Appeals Committee 2008-
- Freedom of Information Review 1986-2004
- inCite: Magazine of the Australian Library and Information Association 1990-
- Industrial Court of the Australian Capital Territory 2014-
- International Journal of Rural Law and Policy 2011-
- Knox's New South Wales Supreme Court Reports 1873-1877
- Land, Rights, Laws: Issues of Native Title 2000-
- Magistrates Court of the Australian Capital Territory 2015-
- National Environmental Law Review 2002-
- Native Title Newsletter 1996-
- Northern Territory Civil and Administrative Tribunal 2015-
- Northern Territory Judgments 1918-1976
- Northern Territory Mental Health Review Tribunal 2015-

- Pelham's South Australian Reports 1865-1866
- Queensland Institute of Technology Law Journal 1985-1987
- Queensland University of Technology Law Journal 1988-1999
- Queensland University of Technology Law Review 2013-
- Social Security Reporter 1981-2004
- South Australian Employment Tribunal 2015-
- South Australian Government Gazettes 1839-1918
- University of New South Wales Theses and Dissertation 1975-



Launch of South Australian Gazette by the Chief Justice of South Australia L. to R: Richard Hunter (AustLII), Louise Langridge (ALLA SA), Beth Robertson (State Library SA), Lucy Brown (ALLA SA), Chief Justice Chris Kourakis, Andrew Mowbray and Philip Chung (AustLII)

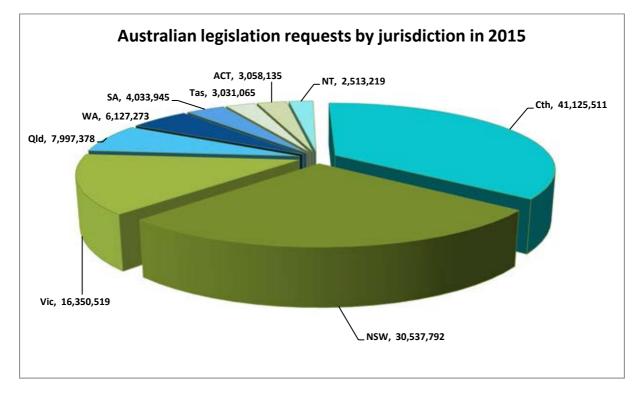
The following **Australian legal databases** were updated and expanded in 2015:

• ACT Law Reform materials have been expanded and reorganised: Australian Capital Territory Community Law Reform Committee 1991-1997, Australian Capital Territory Law Reform Commission 2001-2009 and Australian Capital Territory Law Reform Advisory Council 2010-

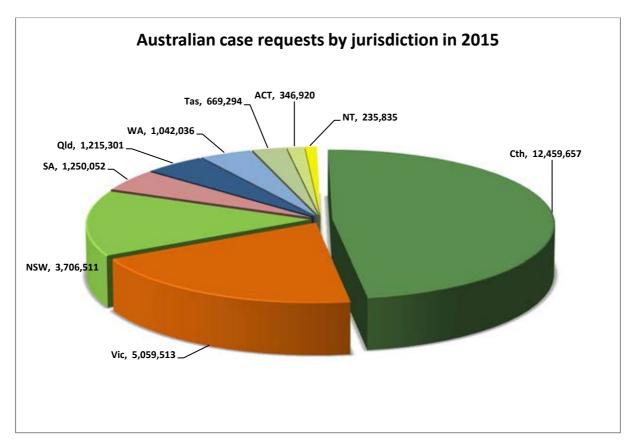
### AUSTLII'S DATABASE USAGE AND MARKET SHARE

Total hits for 2015 exceeded 254 million and averaged 699,126 hits per day.

The most popular databases on AustLII in 2015 were the Commonwealth legislation databases, followed by NSW and Victorian legislation. Overall, access to case law collections in most jurisdictions increased in 2015. The following graphs show the number of accesses to AustLII's legislation and case law databases by jurisdiction.



Legislation requests included permitted accesses by search engine web spiders and included requests to access individual sections of legislation.



Case law requests did not generally include accesses by search engine web spiders which AustLII excludes from access.

AustLII maintained the number one market position in the online legal category throughout 2015 and kept its market share of over 30% (according to Hitwise). This category included websites from government, publishers, courts and tribunals, law societies, legal firms and barristers. The volume of data downloaded was 23.05 terabytes.

#### AUSTLII'S MAJOR USERS

Many of AustLII's users access AustLII through large internet service providers, as well as through University services or through other web servers that maintain multiple IP addresses. Consequently, AustLII is unable to identify a high percentage of its users because AustLII does not receive internet protocol addresses (IP addresses) specific to them. Over 30% of all accesses cannot be identified. Over 30% are from commercial ISP's serving their millions of individual clients.

Of the 35% of identifiable users from Australia we can classify them into four sectors:

- commercial (mostly comprising the legal profession)
- education
- government
- general community

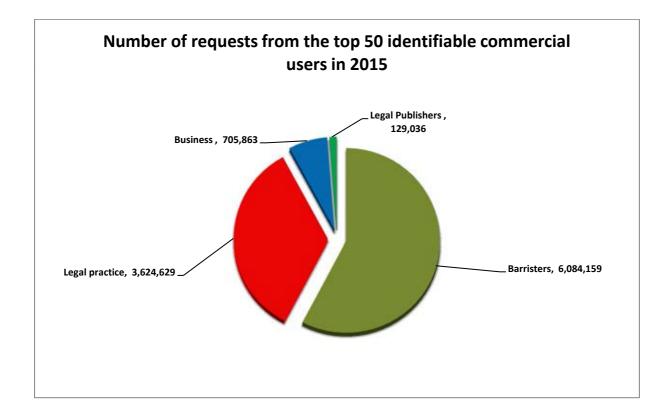
In 2015 of the top identified users, 44% are from the commercial sector, 28% from the government sector, 28% from the education sector and less than 1% from the community sector. This confirms a trend that commercial use of AustLII is increasing as a percentage of overall use compared to the other sectors.

#### COMMERCIAL SECTOR

Identified users in the commercial sector fall largely into the following categories:

- barristers (identified through specific bar internet service providers and chambers)
- legal practices (including private law firms and patent and trade mark attorneys)
- legal publishers
- businesses

While usage of AustLII by the commercial sector continues to grow it is noted that the number of the top 50 identifiable commercial users (30,000 or more requests per annum) that contribute to AustLII's running costs were 15. Only half of the top 10 identifiable commercial users support AustLII and contributions from AustLII's largest identifiable users from the commercial sector continue to remain below their rates of usage. We continue to urge all AustLII users that can afford to do so to contribute towards keeping us online.



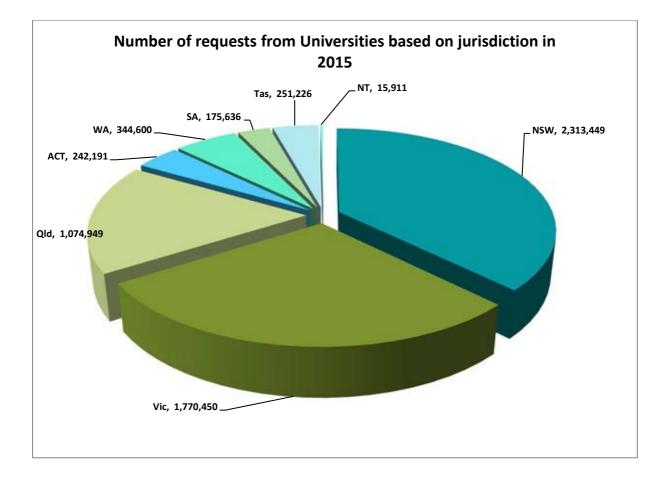
#### COMMERCIAL USAGE OF AUSTLII IN 2015

1       Barrister - Vic       2,622,129         2       Barrister - NSW       2,036,964         3       Barrister - NSW       1,129,647 $\square$ 4       Legal Practice       603,840 $\square$ 5       Legal Practice       544,148 $\square$ 6       Business       437,530 $\square$ 7       Legal Practice       220,177 $\square$ 9       Barrister - WA       210,194 $\square$ 10       Business       180,252 $\square$ 11       Legal Practice       106,766 $\square$ 12       Legal Practice       108,766 $\square$ 13       Legal Practice       90,244 $\square$ 15       Legal Practice       74,331 $\square$ 17       Legal Practice       64,173 $\square$ 19       Legal Practice       65,694 $\square$ 21       Legal Practice       62,709 $\square$ 23       Legal Practice       54,594 $\square$ 24       Legal Practice       54,594 $\square$ 25       Legal Practice       44,412 $\square$		<b>Commercial Category</b>	Number of requests	Contributor in 2015
2       Barrister - NSW       2,036,964         3       Barrister - NSW       1,129,647 $\Box$ 4       Legal Practice       603,840 $\Box$ 5       Legal Practice       544,148 $\Box$ 6       Business       437,530 $\Box$ 7       Legal Practice       220,177 $\Box$ 9       Barrister - WA       210,194 $\Box$ 10       Business       180,252 $\Box$ 11       Legal Practice       167,020 $\Box$ 12       Legal Practice       108,766 $\Box$ 13       Legal Practice       90,244 $\Box$ 15       Legal Practice       85,225 $\Box$ 16       Legal Practice       70,552 $\Box$ 18       Legal Practice       66,173 $\Box$ 20       Legal Practice       65,694 $\Box$ 21       Legal Practice       63,049 $\Box$ 22       Legal Practice       54,594 $\Box$ 22       Legal Practice       54,594 $\Box$ 22       Legal Practice       44,637 $\Box$	1			
3       Barrister - NSW       1,129,647       Image: Constraint of the system of th				
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#### **EDUCATION SECTOR**

The education sector in Australia represented over 28% of AustLII's top identified users in 2015. All Universities in Australia use AustLII and almost all of them provide a contribution towards its funding. Total usage from the University sector in 2015 was six million requests.

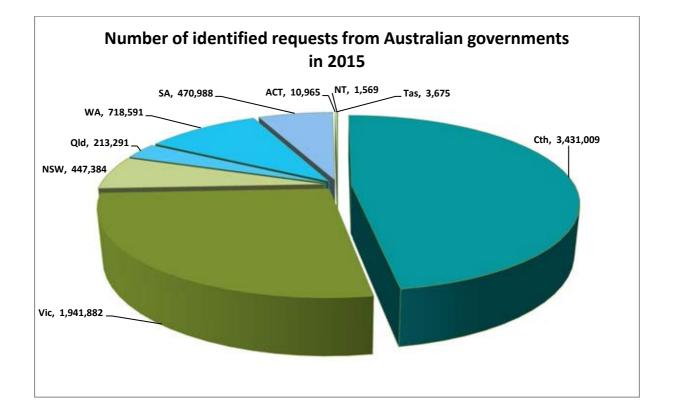
Most Australian Universities make a financial contribution to AustLII because they recognise AustLII's value to their teaching and research, and that the costs of its operation need to be widely shared. We are hopeful that in future years all Australian universities will be in a position to provide financial support.



#### **GOVERNMENT SECTOR**

The government sector in 2015 represented 27% of AustLII's top identifiable users. A significant amount of government use is identifiable at agency level, including Commonwealth, State and Territory government agencies. Also included in this figure is the substantial use of AustLII resources by the various courts, tribunals and other regulators, most of whose decisions AustLII re-publishes.

AustLII receives funding support from the federal and state governments through the National Justice and Policing Senior Officers group. In addition a number of courts and tribunals make significant contributions thus recognising the value of the service the AustLII Foundation provides.



Jurisdiction	Number of Requests in 2015
Federal Government Usage	3,431,009
State/Territory Government Usage	3,808,345
Total Identified Government Usage	7,239,354

# INTERNATIONAL SYSTEMS AND DEVELOPMENTS

The AustLII Research Centre operates three multi-LII systems for international free access legal information (AsianLII, CommonLII and WorldLII) in cooperation with a group of collaborating Legal Information Institutes based in other countries (which we call the 'WorldLII Consortium'). AustLII has developed the only international free access case and journal article citator (LawCite) and operates it in conjunction with the same group of collaborating LIIs. The AustLII Research Centre has assisted other nations and regions to develop online access to their laws since 1999, using open source software and other LII tools developed by AustLII. All of AustLII's development of multi-LII systems, its joint operation of overseas LIIs, and the assistance it gives to other collaborating LIIs for maintenance and development of their systems is funded by grants for these purposes (see next section).

#### DATABASES SEARCHABLE THROUGH MULTI-LII SYSTEMS

Seventeen LIIs now collaborate in providing the databases searchable via WorldLII. The following table sets out the approximate numbers of databases searchable from each of the portals operated by AustLII (AsianLII, CommonLII and WorldLII) as at 31 December 2015, and the number of databases found on each cooperating LII allowing their data to be searched as part of these systems. The 'Countries' column indicates the number of countries that a particular LII adds to the total number of countries whose databases are searchable via WorldLII.

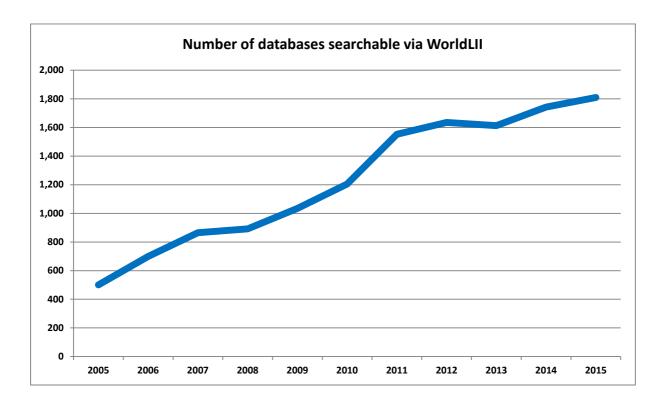
Systems	AsianLII	CommonLII	WorldLII	Countries	
AsianLII	177	0	177	23	*
AustLII	0	561	561	1	
BAILII	0	99	99	7	
CommonLII	36	76	76	27	*
CyLaw	0	9	9	1	
Droit.org	0	0	1	1	
HKLII	34	34	34	1	
LawPhil	16	0	16	1	
LII Cornell	0	0	3	1	
LiberLII	0	0	8	1	*
NZLII	0	121	121	1	*
LII of India	154	154	154	1	*
PacLII	36	320	320	19	
SAFLII	0	72	72	10	
SamLII	0	27	27	1	*
ULII	0	16	16	1	
WorldLII	0	0	115	55	*
2015 Total	453	1,489	1,809	152	678
2014 Total	442	1,430	1,742	152	652
2013 Total	431	1,312	1,613	142	612
2012 Total	433	1,279	1,635	183	595
2011 Total	430	1,204	1,552	182	555
2010 Total	300	905	1,205	164	408

#### Table of searchable databases in multi-LII systems (as at 31 December 2015)

During 2015, the total number of databases available for searching via WorldLII increased by 67 to 1,809, whereas the total number available via CommonLII increased to 1,489 and AsianLII to 453.

AustLII maintains 678 of these international databases (an increase from 652 in 2014), in addition to the 561 Australian databases on AustLII. They are on seven LIIs (marked \*).

The number of databases searchable via WorldLII was not recorded for its first few years of operation from 2002, but over the past few years (as recorded in AustLII reports to LII meetings, and in these annual reviews), the rate of expansion of searchable databases is as follows:



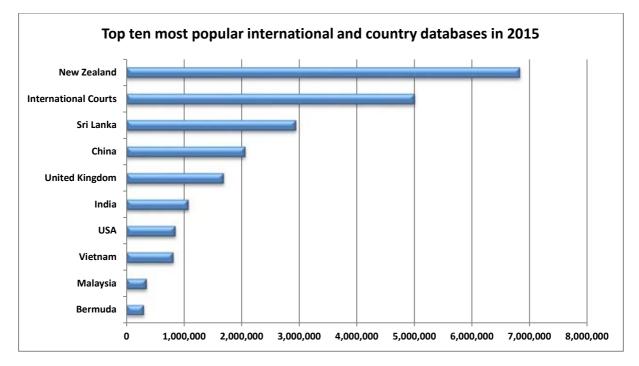
#### INTERNATIONAL SYSTEMS USAGE

There are two measures of accesses to the multi-LII systems with which AustLII cooperates (WorldLII, CommonLII and AsianLII): (i) access to the databases of collaborating LIIs resulting from searches via the multi-LII systems; and (ii) accesses to databases maintained by AustLII located on the multi-LII systems. AustLII does not hold access statistics on (i), as those accesses are only recorded on the systems concerned. Because the numbers of documents on AustLII, BAILII, PacLII etc are far larger than the numbers of documents in databases located on AsianLII, WorldLII or CommonLII, it is likely that (i) is much larger than (ii). The statistics below relate only to (ii).

In 2015, there were over 41 million accesses to the non-Australian databases maintained by AustLII and located on AsianLII, CommonLII, NZLII, LII of India, LiberLII, SamLII and WorldLII plus citator records on LawCite and Catalog pages. AustLII blocks spidering of case law on any of these services.

The following chart shows the top 10 most requested databases maintained by AustLII, by country or grouping (excluding databases on AustLII). The most popular international databases in 2015 are from New Zealand, the International Courts and Tribunals (as well as intergovernment organisations), Sri Lanka, China, the UK and India. The UK accesses refer to the English Reports 1220-1873 located on CommonLII.

Because there is a high level of overlap between databases maintained by AustLII searchable via AsianLII, CommonLII and WorldLII, separate statistics are not given below for each of these multi-LII systems.



#### DEVELOPMENTS IN INDIVIDUAL SYSTEMS



In addition to maintaining WorldLII, CommonLII and AsianLII, AustLII also cooperates with a number of partner institutions in individual countries by jointly managing on the AustLII infrastructure the databases of these LIIs (NZLII, LiberLII and SamLII). During 2015, highlights of developments on some of these systems are as follows:



During 2015 the successful partnership between NZLII and AustLII continued, with eighteen new databases being added to NZLII.

The new databases are:

- New Zealand Legal Aid Appeal Authority 1976-
- Macassey's Reports (NZ) 1859-1872
- Ollivier, Bell, & Fitzgerald's Reports (NZ) 1878-1880
- New Zealand District Licensing Committee Auckland 2014-
- New Zealand Yearbook of New Zealand Jurisprudence 1997-2011
- New Zealand Aircrew Industrial Tribunal 1981-
- New Zealand Air Services Licensing Appeal Authority 1977-

- New Zealand Transport Charges Appeal Authority 1969-•
- New Zealand Resource Management Law Reform 1988-•
- New Zealand Court of Appeal Reports 1861-1877 •
- New Zealand Equal Opportunities Tribunal 1980-1993 •
- New Zealand Human Rights Commissioner Case Notes 1988-•
- New Zealand Medical Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal 1997-2010 •
- New Zealand Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal 2004-•
- Fenton's Important Judgments (New Zealand) 1866-1878 •
- New Zealand Colonial Law Journal 1865-1875 •
- New Zealand Transport Licensing Appeal Authority 1968-•
- Public Interest Law Journal of New Zealand 2013-



AustLII currently maintains the Legal Information Institute of India (LII of India) <http://www.liiofindia.org/>. AustLII is seeking further funding sources to further develop databases on LII of India, particularly those concerning the LII of India history of the common law.



The Commonwealth Legal Information Institute (CommonLII) <http://www.commonlii.org/> provides access to laws from 59 Commonwealth and common law jurisdictions. With funding assistance from the Commonwealth CommonLII Secretariat's Legal & Constitutional Affairs Division (ComSec LCAD), AustLII

continues to develop and maintain the Caribbean Law Project <http://www.commonlii.org/caribbean/> resulting in more than 10,000 searchable documents in the project's databases. AustLII also continued to maintain the Commonwealth Criminal Law Library <http://www.commonlii.org/int/special/crimlaw/>.

#### COLLABORATIONS WITH OTHER LEGAL INFORMATION INSTITUTES

AustLII continues to collaborate with a number of international partners. In 2015, it worked with the Pacific Islands Information Institute (PacLII) to assist with the IT Infrastructure and policy matters. AustLII personnel travelled to Vanuatu during the year to participate in the PacLII Advisory Board and to provide general technical and other assistance.

AustLII also worked closely with the Southern African Legal Information Institute (SAFLII) to develop and maintain the SAFLII facility. AustLII also collaborated with UCT / DGRU in obtaining an internal grant from UNSW for \$40,000 which led to the presentation of a conference paper at the 2015 LVI.



L to R: Andrew Mowbray (AustLII) with SAFLII staff

#### AUSTLII INVOLVEMENT IN THE FREE ACCESS TO LAW MOVEMENT

AustLII is one of the founders, and a very active participant in the global Free Access to Law Movement (FALM), which had 59 members at the end of 2015, with three new members – CIRSFID (Centro Interdipartimentale di Ricerca in Storia del Diritto, Filosofia e Sociologia del Diritto e Informatica Giuridica), KoreanLII (Korean Legal Information Institute) and ZimLII (Zimbabwe Legal Information Institute). A full list of members is at the FALM website <http://www.fatlm.org>, as is the Declaration of Free Access to Law (2002, as amended) to which AustLII and other members subscribe. The logos of the members of FALM are shown below.

Assessed	AIF		AsianLill					Canul			Comment	CYLAW	droit_org	2
GENE	NYU & LAW	<b>1</b>	(A)	RT		Illusticke	ARLIE	ittig				(contraction)	Junititiger	(1)
K	-	1 AL		•	±	LEXUM	UberLit		LR of India			NaLRII		NZLI
0	Reseas.	SamLII	SAFUI	SEYLII	sterik a			Trans		ulii	WorldLill	-		



As host of the 2015 Law via the Internet Conference AustLII chaired the annual FALM Meeting on Monday 9 November, the day prior to the Conference. The meeting was held in the new UTS facility the Dr Chau Chak Wing Building designed by renowned international architect Frank Gehry.



The meeting approved formal criteria for FALM membership, and hosting of 'Law via Internet' Conferences, as well as adopting a FALM logo. The meeting discussed bringing into closer alignment the FALM website and the websites created for each LvI Conference. FALM's support for the Journal of Open Access Law (JOAL) was affirmed. AustLII continues to host and maintain the FALM website on behalf of the FALM Secretariat, and during 2015 its content was expanded, including minutes and photos of recent annual meetings. AustLII will chair the FALM Secretariat until the 2016 conference in Cyprus.



Conference delegates to the *Law via the Internet Conference 2015* including AustLII Co-Directors Prof Graham Greenleaf, Prof Andrew Mowbray and Dr Philip Chung

#### LAW VIA THE INTERNET CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 2015 - SYDNEY

The Law via the Internet Conference is an internationally focused academic conference held annually to explore issues relating to the delivery of the law and legal information via the internet, including consideration of the technical, intellectual, policy and regulatory issues involved. The 2015 LvI Conference was hosted by AustLII utilizing the facilities of the Law Faculty Building at UNSW Australia (the University of New South Wales) on Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 November 2015. <a href="http://www.lvi2015.org/">http://www.lvi2015.org/></a>

The Law via Internet Conferences were originated by AustLII, and were hosted by AustLII in 1997, 1999, 2001 and 2003. We were delighted to be able to once again bring the Conference to Sydney after 12 years of travelling round the world.



The Conference included 40 scholars from 20 countries including New Zealand, the USA, Japan, South Korea, Canada, China, Kenya, South Africa, the Netherlands, France and Taiwan providing the opportunity to present both submitted and invited papers. Themed sessions of the Conference were:

- The media and free access to legal information
- The state and free access providers
- International law and citizen participation online
- Innovation in free access to scholarship
- Technologies for enhancing legal access
- African developments in free access law
- Managing free access: Challenges for courts and tribunals
- Reclaiming legal history
- Semantics, standards and free access publishers
- Sports law transparency: Putting the boot in, and throwing the book

The Conference provided a rare opportunity for Australian academics and researchers to hear first-hand of developments in Europe, East Asia, Africa and elsewhere. An enjoyable Conference dinner was held at the O Bar and Dining atop Australia Square, which afforded our international guests a spectacular view of the Sydney skyline at night.

An issue of the Journal of Law and Information Science (JLIS), edited by Andrew Mowbray and Philip Chung, will be devoted to the publication of selected papers from the 2015 Conference.

## RESEARCH

One of the two main functions of the AustLII Research Centre is to carry out research in the field of legal information systems, which can usually be characterised as 'applied research'. Funding for this research comes from various sources, including conventional research grants (such as Australian Research Council Linkage grants), but research is also very often generated by research infrastructure grants (ARC LIEF or otherwise) or international development grants (including CAS and Justis Publishing - UK) where the goals of infrastructure development pose research issues which must be resolved. AustLII is a 'research in action' organisation.

#### **RESEARCH AND RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE GRANTS**

Researchers affiliated with AustLII apply for competitive grants for research and research infrastructure development of new databases and services. In 2015, AustLII worked on three Australian Research Council (ARC) research grants.

#### AUTHORITY AND INTEGRITY OF PRIMARY LEGAL MATERIALS

In 2013, AustLII (via its host universities UTS and UNSW) and seven collaborating partner institutions were successful in obtaining an ARC Linkage grant entitled "Re-inventing authority and integrity of primary legal sources for the online world, using free access to make the legal system more efficient and just". This is a three year grant for \$150,000 from the ARC with an additional \$114,000 from partner institutions. Our industry partners in this project include the High Court of Australia, the Family Court of Australia, the Federal Circuit Court, the Supreme Court Library of Victoria, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel and the Office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel of Victoria.

The Investigators of this project are: Prof Andrew Mowbray (UTS), Prof Graham Greenleaf (UNSW), Prof Dan Svantesson (Bond), Prof Anita Stuhmcke (UTS), Prof Jill Hunter (UNSW), Mr David Mason (Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade), Mr John Butera (Office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel of Victoria), Ms Lyn Newlands (Family Court of Australia), Ms Laurie Atkinson (Supreme Court of Victoria), Mr Andrew Phelan (High Court of Australia), Judge Grant Riethmuller (Federal Circuit Court), and Ms Stacey Talbot (Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel).

Progress milestones achieved during the second year of the grant include:

- The development of a new 'AustLII Communities' technical platform, one potential use of which will be to develop new forms of case reporting, by communities of 'trusted users'.
- Discussions regarding alternative approaches for preparing and distributing authorised reports with the participating superior courts have been held with various heads of jurisdiction (including Chief Justices) and the Australian Consultative Council of Law Reporting, but there has been no firm outcome to date.
- Extensive discussion and testing with the Federal Circuit Court (FCC) (and other courts) resulted in the finalisation of the 'Signed by AustLII' model. Equipment was then purchased for implementation.
- In March 2015 AustLII released a digitally signed and watermarked ("signed by AustLII") version of most of the judgments that it holds (around 600,000 cases), from all Australian courts and Tribunals, most of which do not appear in any conventional reports). In the first year of availability, 274,683 'Signed by AustLII' versions were downloaded.

- The FCC adopted a Practice Direction recognising 'Signed by AustLII' decisions as 'accepted' versions of their decisions. Five South Australian Courts and Tribunals are also 'accepting' the 'Signed by AustLII' format. We continue to encourage other courts and tribunals to 'accept' this format.
- Initial meetings with DFAT to implement best practice by which treaties may be provided online with authority and integrity have been held and this will be pursued in 2016.

#### THE INTERNATIONAL LAW LIBRARY

In 2015, work continued on the International Law Library project. This is funded under an ARC LIEF grant entitled "The international law library on WorldLII: New content and facilities for the leading repository and citator for international law". This research infrastructure grant was for \$284,000 with an additional \$395,000 contribution from partner institutions. The project will be finalized in 2016.

The Investigators of this project are: Prof Andrew Mowbray (UTS), Prof Graham Greenleaf (UNSW), Prof Andrew Byrnes (UNSW), Prof Erika Techera (UWA), Prof Donald Rothwell (Sydney), Prof Chester Brown (Sydney), A/Prof Anthony Cassimatis (UQ), Prof Dan Svantesson (Bond), Prof Jane McAdam (UNSW), Prof Ross Buckley (UNSW), Prof Ana Vrdoljak (UYS), A/Prof Julie Debeljak (Monash), Prof Dianne Otto (Melbourne), Prof Michael Blakeney (UWA), A/Prof Timothy Stephens (Sydney), Prof Michael Adams (UWA), Dr Hitoshi Nasu (ANU), Prof Vai Io Lo (Bond), Mr Andrew Wells (UNSW), Prof Holly Cullen (UWA), and Dr Richard Joyce (Monash).

Six new databases of decisions have been added to WorlLII including:

- Council of Europe Venice Commission;
- Court of Arbitration for Sport;
- Council of Europe Data Protection Convention;
- United Nations Reports of International Arbitral Awards;
- Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia;
- Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia Transcripts.

Twelve more are progressively being released:

- United Nations Compensation Committee Decisions;
- Eritrea-Ethiopia Claims Commission;
- World Bank Administrative Tribunal;
- International Labour Organizations Administrative Tribunal;
- Asia-African Legal Consultative Organisation;
- European Committee of Social Rights;
- Iraqi High Tribunal;
- United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;
- Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights General comments;
- OHCHR Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights State parties reports;
- OHCHR Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families General comments;
- OHCHR Committee on the Rights of the Child General comments.

In addition, 17 high priority databases, already on WorldLII, have been updated, adding about 2,000 extra documents. The UN Treaty Series has also been updated, and now includes 49,920

treaties. Two new treaty databases have been released and others are under development. Regular semi-automated updating is being developed wherever possible. Otherwise, subject to resources, databases will be updated at least six-monthly or more frequently for key high priority databases. The ECHR and ECJ and Privy Council databases, maintained by BAILII as part of the Library, are up-to-date.

Attention is now turning to the other aspects of the project, including international law journals and a database of historical scholarship on international law, and a re-vamp of the interface to the Library at <http://www.worldlii.org/int/special/ihl/>. Research into referencing styles for ICJ decisions completed and parallel citations are being added to enhance the recognition of these cases within the LawCite citator and will improve citation histories for these cases once integrated.

#### THE AUSTRALASIAN LEGAL HISTORY LIBRARIES: STAGE II

At the end of 2014, AustLII (via its host universities UTS and UNSW) and 12 partner institutions were successful in obtaining another ARC grant entitled "The Australasian Legal History Libraries: Stage II". This is a LIEF research infrastructure grant for \$410,000 with an additional \$445,000 contribution from partner institutions. The aim of this project is to update and expand the Australasian Legal History Libraries <a href="http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/special/legalhistory/">http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/special/legalhistory/</a>.

The Investigators of this project are: Prof Graham Greenleaf (UNSW), Prof Andrew Mowbray (UTS), Prof Anne Twomey (USYD), A/Prof Warren Swain(UQ), Prof Mark Lunney (UNE), Prof Rocque Reynolds (SCU), Prof Michael Adams (UWS), Dr Ann Genovese (Melbourne), Prof Leroy Certoma (Notre Dame), A/Prof Stefan Petrow (Tasmania), Prof John Williams (Adelaide), Prof Mark Finnane (Griffith), Ms Judith Jones (ANU), Prof Maree Sainsbury (Canberra) and Prof Peter Handford (UWA).

In August 2015 a meeting of all Chief Investigators was held to obtain their inputs into the project planning, with much valuable assistance obtained. The additional computing equipment central to the project has been acquired and installed.

Progress on the project to date includes:

- A new consolidated homepage for the Australian Legal History Libraries and a new homepage for the Australasian Modern Legal History Library (1951-2000) have been created.
- Six new databases of historical case law have been added:
  - New Zealand Jurist Reports 1859-1879;
  - Macassey's Reports (NZ) 1859-1872;
  - Ollivier, Bell, & Fitzgerald's Reports (NZ) 1878-1880;
  - Pelham's South Australian Reports 1865-1866;
  - Northern Territory Judgments 1918-1976;
  - Knox's New South Wales Supreme Court Reports 1873-1877
- New software is being developed to enable the creation of new case law databases extracted from newspaper reports held in the National Library's Trove system by the Chief Investigators and other interested researchers.
- AustLII is working with the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel (OQPC) and with NSW Parliamentary Counsel to source and digitise historical Acts and regulations missing from AustLII.

- A new database 'South Australian Government Gazettes 1839-1918' contains 4322 items. Further gazette data is being sourced including South Australian Government Gazettes from 1919 onwards.
- A new database, 'Australian Colonial Law Monographs' has been created and includes 133 significant monographs from 1833-1900. Expansion will continue in 2016.
- Citations information from all the above expansions to the Library are included in the LawCite citator, which now includes citation information for 4.8M items (an increase of 0.3M).

#### OTHER GRANTS FOR INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

During 2015, AustLII also received a small grant of £20,000 from the Commonwealth Secretariat to improve the resources on CommonLII relating to the Caribbean and East Africa.

#### **RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

AustLII Co-Directors published the following papers and made the following presentations in 2015:

- Greenleaf G, Chung P and Mowbray A, "Different meanings of 'free access to law': Civil law and common law comparisions" – 15<sup>th</sup> Law via Internet Conference, Sydney, November 2015
- Mowbray A, Chung P and Greenleaf G, "*'Signed by AustLII'* and other caselaw improvements"" 15<sup>th</sup> Law via Internet Conference, Sydney, November 2015
- Chung P, Greenleaf G and Mowbray A, "AustLII communities: A multi-purpose approach to developing community-generated content" *15<sup>th</sup> Law via Internet Conference*, Sydney, November 2015
- Greenleaf, G, Chung P and Mowbray A "Supporting and influencing data privacy practice: the free access International Privacy Law Library" (2015) 31(2) *Computer Law & Security Review* 221-233

#### AUSTLII RESEARCH SEMINAR SERIES

AustLII offers a series of lunchtime seminars on aspects of legal information systems by both external presenters and AustLII presenters.

The 2015 seminars were as follows:

• Graham Greenleaf, Professor of Law & Information Systems at UNSW and AustLII Co-Director, "Different meanings of "free access to law": Civil law and Common law comparisons" – 8 October 2015



#### During November AustLII celebrated its 20th birthday with events in Sydney and Melbourne.

Key stakeholders - including data providers, contributors and senior figures from government, the judiciary, academia and the legal profession joined AustLII board members, management and staff to acknowledge this achievement.

On Friday 27 November in Sydney the Honourable Justice Steven Gageler of the High Court of Australia spoke at a function in the newly completed Dr Chau Chak Wing Building at UTS Ultimo campus, designed by prominent international architect Frank Gehry.

On Monday 30 November in Melbourne the Hon. Justice Cameron McCauley, Chair of the Law Library of Victoria hosted an evening in the Supreme Court Library.

1. Justice Stephen Gageler of the High Court of Australia addresses the gathering

2. L to r. Philip Chung (AustLII), Prof Carrick Martin (AustLII Foundation Board), Graham Greenleaf (AustLII), Justice Stephen Gageler (High Court), Andrew Mowbray (AustLII), Dr Jeff Jeff FitzGerald (Chair AustLII Foundation Board), Justice Steven Rares (Federal Court),

Ian Govey and Tim Bugg (AustLII Foundation Board)

3. Cutting the Birthday cake: I to r. Andrew Mowbray, Justice Stephen Gageler, Jeff FitzGerald, Graham Greenleaf and Philip Chung

4. Richard Hunter, Andrew Mowbray, Graham Greenleaf and Philip Chung from AustLII with Miranda Milne (CEO, LPLC)





















5. UTS Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research Prof Glenn Wightwick 6. Guests listening to Justice Cameron McCauley in the splendid surrounds of the Victorian Supreme Court Library

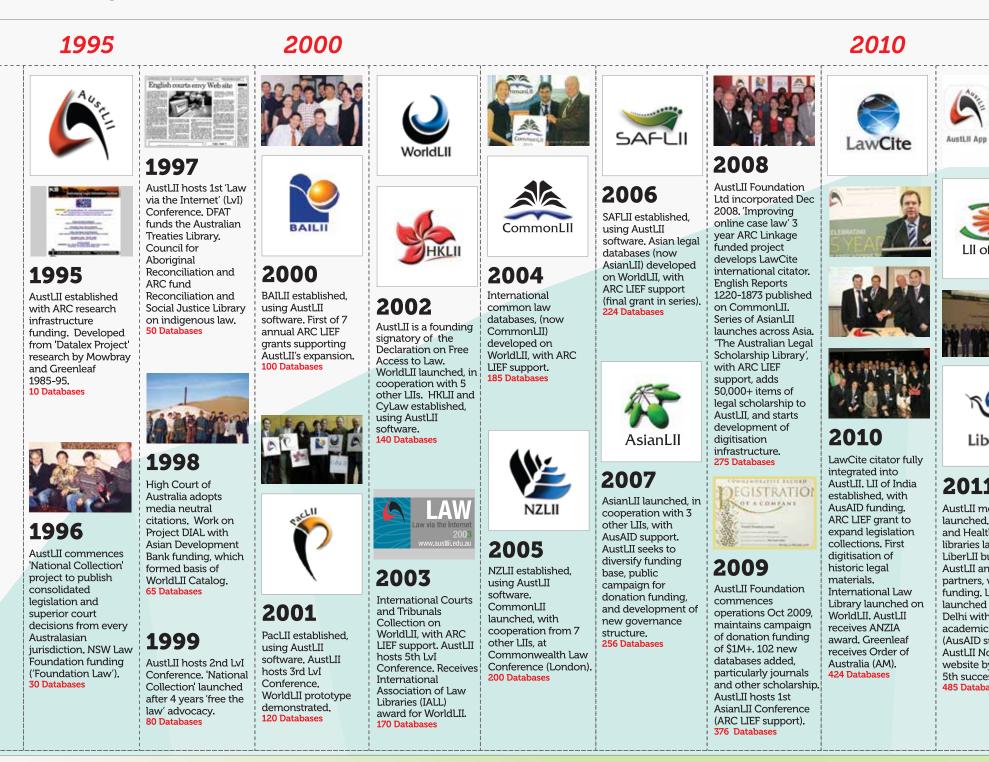
7. L to r. Philip Chung, Prof Glenn Wightwick , Justice Stephen Gageler, Prof Lesley Hitchens (Dean of Law UTS), Dr Jeff FitzGerald

8. Justice Cameron McCauley 9. L to r. Keren Smith (Holding Redlich), Andrew Mowbray, Dr Alex Byrne (NSW State Librarian), Geoff Goode

(Proportional Representation Society of

**11.** 20th Birthday cake for all!

# A 20 year timeline of AustLII's role in the development



# **Stakeholders**

#### AustLII's stakeholders include:

Australian and international research grant bodies, courts and tribunals, government departments and agencies, the legal profession (law firms, solicitors and barristers), law faculties of Australia's universities and other educational institutions, business and industry, and the wider community. See our full list of contributors at

http://www.austlii.edu.au/austlii/contributors/

# Major Funding Contributors 1995-2015 \$100,000 to \$250,000

High Court of Australia Family Court of Australia Federal Circuit Court of Australia Federal Court of Australia National Legal Aid Australian Business Limited CCH Australia Limited Thomson Reuters Australian National Data Service Department of Defence Australian National University University of Queensland Law Institute of Victoria Migration Review Tribunal and Refugee Review Tribunal University of New England University of Sydney Law Society of New South Wales University of Melbourne Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation Australian Law Reform Commission Clayton Utz Allens Herbert Smith Freehills Minter Ellison Corrs Chambers Westgarth Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department

# he development of free access to law online

# 2010



# 2008

AustLII Foundation Ltd incorporated Dec 2008 'Improving online case law' 3 year ARC Linkage funded project develops LawCite international citator. **English Reports** 1220-1873 published on CommonLII Series of AsianLII launches across Asia. 'The Australian Legal Scholarship Library', with ARC LIEF support, adds 50,000+ items of legal scholarship to AustLII, and starts development of digitisation infrastructure. 275 Data



# 2009

AustLII Foundation commences operations Oct 2009, maintains campaign of donation funding of \$1M+. 102 new databases added, particularly journals and other scholarship. AustLII hosts 1st AsianLII Conference (ARC LIEF support). 376 Database



Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation Australian Law Reform Commission Clayton Utz Allens Herbert Smith Freehills **Minter Ellison** Corrs Chambers Westgarth Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department

# \$250,000 to \$1 million

Law Foundation of New South Wales Victorian Legal Services Board Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade AusAID Asian Development Bank

Australian Taxation Office

Legal Practitioners Liability Committee (Victoria) National Justice and Policing Senior Officials Group

# **Over \$1 million**

Australian Research Council **UNSW** Australia University of Technology Sydney









# 2015

20th anniversary of AustLII. 10th Anniversary of CommonLII. AustLII hosts 15th LvI Conference. 'Signed by AustLII' format released for case law, developed under ARC Linkage grant. Expansion of Australasian Legal History Libraries (Stage II), funded by ARC LIEF. Re-development of Indigenous Law Library on AustLII, UNSW MREII funded 700 Databas

#### More photos from the 20th birthday celebrations.









13. Philip Chung thanking current AustLII staff: I to r. Michael Xia, Robert Size, Giovanni Crasto, Jones Olatunji, Dominic Smith, Hannah Figueroa-Crisostomo, Jill Matthews, Cathy Quigley, Armin Wittfoth, Chris Kenward, Richard Hunter, Stijn Denayer

14. L to r, Justice Stephen Gageler, Theo Magoulas, Nick O'Neill, Prof Simon Rice (ANU)

15, L to r. Philip Chung, Prof Glenn Wightwick, NSW Land and Environment Court Judges Tim Moore and Brian Preston and Donna Reece (NSW AG's Department)

> L to r. Jacqueline Campbell (Forte Family Lawyers), Chief Justice Diana Bryant (Family Court), Graham Greenleaf

 Current and former AustLII staff enjoy a catch-up: l to r. Takao Hasuike, Philip Chung, Armin Wittfoth, Russell Allen, Joseph Kwok, Jones Olatunji

 L to r. Philip Chung, Laurelle Atkinson (Director Law Library of Victoria), Jim Nelms (Registrar VCAT), Richard Hunter

19 L to r. Fiona McLeod SC (President Australian Bar Association) and Michael Shand QC

20. L to r. Patrick Gunning (King & Wood Mallesons) with Law Deans Prof Lesley Hitchens (UTS) and Prof Joellen Riley (Sydney University)











23. Guests mingle in the Victorian Supreme Court Library









Australasian Legal Information Institute (AustLII) AustLII Research Centre A joint facility of UTS and UNSW Faculties of Law AustLII Foundation Limited ACN: 134 717 972 ABN: 41 134 717 972 Contact Details Level 12, Building 10, UTS 235-253 Jones St Ultimo NSW 2007 Australia T. +61 2 9514 4921 F. +61 2 9514 4908 E. feedback@austlii.edu.au

#### www.austlii.edu.au

#### AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- Board Member Ian Govey was made a member of the order of Australia (AM) for his significant service to public administration and to the law, as a leader in the provision of government legal services, and to professional organisations.
- Professor Andrew Mowbray and AustLII were awarded the Deputy Vice-Chancellor's (Research) Medal for Research Impact. The award is given to those whose research has achieved considerable impact outside the academic community.



UTS Vice Chancellors awards for research excellence

## FOUNDATION INCOME

The AustLII Foundation Limited raises donations to maintain AustLII's Australian infrastructure and services. In 2015, the Foundation revenue was \$1,259,837 (including \$1,138,763 in donations and \$121,074 in interest and other income).

AustLII thanks all donors for their support in 2015. These donations play a major part in making AustLII's services sustainable and keeping databases up to date.

## LIST OF DONORS AND RESEARCH PARTNERS

Contributors fall into two categories, those that provide donations to maintain AustLII's Australian infrastructure and services and those that are research partners to grants for research and development. Research partners are denoted with \*.

Contributors are publicly acknowledged for their contribution on AustLII sponsors' page (unless anonymity is requested) with the amounts of contribution recorded: <a href="http://www.austlii.edu.au/austlii/contributors/">http://www.austlii.edu.au/austlii/contributors/</a>

AustLII thanks all its 2015 contributors, which are listed below by sector.

#### GOVERNMENT

#### **GOVERNMENT AGENCIES**

Administration of Norfolk Island
Australian Government Solicitor
Australian Taxation Office
Commonwealth Ombudsman
Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade *

National Justice and Policing Senior Officials Group
National Legal Aid Commission
NSW Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
NZ Parliamentary Counsel Office
State Library of South Australia

#### COURTS, TRIBUNALS & REGULATORS

Administrative Appeals Tribunal
Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency
Australian Human Rights Commission
Fair Work Commission
Fair Work Ombudsman
Family Court of Australia *
Federal Circuit Court *
Federal Court of Australia
High Court of Australia *
Migration Review Tribunal / Refugee Review

Tribunal
NSW Workers Compensation Commission
Planning Panels Victoria
SA Industrial Relations Court and Commission
Supreme Court Library (Vic) *
Supreme Court of Tasmania
Takeovers Panel (Department of Treasury)
Victorian Civil & Administrative Tribunal
Victorian Mental Health Tribunal
WA Industrial Relations Commission

# EDUCATION

Australian Catholic University
Australian Institute of Administrative Law
Australian National University *
Bond University
Charles Darwin University
Charles Darwin University Library
College of Law
Curtin University
Edith Cowan University
Griffith University *
James Cook University
La Trobe University
Monash University
Murdoch University
Navitas College of Public Safety
Queensland University of Technology
RMIT University
Southern Cross University *
The University of Melbourne *

The University of Sydney *
University of Adelaide *
University of Canberra *
University of New England *
University of Notre Dame *
University of Notre Dame Library
University of Queensland *
University of South Australia
University of Southern Queensland
University of Tasmania *
University of Technology Sydney * **
University of Western Australia *
University of Western Australia Library
University of Western Sydney *
University of Wollongong Library
UNSW Australia * ***
Victoria University

\*\* In addition to its financial contribution, UTS provides physical premises from which AustLII staff operates.

\*\*\* In addition to its financial contribution, UNSW provides physical premises for some AustLII staff members and for backup server equipment.

# COMMERCIAL

# LEGAL PROFESSION

(includes law firms, barristers' chambers, individual solicitors and barristers, patent & trademark attorneys and migration agents)

Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) Limited
Adam McGrath
Adrian Batterby Lawyer
Alec Leopold
Alistair Pound
Allens
Anchor Legal
Andrew Monisse
Andrew Sinclair
APX Law Pty Ltd
Armstrong Legal
Arnold Bloch Leibler
Ashurst
Aviation Law Assoc of Australia and New Zealand
Baker & McKenzie
Bar Chambers SA
Bartier Perry
Bell Lawyers Pty Ltd
Bernard Standish
Butler's Will Dispute Lawyers

Chris McKeown
Chris Othen
Christopher Dane
CKB Partners
Clare Thompson
Clayton Utz
CMM Quay Legal Group
Cogill Woods Legal Services Pty Ltd
Connolly Suthers
Cooper Grace Ward Lawyers
Corrs Chambers Westgarth
Cowell Clarke
Craig Colvin
Curwoods Lawyers
David Maddox
Davies Collison Cave
Denman Chambers
Dever's List
Dibbs Barker
Dominic Toomey

Doogue O'Brien George	List A Barristers
DSA Legal Cost Consultants Pty Ltd	Lynch Meyer Lawyers
Dundas Lawyers Pty Ltd	Magistrates Cases
D W Fox Tucker Lawyers	Makinson & d'Apice
E & A Lawyers	Margaret Riley
E W Gray Lawyer	Mark Dreyfus
Eakin McCaffery Cox	Mark Dreylus Marque Lawyers
Edmund Barton Chambers	Martin Willoughby-Thomas
Elson Pow & Associates	Martin Wildughby-Thomas
	Maurice Blackburn McCullough Robertson
Equipe Lawyers Forbes Chambers Pty Limited	MCCullough Robertson MDS Legal Pty Ltd
Forte Family Lawyers	Merthyr Law Michael Coe
Francis Commercial Lawyers Pty Ltd	
Gary Testro	Michael Hodge
Geoff Hancy	Michael Simon
Geoffrey Graham	Minter Ellison
Grahams Solicitors	Mitchell Chambers
Grant Donaldson	Moores Legal
Green's List	M S Nair & Co
Greenwoods & Freehills	Murray & Lyons Solicitors
Hanson Chambers	Nevett Ford Ballarat Pty Ltd
Harry Dixon	Newcastle Chambers Pty Ltd
Harwood Andrews Lawyers	Nicholas Seddon
Helping Hand Legal	Nine Windeyer Chambers
Herbert Smith Freehills	Norman Waterhouse Lawyers
Hopgood Ganim Lawyers	Omond & Co Pty Ltd
Howard Alexander	Owen Hodge Laywers
HWL Ebsworth Lawyers	Page Seager Lawyers
Ingmar Taylor	Paul Bard Lawyers
J Grahame Young	Paul Menzies
James J Isles	Peter Brindal
Jeffcott Chambers	Peter Dowding
Jeffrey Loewenstein	Peter Hanks
JMA Legal Pty Ltd	Peter Hannan
John Cranston Thompson	Peter Lewis
John White	Peter Vitale
Johnson Winter & Slattery	Philip Solomon
Johnston Withers	Phillips Ormonde & Fitzpatrick
Julian Burnside	Proportional Representation Society of Australia
Juliana Friedlander	Prue Vines
Justin Hogan-Doran	QBGRAZ Enterprises Pty Ltd
K&L Gates	Richard Cobden
Kate Eastman	Richard Cogswell
Kate Young	Rickards Legal
Ken Barlow	Robert Crowe
King and Wood Mallesons	Robert Gordon
KJK Legal	Robinson Locke Litigation Lawyers
Kristine Hanscombe	Rothstein Lawyers
	Russell Cocks
Kyrimis Lawyers	
Lachlan Macquarie Chambers	Russell Kennedy
Lennon's List	Sam Ricketson
Lionel Robberds	SanLing Chan
Lipman Karas	Schweizer Kobras

Spruson & Ferguson
Steven Medlow
Streeterlaw Sydney Lawyers
Suzanne Kirton
Teece Hodgson & Ward Solicitors
Tina Jowett
Torrens Chambers
Tress Cox

Twelfth Floor Chambers Pty Limited
Valerie Heath
Villari Lawyers
Walker Kissane & Plummer
Wallmans Lawyers
Wright Chambers
Anonymous (14)

# **BUSINESS & INDUSTRY**

Austax Accountants
CCH Australia Publishing
CFMEU Mining and Energy Division
Civil Tech
Coal Mining Industry (LSL Funding) Corporation
Counsel's Chambers Limited
Cumpston Sarjeant Pty Ltd
IMF Bentham Ltd

Kidd LRS Pty Ltd
LawAnswers.com.au
Legal Practitioners Liability Committee
Mercer Consulting (Australia) Pty Ltd
Meriton Group
Printzone
Singapore Academy of Law
Standards Australia Limited

# LAW SOCIETIES & BAR ASSOCIATIONS

ACT Law Society
Commercial Bar Association of Victoria
Law Council of Australia
Law Institute of Victoria
Law Society of the Northern Territory
Law Society of New South Wales

New South Wales Bar Association	
Tasmanian Independent Bar Inc	
The Law Society of Tasmania	
WA Bar Chambers Limited	
Western Australian Bar Association	

# COMMUNITY & OTHER

Amelia Fleming
Andrew Burnett
Andrew Dagger
Bob Kelson
Brendan Baker
Brendan Pentony
Bruce Horton
Christopher Jervis
Jacob Della Torre
Julia Burns
Julian Ensbey
Kevin Burges
Law Society Public Purposes Trust (NT)

Lloyd Jones
Louise and John Southalan
Luke Czaban
Mabel Tsui
Merinda Northrop
Paul Bugler
Peter Davis
Phil Chamberlain
Robert Burton
Robert Warren
Russell Byard
Will Anderson
Anonymous (23)

# CONTRIBUTIONS FOR AUSTLII'S INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

International Council of Arbitration for Sport Justis Publishing Ltd (UK) UNSW Law Small Research Grant

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# AUSTLII FOUNDATION LIMITED ANNUAL REPORT

ABN 41 134 717 972

Annual Report For the year end 31 December 2015

#### Directors' Report for the year end 31 December 2015

Your directors present their report on the company for the year end 31 December 2015.

The names of the directors in office during the financial year and at the date of the report were:

#### Dr Jeff FitzGerald (Chair) (appointed to the Board on 22 December 2008)

Former Registrar of the University of Technology Sydney; former Deputy-Secretary of the Victorian Attorney-General's Department

#### Dr Philip Chung (Managing Director) (appointed to the Board on 23 June 2009)

Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Law, UNSW Australia (The University of New South Wales); Executive Director, AustLII Research Centre

### Prof Graham Greenleaf AM (Executive Director) (appointed to the Board on 22 December 2008)

Professor, Faculty of Law, UNSW Australia (The University of New South Wales); Co-Director, AustLII Research Centre

## Prof Andrew Mowbray (Executive Director) (appointed to the Board on 27 April 2009)

Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Technology Sydney; Co-Director, AustLII Research Centre

#### Mr Tim Bugg AM (appointed to the Board on 23 June 2009)

Chair, International Legal Services Advisory Council (ILSAC); Past president of the Law Council of Australia

## Prof David Dixon (appointed to the Board on 22 December 2008)

Dean, Faculty of Law, UNSW Australia (The University of New South Wales)

## Mr Ian Govey AM (appointed to the Board on 23 June 2009)

The Australian Government Solicitor, Australian Government Solicitor (AGS)

#### Prof Lesley Hitchens (appointed to the Board on 4 February 2013)

Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Technology Sydney

#### **Prof Carrick Martin (appointed to the Board on 22 December 2008)**

Former Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Administration, Macquarie University

The Company Secretary was: Giovanni Crasto (appointed on 31 Jan 2014)

#### Principal Activity

AustLII Foundation Limited is a public company limited by guarantee that is incorporated and domiciled in New South Wales, Australia. The registered office is at Level 12, 235 Jones St, Ultimo, New South Wales 2007.

The principal activities of the company during the financial year were to provide an online free-access public library of Australian legal materials. Previously the library was jointly provided by the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) and UNSW Australia (The University of New South Wales). AustLII Foundation Limited began operations on 1 October 2009.

AustLII's objectives are to:

- Promote the sound administration and development of the law by providing free, effective and anonymous access to public legal information in Australia by means of an electronic public library;
- Maintain systems, programmes and databases for the effective handling of an electronic public library of legal information; and
- Advance legal education by promoting and encouraging research in the field of legal information systems.

AustLII's strategies to achieve these objectives are:

- Timely addition of new primary materials databases from all jurisdictions as they become available;
- Continuing development of technical features; and
- Undertake stakeholder engagement activities to ensure financial sustainability.

AustLII Foundation Limited is a company limited by guarantee and has no authorised or paid up capital. Each Member of the company, whilst a Member, or within one year after ceasing to be a Member, undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up. If the company is wound up the Constitution states that each member is required to contribute a \$100 each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the company. At 31 December 2015 the number of Members was two.

#### **Review of operations**

AustLII Foundation Limited commenced operations on 1 October 2009. Initial equity consisted of net income received and held on behalf of the Foundation by the University of Technology Sydney prior to the Foundation's commencement of operations. The net amount of surplus for the year end 31 December 2015 was \$1,903.

#### Significant changes in the State of Affairs

No significant change in the state of affairs of the company occurred during or after the period that would render any amount stated in the accounts misleading.

#### **Events Subsequent to Balance Date**

No matter or circumstance has arisen since the end of the year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the company, the results of these operations, or the state of affairs of the company in subsequent financial years.

## **Future Developments**

There are no extraordinary developments foreseen for the coming financial year.

## **Environmental Issues**

The organisation's operations are not regulated by any significant environmental regulations under a law of the Commonwealth or of a State or Territory.

#### **Directors' Meetings**

The number of meetings of directors held during the year and the number of meetings attended by each director were as follows:

#### **Directors'** Meetings

Eligible to attend Number attended

Dr Jeff FitzGerald	4	4
Dr Philip Chung	4	4
Prof Graham Greenleaf	4	3
Prof Andrew Mowbray	4	4
Mr Tim Bugg	4	3
Prof David Dixon	4	2
Mr Ian Govey	4	3
Prof Carrick Martin	4	4
Prof Lesley Hitchens	4	3

## **Auditor Independence**

A copy of the auditor's independence declaration as required under section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001 is set out on page 5.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of directors.

day of March 2016, in Sydney. Signed this 21st eff FitzGerald (Director)

qui

Signed this 21<sup>st</sup> day of March 2016, in Sydney. Carrick Martin (Director)



To the Directors AustLII Foundation Limited

## Auditor's Independence Declaration

As auditor for the audit of the financial statements of AustLII Foundation Limited for the year ended 31 December 2015, I declare, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been no contraventions of:

- the auditor independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit
- any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Caroline Karakatsanis Director, Financial Audit Services

18 March 2016 SYDNEY

Level 15, 1 Margaret Street, Sydney NSW 2000 / GPO Box 12, Sydney NSW 2001 / t 02 9275 7101 / f 02 9275 7179 / e-mail@audit.nsw.gov.au + audit.nsw.gov.au

Statement of Comprehensive Income For the year end 31 December 2015			
	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
Revenue from Continuing Operations			
Donations & Contributions	1i, 2	1,138,763	1,012,114
Interest & Other Income	2	121,074	82,708
Total Income		1,259,837	1,094,822
Expenses			
Employment Costs	1f, 3, 13	840,988	815,196
Equipment Charges	1d, 3	66,683	74,767
Accounting and Audit Fees	3, 7	18,107	21,125
Consultancy Costs	3	50,909	11,600
Occupancy Costs	3,14	77,037	69,089
Insurance	3	5,684	5,686
Conference Costs	3	42,525	682
Travel and Accommodation	3	23,724	10,668
Other Operating Costs	3	132,277	71,472
Total Expenses		1,257,934	1,080,286
Surplus for the year		1,903	14,536
Other Comprehensive Income			-
Total Comprehensive Income		1,903	14,536

The above statement of comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Financial Position As at 31 December 2015			
	Note	2015	2014
ASSETS		\$	\$
Current Assets			
Cash at Bank	8	1,480,356	1,669,579
Trade and other Receivables	4	295,295	173,848
Other Financial Assets	5	752,436	579,222
TOTAL ASSETS		2,528,087	2,422,649
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	6	457,073	353,537
TOTAL LIABILITIES		457,073	353,537
NET ASSETS		2,071,014	2,069,111
EQUITY			
Retained Surplus	1h,9	2,071,014	2,069,111
TOTAL EQUITY		2,071,014	2,069,111

The above statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Changes in Equity for the year end 31 December 2015

	Note	Retained Surplus	Total Equity
		\$	\$
Balance as at 1 January 2014		2,054,575	2,054,575
Total comprehensive income for the year	_	14,536	14,536
Balance as at 31 December 2014		2,069,111	2,069,111
Balance as at 1 January 2015		2,069,111	2,069,111
Total comprehensive income for the year		1,903	1,903
Balance as at 31 December 2015		2,071,014	2,071,014

The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Statement of Cash Flows For the year end 31 December 2015	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
Cash flows from operating activities		<b>₩</b>	· · · ·
Cash receipts in the course of operations Payments to suppliers and employees		1,074,565	1,031,318
( inclusive of Goods and Services Tax )		(1,154,398)	(856,375)
Net interest received/(paid)		40,610	90,337
Net cash provided / (used by) operating activities	8	(39,223)	265,279
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments for Financial Assets		(150,000)	(550,000)
	-	(150,000)	(550,000)
Net (decrease) in cash held Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the		(189,223)	(284,721)
year		1,669,579	1,954,300
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	8	1,480,356	1,669,579

The above statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

#### NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR END 31 DECEMBER 2015

## 1. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

AustLII Foundation Limited is a company limited by guarantee, incorporated and domiciled in Australia. Its registered office and principal place of business is at Level 12, 235 Jones St, Ultimo, NSW, 2007. The principal activities are to provide an online free-access public library of Australian legal materials.

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of this general purpose financial report are set out below.

The financial report is presented in Australian currency.

#### a. Basis of preparation

This general purpose financial report has been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board) and Corporations Act 2001 and Corporations Regulations 2001, the Public Finance & Audit Act 1983 and the Public Finance & Audit Regulation 2015, the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and the Charitable Fundraising Regulation 2008.

These financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and are based on the historical cost convention. Amounts have been rounded off to the nearest dollar.

#### b. Cash and cash equivalents

Cash on hand and in banks is stated at its nominal value. For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash includes cash on hand and in banks.

#### c. Trade and other receivables

Trade receivables are recognised and carried at original invoice amount less any allowance for impairment. An allowance for impairment of receivables is recognised when collection of the full amount is no longer probable. Significant financial difficulties of the debtor, probability that the debtor will enter into bankruptcy or financial reorganisation, and default or delinquency in payments (more than 90 days overdue) are considered indicators that the trade receivable is impaired.

The amount of the provision is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income. When a trade receivable for which an impairment allowance had been recognised becomes uncollectible in a subsequent period, it is written off against the allowance account. Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off are credited against other expenses in the income statement. Bad debts are written off as incurred.

#### d. Property, Plant & Equipment

No property, plant or equipment is owned by the Foundation at 31 December 2015. All plant and equipment used by the Foundation in its operations is wholly owned and maintained by the University of Technology Sydney. The Foundation pays the University for the use of this equipment on a quarterly basis. The amounts are unsecured and are usually paid within 30 days of recognition.

#### e. Trade and Other Payables

Liabilities for trade creditors and other amounts are carried at cost, which is the fair value of the consideration to be paid in the future for goods and services received, whether or not billed to the entity.

#### f. Employment Costs

AustLII Foundation Limited's management and operational staff are employed under contract with the Member Universities. Employment costs for these staff are charged to the Foundation by the respective Universities on a quarterly basis. As such, no provisions for employee benefits are maintained by the Foundation.

## g. Income Tax

The company is exempt from income tax under Div 50 of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

#### h. Equity

The entity is a company limited by guarantee and has no authorised or paid up capital. The initial equity of \$ 1,194,068 (denoted as Retained Surplus) consists of amounts paid to AustLII Foundation Limited from the University of Technology Sydney which represents net income earned by the Foundation as an office within the University prior to commencement of independent operations on 1 October 2009.

AustLII Foundation Limited made a surplus of \$1,903 for the year. The Accumulated balance in Retained Surplus as at 31 December 2015 was \$2,071,014. The Board resolved to designate \$650,000 of the Retained Surplus as available for AustLII Sustainable Initiatives.

The purpose of the AustLII Sustainable Initiatives designation is to achieve AustLII's objective of advancing and promoting "free access to legal information". In a rapidly evolving technological and regulatory environment this requires an ongoing need for capital and infrastructure outlays into the future. A prudent risk management strategy recognises the need to differentiate the accumulated equity between amounts available for meeting operating expenses for at least one year and those available to meet those challenges which will enable AustLII to sustain into the future its core mission of providing free and effective electronic access to public legal information in Australia.

Each member of the company, whilst a member, or within one year after ceasing to be a member, undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up. If the company is wound up the Constitution states that each member is required to contribute a maximum of one hundred dollars (\$100) each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the company. At balance date, there were two eligible members.

#### i. Revenue recognition

Donations & Contributions are recorded as revenue either when tax invoices are raised at the request of the donor/contributor or otherwise when donations/contributions are received through cheques or credit cards or directly deposited in our bank account. Donations received for specific purposes are matched against expenditure as incurred. As per AASB 118 Revenue, interest is recognised using the effective interest rate method as set out in AASB 139 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement.

### j. Going concern

The company has generated a surplus for the year end 31 December 2015. The ability of the company to continue as a going concern is dependent on the ongoing support of its donors and the success of its fundraising program. The Directors believe that the company will be successful and accordingly have prepared the accounts on a going concern basis.

#### k. Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenue, 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 expense. Receivables and payables in the statement of financial position are shown inclusive of GST. Cash flows are presented in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis, except for the GST components of investing and financing activities, which are disclosed as operating cash flows.

#### **l.** Fundraising

According to Constitution of AustLII Foundation Limited 3.4, funds raised by means of a collection within the meaning of the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 (NSW) and corresponding legislation in other jurisdictions must be maintained in accordance with those Acts.

#### m. Lease Commitments

In the Year 2015, AustLII Foundation Limited subleased part of its office space from Brain Resource Limited. The operating lease was originally for the period from 1August 2011 to 28 February 2013 and has been extended until 31 December 2015. Therefore, there are no commitments.

#### n. Significant accounting judgments, estimates and assumptions

The directors evaluate estimates and judgments incorporated into the financial statements based on historical knowledge and best available current information. Estimates assume an expectation of future events and other factors considered to be reasonable.

## o. New and revised Australian Accounting Standards

Where new or revised Accounting Standards and Interpretations have been published that are not mandatory for 31 December 2015 reporting period, AustLII Foundation has not exercised the right to early adopt any such accounting standard. The Foundation's assessment of the impact of these new standards and interpretations is not considered material.

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Donations & Contributions (by sector)		
Education	132,500	130,500
Legal Profession	265,754	246,950
Law Societies & Bar Associations	66,500	78,500
Business & Industry	165,600	205,900
Government Agencies	218,500	132,500
Courts, Tribunals & Regulators	187,500	188,000
Community & Other	102,409	29,765
Total Donations & Contributions	1,138,763	1,012,114
Interest & Other Income		
Term Deposits & Other Income	97,860	53,486
Financial Assets designated FVTPL -Note 11	23,214	29,222
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	121,074	82,708
Total Income	1,259,837	1,094,822
EXPENSES		
EAI EINSES	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Employment costs	840,988	815,196
Equipment charges	66,683	74,767
Accounting Fees	8,362	8,118
Audit Fees	9,745	13,007
Consultancy Costs	50,909	11,600
Occupancy Costs	77,037	69,089
Insurance	5,684	5,686
Conference Costs	42,525	682
Travel and Accommodation	23,724	10,668
Other Operating Costs	132,277	71,472
· -	1,257,934	1,080,286
TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES		
	2015	2014
	\$	9
Goods and Services Tax	47,760	38,192
Accrued Interest	1,720	6,269
Trade Debtors	190,720	129,386
Allowance for Impairment of Receivables	-	
Prepaid Expenses	55,096	-
r ·····r	295,295	173,848

OTHER FINANCIAL ASSETS		
	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Other Financial Assets at FVTPL		
Managed Funds – New South Wales Treasury	752,436	570 222
Corporation – Note 11	752,430	579,222 579,222
·	/52,430	519,222
TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES		
	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Trade Creditors	397,951	343,765
Accrued expenses	59,122	9,772
Accided expenses		
—	457,073	353,537
AUDITOR'S REMUNERATION		
AUDITOR 5 REMONERATION	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Audit Fees to Audit Office of NSW	9,745	9,507
Audit Pees to Audit Office of NSW	9,745	9,307
CASH	2015	2014
a. Cash and Cash Equivalents	2015 \$	3
Cash at Bank	422,581	646,871
Term Deposit	1,057,775	1,022,708
•	1,480,356	1,669,579
b. <u>Reconciliation of Cash from Operations</u>	2015	2014
Reconciliation of surplus for the year to		
net cash flows from operating activities	\$	9
Surplus	1,903	14,536
Non cash flows in operating surplus		
Unrealised gains in Other Financial Assets	(23,214)	(29,222)
Changes in Assets and Liabilities:		
(Increase)/Decrease in Trade Debtors and	(1.0.1.1.0)	
Prepayments (Operating)	(121,448)	76,054
Increase/(Decrease) in Payables	103,536	203,910
Net Cash (used)/provided by Operating Activities	(39,223)	265,279
RETAINED SURPLUS		
ASTITUD OUR DOD	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Retained Surplus at the beginning of the year	2,069,111	2,054,575
Retained Surprus at the beginning of the year		
Total comprehensive income for the year	1,903	14,536

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## **10. EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO REPORTING DATE**

The directors are not aware of any item, transaction or event of a material and unusual nature not otherwise dealt with in the report or financial statements that has significantly affected, or may effect the operations of the company, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the company in subsequent years.

## **11. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

#### (a) Net Fair Values

All financial assets and financial liabilities (cash, trade debtors, and trade creditors), and their net carrying amounts are equal to their fair value.

Financial assets at Fair Value through Profit and Loss (FVTPL) include financial assets that are designated at FVTPL upon initial recognition. Assets in this category are measured at fair value with gains or losses recognised in profit or loss. The fair values of financial assets in this category are determined by reference to unit prices.

## (b) General objectives, policies and processes

In common with all other businesses, the company is exposed to risks that arise from its use of financial instruments. This note describes the company's objectives, policies and processes for managing those risks and the methods used to measure them. Further quantitative information in respect of these risks is presented throughout these financial statements.

The Board has overall responsibility for the determination of the company's risk management objectives and policies and, whilst retaining ultimate responsibility for them, it has delegated the authority for designing and operating processes that ensure the effective implementation of the objectives and policies to the company's finance function. The company's risk management policies and objectives are therefore designed to minimise the potential impacts of these risks on the results of the company where such impacts may be material. The Board received quarterly reports, with which it reviews the effectiveness of the processes put in place and the appropriateness of the objectives and policies it sets.

The overall objective of the Board is to set policies that seek to reduce risk as far as possible without unduly affecting the company's competitiveness and flexibility. Further details regarding these policies are set out below.

#### **12. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT**

The company's activities expose it to market risk including interest rate risk, credit risk and liquidity risk. The company's overall risk management program focuses on the unpredictability of financial markets and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the financial performance of the company.

Risk management is carried out under policies approved by the Board of Directors.

#### (a) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that the other party to a financial instrument will fail to discharge their obligation resulting in the company incurring a financial loss. This usually occurs when debtors fail to settle their obligations owing to the company.

There is minimal credit risk with respect to current receivables. The company's policy is that services are only provided to clients that are credit worthy.

	2015 \$	2014 \$
Financial Assets		
Cash	1,480,356	1,669,579
Others		
Accrued Income	1,720	6,269
Accounts Receivable	190,720	129,386
Other Financial Assets	752,436	579,222
	2,425,232	2,384,456

## (b) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the company may encounter difficulties raising funds to meet commitments associated with financial instruments, e.g. borrowing repayments. The company manages liquidity risk by monitoring cash flows and ensuring that adequate cash reserves are maintained.

		Carrying Amount	Contractual Cash Flows	No Maturity	< 6 months
	Financial Assets				
2015	Cash	1,480,356	-	1,480,356	-
	Other Financial Assets	752,436	-	752,436	-
	Receivables	192,440	192,440	-	192,440
	-	2,425,232	192,440	2,232,792	192,440
2014	Cash	1,669,579		1,669,579	-
	Other Financial Assets	579,222	-	579,222	-
	Receivables	135,655	135,655	-	135,655
		2,384,456	135,655	2,248,801	135,655
	Financial Liabilities				
2015	Trade Payables	457,073	457,073	-	457,073
		457,073	457,073		457,073
2014	Trade Payables	353,537	353,537	-	353,537
	-	353,537	353,537	-	353,537

## (c) Market risk

The organisation has exposure to market risk for changes in interest rate due to investments in Term Deposits and overall performance of the financial markets due to investments in Managed funds.

(d) Sens	itivity Risk	Carrying Amount	+1% interest change/ +5% performance change Profit and Equity	-1% interest change/ -5% performance change Profit and Equity
	<b>Financial Assets</b>			
2015	Cash	1,480,356	14,804	(14,804)
	Other Financial Assets	752,436	37,622	(37,622)
	Total	2,232,792	52,426	(52,426)
2014	Cash	1,669,579	16,696	(16,696)
	Other Financial Assets	579,222	28,961	(28,961)
	Total	2,248,801	45,657	(45,657)

This analysis assumes a change in interest rate of +/-1% and performance rate of +/-5%, which in the Directors' opinion is the largest expected movement over the next 12 months, assuming all other variables remain constant.

### **13. RELATED PARTY DISCLOSURES**

#### (a) Names of responsible persons and executive officers

AustLII Foundation Ltd is governed by a Board of Directors which was comprised of the following persons during the year:

Dr Jeff FitzGerald- Chair Dr Philip Chung – Managing Director Prof Graham Greenleaf–Executive Director Prof Andrew Mowbray– Executive Director Mr Tim Bugg – Director Prof David Dixon – Director Mr Ian Govey – Director Prof Lesley Hitchens – Director Prof Carrick Martin – Director

#### (b) Key Management Personnel

The Board of Directors appointed the following persons the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Foundation during the year: Dr Philip Chung – Managing Director Prof Graham Greenleaf – Executive Director Prof Andrew Mowbray – Executive Director

## (c) Remuneration of board members and executives

#### **Remuneration of board members**

The board members of AustLII Foundation Ltd do not receive any remuneration in respect of their work as members of the board.

#### **Remuneration of executive officers**

Three executive directors were remunerated by the Member Universities and then on-charged to the Foundation for the management of AustLII Foundation Limited during 2015.

	2015	2014
	Nos	Nos
Remuneration of executive officers		
\$0 to \$150,000	3	3
Total benefits	3	3

The remuneration of Key Management Personnel is as follows:

\$	\$
243,275	234,616
	,

## **14. COMMITMENTS**

In the Year 2015, AustLII Foundation Limited subleased part of office space from Brain Resource Limited. The operating lease was originally for the period from 1August 2011 to 28 February 2013 and has been extended until 31 December 2015. Therefore, there are no commitments.

#### **15. CONTINGENT ASSETS**

AustLII Foundation does not have any material contingent assets as at balance sheet date.

#### **16. CONTINGENT LIABILITIES**

AustLII Foundation Limited is not subject to any material contingent liabilities at balance date.

#### **17. MEMBERS' GUARANTEE**

AustLII Foundation Limited is a company limited by guarantee and has no authorised or paid up capital. Each Member of the company, whilst a Member, or within one year after ceasing to be a Member, undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of it being wound up. If the company is wound up the Constitution states that each member is required to contribute a \$100 each towards meeting any outstanding obligations of the company. At 31 December 2015 the number of Members was two.



# INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

## AustLII Foundation Ltd

To Members of the New South Wales Parliament and Members of AustLII Foundation Ltd

I have audited the accompanying financial statements of AustLII Foundation Ltd (the Company), which comprise the statement of financial position as at 31 December 2015, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information and the directors' declaration.

## Opinion

In my opinion the financial statements:

- are in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including:
  - giving a true and fair view of the Company's financial position as at 31 December 2015 and its performance for the year ended on that date
  - complying with Australian Accounting Standards and the Corporations Regulations 2001
- are in accordance with section 41B of the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* (PF&A Act) and the Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2015
- are in accordance with the *Charitable Fundraising Act 1991* (CF Act) and the Charitable Fundraising Regulation 2008 (CF Regulation), including showing a true and fair view of the Company's financial result of fundraising appeals for the year ended 31 December 2015.

My opinion should be read in conjunction with the rest of this report.

## **Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

The directors of the Company are responsible for preparing financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the PF&A Act and the CF Act and the *Corporations Act 2001* and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that give a true and fair view and are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

# Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on my audit. I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that I comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

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

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I believe the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

My opinion does not provide assurance:

- about the future viability of the Company
- that it carried out its activities effectively, efficiently and economically
- about the effectiveness of the internal control
- about the security and controls over the electronic publication of the audited financial statements on any website where they may be presented
- about other information that may have been hyperlinked to/from the financial statements.

## Independence

In conducting my audit, I have complied with the independence requirements of the Australian Auditing Standards, the *Corporations Act 2001* and relevant ethical pronouncements. The PF&A Act further promotes independence by:

- providing that only Parliament, and not the executive government, can remove an Auditor-General
- mandating the Auditor-General as auditor of public sector agencies, but precluding the provision
  of non-audit services, thus ensuring the Auditor-General and the Audit Office of New South
  Wales are not compromised in their roles by the possibility of losing clients or income.

I confirm that the independence declaration required by the *Corporations Act 2001*, provided to the directors of the Company on 18 March 2016 would be in the same terms if provided to the directors as at the time of this auditor's report.

Caroline Karakatsanis Director, <sup>[</sup>Financial Audit Services

21 March 2016 SYDNEY

## DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

In the opinion of Directors:

- 1. The financial statements and notes of the company are in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001, including:
  - a) Giving a true and fair view of the financial position as at 31 December 2014 and the performance for the year end on that date of the company; and
  - b) Complying with Accounting Standards and the Corporations Regulations 2001; and
  - c) The Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 and Charitable Fundraising Regulation 2008; and
  - d) The internal controls are appropriate and effective in accounting for all income received and applied by the organisation from its fundraising appeals; and
  - e) The Public Finance and Audit Act 1983 and Public Finance and Audit Regulation 2015.
- 2. There are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

On behalf of the board

Signed this 2 day of March 2016, in Sydney. Jeff FitzGerald (Director)

Veri

Signed this 21<sup>st</sup> day of March 2016, in Sydney. Carrick Martin (Director)

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