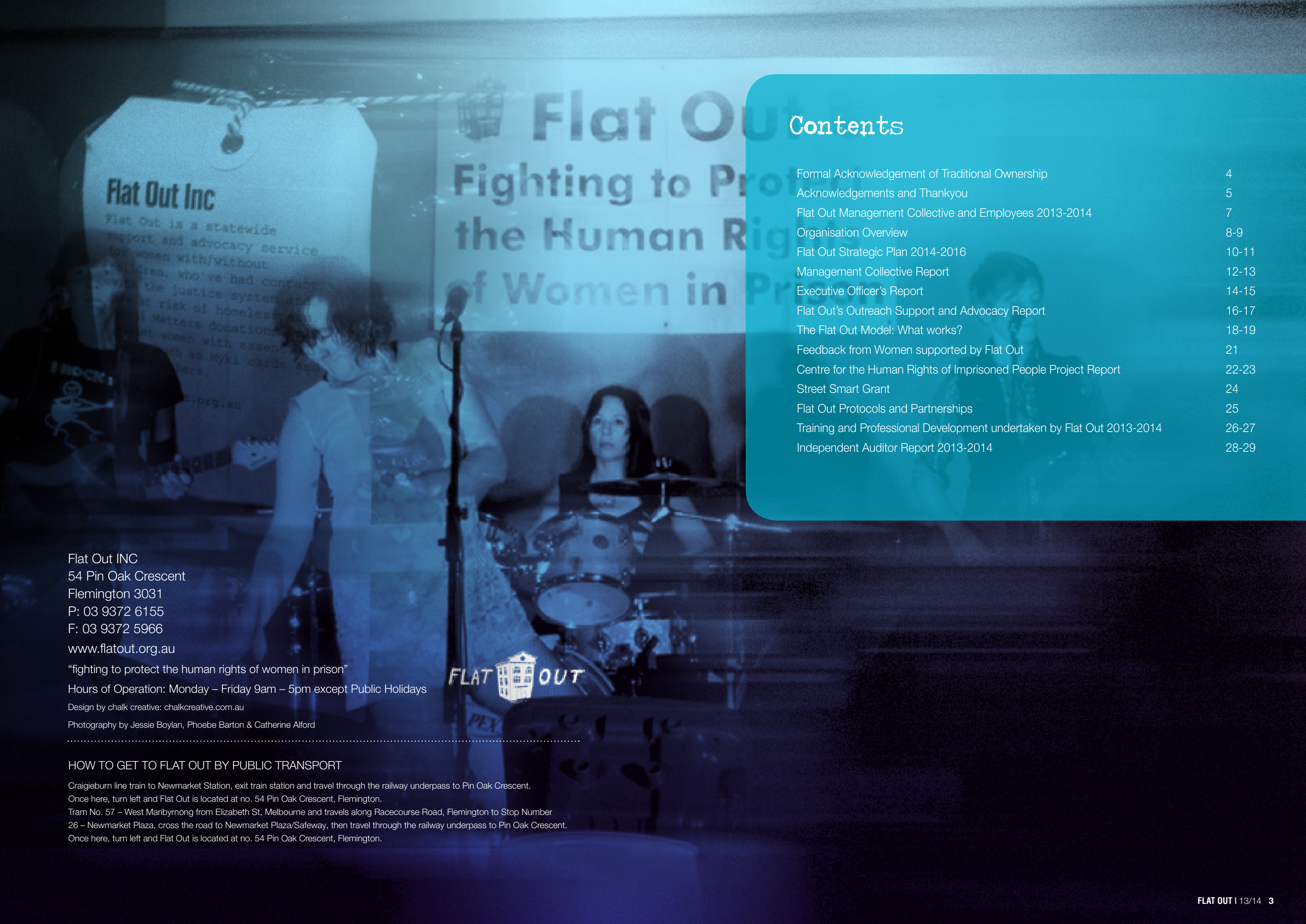


ANNUAL REPORT | 2013 - 2014

FLAT  OUT





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"fighting to protect the human rights of women in prison"

Hours of Operation: Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm except Public Holidays

Design by chalk creative: chalkcreative.com.au

Photography by Jessie Boylan, Phoebe Barton & Catherine Alford



HOW TO GET TO FLAT OUT BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Craigieburn line train to Newmarket Station, exit train station and travel through the railway underpass to Pin Oak Crescent.

Once here, turn left and Flat Out is located at no. 54 Pin Oak Crescent, Flemington.

Tram No. 57 – West Maribyrnong from Elizabeth St, Melbourne and travels along Racecourse Road, Flemington to Stop Number

26 – Newmarket Plaza, cross the road to Newmarket Plaza/Safeway, then travel through the railway underpass to Pin Oak Crescent.

Once here, turn left and Flat Out is located at no. 54 Pin Oak Crescent, Flemington.

Formal acknowledgement of Traditional Ownership

Flat Out acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first peoples of Australia. We pay our respects to the Wurundjeri people of the Woi Wurrung Language Group both past and present that make up part of the Kulin Nation, as the traditional owners of the land on which Flat Out is based.

We acknowledge the Elders, families and forebears of the tribes of the Kulin Nation who were the custodians of the land which we occupy. We acknowledge that the land on which we meet was the place of age old ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal and that the Kulin Nation people's living culture had and has a unique role in the life of this region.

We recognise the loss and grief held by Indigenous people in Australia caused by alienation from traditional lands, the loss of lives and freedoms and the forced removal of children.

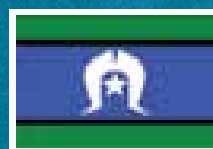
We defend the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to live according to their own beliefs, values and customs and the importance of their contribution to strengthening and enriching the heritage of all Australians.

We believe that equal partnerships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are integral to addressing the needs of communities.

We believe that ignorance, apathy, resistance and opposition still exists about reconciliation and the need to overcome Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage is great.

We believe that through understanding the spiritual relationship between the land and its first peoples, we share our future and take the steps towards living equally in harmony with dignity and respect.

We accept responsibility for challenging racism, exclusion and oppression in all its forms.



Special thank you

Again we begin by thanking all the women Flat Out has worked with over the past year. Thank you. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to work with you.

Thank you for sharing your stories, insights, courage, advice and strength. Without you we would not be here.

Thank you to our funders

FEDERAL & STATE GOVERNMENT FUNDING

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - NGOTGP

(Non-Government Organisation Treatment Grants Program)

Eileen Bleakley & Cheryl Heath, Program Co-ordinators, NGOTGP and Improved Services

Josephine Jansen, Program Manager, Drug Treatment, Rural Outreach and Support

Louise Cahill, Grant Officer, Regional Services Grants Branch - Vic/Tas, Grant Services Division, Australian Government Department of Health

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - ADIS

ADIS HELPDESK

David Wright, Information Analyst, Information, Analysis and Reporting, Mental Health Drugs Regions Division, Department of Health

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Specialist Homelessness Services arising from the National Affordable Housing Agreement

Helga Jennings, Area Manager, Brimbank Melton Area, West Division

Jane Turner, Local Engagement Officer, Local Connections, Brimbank Melton Area, West Division

NON-GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Grassroots fundraising and donations

Local Matters program, Grill'd Burgers Melbourne Central

The R E Ross Trust

The Reichstein Foundation

Sidney Myer Fund

Street Smart Australia

Street Smart - Café Smart Grant

W.C.F Thomas Charitable Trust

DONATIONS

Amanda G

Annabel

Bec S

Charandev S

Chris A

Crystal M

Debbie K

Doris J

Dvice

Emma R

Farmgate Olive Shop,

Leighgrove Olives, Inverleigh

Glen Fairweather, Prison Fellowship

Gordon C

Hares and Hyenas

Hope for Tomorrow Inc.

Jessie B

Judy A

Kay D

Lady Bower, Reservoir

Liz S

Lorena S

Maggie Fooke, Brooklyn Arts Hotel, Fitzroy

Many Petals Kinesiology

Massage & Bowen Therapy, West Preston

Michelle M

Naomi

Phoebe B

Rusty Rose, Flemington

Samantha Sowerine

Simon Roberts

The Abyssinian Restaurant, Flemington

The Girl in the Green Scarf, Flemington

The Shambelles

Tim Woods Entertainment

Victorian Women Lawyers



Flat Out would also like to thank the following individuals and organisations for their support, advice, assistance and contribution of time, skills and resources to Flat Out and CHRIP

- Aboriginal Liaison/Koorie Court
- Adam Robinson, CEO Street Smart Australia
- Amanda George, Flat Out Management Collective
- Amanda Storey, Consumer Action Law Centre
- Anthony Kelly, Sophie Ellis, Tamar Hopkins, Bec Smith & the team at Flemington Kensington Community Legal Centre
- Antoinette Braybrook and the team, Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention Legal Service
- Ashleigh Trimmer, CHRIP volunteer researcher
- Ashurst Australia
- Aunty Diane Kerr, Wurundjeri Elder and Traditional Custodian
- Bec Smith, Flemington Kensington Community Legal Centre
- Bree Carlton, Monash University
- Charandeve Singh, Human Rights and Indigenous Education Advocate, Activist and Community Educator
- CHRIP Working Group: Emma Russell, Lorena Solin, Rachel Barrett, Terri Silvertree, Liz Patterson, Jane Black, Lara Spalinger, and Phoebe Marshall
- Cara Gledhill, Monash University
- Claire Waghorne, Samantha Ryan and the programs team at DPFC
- Coalition to End the Placement of Young People in Adult Prisons and end the practice of Solitary Confinement: Flemington Kensington Community Legal Centre, Human Rights Law Centre, Jesuit Social Services, Melissa Chung-Victoria Legal Aid, Victoria Legal Aid, Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service, Victorian Social Services Council and Youthlaw
- Council to Homeless Persons (CHP)
- Community Housing Federation Victoria (CHFV)
- David Provan, Adult Parole Board
- Davydd Griffiths and the Flemington Kensington Bowling Club
- Debbie Kilroy and Sisters Inside, QLD
- Dominic Kearney, WISE Employment
- Dr Craig Minogue
- Eastern Emergency Relief Network
- Elly Taylor and Trish Hayes, Women's Health West
- Ethical Jobs
- Federation of Community Legal Centres
- First Step Clinic
- Fitzroy Legal Service
- Forensicare
- Gillian Davy, Western Suburbs Legal Service
- Glen Fairweather and Prison Fellowship Victoria
- Gloria Prentice, Flat Out Management Collective
- Good Company
- Grill'd Healthy Burgers, Local Matters Program
- Hanover Cheltenham Housing Services
- Harm Reduction Victoria, Jenny and Nadia
- Homeground Services
- Hon Mary Wooldridge MP
- Hugh De Kretser, HRLC
- Inner Melbourne Legal, Zoe Jones, Tanja Golding and Melanie Dye
- Inside Access at the Mental Health Legal Centre
- Jeff Fiedler, Housing for the Aged Action Group
- Jennifer Kanis, Member for Melbourne, MP
- Jessie Boylan, photo-media artist and photographer
- Jill Prior, Flat Out Management Collective
- Jude McCulloch, Monash University
- Joan Kirner AC
- Jobs Australia, (in particular Caroline Ryan)
- Jo Smith, Flat Out Management Collective
- Joel Orenstein, Lawyer
- Justice Connect
- Katherine Fairest, Tom Hall and Sue Ireland, NorthWestern Mental Health
- Kay Dyson, Flat Out Management Collective
- Kayla Ta, Women's Housing Ltd
- Kaz Gurney, Goulburn Valley Community Legal Centre - a division of Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Centre
- Kim Pate, Canadian Association Elizabeth Fry Societies (Canada)
- Liz Shield, Flat Out Management Collective
- Local Area Service Network (LASN), North & West Metropolitan Region
- Malcolm Feiner, Corrections Resource Centre
- Marie Segrave, Monash University
- Meghan Fitzgerald, Fitzroy Legal Service
- Mehran Erfanian, Centrax

- Computer Services
- Michelle McDonnell, Smart Justice
- Nadia Gavin, Harm Reduction Victoria
- Pastor John Sparey, Citycare Hillsong
- Pauline Bailey, Adult Parole Board
- Phoebe Barton, photographer
- Prison Network Ministries
- Robin Wonsley, Program Co-ordinator at the University of Minnesota Women's Center (USA)
- Royal District Nursing Service Homeless Persons Program
- Sally Goldner, Transgender Victoria
- Salvation Army Housing Services, Eastcare
- Salvation Army, SASHS
- Sam Biondo, Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association (VAADA)
- Smart Justice
- St Kilda Crisis Centre
- Susan Shepard, community advocate
- Susan Zielin, Women's Housing Ltd
- Tess Sellar, Graphic Artist
- Trent Larkman
- Vickie Roach, prison human rights activist, advocate & consultant
- Verity Shepherdson, Senior Associate, Herbert Smith Freehills
- Victorian Women Lawyers
- Vincentcare Community Housing Glenroy
- WhiteDog GreenFrog team, IT consultants
- Women's Housing Ltd
- Yarra Community Housing
- 3CR Community Radio

Friends of Flat Out

Thank you to all the amazing Flat Out supporters and contributors who have given time, energy and resources.

It's your assistance and support that makes Flat Out a unique strong organisation.

We apologise if we have neglected to include you in the above list. We would be happy to honour your contribution in our next annual report.

FLAT OUT MANAGEMENT COLLECTIVE MEMBERS JULY 2013 – JUNE 2014

Amanda George, Crystal McKinnon, Gloria Prentice, Jill Prior, Jo Smith, Kay Dyson and Liz Shield

FLAT OUT EMPLOYEES JULY 2013 – JUNE 2014 CURRENT

Annie Nash

Executive Officer

Chantelle Higgs

Centre for the Human Rights of Imprisoned People Project Co-ordinator

Elise Pointer

Outreach Support and Advocacy

Michelle Montague

Finance Manager

Michele Old

Administration Resource Co-ordinator

Phoebe Barton

Centre for the Human Rights of Imprisoned People Project Co-ordinator

Sarah Jones

Outreach Support and Advocacy

Sharon Villanueva

Outreach Support and Advocacy & Intensive Case Management Initiative



Organisation Overview

Flat Out is an independent, not for profit, community based organisation that is managed by and for women.

The Flat Out Management Collective (Board) embraces fairness and equality through the essential roles of governance, management and leadership that are underpinned by a comprehensive set of values, policies and procedures and delegated authority.

Flat Out is a state-wide advocacy and support service for women who have had contact with the criminal justice and/or prison system in Victoria. Flat Out receives government funding through the Department of Human Services (Victoria), the Department of Health (formerly Department of Health and Ageing) (Federal), and project funds from various sources to increase our capacity to deliver innovative and effective services, advocacy and social change. Government funding is for the purpose of providing individualised support and advocacy for women (with or without children) to address homelessness, drug and alcohol treatment and a range of other support and advocacy to address the underlying causes of criminalisation.

Independent funding is raised through donations, grants and grassroots fundraising for the purposes of Flat Out's social change and systemic advocacy work.

Flat Out leads and participates in research and community education, seeking to inform the wider community about the harms that occur for women in the criminal justice system. Flat Out works directly with women who have experienced criminalisation and/or incarceration and to improve the rights and conditions of women in prison. Flat Out works to prevent women from going to prison, and keeping women out of prison once they are released.

The theories and values that underpin Flat Out's work have remained constant since Flat Out's inception (1988). Through community involvement, education and research, Flat Out works toward having a strong voice in the prison abolition movement in Australia and internationally. Our vision is that eventually prisons will be viewed as antiquated, cruel and ineffective institutions. Not unlike the movements to abolish slavery; movements to end racism; the women's liberation movement, and the movement to end homelessness. Flat Out seeks to work alongside diverse communities to end all forms of inequality and unfairness.

We see all these movements as interconnected.

Flat Out Strategic Plan 2014-2016

Flat Out Values

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's as the first peoples of Australia
 - Our organisation being run by and for women
- Working with women (and their children) who are criminalised
 - Providing high quality support services and advocacy
 - Freedom, equality and self-determination
 - Social justice and economic opportunities for all
 - Everyone has the right to lead safe, violence-free lives
- Being part of a movement to end criminalisation and imprisonment
 - Working with the wider community toward our vision

Our Vision

- Women are not criminalised or imprisoned

How we will get there

- We will maintain Flat Out as an independent, not for profit organisation
- We will remain focussed on working with women who are criminalised
 - We will provide high quality woman centred support and advocacy
 - We will support women to obtain appropriate and affordable housing
 - We will support women in their journeys to good health and wellbeing
 - We will support women to reconnect with family and community
- We will actively promote effective alternatives to criminalisation and imprisonment
 - We will lead and contribute to effective social and systemic change
 - We will work with the wider community towards our vision

Key challenges for this plan

- Achieving Flat Out's vision and plan in a period of heightened focus on law and order, changes to sentencing practices and unprecedented prison expansion
- Securing Flat Out's substantive funding (government and philanthropic) beyond June 2015
 - Returning our organisational deficit to surplus whilst maintaining quality improvements
 - Retaining our skilled and committed management collective, employees and volunteers

Key Results Areas

Key Result Area 1:

Led by Women's Lived Experience

All platforms of Flat Out's activity are driven by women's lived experience.

Key Result Area 2:

Exemplary Outreach Support and Advocacy

Flat Out's direct support service activities are for women who have had contact with the criminal justice and/or prison system in Victoria; with a focus on women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and for women seeking support to access drug and alcohol treatment and other therapeutic services.

Key Result Area 3:

Effective Systemic Advocacy and Social Change

Over its 25 years of operation Flat Out has achieved a unique and respected position in the wider community as an advocate for systemic and social change. This role is an integral part of Flat Out's commitment to the rights of all women involved in the criminal justice system and the long term vision of abolishing the prisons.

Key Result Area 4:

Strategic Organisational Development

Flat Out has dedicated management collective members, employees, and volunteer activists that implement our vision and plans. Stakeholders and partners are also crucial to Flat Out's strength and viability. Flat Out is continually improving and strengthening its work through regular review, reflection and change. We are a learning and adaptive organisation.

Key Result Area 5:

Innovative Financial Sustainability and Capacity Building

Flat Out receives recurrent government funding as well as funding and grants from non-government and independent sources for specific initiatives including Flat Out's systemic advocacy and social change work. Flat Out has continued to grow, dedicating significant resources to organisational development and improved services. This plan acknowledges Flat Out's sustained focus on continuous quality improvement. To achieve this Flat Out will maintain its commitment to generating income from diverse sources to achieve the future directions of the organisation.

In December 2013 we celebrated our 25th birthday in the company of more than 100 loyal friends and supporters at the Flemington Kensington Bowling Club. It was a fantastic and joyous event and we thank everyone who came along and showered Flat Out with love and support.

Throughout this past year Flat Out has continued to provide high quality support services alongside systemic advocacy and social change work. We were once again externally reviewed and reaccredited as part of the Flat Out continuous quality improvement cycle. We have set and overseen high standards and accountability across the organisation, and were commended by the QIP reviewers for building and maintaining these high standards. The employee team of Flat Out is to be commended for their engagement with this important and demanding process. Flat Out was recommended for reaccreditation without need for immediate improvements. The reviewers were particularly impressed by Flat Out's focus on research, education and community capacity building. They were particularly impressed by Flat Out community education tools and approaches which are made possible through the Centre for the Human Rights of Imprisoned People: an independently funded project of Flat Out. We are very grateful to our philanthropic partners for supporting this work. Whilst this work was outside the scope of the review; the quality and connectedness of our individualised service delivery alongside systemic and social change work was evident to the reviewers.

"Research activities are of high importance at Flat Out to ensure the organisation's commitment to education, capacity building and systems advocacy is maintained and informed. The review team would like to highlight the 'An End to Prisons' poster, which provides information and analysis about women within the prison in Victoria. The poster highlights the issue of decarceration as a cornerstone of Flat Out's ethos, as well as provides information on the prison system with statistics and research findings to support. In addition the poster acts as a community education tool providing strategies for supporting the cause and gaining more information. The poster is widely distributed, has been presented at various forums and featured in relevant sector journals such as the Preventing Homelessness edition of Parity Magazine."

From the final external review report: Highly Commended

The Flat Out Management Collective is very grateful for the continued funding and support we have received from the state and federal governments. Whilst we are continuing to seek additional funds for maintaining and expanding our support services, we are pleased to report that Flat Out has once again exceeded funding targets while continuing to provide high

quality services to women and their children. We are currently operating with a small deficit but we are continuing to look at opportunities for sustaining and growing our organisation to meet the pressing demands for service.

An effective Management Collective recruitment strategy has ensured that the Management Collective has been maintained with a strong complement of skills required for the effective governance of the organisation.

All Flat Out Management Collective meetings were well attended and quorate.

The Management Collective has focused on ensuring:

- the legal and financial requirements of the organisation are met
- setting the overall direction of the organisation-(this year we developed a new strategic plan taking us through to 2016)
- accountability for organisational activities and decisions
- ensuring that employees perform to job descriptions and organisational policies and procedures
- supporting the Executive Officer in performing and managing the daily functions of Flat Out

The Flat Out Management Collective members have furthermore supported the work of Flat Out through participation in a range of activities relating to our mission of ending women's criminalisation and imprisonment, as well as being active in community and sector development opportunities including:

- the development of the new annual and strategic plan
- achieving second round accreditation through QIP (Quality Innovation Performance)
- participation in CHRIP advocacy and activism trainings and other activities including the ABOLITION NOW forum (attended by more than a hundred community members on a week night in the middle of winter!)
- reviewing Flat Out's policies and procedures and delegation of authority manual
- the Management Collective and CHRIP Volunteers have been active in supporting organising and running fun and fund raising activities
- public speaking engagements including the Abolition Now event
- participation in relevant external training opportunities
- regular and effective use of mainstream and social media
- generating strong community support through our facebook and twitter presence

With rapid and unprecedented expansion of police and prisons in Victoria, the challenges for Flat Out continue. There has been a higher demand for our services and Flat Out has exceeded all funding targets. Flat Out will continue to consider opportunities for expanding our capacity. Sustainable funding for the Centre

for the Human Rights of Imprisoned People (CHRIP) has also continued to be an important focus as we strive to maintain our vital systemic advocacy and social change work and community education. In particular we need to refute law and order campaigning and the trend toward more police and prisons as a primary solution to creating safer communities.

The Management Collective and employees are to be commended for their commitment and enthusiasm in continuing to support the individual and systemic advocacy needs of criminalised and imprisoned women.

Thank you again to all the individuals and organisations that have supported the work of Flat Out over the past 26 years. We look forward to your ongoing support and involvement over the coming year; your support sustains us in so many important ways.

Flat Out is in a strong position and looks forward to another great year. In the same way we seek to end homelessness, poverty and trauma-we will continue to exercise our freedom and right to challenge the failures and harms of the prison industrial complex.

Flat Out Management Collective

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Review Team thanks Flat Out for their hospitality, willingness to discuss issues and openness during the review process. Particular thanks go to Annie Nash for her assistance prior to and during the review. Thanks go to all staff for sharing their organisational knowledge, and for finding the information sought by the Review Team. Thanks are also extended to the Management Committee who demonstrated their commitment to and pride in the organisation and to the women for taking the time to participate in client interviews and giving the review team an insight into the work of Flat Out and the way the organisation has impacted on them.

"Having met the program requirements Flat Out has been accredited against the QIP DHS Standards Accreditation Program."

Accreditation from QIP (Quality Innovation Performance)

"Thank you to Elise Pointer, women's Support Worker extraordinaire; for all your hard work, advocacy, and unfailing commitment to the rights of women and their children. We will miss your humour (and hairstyles) at Flat Out since 2010. We wish you all the very best for the future."

"Thank you to Chantelle Higgs, Co-ordinator of the CHRIP project while Phoebe Barton was on parental leave. You did an amazing job hitting the ground running and achieving the planned activities of the project, well done, and all the very best from everyone at Flat Out!"



It's been another full and exciting year at Flat Out. Never a dull moment!

As was highlighted in our previous annual report, Flat Out turned 25 in 2013. In December we hosted a celebration at the Flemington Kensington Bowling Club where Amanda George was honoured by Joan Kirner AC, (former Victorian Premier), for her 25 year commitment and service to Flat Out.

From everyone at Flat Out, we extend a very special thank you to Amanda for great leadership, and to Joan for making this a very special event.

Early this year we welcomed back Phoebe Barton as Centre for the Human Rights of Imprisoned People Project (CHRIP) Co-ordinator, and farewell Phoebe's replacement Chantelle Higgs. Phoebe and her partner Jessie have welcomed a very beautiful new baby Joni into the world. The Flat Out Management Collective is to be commended on their implementation of best practice approaches to parental leave and other important benefits. We also bid farewell to advocacy and support worker Elise Pointer who has been at Flat Out since 2010. Whilst we are sad to lose Chantelle and Elise-we wish them well in their future work, lives and activism. Both Chantelle and Elise have gone to leadership roles with other organisations. Thank you again to Chantelle and Elise for your great contribution to Flat Out. You are missed and we wish you well. You will remain our FOFO's (friends of Flat Out).

The work of Flat Out is framed by the connections we make between service delivery and social change work. Being part of this work is an absolute honour and privilege. Flat Out is fortunate to work alongside many great women and men who share the importance of this model.

This year as part of our strategic planning we confirmed our values and we continue to strongly oppose the criminalisation and imprisonment of women as a means of correcting social and economic harm and injustice. Our aim is to keep women out of prison. An important pillar of our work is to work with women to challenge the barriers that women face in achieving freedom and equality.

First and foremost we value women's conception of their rights by dedicating resources to the provision of information and education in and beyond the prison walls. Flat Out also draws extensively on the knowledge and wisdom of the women we support by placing importance on all forms of input and feedback; including formal and informal feedback. Flat Out consults with women in and beyond prison about the information based sessions they seek to have in the prison, and evaluate each session once delivered. We encourage

self-advocacy and self-determination to reduce women's reliance on service systems for knowledge and resources.

The vast majority of women we support experience homelessness, poverty, family violence, violence from police and prisons and other forms of systemic violence. Many women are carrying trauma from childhood abuse, sexual assault and discrimination, with the vast majority of women having experienced out of home care and some form of institutionalisation. Many of the women we support are also grappling with poor physical and mental health and addiction and other compulsive behaviours arising from these traumas. The culmination of multiple traumas' can lead women into cycles of criminalisation, incarceration and re-criminalisation.

Flat Out is funded through state and federal government grants to provide a support service to criminalised women experiencing homelessness and drug and alcohol use. This year Flat Out has exceeded funding and service contract targets by around 20-30% across the board. We supported more than a hundred women in their journeys. We also responded to significant numbers of requests for secondary consultation and provided an integrated education and support service. The Flat Out outreach team have done an amazing job working alongside women. Women supported by Flat Out must be commended for their extraordinary hard work and determination. They have worked hard to address their homelessness, get kids back into their lives, address poor physical and mental health, turn houses into homes, and get police, prisons, parole board and child protection off their backs; it's a full time job, well done! It's an honour to work with such strong women.

Flat Out has maintained and expanded its partnerships, protocols and MOU's with a range of organisations in the community. We have protocols with a number of housing agencies and access to transitional housing properties that we combine with appropriate support in the community.

Flat Out is not funded to provide 7 day, 24 hour support; we therefore have support protocols with 24 hour emergency services including the St Kilda Crisis Centre. We also have protocols with community legal centres for front door access to appropriate legal advice and assistance - alongside strong working relationships with a number of individual private lawyers, barristers and firms, and a protocol with the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre for our Women's Leadership Program. Flat Out is continually working to increase opportunities for women to access transitional and long term housing. We also work very closely with a number of drug and alcohol treatment services, many of whom we have thanked at the beginning of this report.

In this climate of unprecedented prison expansion it's critical for all community organisations to consider their capacity for providing advocacy and support that enables people to stay out of prison, or not return to prison. Flat

Out is pleased to report new relationships in the area of supporting and housing older women. Our aim is to build a viable alternative to prisons so that older women can be released from prison into safe and appropriate housing and support. Thank you to Wintringham and Housing for the Aged Action Group for partnering with Flat Out this past year. You have contributed greatly to Flat Out's capacity building and support for older criminalised and imprisoned women.

A further highlight of the past year has been the broadening and strengthening of our social change work achieved through our independently funded project, the Centre for the Human Rights of Imprisoned People, (CHRIP). Throughout this report there are many examples of the collaborative nature and importance of education and social change work. Please read the CHRIP report herein for an overview of these significant achievements. Please also see the individual acknowledgments at the beginning of this report. We appreciate your extraordinary support and we look forward to your ongoing support and commitment to this vital work.

A big reason for work satisfaction at Flat Out is being able to combine support and advocacy with women with our broader systemic and social change work. I want to personally thank the Flat Out Management Collective (Board) for their consistent and high quality inspiration and leadership. I want to also thank them for their support and their contribution to the Flat Out working groups and events. I also want to commend all my colleagues. We are all very fortunate to be part of Flat Out.

Congratulations and warm appreciation to everyone externally who has contributed to Flat Out and CHRIP over the past year. It's been an amazing year notwithstanding the challenges.

We look forward to working with you in the coming year/s.

Annie Nash
Executive Officer

www.flatout.org.au

"This year we saw an unprecedented spike in imprisonment. This is a result of a race to the bottom on law and order-culminating in retrograde changes in sentencing law and practice.

The removal of suspended sentences is illogical, socially destructive and expensive. Prison destroys the very things that might enable people to build better lives."



Flat Out's outreach support team works alongside women with experience of criminalisation and imprisonment. We are a small team of dedicated and passionate women with a wide variety of strengths and experience. We aim to be flexible, sensitive and non-judgemental in our approach. We strive to empower women by informing them of their rights, listening to their individual needs and advocating for better outcomes and opportunities. We understand that women's experiences are unique and we are constantly learning and being guided through the experience of women. The team is challenged by the high number of women incarcerated. With more resources, we could do more. It's disheartening to see millions of dollars of taxpayers money invested in prison expansion - when so much more could be done to support women to realise their potential as community members, and keep them out of jail. Flat Out's intensive outreach support and advocacy model is invaluable in contributing to positive change in women's lives. Criminalisation not only affects the women themselves-it affects their children and other members of their families, and ripples back through all sections of the community.

The women we work with demonstrate incredible strength, resilience and courage in the face of extreme adversity and often tragic circumstances. Their lives and that of their families are disrupted when women are imprisoned and the rebuilding of life is often a painstaking process. Flat Out draws on decarceration strategies as a critical foundation of our work, and strongly opposes imprisonment of women as a solution to their personal crises.

The vast majority of women we support are homeless, experiencing poverty, domestic violence, childhood trauma, sexual assault and discrimination. These traumas can sadly lead women into cycles of criminalisation and incarceration as the community fails to address these issues. Flat Out understands that there is no simple solution; however it is very clear that prison expansion, locking more women up, is not the answer.

In particular we remain concerned about the rising number of women with disabilities being criminalised and sent to prison. Many of these women do not have the capacity to fully understand the implications of their actions or the actions of the court, and the vast majority of these people are not being supported to live independently and free from harm. They are extremely vulnerable members of our community. It's heart breaking to see these women targeted by police and prisons. It's our vision that women will no longer be invisible; their voices will be heard; and we will walk with them to ensure that as a community, we

address the underlying social issues that underpin their criminalisation and imprisonment.

Flat Out receives funding from various sources. The majority of our funding for women's support and advocacy comes through the Department of Health, Non-Government Organisation Treatment Grants Program, (NGOTGP), and Homelessness Service funding arising from the National Affordable Housing Agreement. The Victorian Department of Human Services administers this funding. We are also funded .8EFT through the Intensive Case Management Initiative (ICMI) administered by DHS. The combination of funding enables Flat Out to work intensively and flexibly in terms of the type and timeframe of support provided.

FLAT OUT'S HOMELESSNESS SUPPORT SERVICES ARISING FROM THE NATIONAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING AGREEMENT: OUTREACH SUPPORT FOR WOMEN.

Over the past twelve months Flat Out have fully utilised the SHIP case management system as part of our adoption of the Specialist Homeless Data Collection (SHIP/SHOR) system. The Flat Out team has been trained in all aspects of the system which has improved the quality of our 'case management'; it is an extremely user friendly system that enables the team to systematically track the work and achievements against agreed plans with women. The reports generated from this system have given us a deeper understanding of our day to day work and outcomes. The QIP review in September 2013 raised recommendations with relation to consistency of documentation; we have therefore given greater attention to this challenge which arises largely from having multiple funding sources.

In the last year, we supported criminalised women (and their children) of all ages; however the trend for 2013-2014 was the majority of women supported were in the age bracket of 36-45, followed by 46-55 years of age, then 21-25 years of age, and 66-85 years of age. A total 93 individual women (and their children) received support through Flat Out in 2013-2014. They have come to Flat Out from a diverse range of social & cultural backgrounds and contexts.

During the last 12 months we have seen an increase in referrals from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse women. This has aligned with our aim to ensure equal access of support to women who are over-represented in the criminal justice system, particularly Vietnamese women.

Flat Out continues to receive referrals from various sources; however the most common source of referrals were; self-referrals, followed by referrals from workers at prison, (mainly the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre) and community and other non-government organisations.

Women came to Flat Out with a wide range of complex support needs. The most common reason for women seeking assistance were; transition from custody, addressing homelessness followed by financial difficulties/hardship, housing crisis and a lack of family or community support and the need to access drug and alcohol treatment and support. The culmination of these issues makes these women, some of the most vulnerable and criminalised members of our community. Other common reasons for seeking assistance included eviction from accommodation and excessive rent and problematic substance use. Many of the women we support have intellectual disabilities, mental health issues and acquired brain injuries associated with violence and substance use.

Flat Out also works extensively with women in reunifying them with children and other family members and building community connections and supports. Flat Out recognises that separation of mother from child is one of the greatest contributing risk factors associated with re-criminalisation and a return to prison, and thus an important and core component of our support and advocacy work including family support and reunification. Flat Out also recognises that this is an area for Flat Out's specialist support to reduce the risks to children who are placed in out of home care with DHS child protection, ending up in the poverty trap, being socially disconnected and being criminalised as adults. In 2013-2014, through the strength and determination of a number of the women that Flat Out supports, we witnessed the ongoing importance of effective advocacy and support for women and their children involved with DHS child protection.

NGOTGP FUNDED OUTREACH SUPPORT SERVICE FOR CRIMINALISED WOMEN

Non-Government Organisation Treatment Grants Program (NGOTGP) is a Federal Government Initiative administered through the Department of Health (DOH). Flat Out has received NGOTGP funding since 2003. This year Flat Out has exceeded the number of women it aimed to support during the twelve month period. Flat Out as a whole of service worked with 89 distinct clients over the past 12 months, 86 female, 3 male. More than 80% of these clients presented with past or current drug and alcohol misuse. Flat Out is contracted by DOH to provide 32 Episodes of Care (EOC) annually, in this past year 43 EOC were closed and 11 ongoing.

Flat Out's extensive experience in working with and alongside women with substance misuse issues has strengthened the success of the treatment plans and reduced the risks to women whom we support. Each episode of care developed between Flat Out and women requiring support reflects a treatment plan tailored to individuals needs and modelled on a non-judgemental and harm reduction approach. Flat Out has a strong role in individual support and advocacy to ensure that the implementation of these plans is in partnership with appropriate specialist services. Flat Out is able to think beyond the box to ensure holistic treatment plans including working alongside drug and alcohol services, health services, housing services, recreation, social inclusion services and alternative therapies. The focus is on agreed plans that resolve the underlying causes of drug and alcohol misuse and criminalisation.

ICMI (INTENSIVE CASE MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE)

ICMI is a developmental project where services provide support and brokerage funds for creative approaches to work with people who have high and complex needs. Flat Out has received funding through the ICMI program since September 2008.

This funding was extended through until June 2012, and has since been made recurrent alongside our homelessness service funding.

THE GOALS OF ICMI ARE:

- To provide assistance to clients who have high and complex needs to stabilise their personal circumstances and assist them out of homelessness;
- To provide a creative and flexible service response;
- To contribute to the development of a model that promotes planning, coordination and sustainable assistance to high and complex needs clients.

The Flat Out Model: What works?

The assertive outreach model is successful in working with women dealing with drug dependency who often have busy 'justice' schedules. The outreach support team will make every endeavour to locate women if they are difficult to contact by phone or through visits. We see women's engagement with Flat Out as a mutual responsibility. This is vital to the success of the service, because women will regularly be without finances for transport and phone. Many of the women we support have experienced being 'dumped' by services that will ascribe notions of 'non engagement' as a valid reason for 'exiting' them from their essential services and support. Flat Out has had very successful engagement with clients-women rarely miss appointments-this is enhanced through meeting women on their turf, in their time.

Flat Out in 2013-2014 has specialised in fearless advocacy and secondary consult to community services to ensure that discrimination on gender, criminalisation and/or drug use are challenged to ensure transparent access for women whom have been criminalised.

The periods of support that we offer are critical to our success. Many of the women we have supported for longer periods. In the period of 2013-2014, Flat Out also focused on ensuring that where women had previously been supported and required new periods of support that they were able to re-access our service. Many services disengage after twelve months; this can be detrimental to women seeking to address a myriad of long term underlying issues associated with homelessness and criminalisation.

All outreach support employees are well trained and experienced and they have a good working knowledge of other services and supports. Flat Out strives to be a learning organisation that encourages employees to undertake a range of professional development and training opportunities alongside their work.

Flat Out has a multidisciplinary approach, and is skilled in support planning and coordination.

Women trust that Flat Out will advocate for them and for the systems to be improved. During the year, Flat Out engaged an independent evaluator who interviewed women being supported, these consultations confirmed this assertion.

Flat Out regularly supports women in court by writing court reports and attending court. Attending court with a woman will often result in a non-custodial sentence where we are able to confirm with the magistrate that there is an alternative to prison. Our success however is being impeded through new and tougher sentencing regimes where more women are being sent to jail. It's devastating to see women sentenced to jail as we know only too well the enduring impacts.

Flat Out has extensive relationships, partnerships and protocols with organisations as a means of addressing the broad ranging needs of women; this approach also enhances our overall capacity.

Flat Out has sourced independent funding to assist women with meeting their basic needs of food, shelter, medication and maintaining pharmacotherapy. This fund has been particularly important in situations where women are primary care providers where they will often put the financial needs of their children ahead of their health and therapeutic treatment.

Flat Out has continued to maintain a focus on working with Aboriginal and Vietnamese women: both groups are severely over represented in the criminal justice system.

CHALLENGES, WHAT CAN BE IMPROVED

- There is a dire need for more and better affordable housing. Long housing waiting lists are causing grid locks in housing and support service systems.
- Women who are criminalised and have criminal histories are discriminated against throughout the community and also through many publicly and privately funded service systems. We need robust laws and policies and procedures to end criminal records discrimination-we need a spent convictions scheme.
- There is a dire need for more community based alcohol and drug treatment services across all regional areas. A lack of suitable treatment services increases the risk of women being re-criminalised and returning to prison.
- The current child protection system leans to removal of children in circumstances where appropriate and adequate support would enable families to stabilise and stay together. There needs to be a full review of this system to ensure that there is a genuine focus on best interests of the child.
- Centrelink changes, in particular moving women off Parenting Payments and onto Newstart is poor public policy that forces families into poverty

FLAT OUT FEEDBACK FROM THE EXTERNAL REVIEW AND RE-ACCREDITATION

Over the past twelve months Flat Out has continued to elicit and document feedback from women and other services.

In this past year feedback was also obtained as part of the QIP external review.

Overall summary from QIP

"Flat Out has well developed and functioning systems to support its organisations activities and to provide it with an integrated approach that has inputs, structures, processes, outputs and outcomes, and incorporates ongoing feedback."

Below is a summary of external services feedback.

- The nature of the various relationships was well described by each interviewed stakeholder.
- All stakeholders were complimentary as to the work Flat Out does with its client group and all noted them to be strong advocates within the service system.
- All stakeholders indicated that Flat Out makes a positive contribution to the wider community's understanding of the issues relating to incarcerated women.
- All stakeholders commented that opportunities to provide feedback are encouraged by Flat Out and on occasions when this has occurred, the issues have been well-received and promptly dealt with.



FEEDBACK FROM WOMEN SUPPORTED BY FLAT OUT

“Hi Flat Out, I took ur advice and it went ok. I’m ok, not much I can do. As soon as I’m off parole, though, they will get a bad burn from me in the form of an open letter to the media...anyway thanks heaps for ur support. Let me know when ur free so I can buy u lunch as a thank u.”

“Thanks heaps as always you have helped me heaps, I appreciate every bit of your effort for me.”

“Hey Flat Out, I just had my first driving lesson and done pretty good. I’m very proud of myself, thank you so much for doing this for me” (ICMI brokerage utilised for driving lessons)

“Flat Out, thank you so much. Everything dropped off. Sol said because you had done all the work. Easy. Thank you from bottom of my heart.....”

“Hi Flat Out, thank you for your help with Court hearing today. It all went well and the fines were dropped. Your assistance was great. Cheers,.....”

WOMEN’S INFORMATION, LEADERSHIP AND SELF-ADVOCACY PROGRAM AT DAME PHYLLIS FROST CENTRE (DPFC), (VICTORIA’S MAXIMUM SECURITY WOMEN’S PRISON)

Unprecedented prison expansion has enormous ripple effects into the community; not just in terms of numbers of women going to prison, it impacts on all levels of support and services available to women in and beyond the prison walls. Flat Out is under immense unrelenting pressure to be able to meet the needs of all women seeking our support.

In 2010 we developed an idea for a Flat Out/CHRIP program in the DPFC prison where we would have the opportunity to meet with up to 15 women in a workshop environment to empower them with information, prior to release. The purpose has been to maximise women’s opportunities to exercise choice in finding and selecting services and support beyond the prison.

Now in our fourth year we continue to seek guidance from women on the content of the program, and there is strong and positive feedback-but we are continually frustrated by the challenges of doing this work in a largely punitive and restrictive environment.

We use an extraordinary amount of time and resources in running this program (with no financial assistance from the prison) yet we are constantly frustrated with access and programming for what are often petty and misguided reasons. Good order and security are regularly quoted as reasons for impeding and restricting access, challenging content, and circulating information so women know about the program.

Information and educational opportunities are crucial to women’s capacity to grow, lead and self-advocate. We also see this model as an opportunity to get input from women about the types of services and support they are seeking; an innovative model for seeking feedback and direction from women about what needs to be available to them post release prison.

This program runs monthly with community ‘specialist’ guest speakers on a wide variety of women’s concerns.

Topics for this year included:

- **Changes to Suspended Sentences and Home Detention**
- **Criminal Records Discrimination (with a focus on employment)**
- **GLBTI Services and Support**
- **Family Violence**
- **‘Have Your Say’, a workshop session developing the program for 2014**
- **Finding the Right Lawyer**
- **Financial issues: dealing with debts**
- **Homelessness and Housing Sector**
- **Fines and civic compliance**

A number of individuals and community organisations have assisted Flat Out in providing information sessions to women in prison. We thank you for your involvement.

Most importantly, Flat Out would like to acknowledge the women imprisoned at DPFC who have participated in this project over the past 4 years.

The Centre for the Human Rights of Imprisoned People (CHRIP)

CHRIP's work falls into three main categories:

- Community Capacity Building and Education
 - Public Opinion and Systemic Advocacy
 - Organisational Development

The Centre for the Human Rights of Imprisoned People (CHRIP) is a project of Flat Out focusing on education, community capacity building, and systemic advocacy.

The work of Flat Out and CHRIP builds on the intrinsic connections between service delivery and systemic social change work that has been present since Flat Out's inception. This model ensures that the individual needs of women who are criminalised, imprisoned or recently released from prison are met alongside work to address broader structural issues such as poverty, institutional racism and violence against women.

The CHRIP project was initiated in the community legal sector in 2007 with seed funding from the Reichstein Foundation. The project was originally auspiced by the Brimbank Melton Community Legal Centre (BMCLC) and had a strong focus on legal capacity building.

In 2008, CHRIP became an auspiced project of Flat Out and two years later transitioned to an ongoing project of the organisation. CHRIP currently receives funding from Sidney Myer Fund, the W.C.F. Thomas Charitable Trust as well as grassroots funding and donations.

CHRIP's work over the past year has included the following highlights:

- Organising the public event, Abolition Now; Challenges that the Abolition Movement and Those Supporting Criminalised Women Face which was attended by more than 100 people. Guest speakers included Kim Pate (Canada), Amanda George, Debbie Kilroy and Susan Shepherd. The event was co-venued with Monash University to release Women Exiting Prison; Critical Essays on Gender, Post Release Support and Survival, edited by Bree Carlton and Marie Segrave. The book contains work of world class scholars and the chapter Decentring the Prison: Abolitionist Approaches to Working with Criminalized Women co-authored by Phoebe Barton, Debbie Kilroy, Suzi Quixley, Amanda George and Emma Russell;
- Running the Effective Advocacy Training Programs in 2013 and 2014 which attracted around 90 participants including students, community sector lawyers and advocates, women who have been impacted by the criminal justice system, and family members of imprisoned people. Topics included Correction Resource Centre Tour; Media and Public Speaking; Campaigning to Change the World, Pre-election Campaigning and Lobbying and Adult Parole Board Advocacy;
- Community education and capacity building highlights included facilitating Joint Practice Forums including sessions on Changes to Sentencing and Parole and Child Protection for incarcerated and formerly incarcerated women and Working with the Person Who is Suicidal;
- Prepared four written submissions with Flat Out in 2013 to government and peak human rights bodies on the key issues for women in the Victorian prison system including; The Corrections Amendment Bill; Inquiry into the Value of a Justice Reinvestment Approach to Criminal Justice in Australia; Koori Women and Prison & People with Disabilities in the Criminal Justice System;
- We published the second edition of the CHRIP End to Prisons Poster with the much appreciated support of the CHRIP working group;
- Sustained the Victorian Decarceration Network, including monthly E-bulletins, which grew to include more than 300 organisations and individuals sharing information and resources on how to keep people out of prison, reduce periods of incarceration and preventing an individual's return to prison;
- We co-organised Flat Out's Women's Information, Self-Advocacy and Leadership Development Program at the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre. The monthly sessions continued to focus on increasing the information available to imprisoned women to strengthen their self-advocacy skills whilst incarcerated and when they return to the community. Program topics were chosen by women inside, and run with support from community organisations with expertise in areas nominated by the women.
- Topics included: Criminal Record Discrimination and Employment Pathways; Changes to Suspended Sentences; Family Violence; Homelessness and the Housing Sector; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Community Programs and Finding the Right Lawyer;
- Publicly advocating in the media on issues such as young people in adult prisons and solitary confinement and the importance of rehabilitation in current debates on Victoria's exploding prison population on Channel 10's The Project;
- We were involved in the coalition Noprison4kids which focussed on the issue of young people being transferred into adult prison and solitary confinement. Over the last year the group has meet with stakeholders such as Department of Human Services, Operations Manager at Youth Justice Precinct, Children and Young People Commissioners, Youth Parole Board and Corrections Victoria to raise concerns about this practice and to advocate for changes that would increase safeguards for young people and increase accountability of bodies making decisions that affect young people.

StreetSmart Grant

Avoiding Homelessness and Prison:

Emergency support and assistance for women pre and post release prison...

Flat Out is very grateful to Street Smart for funds we used to support women coming out of prison. The primary purpose of this grant was to optimise opportunities for homeless women post release prison.

The main outcome of this project has been to have necessary funds available for the purchase of essential personal items which directly connect to women's capacity to obtain and maintain housing and avoid re-criminalisation.

Emergency and essential items included

- Emergency accommodation expenses (where other funds are not available)
- Cooking equipment
- Manchester: sheets/doona/pillows
- Proof of identification documents
- Baby bottles, baby monitors, nappies, baby wear, comforters for baby
- Women's underwear and other essential clothing
- Toiletries including sanitary supplies
- Mobile phones and phone cards (we work on an assertive outreach model, phone contact is essential to this model)
- Refurbished computers/IT hardware for women seeking education and employment
- MYKI tickets and travel costs associated with family reunification
- Emergency food where Vic Food bank and other sources aren't available
- Pharmacotherapy and other prescription medication
- Diaries (in particular for women with memory loss and cognitive impairments associated with ABI, intellectual disability and poor mental health)
- Warm clothing and footwear
- Carry bags for departure from prison (women currently leave prison with Corrections Victoria issue plastic bag)
- Sport and recreation memberships and/or equipment
- Specialist psychological and other medical reports

Homelessness continues to be a common feature in the underlying circumstances for why women and men go to prison. The result of a tough on crime environment is that more homeless people will be targeted and imprisoned unless we can provide a timely, targeted and practical crisis response. Our emergency fund has been crucial.

Thank you to Adam Robinson & StreetSmart.

Flat Out Protocols & Partnerships

FLAT OUT HAS PROTOCOLS WITH THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES:

- Common Equity Housing Ltd (CEHL)
- Dame Phyllis Frost Centre (DPFC) Women's Information, Leadership and Self-Advocacy Program
- Flemington Kensington Community Legal Centre
- Hanover Cheltenham
- Homeground
- Local Area Service Network (LASN), North West Metropolitan Region
- Newmarket Baptist Church, Flemington
- Vincentcare Community Housing, Glenroy
- Salvation Army, EastCare
- Smart Justice
- St Kilda Crisis Centre
- Women's Housing Limited

- Women's Housing Limited Private Rental Brokerage Program
- Yarra Community Housing

FLAT OUT HAS ACCESS RIGHTS TO TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROPERTIES WITH THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES:

- Homeground
- Salvation Army SASHS Western
- Salvation Army EastCare Housing Services
- Vincentcare Community Housing, Glenroy
- Women's Housing Limited
- Hanover Cheltenham
- Yarra Community Housing



Training and professional development undertaken by Flat Out

- ANEX – crack lessons on ice
- Australia Wide First Aid (including CPR) Certificate
- CHFV – Marketing Planning for Non-Marketing People
- CHRIP Effective Advocacy Training Program
 - Adult Parole Board Advocacy
 - Corrections Resource Centre
 - Criminal Record Discrimination and Employment Pathways
 - Effective use of the media
 - Fearless Individual & Systemic Advocacy
 - FOI requests, a user's guide
 - Holistic Health Advocacy
 - Introduction to Imprisonment
 - Introduction to Prison Advocacy
 - Pre-Election Campaigning and Lobbying
 - Working with the Person who is Suicidal (PreSAP) –an introductory workshop
- CHRIP Joint Practice forum – Client Centred Advocacy with Centrelink
- CHRIP forum – Robin Wonsley: Moving Beyond Bars: The Impact of Transitional and Reintegrated Services on Formerly Incarcerated Black Women
- Darebin Family Services in partnership with Elizabeth Hoffman House Aboriginal Women's Service – Culturally appropriate case management with Aboriginal clients
- DAS West network meeting on their AOD services
- DHS – Common Risk Assessment Framework
- DHS Online service delivery tracking and reporting requirements
- Dispute Settlement Centre Mediation training x 6 days
- DVRCV & Peninsula Health Drug & Alcohol & Youth Services – Adolescent Violence in the home
- Fitzroy Legal Service – Building Legal Knowledge for Community Workers
- Flat Out & CHRIP – Abolition Now forum

Flat Out's Women's Information, Leadership and Self Advocacy Program sessions at DPFC

- Credit & Debt
- Criminal Record Discrimination & Employment Pathways
- Changes to Sentencing
- Have Your Say
- Homelessness and the housing sector
- Sorting out fines and infringements from inside
- Women's Health West and HRV presentation
- JSS National Justice Symposium
- HRV Blood borne virus training session
- Lecture presentation to Victoria University students
- Marxism 2014 'Ideas to challenge this system' conference
- Practice Forum with Helen Yandell on child protection issues
- Pro Bono Australia – Social Media 201 Webinar
- Older Persons Housing in the Inner North
- Royal Society for the Arts A+NZ - Enterprising Justice – a new Model of Community Prison
- RWH Clinical Education presentation on Flat Out's work
- The Bouverie Centre: Compassion Fatigue training
- Turning Point Symposium
- VAADA AOD recommissioning forum, What you need to know
- VACRO – Inspiring Change – Women's Journeys Through the Criminal Justice System forum
- VCOSS 2014 Summit: Setting the Agenda

- Victoria Law Foundation - Legal Sector Publishing Forum: A-Z of publishing well-designed publications
- WIRE – Dealing with challenging phone calls
- WorkSafe Victoria x 5 sessions - Workplace bullying prevention & response, Mental wellbeing in the workplace, Research & learnings from the WorkHealth program, What a WorkSafe Inspector looks for & how to achieve compliance updated for 2013 and Tips and tools to make you a more effective Health and Safety Representative

ACRONYMS:

AOD	Alcohol and Other Drugs
CHFV	Community Housing Federation of Victoria
CHRIP	Centre for the Human Rights of Imprisoned People
DAS West	Drug and Alcohol Services-Western Health
DHS	Department of Human Services
DPFC	Dame Phyllis Frost Centre
DVRCV	Domestic Violence Resource Centre Victoria
FOI	Freedom of Information
HRV	Harm Reduction Victoria
JSS	Jesuit Social Services
PILCH	Public Interest Law Clearing House
RWH	Royal Women's Hospital
VAADA	Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association
VACRO	Victorian Association for the Care & Resettlement of Offenders
VCOSS	Victorian Council of Social Services
WIRE	Women's Information and Referral Exchange

Directors

Lionel R. Arnold CA B.Bus
Raelene Cheng CPA B.Com

Consultant

Janet L. Collyer FCPA

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of FLAT OUT INC.

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of **FLAT OUT INC.**, which comprises the balance sheet as at 30th June 2014, and the income statement, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement for the year then ended, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Report

The management of **FLAT OUT INC.** is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report and have determined that the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements, which form part of the financial report, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The management's responsibility also includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used, as described in Note 1, are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report 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 the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the Management's financial reporting requirement. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

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

Directors

Lionel R. Arnold CA B.Bus
Raelene Cheng CPA B.Com

Consultant

Janet L. Collyer FCPA

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the relevant independence requirements.

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion the financial report of **FLAT OUT INC.**

- (a) gives a true and fair view of **FLAT OUT INC's** financial position as at 30th June 2014 and performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1.



Lionel R. Arnold
J L COLLYER & PARTNERS

1st September 2014

FLAT OUT WELCOMES YOUR SUPPORT & INVOLVEMENT

→ YOU CAN ATTEND OUR PUBLIC FORUMS AND EVENTS

→ YOU CAN BECOME A MEMBER OR ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF FLAT OUT

→ SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY EDUCATION WORK BY DISTRIBUTING OUR PUBLISHED MATERIALS

→ PARTICIPATE AND OR PRESENT IN OUR EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY TRAININGS

→ STAY INFORMED THROUGH OUR WEBSITE AND FACE BOOK WWW.FLATOUT.ORG.AU

IF YOU HAVEN'T DONE SO ALREADY, PLEASE CONSIDER OUR MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM TO SUPPORT OUR IMPORTANT SOCIAL CHANGE AND SYSTEMIC ADVOCACY WORK. WE WOULD BE VERY HAPPY IF YOU WOULD CONSIDER DONATING THE PRICE OF ONE COFFEE A DAY.

YOUR CONTRIBUTION, HOWEVER BIG OR SMALL, SUPPORTS OUR WORK AND EMPOWERS US TO ADVOCATE WITH AND FOR CRIMINALISED AND IMPRISONED WOMEN IN VICTORIA.

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX-DEDUCTIBLE AND HONOURED THROUGH OUR ANNUAL REPORT.
YOU CAN MAKE A TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION AT: WWW.GIVENOW.COM.AU/FLATOUT

FOR A COPY OF FLAT OUT'S FINANCIAL STATEMENTS PLEASE CONTACT FLAT OUT EXECUTIVE OFFICER ON 03 372 6155.



Flat Out Inc

Flat Out is a statewide support and advocacy service for women with/without children, who've had contact with the justice system and are at risk of homelessness. Local Habitat donations will help women with essential items such as ID cards and food vouchers.

www.flatout.org



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