

ANNUAL REPORT | 2016 – 2017



DECLARCARATION  
NOW

SEARCHES  
SEXUAL  
SAULT







Flat Out Inc  
255 Ballarat Road  
Footscray 3011  
(formerly at Pin Oak Crescent, Flemington)  
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<https://www.facebook.com/FlatOutInc>

ABN: 68037026364

“fighting to protect the human rights of women in prison”

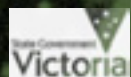
**Flat Out and its staff are committed to supporting the rights, safety, participation and empowerment of all children**

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

Annual Report Design Jacqui Rayner

Photography by Flat Out & Charandev Singh

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How to get to Flat Out, 255 Ballarat Rd, Footscray 3011

**Trains – Sunbury or Werribee to Footscray Train Station**

**From Footscray Train Station (Irving St)**

**Bus 223 – Yarraville to Highpoint Shopping Centre – Eleanor St/Ballarat Road bus stop**

**From Paisley St, Footscray**

**Bus 410 – Sunshine to Footscray, via Ballarat Road – Eleanor St/Ballarat Road bus stop**

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## 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

To the Women Flat Out has worked with over the past year, thank you for giving us the opportunity to work with you. Thank you for sharing your stories, insights, courage, advice and strength.

## Thank you to our funders

### COMMONWEALTH & STATE GOVERNMENT FUNDING

#### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND AGEING (DOHA) - NGOTGP (NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATION TREATMENT GRANTS PROGRAM)

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

#### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - ADIS

Anne-Marie Cupples, Information Support Desk Mental Health & Drugs, Information, Analysis & Reporting Unit Health Information & Reporting Branch Health Services Performance & Programs Division Department of Health & Human Services, DHHS/DOH

#### DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (FEDERAL) VOLUNTEER GRANTS FUNDS

#### DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (DHHS) SPECIALIST HOMELESSNESS SERVICES ARISING FROM THE NATIONAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING AGREEMENT

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

Lesley Murray and Kim Garlick, Local Engagement Officer, Local Connections, Brimbank Melton Area, West Division, DHHS

#### NON-GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Grassroots fundraising and donations Melbourne Magistrates' Court of Victoria StreetSmart Australia

## Donations

Amanda G, Amy McM, Anonymous, Bunnings Footscray, Doris Jarvies, Eastern Emergency Relief Network, Gellibrand Café - Reservoir, Hana and The Moroccan Soup Bar - Fitzroy North, Hot Copper Studio - Coburg, Jess R, Jo from Frangipani Baby, Jo S., Juli A, Mr T and Phuong - Newmarket Plaza Newsagency, Prison Fellowship and Pastor Sarah Sparey - Citycare Hillsong and volunteers, Sean W, Share the Dignity.

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

- Speaking at public forums and conferences
- Co-training and facilitation inside of Dame Phyllis Frost Centre Women's prison
- Co-writing submissions and responses to Inquiries
- In-kind donations of time and resources
- Co-advocacy with clients and on systemic issues
- Adam Robinson, CEO StreetSmart Australia
- Abolitionist and Transformative Justice Centre
- Amanda George, Flat Out Management Collective
- Anthony Kelly and the team, Flemington & Kensington Community Legal Centre
- Antoinette Braybrook and the team, Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention Legal Service
- Billi Clarke, Launch Housing, Southbank
- Bree Carlton, Flat Out Management Collective
- Caraniche, Employment Assistance Program
- Charandev Singh, Human Rights and Indigenous Education Advocate, Activist and Community Educator
- Sam Ryan, Celia Whelan and the Programs team at DPFC
- Council to Homeless Persons (CHP)
- Crystal McKinnon, Flat Out Management Collective
- Debbie Kilroy and the team at Sisters Inside, QLD
- Eastern Emergency Relief Network
- East St Kilda Women's House, Launch Housing
- Heather Holst, Launch Housing and staff
- Inner Melbourne Legal
- Inside Access at the Mental Health Legal Centre
- Jill Prior, Flat Out Management Collective
- Jobs Australia
- Justice Connect
- Kay Dyson, Flat Out Management Collective
- Liz Shield, Flat Out Management Collective
- Local Area Service Network (LASN), North & West Metropolitan Region
- Malcolm Feiner, Corrections Resource Centre
- Meghan Fitzgerald, Fitzroy Legal Service
- Mehran Erfanian, Centrax Computer Services
- Phoebe Barton, Flat Out Management Collective
- Prison Fellowship Victoria, Pastor Sarah Sparey and volunteers, Citycare Hillsong
- Prison Network Ministries
- Salvation Army Housing Services, Eastcare
- Sam Biondo, Victorian Alcohol and Drug Association (VAADA)
- St Kilda Crisis Centre
- WhiteDog GreenFrog IT consultants
- Women's Housing Ltd
- Unison Community Housing

### 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.

## FLAT OUT MANAGEMENT COLLECTIVE MEMBERS

JULY 2016 – JUNE 2017

Amanda George, Bree Carlton, Crystal McKinnon, Jill Prior, Kay Dyson, Liz Shield and Phoebe Barton

## FLAT OUT EMPLOYEES | JULY 2016 – JUNE 2017

**Jake Argyll**  
*Executive Officer*

**Elaine Cruse**  
*Outreach Support and Advocacy*

**Jagur McEwan**  
*Outreach Support and Advocacy*

**Michelle Montague**  
*Finance Manager*

**Michele Old**  
*Administration Resource Coordinator*

**Wendy Hedges**  
*Outreach Support and Advocacy*

## VOLUNTEERS | JULY 2016 – JUNE 2017

Emma Hart, Emma Russell, Marian McKeown and Sinead Grace







## Organisation Overview

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

Flat Out is committed to co-creating safer spaces, fostering support and self-determination for people who identify as sistergirls, intersex, transgender and/or gender diverse women. We respect that identity is for the individual to define, and work collectively to ensure that people with these identities are accorded respect and access to our support and advocacy, and provided ongoing opportunities to inform policies concerning the intersection of their identities with experiences of criminalisation.

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 homelessness support service for women 18+, who have had contact with the criminal justice and/or prison system in Victoria. Flat Out receives government funding through the Department of Health and Human Services (Victoria), the Department of Health (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 2016-2018

## 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 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 2017
  - Returning our organisational deficit to surplus whilst maintaining quality improvements
  - Retaining our skilled and committed management collective, employees and volunteers

## Key Result 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 18+ 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 29 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.



## Kim Pate

Last year one of the long-term friends and allies of Flat Out, Kim Pate the Director of the Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Society ([www.caefs.ca](http://www.caefs.ca)) was appointed to the Canadian Senate. Kim had been working with them for 25 years. CAEFS is an organisation that supports and advocates for women in prison. There are chapters of this organisation in all provinces in Canada and attached to all the women's prisons. It is essentially an organisation with a huge volunteer base. It supports and advocates for individual women in prisons, provides human rights training to inmate committees in Canadian women's prison, intervenes in Inquests and Inquiries' and was responsible for the exposure of complicity by the State in prisoner deaths/suicides.

Kim is a regular visitor to Australia and has used materials from anti-private prison, strip search and Australian abolitionist groups in CAEFS. Her appointment to the Canadian Senate is a testament to her integrity and the high level of regard and respect that she holds in the Canadian community.

<https://beta.theglobeandmail.com/news/national/new-senator-kim-pate-gives-a-voice-to-women-in-prison/article33469827/?ref=http://www.theglobeandmail.com>



## The Need for Justice and Equality for Indigenous and All Women Conference

The Need for Justice and Equality for Indigenous and All Women Conference was co-hosted by the Elizabeth Fry Society of Quebec and the University of Montreal. It was held on unceded Mohawk territory, opened by Kanehsatake Elder John Cree, and Ellen Gabriel, Cultural Consultant for the Kanehsatake Language and Cultural Centre. There were, a number of presentations including six courageous Indigenous women, 5 of whom have experienced marginalisation and victimisation, as well as criminalisation and imprisonment.

Two attended residential schools – all experienced the inter-generational impact, and against all odds, are now building their lives, as they integrate into communities across this country. The youngest was born in prison and is graduating high school soon and commencing her studies at the University of Saskatchewan in autumn.

Memorable quotes:

Dr. Cindy Blackstock, Executive Director of First Nations Child and Family Caring Society of Canada said:

*“We must act now to ensure that future generations of Indigenous children don't have to recover from their childhood – and future generations non-Indigenous children don't have to say they're sorry...”*

*“We have no business figuring out the cost of justice until we can figure out the cost of injustice”*

*“When it comes to the poverty, racism and discrimination suffered by the Aboriginal people of Canada – we have been trained to look away. I urge each and every one of us to not look away”.*

## Canadian Senate Committee on Human Rights

In June 2017, the Canadian Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights heard evidence as part of its two-year Inquiry into Human Rights in Federal Prisons. Amanda from Flat Out and Debbie Kilroy from Sisters Inside, Brisbane QLD, were asked to give evidence to this inquiry. It was an amazing opportunity to have the time to articulate the social and economic arguments for decarceration. The focus of my evidence is how prison numbers can be reduced by a commitment to resources in organisations and support in the community rather than channelling that money into prisons. I spoke about the strong connection between post release housing support and the recriminalisation of women on release. Housing and support equates with keeping women out of the prison. It also is cheaper financially and socially.

I proposed that the Canadian government set a target of a 10% reduction per year in the number of women who were incarcerated and a redirection of this funding to non-custodial support services. At the same time, it is imperative to close 10% of cells. Cells must close at the same rate otherwise there will only be a greater churn of women prisoners, not a reduction in prisoner numbers. In some European countries, where they have adopted decarceration strategies which has resulted in empty cells, in order to ensure that the prisoner industrial complex continues, they are offering 'cell services' to neighbouring countries who have overcrowded prisons.

Both Debbie and I spoke about stopping the use of strip searches in prisons and the necessity of closing segregation cells and units in prisons, as these are the sites of most human rights violations and deaths in prisons.



We were asked questions by various Senators about the position of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in prison. They were shocked to learn that Australia's incarceration rates surpass the rates of incarceration of First Nations, Inuit and Meti peoples in Canada.

In addition to giving evidence to this Inquiry we spoke to a Senate Committee looking at a 'spent convictions' scheme in Canada.

This is a scheme where a person's convictions that occurred many years ago or convictions of a certain character are expunged after a time. This scheme exists in various states of Australia and greatly enhances people's ability to participate in the workforce.

A full recording of our evidence to the Senate Committee on Human Rights can be viewed at <https://www.facebook.com/FlatOutInc/>



## Executive Officer and Outreach Support and Advocacy Report

*Flat Out's Outreach Support team works with women who have had experiences of criminalisation and imprisonment, who are at risk of or are homeless. Flat Out supports the rights of the women we work with and strives to empower them.*

The women demonstrated incredible strength and resilience not just from their experiences within the justice system but from their life experiences that have shaped their lives for better or worse. We work with women knowing that when they are imprisoned, their lives and their family's lives are disrupted and damaged. It can be difficult to repair this disruption and damage due to time, disconnection, fractured relationships and trauma. Flat Out uses decarceration strategies as a foundation to our work and through this strongly opposes the imprisonment of women, knowing that the impact of imprisonment is far reaching through families and continues to influence over time and intergenerationally.

Our work includes supporting the women we work with through issues such as family violence, homelessness, disadvantage, discrimination, extreme poverty, disenfranchisement, sexual assault, childhood and adult trauma. These issues can influence the cycles of criminalisation and imprisonment. Our work at a practice and advocacy level is critical in trying to break these cycles. If we can ensure a woman can remain in community or be released in a timely way, has a safe place to live, support to navigate their lives outside of prison that includes reconnection to community and family, financial and physical resources as a minimum, they will have a foundation to build on over time.

The year 2016/2017 for Flat Out has been operating within the context of significant change or impending change, primarily at a state government level and within the federal government jurisdiction. There are a number of systemic reforms that have occurred or will in the near future including:

- the decommissioning of AOD services;
- Legislative changes;
- The Roadmap for Reform;
- Implementation of the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Family Violence;
- NDIS implementation across the state;
- Family Services Redesign.

### The decommissioning of AOD services

- Federally funded AOD services have been recommissioned to be overseen by Primary Health Networks.

### Legislative Changes

- There are changes occurring to the Bail Act and the Corrections (Parole) Act that will impact the lives of our clients.

### The Roadmap aims to deliver a system focused on:

- Strengthening communities to better prevent neglect and abuse;
- Delivering early support to children and families at risk;
- Keeping more families together through crisis;
- Securing a better future for children who cannot live at home.

This reform is holistically aimed at addressing the areas listed through a range of changes that are occurring across the service system. It promotes the premise that children are best raised within their own families and communities where it is safe to do so. For the women we support who are parents this creates an opportunity for advocacy ensuring that women have the best chance to raise their children and to have contact with them while they are not in their care. This requires resources that support this such as suitable and sustainable housing and good legal representation that understand their rights and those of children.

### The implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Family Violence.

- Includes the development of 17 Support and Safety Hubs across Victoria. While there will be expectations of some types of services forming the basis of the Hubs, each of the local service areas will make regional decisions that make sense to the communities they are in.

Flat Out recognises the serious impact of family violence amongst the women we support. Flat Out fully supports the implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission and will explore opportunities to work with women identified as victims of violence. The Royal Commission created an environment where the gaps in the service system have been highlighted and as a service system and broader community, this helps us to understand how the prevalence of family violence continues.





### National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

The National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) supports people with a permanent and significant disability, that affects their ability to take part in everyday activities. The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) implements the NDIS. Organisations registered through the NDIS will provide services that individuals and families can purchase with their NDIS packages. There are some services that have been run by government that will now sit within community service organisations.

The NDIS supports people with a disability to live an ordinary life. The type of support that is provided includes:

- Support to achieve greater independence;
- Support to being more involved in the community;
- Support in gaining employment, and
- Support with improved wellbeing.

While Flat Out is a small organisation, our clients, our services and our place in the service system are impacted by these significant changes, some positively and others not.

The Homelessness support services provided through the National Affordable Housing Agreement this year ranged from 24-37 clients per month.

*This year Flat Out maintained a steady flow of clients being supported however there were some challenges in meeting the funded target expectations for this funding.*

The Non-Government Organisation Treatment Grants Program (a Federal Government Initiative through the Department of Health and Ageing), provided funding to support women with substance abuse issues. This year we exceeded our funded targets for the year. This work involves developing specific treatment plans to assist women in harm reduction and support in addressing issues related to their substance use.

### Women's Information, Leadership and Self-Advocacy Program at the Dame Phyllis Frost Centre

Staff co-delivered a number of sessions throughout the year with partner agencies including: Inside Access and Mental Health Legal Service on topics such as housing access, preparation activities prior to release regarding housing.

### Systemic issues identified and addressed through the year:

- Accessibility of services for transgender clients. Advocacy regarding clients' not being required to provide "proof" of gender but that identifying as a particular gender was enough according to human rights.
- Outreach team attended a White Ribbon event at DPFC
- Parole – issues related to bureaucracy such as delays in environmental scans of possible parole addresses, access to housing, programs not being completed as a requirement of parole however waitlists prevent this from happening in a timely way. Throughout the year women have not been granted parole without reasons given related to addresses they seek to be paroled to.
- Decision made to expand age of client group eligibility to include 18-25-year olds. A focus group was helpful at DPFC with young women to explore what they would like a support service to look like for them. They discussed outings, group work and life skills programs as well as housing and individual support.
- Flat Out now has a gender diversity statement on the website to promote inclusiveness and accessibility. This links to the LGBTIQA project funded by StreetSmart where 3 women from the LGBTIQA community were interviewed regarding their experiences of the homelessness and justice systems. This project was made possible through a generous grant from StreetSmart and will be finalised in the 2017/2018 financial year.





## NGOTGP Funded Outreach Support Service for Criminalised Women

Flat Out received funds from the Commonwealth Government Department of Health & Ageing (DoHA) under the National Illicit Drugs Strategy (NIDS) to deliver support to our clients to enable them to either reduce harm from the use of illicit substances or to reduce usage of such substances.

We provide support around a range of issues regarding substance use and misuse these include, but are not limited to; harm minimisation, information and referral to detox/rehab programs, health and health monitoring, information about the short and long-term effects of various substances and safe use (especially after release from prison). During the 2016/2017 financial year, Flat Out met its funded targets for this program.





# StreetSmart Grant

## Breaking down social isolation

Flat Out is very grateful to StreetSmart 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.

## Essential items brokerage

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.

Homelessness continues to be a common feature in the underlying circumstances for why women 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

### EMERGENCY AND ESSENTIAL ITEMS INCLUDED

- Cooking equipment and kitchenware
- Emergency accommodation expenses (where other funds are not available)
- Emergency food where other sources aren't available
- Manchester: sheets/doona/pillows
- Mobile phones and phone cards
- MYKI tickets and travel costs associated with family reunification
- Pharmacotherapy and other prescription medication
- Proof of identification documents
- Refurbished computers/IT hardware for women seeking education and employment
- Specialist psychological and other medical reports
- Sport and recreation memberships and/or equipment
- Toiletries
- Women's underwear, warm clothing, footwear and other essential clothing



## Flat Out has protocols with the following agencies:

- Dame Phyllis Frost Centre (DPFC) Women's Information, Leadership and Self-Advocacy Program
- Flemington and Kensington Community Legal Centre
- Haven HomeSafe
- Launch Housing – East St Kilda Women's House and Southbank
- Local Area Service Network (LASN), North West Metropolitan Region
- McAuley Women's Services
- Salvation Army, EastCare Housing Services

- St Kilda Crisis Centre
- Women's Housing Limited
- Unison Community Housing

## Flat Out has access rights to transitional housing properties with the following agencies:

- Launch Housing
- Salvation Army, EastCare Housing Services
- Women's Housing Limited
- Unison Community Housing

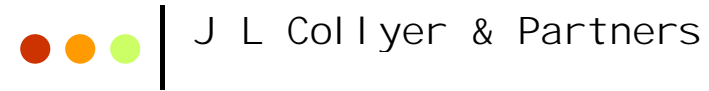




## Training and professional development undertaken by Flat Out

- Abolitionist Transformative Justice Centre launch
- Angela Davis public lecture, Melbourne University
- Centre for Excellence in Child & Family Welfare – Program Logic: Tools for Pre-evaluating Your Programs
- Certificate 4 in Hypnotherapy
- Corrections Victoria Stakeholders forum
- Dame Phyllis Frost Centre Women's Prison, Victoria (DPFC) Sisters Day In
- DPFC Orientation
- DPFC White Ribbon Day stall
- Delivered training to Salvation Army Social Housing Service (SASHS) Family Violence team re: criminalised women and family violence
- Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Critical Incident Report training
- DHHS Co-design workshop
- DHHS Incident Report training for Managers/Authorisers
- DHHS Bendigo Client Incident Management System information session
- Dr Erica Meiners, Rachel Herzing and Isaac Ontiveros – Organisers' Exchange Roundtable: Against Prisons, Policing and Detention
- Family Violence Prevention Legal Service (FVPLS) NAIDOC (National Aboriginal and Islander Day
- Observance Committee) morning tea and video launch of FVPLS
- FVPLS Family Violence awareness event
- Flemington Kensington News Annual General Meeting guest speakers
- Governance Essentials Training for NFPs
- Hyllus Maris Memorial Lecture – Latrobe University
- International Women's Day panel, Surf Coast March 2017
- Joint North & West – Local Area Services Network (LASN) forum – Mapping for reform
- Northern & Western LASN
- Western LASN
- Justice Symposium – Melbourne University
- Launch sites stakeholder workshop
- Melbourne Statewide Community Conversation – Creating a shared vision for a future family violence system
- Narrative Therapies – Vikki Reynolds
- North West Melbourne Primary Health Network (NWMPHN) forum
- Practitioners Transitions workshop
- Roundtable discussion, Canadian Senate, Canada
- Sisters Inside Conference - 'Is Prison Obsolete?'
- Smart Justice and Federation of Community Legal Centres (FCLC) symposium – Remaking Justice
- Turning Point – Legacies Unmarked workshop
- Victoria's solutions to addressing family violence
- Victorian Housing Register training
- Victorian Housing Register online form application training
- Victorian Managed Insurance Authority (VMIA) – Risk for Boards – Public Sector Agencies
- Women's Information Referral Exchange (WIRE) - Gender Kaleidoscope





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#### Directors

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

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF FLAT OUT INC.

### Opinion

We have audited the accompanying financial report, being a special purpose financial report, of FLAT OUT INC., which comprises the financial position as at 30th June 2017, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including summary of significant accounting policies and managements assertion statement.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of FLAT OUT INC. as at 30th June 2017, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012.

### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditors Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Entity in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### Emphasis of Matter-Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist FLAT OUT INC. to meet the requirements of Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

### Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the *applicable legislation* and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Entity's financial reporting process.

### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

**J. L. Collyer & Partners**  
Accountants

Lionel R. Arnold

Dated in Glen Waverley on  
10<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Partner

Liability limited by a scheme  
approved under Professional  
Standards Legislation.







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NO JUSTICE IN  
PRISON FOR  
ABORIGINAL  
WOMEN

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