

ECONOMIC JUSTICE AUSTRALIA

For a fair social security system

Annual Report

2023-24



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Economic Justice Australia and its staff live and work right across Australia. From coast to coast, we acknowledge that sovereignty of this country was never ceded. It always was, always is and always will be Aboriginal land.

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea, sky and community.

We pay our respect to Elders past and present, and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.

Australia has a long history of subjecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to controlling and punitive measures under the guise of social security. This continues today in the form of income management, cashless welfare cards, Centrelink rip-offs, unexplained debts and an overly correctional and complex employment services system.

This was true before the Voice referendum and remains true today.

Economic Justice Australia is a signatory of the community sector's Statement of Solidarity with First Nations Communities. We stand with the community sector and commit to:

- Solidarity and action with First Nations communities in their ongoing campaign for sovereignty and self-determination, including Voice, Treaty, and Truth-telling.
- Ensuring our own decision-making processes respect First Nations voices, leadership and right to self-determination.
- Developing partnership principles that ensure we are not competing with Aboriginal community-controlled organisations who are best placed to develop policy solutions and deliver services for their communities.



ABOUT ECONOMIC JUSTICE AUSTRALIA

Economic Justice Australia (EJA) is the peak organisation for community legal centres that provide specialist legal services for people about their social security issues and rights.

We work to achieve a fair social security system in Australia by:

- supporting member centres to deliver high-quality legal services for people who interact with the social security system to ensure they can navigate the system and have access to their entitlements
- driving changes to social security law, policy and administration to improve outcomes for people experiencing disadvantage
- providing expert advice to government on social security reform to make it more effective and accessible. Our recommendations are informed by the decades of frontline experience our members have.

Our law and policy reform work:

- strengthens the effectiveness and integrity of our social security system
- educates the community
- improves people's lives by reducing poverty and inequality.

Our work recognises the right to social security contained in article 9 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), to which Australia is a party.



OUR KEY VALUES

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are the traditional owners of the land. We respect Indigenous experience and cultures and will work with Indigenous people and organisations to overcome the systemic disadvantage faced by Indigenous people.

We recognise the inherent dignity, and equal and inalienable rights of all human beings.

We respect and value diversity and promote the need for a compassionate, fair and inclusive Australia.

We value the voices of the people we serve and will work to ensure that they are heard in our own organisations and by the wider society and government.

We represent the interests of disadvantaged people in Australia and fearlessly promote and defend those interests through evidence-based, non-party political advocacy.

We act with honesty, openness, integrity and impartiality.

OUR PEOPLE

SECRETARIAT



Kate Allingham
Chief Executive
Officer



Tori Edwards
Deputy Chief
Executive Officer



Sally Cameron
Senior Law Reform
Officer



Dr Simone Casey
Senior Policy
Officer



Veronica Williams
Senior Lawyer



Taylah Bell
Policy Officer



Lucia Mai
Project Officer

Outgoing



Linda Forbes
Senior Advisor



Terina Hegarty
Policy &
Communications
Officer



Pip Duncan
Manager of
Communications,
Engagement & Media



Amy Schneider
Law Reform
Officer



Sarah Sacher
Law Reform
Officer

OUR PEOPLE

BOARD



Genevieve Bolton OAM
Chair
(Executive Director/Principal
Solicitor, Canberra
Community Law)



Katherine Boyle
Deputy Chair
(CEO, Welfare Rights
Centre NSW)



Rhea Thomas
Secretary
(Solicitor, Welfare Rights &
Advocacy Service)



Kate Beaumont
Ordinary Board Member
(Executive Officer, Welfare
Rights & Advocacy Service)



Natalie Ross
Ordinary Board Member
(Principal Solicitor, Welfare
Rights Centre NSW)



Emma Cvitak
Ordinary Board Member
(Community Lawyer,
Barwon Community Legal
Service)



Mitra Khakbaz
Ordinary Board Member
(CEO, Gladstone Women's
Health Centre)

OUR PEOPLE

MEMBER CENTRES





MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

A highlight of the year was the first in-person EJA member conference in the post-COVID era. It was with much excitement that we all gathered in Meanjin Brisbane to connect with old friends and meet new

ones. Thank you to Sam Tracy for a most moving and powerful acknowledgment of Country and to our member centre, Basic Rights Queensland, for hosting the conference in partnership with EJA. The conference highlighted the important role EJA plays in supporting member centres. Thank you to all EJA staff for your work in putting together such a successful conference program, which delivered specialist social security training as well as opportunities to contribute to bigger picture issues.

On a policy front, EJA continued to advocate for the recommendations of the Robodebt Royal Commission to be implemented, including additional funding to member centres. It was pleasing to see that our advocacy led to the establishment of the Advocates Channel, which has resulted in many complex client matters being successfully resolved in a timely manner. EJA worked tirelessly with National Legal Aid to put forward the case for why a two-tier system of administrative review for social security matters should be retained in the new Administrative Review Tribunal (ART), which the Government ultimately accepted.

Welcome to new staff who joined us in the past year, and all the best to staff who moved on to pursue other opportunities. I would like to particularly acknowledge Linda Forbes (EJA Law Reform Director) who retired during the year. Linda has been an integral part of the Welfare Rights Movement for an extraordinary number of years. When I first joined the Welfare Rights movement in 1998, Linda was the Casework Co-ordinator for Welfare Rights Centre NSW. After a hiatus, she joined the EJA staff team in April 2020 – the most challenging time in our history, as we were dealing with the impacts of the pandemic and those unforgettable long queues outside Centrelink offices. Linda's expertise and ever-practical advice, her calm yet deeply passionate championing of long-term progressive social security change, will and have been missed. Everyone at EJA wishes Linda all the best in her retirement.

Thank you to Vice Chair Katherine Boyle for taking on many additional responsibilities (including chairing the members' meetings) and to all Board members for your hard work

and commitment to EJA during the year. Special thanks to Rhea Thomas and Kate Beaumont who are standing down from the Board at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). We wish Rhea all the very best as she and her family prepare for the arrival of their second child. It is hard to put into words the incredible contribution Kate Beaumont has made to EJA over many, many years. I would like to thank Kate for her willingness to take on the Chair role (not once but twice!) during some difficult times, and for the exceptional work she has done as EJA Treasurer since 2016. Thank you, Kate, for your dedication to EJA, your governance experience, and your deep knowledge of our movement and the community sector. You are a one in a million!

This is my last report as Chair and Member of the EJA Board. I joined the inaugural Board of what was then the National Welfare Rights Network more than 20 years ago, overseeing the organisation's transition to an incorporated association, and have been on the Board since then (give or take a few years). I have had the great honour of Chairing the Board since August 2016 and have had the very good fortune to work with Matthew Butt, Leanne Ho and current EJA CEO Kate Allingham. Under Kate's leadership I know that EJA will continue as a strong and highly effective national social security peak body for many years to come. Many thanks to the Commonwealth Government and our philanthropic funders for your financial support, which makes our work possible.

Thank you to all EJA staff and member centres for the magnificent work you do. The camaraderie and unity we share in advocating for a fair social security system makes EJA such a special organisation to be a part of.



Genevieve Bolton OAM

Chair, Economic Justice Australia



CEO REPORT

It has been a huge year at Economic Justice Australia.

Thanks to the generous ongoing support of the Paul Ramsay Foundation, Snow Foundation, the Department of Social Services, the Australian Community Foundation (including the Kapscalu Regenerative Fund) and the Shepherd Family Foundation, we have been able to establish a team of policy and legal experts whose passion and tenacity for a fair social security system inspires awe.

Increased capacity has enabled us to better support our member centres, who provide crucial assistance to thousands of vulnerable people struggling to navigate the complexities of our social security system. As well as supporting clients, our members are an integral check and balance on administrative social security decisions and continue to provide input and expertise to the policy work of EJA.

We continue to see social security legal services undervalued by Government and have been disappointed that Government has not yet adhered to Recommendation 12.4 of the Robodebt Royal Commission, which emphasised the importance of community legal centres' public interest role. However, even despite significant resourcing challenges, our members' experience and expertise has enabled the evidence-based advocacy that is so fundamental to EJA's achievements.

We started the year strongly, successfully retaining the two-tier system in the new Administrative Review Tribunal. Robust negotiations, in partnership with National Legal Aid, saw the Bill to establish the new Tribunal amended to include both the two-tier structure and the independent evaluation of the new model by the Administrative Review Council. These amendments ensure an accessible, timely and informal approach to social security appeals, which assist thousands of people to independently navigate the review of life-altering government decisions.



Photo: Kate Allingham at Parliament House, Canberra

The Advocates Channel, a direct line to Centrelink for EJA members' legal advocacy, has been a game-changer for our members and their clients. The Channel was piloted following a recommendation of the Robodebt Royal Commission and has not only improved positive client outcomes but significantly increased the speed with which complex cases can be resolved.

The groundwork has been laid for what we hope will be significant reform to Centrepay, a budgeting tool administered by Services Australia that has long been misused by businesses as a vehicle for economic abuse. Consultations with more than 100 community service providers have been completed, with our report and recommendations on the barriers to access for women in regional and remote Australia to follow. We have also continued our work on automation, drafting a series of briefings on the key issues and considerations that must be included in the rapid policy expansion and development of digitisation and use of automation in social security.

Our advocacy work on the implementation of recommendations from both the Robodebt Royal Commission and the Workforce Australia Inquiry has continued without relent. Significant changes are being made at a departmental level, but legislative reform is needed if we are to ensure Robodebt never happens again. Significant structural reform is also needed in employment services; we have made some headway in our advocacy for a fairer and more effective complaints system and to reduce punitive measures within the system.

This is the last time I will share the pages of this annual report with EJA Chair, Genevieve Bolton. Gen has been the Chair of EJA since 2016, and has been a tireless advocate for EJA and our vision for a fair social security system in Australia. I would like to sincerely thank Gen for the hundreds of volunteer hours she's dedicated to EJA, for the sage advice and expertise that has steered the organisation to where it is today, and for all the support she has provided to me in my first year as CEO.



Kate Allingham

CEO, Economic Justice Australia

OUR IMPACT

13 policy submissions

13 mentions/quotes in news articles

4 appearances before parliamentary committees

6 average number of days to finalise enquiries through Advocates Channel

1,532

enquiries received through the Advocates Channel

1,466

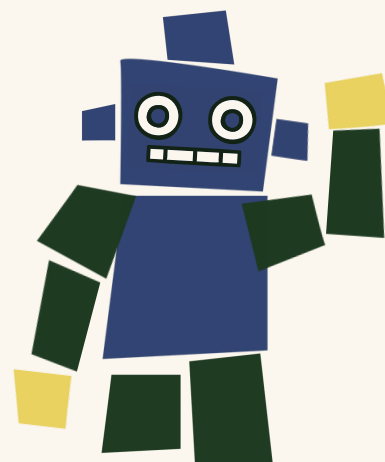
enquiries *resolved* through the Advocates Channel



POLICY PRIORITY AREAS

Automation in Social Security

Digitisation is reshaping the social security system, affecting both its administration and the ways in which people access Centrelink payments. Strategising means to ensure fairness and universality of access to social security in Australia formed a key part of our advocacy agenda in 2023-24.



Automation Project

The shift to online services is underpinned by the assumption people have access to the internet, an email address they can regularly check, and access to myGov via a smart phone or computer. It also assumes people trust digital systems and know how to engage with them.

Given two-thirds of those surveyed as part of the 2023 Digital Inclusion Index experienced some form of digital exclusion, we understand this shift has precluded access to critical services for many social security recipients. Our ongoing Automation Project has involved extensive research and dozens of interviews with frontline services, with the aim of ensuring no one gets left behind in social services' shift to automation and digitisation.

Since we began the research project on automation in social security, Services Australia's approach to engagement with stakeholders has improved. The project has also contributed to the maturation of EJA as a respected and credible voice on automation in social security.



Case Study

One community had one phone and one computer. The phone was down for a week and the computer was down for 12 months with no one who could fix it. They couldn't do things to notify Centrelink, couldn't use income management to buy food. It is hard for Centrelink offices or people in major cities to understand this. (Automation Project Interview 21)

Centrelink post-Robodebt

On 7 July 2023 the Robodebt Royal Commission handed down its findings into the unlawful debt recovery scheme, which included 57 recommendations aimed at preventing anything like this from happening again, and for the improvement of Centrelink Services. This represented an incredibly busy period for EJA, during which we were all hands on deck to ensure retroactive and continuing justice.

EJA official response

In October 2023 EJA delivered an official response to the Robodebt Royal Commission, highlighting which of the recommendations we supported and why, and noting where legislative change would be required in order to implement recommendations effectively. At the time we anticipated there would be a legislative agenda following the Royal Commission, with a Robodebt Bill or similar, that would include a number of key changes.



As the year continued it became clear the government's response would be less centralised, and so we decided to develop our own legislative agenda to cover a number of core themes:

- Strengthening and enforcing a duty on government to design and deliver services with an emphasis on the needs of the people they're meant to serve.
- Increasing the rate of social security payments to adequate levels, to reduce poverty and lessen the impact the system itself has on recipients engaging with it.
- Providing safeguards for the use of automated decision-making.
- Making debt recovery fairer through the reinstatement of the limitation period and the restructuring of waiver provisions to make them more accessible.

This work continues into next year, during which we will continue to push hard for these changes.

Income apportionment

Income Apportionment was a method of applying income from work to a Centrelink fortnight where the two pay periods didn't align well. It was in use until the law changed in December 2020, though has since been found to have been based on an unlawful interpretation of the legislation. Unfortunately, the correct interpretation of the law was unclear, and these debts remained unactionable throughout most of last year. Consulting with Services Australia and DSS about how to handle this situation has been a focus for EJA.

Throughout this saga we've been pushing for a blanket waiver of impacted debts, or an agreement for them not to be recovered. We believe this is the fairest outcome for the people impacted by these debts, particularly as many of the debts were also impacted by Robodebt, by data matching with the ATO, or by other similar issues. We will continue to push for this into the new year.

EJA has also been advocating for fairness in how these debts are further actioned, particularly in how communications are sent to recipients and what information is being sought. If the debts cannot be waived as a class, we're aiming to make this process as fair for our members' clients as we can.

A test case was heard at the Administrative Appeals Tribunal towards the end of 2023-24, during which the interpretation was adjudicated. The complexity of this interpretation, in combination with the further appeal of this test case, means we anticipate this issue being on our advocacy agenda for a significant time to come.



Case Study

We are having issues with the delays caused by the pause of income apportionment debts, and particularly reviews of those debts. We've tried advocating in individual cases to have them dealt with despite the freeze where we feel there are strong arguments in favour of waiver, but they will not budge.

One particular case concerns a woman who was impacted by family violence during Covid. She has compelling special circumstances and it's a relatively low debt so we feel she has strong prospects for a special [circumstances] waiver at the AAT.

Having the debt hanging over her life, even though it is currently on hold and not payable, continues to tie her to the period of trauma. We are also unable to commit to represent her in the future as we don't ever know what our service capacity will look like for social security matters. We can run this case now and she should be entitled to the review now.

Disability Support Pension

In 2022-23 we saw perhaps the most significant change to the Disability Support Pension (DSP) in the last decade, with the introduction of the new Impairment Tables and with substantial changes being made to the language used in the eligibility criteria. A person can now claim DSP where their condition is diagnosed, reasonably treated and stabilised, without the qualifier of “fully”.



Our advocacy on the DSP continued in 2023-24, with a focus on assessing the effectiveness of these changes, as well as continuing to push for the abolition of the Program of Support requirement and a reintroduction of the “Treating Doctor Report” (or another similar document for giving medical evidence). We are not able to report such a significant change this year, but we are hopeful for the future.

Having said that, one major win in this area over the past year was a further update of the DSP rejection letters, based on our advice and consultation. As of March 2024, there are several different letters given to people who are not successful in claiming the DSP, including detail as to why they’ve fallen short of the criteria. For example, where someone is found to have not met the criteria for diagnosed, reasonably treated and stabilised, they’ll be told this in the letter. Our members report this is already helping clients understand Centrelink’s decisions better, as well as helping members themselves to give better legal advice.

Disaster Response



Disasters and the ways in which Services Australia responds to them continue to be a focus of our advocacy. Our consultations during the past year have been particularly successful, and we have managed to get changes to the policy in the Social Security Guide.

There is now clarity around how a natural disaster impacts decisions about whether someone is coupled, and decision-makers are now guided away from the idea that moving back in with an ex-partner automatically means a rekindling of the relationship. We would like to give special thanks to Social Security Rights Victoria. Their ongoing work in this space has been immensely valuable and has guided our own advocacy work. We are incredibly grateful to be able to work with members so closely on issues such as this.

Family and domestic violence

During 2023-24 we made sustained efforts to improve the social security system's capacity to respond to people experiencing or escaping family and domestic violence (FADV), with advocacy efforts that included multiple submissions to inquiries, direct communication with the Ministers responsible, and increased engagement with the women's sector and others who provide direct services to victim-survivors of FADV.



Photo: Sally Cameron meeting with Gladstone Women's Health Centre staff about their valuable work assisting women who've experienced FADV

Some of our asks have involved legislative reform. For example, we have strongly advocated for changes to Crisis Payment criteria, which remains dangerously narrow and profoundly out of touch with the reality of flux and trauma. The current, unreasonable criteria prevents vulnerable people – who are often in danger – from accessing critical help.

Another of our legislative reform asks relates to debts incurred as a result of FADV. A social security debt can be waived where there is evidence of 'special circumstances' that make it unfair or unduly harsh for the person to repay the debt, but this does not currently apply where a person knowingly made a false or misleading statement, including under coercion from a violent partner. Additionally, the special circumstances debt waiver does not apply where a perpetrator has lied to Services Australia but payment has been made to the victim-survivor, leaving the victim-survivor liable to repay the debt.

The realities of FADV, particularly coercive control and financial abuse, were not within the purview of Parliament when special circumstances waiver provisions were introduced. We've pushed for the Commonwealth to bring legislation up to date with the significant work that has been done to recognise financial abuse and coercive control.

EJA has continued to regularly communicate with Services Australia about improving service provision to people fleeing FADV. We have continued to call for increased assistance where people lack proof of identity documents, increase empathy and responsiveness training for frontline staff, increase social worker services, improve telephone access, and for the redesign of Centrelink offices to make them more conducive to disclosure of FADV.

We are optimistic that the substantial groundwork laid over this past year will result in significant changes in the year ahead.

Case Study

Hana has recently separated from her financially abusive ex-partner, Silo. They had lived together for five years. After they started dating, Hana fell pregnant quite quickly. From the day he moved in, he refused to provide any financial support for her and her child.



When she updated Centrelink about the birth of her child she asked Silo again to let her update her living arrangements. He refused, telling her that if Centrelink found out she would be in trouble and charged with fraud as by then she had been on the wrong payment for 18 months. She kept hoping he'd change his mind and they could really live together as a couple.

Silo bought a property in his name only, telling her he could not borrow much if the bank knew he had a partner and children, and that the property was his. Towards the last 12 months of their relationship, he became physically violent, and Hana left.

Hana approached our member centre asking what she could do. Whilst hopeful the debt could be set aside under section 24 of the Social Security Act, our member centre remained concerned that Hana may be unsuccessful and seeks assurance that debt waiver could be an option.

Other Advocacy Priority Areas

4R Women's Project

The aim of our Women's Project is to enact meaningful reform in our social security system for women in regional, rural, remote, and very remote Australia. The project identifies structural and service delivery barriers faced by women in these areas when accessing and maintaining their full social security entitlements, and advocates for evidence-based recommendations for reform.

More than 100 service providers from a large cross-section of the community were interviewed, ranging from family and domestic violence (FADV) services, community health organisations, migrant women's services, disability organisations, Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and financial counselling services. We would like to thank our member centres who have carried out some interviews on our behalf, linked us into their network and supported this research with enthusiasm.

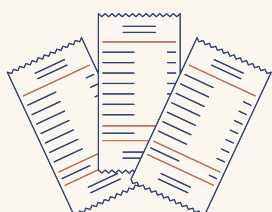


Photo: Taylah Bell with Central Australian Women's Legal Service and Anyinginyi Health

Our research findings and reform recommendations have already informed our ongoing advocacy, including through research presented to Parliamentary committees, policy briefs developed for key decision-makers, letters to key members of Parliament, submission to government inquiries, and workshops facilitated for Services Australia on critical issues such as FADV. Three distinct reports will also be produced off the back of the extensive research undertaken during 2023–24.

Through the dedication of our team, our members and the voices of women across regional, rural, remote and very remote Australia, we are not just documenting challenges – we are paving the way for meaningful change in our social security system.

Centrepay Reform



Centrepay was set up for people on Centrelink to pay for essentials, but due to years of Government inaction it has been used by some unscrupulous businesses to rip people off who are already living below the poverty line.

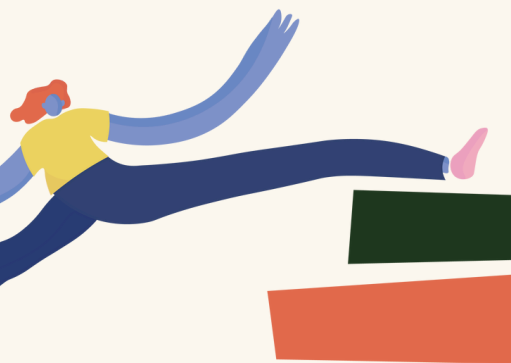
In collaboration with other key consumer advocates, EJA has been instrumental in driving the Centrepay reform agenda. As a key member of the Centrepay Reform Peak Advisory Reference Group, EJA has met fortnightly with Services Australia to ensure issues with the current program are adequately understood, and solutions and timeframes for genuine reform are progressed.

Key to reform is Services Australia taking a proactive approach to compliance, adequately addressing complaints and scrutinising businesses that sign up to Centrepay. The onus to proactively retrieve overpayments on behalf of Centrepay users, and to remove businesses that do the wrong thing, must be placed back on Services Australia.

Problematic business categories need to be removed, a specific complaints line established and a proactive approach taken to ensure people understand their deductions and are not being exploited.

EJA is cautiously optimistic these reforms will be implemented in the next (2024-25) financial year, due to the work we have done in this one.

Employment Services and Mutual Obligations



Our ability to provide expert commentary on employment services and mutual obligation was strengthened in 2023-2024, in that we are now able to directly advocate for improvements to the way social security decisions and mutual obligation requirements are administered.

We have corresponded with the Minister for Employment, the Deputy Secretary to raise our concerns about payment suspensions and related matters. We responded to the Workforce Australia inquiry report published on 30 November with a media release that expressed concern about the limited progress on fundamental reforms that are needed.

Administrative Review Tribunal

EJA and our member centres were deeply concerned by the one-tier model proposed in the original Administrative Review Tribunal (ART) Bill introduced to Parliament in December 2023. Due to the strong advocacy of EJA, in collaboration with National Legal Aid, the two-tier structure for social security and family assistance child support matters was retained.

The loss of the two-tier structure would have made administrative review less accessible, giving people only one chance at appeal. It would have been much harder for people without legal representation, exposing people to unjust outcomes for life-altering decisions. We are pleased the Attorney-General listened to our concerns and made amendments to retain a two-tier structure that provides an accessible, quick and informal approach to social security appeals.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Advocates Channel

On 15 November 2023, Services Australia commenced an Advocates Channel pilot in partnership with EJA. This was in response to Recommendation 12.1 of the Robodebt Royal Commission, which asked Services Australia to improve communications channels for advocates. The Advocates Channel facilitates conversation between social security experts in our members centres and Services Australia. This expertise means complex issues can be resolved quickly and efficiently with fair and just outcomes for clients.

Prior to the implementation of the Advocates Channel, member centres struggled to get through to Centrelink, and when they did get through the complexity of the matter was often beyond the customer service officer with whom they engaged. This had very real implications for the livelihoods of clients who had already reached crisis point. The pilot has been very successful, with excellent outcomes for clients. We hope to see the pilot implemented permanently.



Photo: Kirsty Sier, Genevieve Bolton, Kate Allingham, Bill Shorten, Katherine Boyle and James Farrell (Basic Rights Queensland) meeting in Canberra to discuss the Advocates Channel and need for social security legal funding stream

Biannual Delegations



Photo: Sally Cameron and Kate Allingham in Canberra for the April 2024 biannual meetings

We continued our biannual meetings with senior officials from the Department of Social Services and Services Australia, with delegations sent in both December 2023 and April 2024. These comprehensive meetings complement the ongoing communication between EJA and these agencies, and provide a critical platform for our advocacy.

This year's biannual meetings included discussion around progress of the Robodebt Royal Commission recommendations, income apportionment, improvements to social security debt letters and Disability Support Pension eligibility letters, support for people who have for people who have

who have experienced family and domestic violence, and work to ensure social security is accessible during natural disasters and other crises.

Our delegations included EJA staff and representatives from affiliated centres. The involvement of member centre representatives again proved critical, especially considering the firsthand accounts and insights from frontline casework they were able to directly share with government policymakers.

We'd like to thank Gillian Wilks and Laura Jordan from Social Security Rights Victoria, and Natalie Ross from Welfare Rights Centre (who also serves on the EJA Board) for bringing their grassroots experience into these high-level meetings, furthering our advocacy for systemic change.



STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

Our outward-facing media and communications in 2023-24 reflected the breadth of our advocacy agenda on behalf of our members. As the final report from the Robodebt Royal Commission was tabled in Parliament, EJA fronted several media stories to advocate for necessary and far-reaching reform, and for justice for the hundreds of thousands of people who fell prey to the illegal and aggressive Government scheme.

Alongside our member centres, we also spoke to the media regarding other social security policies causing harm, including Centrepay, JobSeeker, crisis payment criteria for women escaping family and domestic violence, onerous mutual obligations requirements and systemic administrative failures elsewhere.

13 media mentions

6 media releases

41 retweets on our most popular Twitter/X post

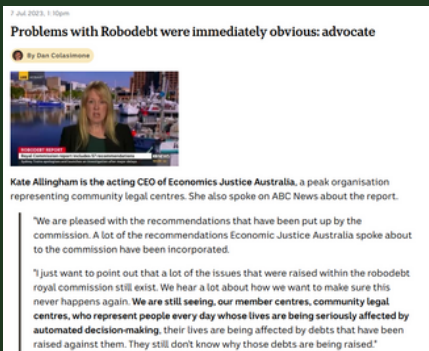
1,414

impressions on our most popular LinkedIn post

59,991

total impressions on Twitter/X

Economic Justice Australia in the media...



Economic Justice Australia wants the claim period for a crisis payment for victim-survivors to be extended to two weeks, calling seven days "a poor fit for people who have experienced a traumatic event".

It also wants eligibility expanded as well as debt waivers for costs incurred fleeing domestic violence.

"Sadly, safety often equals poverty for women in Australia," CEO Kate Allingham said.



Kate Allingham, the chief executive of Economic Justice Australia, said the automation of letters to Eve's bank and council had caused distress.

"In this nightmarish case, the consequences of automation were devastating and profound," Allingham said.

"This woman's payments were stopped, her bank account frozen and funds withdrawn. She could not access her money to buy food or medicine. It took months and the intervention of a lawyer for Centrelink to resolve."

"Robodebt is gone, but the ongoing and unchecked use of automation in government services continues to hurt people."

"Robodebt demonstrated that Centrelink's decisions and actions can ruin people's lives. As the agency moves to introduce safeguards, it's imperative that people and the complexity of their lives are not lost in a digital one-size-fits-all automated system."

Economic Justice Australia is now researching automation at Centrelink and will make recommendations to the government about how it can be used safely, transparently and responsibly, Allingham said.

"There should always be human oversight of automation at Centrelink," she said.



Kate Allingham, the chief executive of Economic Justice Australia, said the changes flagged in the budget were "good steps that will help reduce some of the harms of employment services that fail to consider individual circumstances" but fell short of the "major systemic reform" recommended by the inquiry.

The extension of the grace period for a missed appointment "hopefully will get some people off the torturous merry-go-round of payment suspensions", Allingham said. "However, the effect that the threat of payment suspension has on people's wellbeing remains."

While the removal of the time limit on medical exemptions would be "a relief for thousands of people who are in employment services with long-term health issues and disabilities", Allingham warned that it would need to be handled carefully to avoid diverting or delaying eligible people from accessing the disability support pension.

Photos (L-R): screenshot, 'Problems with Robodebt were immediately obvious: advocate' (ABC News, 7 Jul 2023); Kate Allingham on a panel at 2023 ALP National Conference Fringe; screenshot, 'Centrelink mutual obligations: budget changes tipped to prevent 1m jobseeker suspensions a year' (The Guardian, 16 May 2024); screenshot, 'Domestic violence top of national cabinet agenda' (inDaily, 1 May 2024); Dr Simone Casey on a panel at Infocchange's Technology for Social Justice conference; Linda Forbes with fellow panel members from PIAC Homeless Persons Legal Centre and Legal Aid NSW; screenshot, 'You are deceased': Services Australia bungle results in woman losing bank accounts and pension' (The Guardian, 22 Dec 2023); Sarah Sacher speaking at 'After Robodebt' ADM+S Symposium; screenshot, 'A scheme meant to help people avoid debt is now causing it - Centrepay needs urgent repair' article by Kate Allingham (The Guardian, 4 Apr 2024); screenshot, 'Jobseekers say Australia's employment system forcing them into jobs with 'terrible hours, conditions and pay'' (The Guardian, 26 Dec 2023); screenshot, 'Centrelink mutual obligations: budget changes tipped to prevent 1m jobseeker suspensions a year' (The Guardian, 16 May 2024)

2023 Australian Human Rights Awards Finalist



Photo: Kate Allingham and Tori Edwards at the 2023 Australian Human Rights Awards

In December, Economic Justice Australia was selected by the Australian Human Rights Commission as a finalist in the 2023 Australian Human Rights Awards.

At their core, human rights are about being treated fairly, treating others fairly and having sufficient autonomy to make choices about our lives. It is also the case that human rights are often most obvious when they are not being upheld. This plays out every day in Australia's social security system, which strips autonomy and basic dignity from its recipients in many ways.

EJA members provide social security advice and advocacy to those who are not being treated fairly and who have had their choices taken away; the essential social justice role intrinsic to this work was recognised in the recommendations of the Robodebt Royal Commission. It is this work done by our members that is the lifeblood of EJA. This is the firsthand experience and expertise that informs our advocacy to Government for a fairer social security system, paying especial regard to Australia's obligations under an international human rights framework.

It was an honour to be nominated – and to be selected as a finalist – for the Australian Human Rights Award. Thank you to the Australian Human Rights Commission for shining a light on the inspiring work happening around Australia defending human rights. A huge thanks to EJA's funders, including Paul Ramsay Foundation, Snow Foundation, Mannifera, Thyne Reid Foundation, Australian Communities Foundation, Shepherd Family Foundation and Kapscalu Regenerative Fund and all our individual donors, as well as the Department of Social Services. And a heartfelt congratulations to our member centres, whose work is reflected in and inextricable from this nomination.

MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

2023 Membership Survey

In March, we surveyed our members on EJA's advocacy, communications and engagement. The survey was completed by 22 member centres and the results were positive overall, with useful suggestions for improving the monthly members' meetings and a clear interest in more workshops and membership collaboration. As a result of this feedback, a number of changes have been implemented including a monthly newsletter and new format for members' meetings.

90%

respondents were either very satisfied or satisfied with EJA's advocacy

95%

respondents were either very satisfied or satisfied with EJA's communication to members

86%

respondents were either very satisfied or satisfied with EJA's member engagement

81%

respondents were either very satisfied or satisfied with EJA's support in facilitating information exchange with DSS

76%

respondents agreed that EJA provides a straightforward path to raise policy issues

2024 Members Conference

On 7-8 May 2024, we held our members' conference in Meanjin, Brisbane with Basic Rights Queensland as co-hosts and venue sponsorship by Hopgood Ganim. In order to facilitate member engagement, registrations were completely free, and we provided travel grants to a number of attendees. The sessions covered a variety of topics that allowed multiple centres to discuss findings from their casework, including: outreach, approaches to Special Circumstances arguments, helping clients navigate self-incrimination and exposure to prosecution, and expanding social security support beyond specialist CLCs.

The post-conference feedback was very positive and highlighted the importance of EJA's role in providing spaces and opportunities for members to share their knowledge.

From the 2024 Members Conference...



Photos (clockwise from top left): Kate Allingham delivering conference welcome; Linda Forbes presenting on DSP impairment tables; Sam Tracy and Jack Margaritis (Basic Rights Queensland) presenting a case study on casework outreach; group photo of conference attendees; Laura Jordan (Social Security Rights Victoria), Natalie Ross (Welfare Rights Centre) and Catherine Eagle (Welfare Rights & Advocacy Service) panel on Special Circumstances arguments

THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS

Economic Justice Australia's core funding is from a Department of Social Services grant agreement. We appreciate the Department's ongoing support and engagement.

Our huge thanks to Paul Ramsay Foundation, Snow Foundation, the Australian Community Foundation (including the Kapscalu Regenerative Fund) and the Shepherd Family Foundation for their generous and impactful support.

paulramsay
FOUNDATION

Snow
Foundation



**AUSTRALIAN
COMMUNITIES
FOUNDATION**

Our thanks to Wotton + Kearney, HWL Ebsworth and Clayton Utz for their generous pro bono contributions and support for EJA throughout the year.

HWL
EBSWORTH
LAWYERS

**wotton
kearney** |
A founding member of **LEGALIGN
GLOBAL**

CLAYTON UTZ

In April and May, we worked with the University of Queensland's UQ Pro Bono Centre as part of the 4R Women's Project. Thank you to Chloe Ryan and Tamara Walsh at the UQ Pro Bono Centre for your support of our work. An even bigger thank you to UQ law students Aditi Kataria, Claire Reid, Ingrid Meiklejohn, Macy Quinn, Myles Bowes McKee, and Vicki Jaques who worked with Taylah to transcribe and edit many interview transcripts.



Photo: Macy Quinn, Claire Reid, Taylah Bell, Kate Moulds, Hayley Tolano and Myles Bowes McKee

Thank you also to law student volunteers Kate Moulds and Hayley Tolano who provided invaluable assistance to the 4R Womens Project by carrying out research and transcription tasks.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE AUSTRALIA INC
A.B.N. 13 789 701 090

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2024

	NOTE	2024	2023
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	2	1,233,150	734,043
Prepayments/refund		9,274	6,952
Security Deposit (Bond)		-	2,750
Total Current Assets		<u>1,242,424</u>	<u>743,745</u>
Non-Current Assets			
Property Plant & Equipment	3	17,997	25,310
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>17,997</u>	<u>25,310</u>
Total Assets		<u>1,260,421</u>	<u>769,055</u>
Current Liabilities			
Trade and Other Payables	4	34,531	25,838
Provisions for Employee Benefits	5	49,699	33,501
Unexpended Grants	6	-	235,925
Grant Received in Advance	7	963,418	290,359
Total Current Liabilities		<u>1,047,648</u>	<u>585,623</u>
Non Current Liabilities			
Provisions for Employee Benefits	5	4,325	7,570
Total Non-Current Liabilities		<u>4,325</u>	<u>7,570</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>1,051,973</u>	<u>593,193</u>
Net Assets		<u>208,448</u>	<u>175,862</u>
Equity			
Retained Surpluses	8	208,448	175,862
Total Equity		<u>208,448</u>	<u>175,862</u>

ECONOMIC JUSTICE AUSTRALIA INC
A.B.N. 13 789 701 090

CASH FLOW STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	NOTE	2024	2023
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Receipts from government grants		501,747	271,109
Receipts from other organisations		898,000	668,785
Receipts from members and other income		25,310	113,810
Interest received from investments		16,385	1,039
Payments to suppliers of goods and services		(253,807)	(109,801)
Payments for wages and labour cost reimbursements		(687,611)	(309,201)
		<u>500,024</u>	<u>635,741</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Proceeds from sale of plant and equipment		150	-
Purchase of plant and equipment		(1,067)	(23,209)
		<u>(917)</u>	<u>(23,209)</u>
NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH HELD			
Cash at Beginning of the year		<u>734,043</u>	<u>121,511</u>
Cash at end of the year	2	<u><u>1,233,150</u></u>	<u><u>734,043</u></u>

CASH FLOW INFORMATION

Reconciliation of Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities to Operating Result

Operating surplus	32,586	96,764
Add Back		
Depreciation	7,728	2,201
Loss/(profit) on Sale of Asset	502	-
Changes in Assets and Liabilities		
Decreases/(increases) in receivable & prepaid expenses	(2,322)	(1,722)
Decreases/(increases) in security deposit (bond)	2,750	-
Increases/(decrease) in creditors	10,614	24,812
Increases/(decrease) unspended grants and grant in advance	437,134	526,284
Increase/(decrease) provision for employee benefits	12,953	(8,592)
Increases/(decrease) in GST payable	(1,921)	(4,006)
	<u>500,024</u>	<u>635,741</u>
Net Cash provided by operating activities		

ECONOMIC JUSTICE AUSTRALIA INC
A.B.N. 13 789 701 090

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1991. The board has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

a. Income Tax

No provision for income tax has been raised as the entity is exempt from income tax under the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

b. Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

Leasehold improvements and office equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all PPE is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Leasehold improvements are amortised over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

c. Impairment of Assets

At the end of each reporting period, the board reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible fixed assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell, and value in use, the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognised in the income and expenditure statement.

d. Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of twelve months or less.

e. Accounts Receivable and Other Debtors

Accounts receivable and other debtors include amounts due from members as well as amounts receivable from donors. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE AUSTRALIA INC
A.B.N. 13 789 701 090

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

NOTE 1: SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Con't)

f. Revenue and Other Income

Where grants are received with conditions attached, recognition of the grant as revenue is deferred until those conditions are satisfied. This amount is shown as Unexpended Grant under Liabilities in the Statement of Financial Position.

Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method.

All Revenue is stated net of the amount of GST.

g. Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

h. Accounts Payable and Other Payables

Accounts payable and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the association during the reporting period that remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

i. Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Employee benefits include annual leave, and long service leave.

j. Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured. Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period.

ECONOMIC JUSTICE AUSTRALIA INC**A.B.N. 13 789 701 090**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	2024	2023
NOTE 2 - CASH ASSETS		
Bendigo Bank Account 143872703	560,278	151,995
Bendigo CMT Bills Account	18,323	11,144
ME Online Saver	354,245	270,904
ME Term Deposit	300,000	300,000
PayPal Bank Account	304	-
	<u>1,233,150</u>	<u>734,043</u>
NOTE 3 - PROPERTY PLANT & EQUIPMENT		
Office Furniture & Equipment	33,312	34,904
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(15,315)	(9,594)
	<u>17,997</u>	<u>25,310</u>
NOTE 4 - TRADE & OTHER PAYABLES		
Current		
Corporate Credit Card	170	2,063
GST payable/(refundable)	(6,886)	(4,965)
PAYG Accrued	12,406	25,440
Superannuation Accrued	6,066	-
Accrued expenses	17,575	-
Audit Provision	5,200	3,300
	<u>34,531</u>	<u>25,838</u>
NOTE 5 - PROVISIONS FOR EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		
Current Liability		
Annual Leave	<u>49,699</u>	<u>33,501</u>
Non Current Liability		
Long Service Leave	<u>4,325</u>	<u>7,570</u>
NOTE 6 - UNEXPENDED GRANTS		
Paul Ramsay Foundation	-	90,886
Snow Foundation	-	145,039
	<u>-</u>	<u>235,925</u>
NOTE 7 - GRANT RECEIVED IN ADVANCE		
Paul Ramsay Foundation	861,003	290,350
Snow Foundation	102,415	-
	<u>963,418</u>	<u>290,350</u>

ECONOMIC JUSTICE AUSTRALIA INC**A.B.N. 13 789 701 090**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

	2024	2023
NOTE 8 - RETAINED SURPLUSES		
Retained surpluses/(Accumulated deficits)		
At the beginning of the Financial Year	175,862	79,098
Total Operating Surplus & Deficit & Comprehensive Income	<u>32,586</u>	<u>96,764</u>
Retained surpluses/(Accumulated deficits)At the end of the Financial Year	<u>208,448</u>	<u>175,862</u>

NOTE 9 - GRANTS INCOME

Government Grants		
DSS Grant	<u>501,747</u>	<u>271,109</u>
	<u>501,747</u>	<u>271,109</u>
Grants From Other Organisations		
Grant Received for the year		
Paul Ramsay Foundation	250,242	182,426
Snow Foundation	208,624	166,000
Thyne Reid Foundation	-	30,000
Others	<u>2,000</u>	<u>-</u>
	460,866	378,426
Unexpended Grants for the year	6 <u>-</u>	<u>(235,925)</u>
Net Grants Income from Other Organisations	<u>460,866</u>	<u>142,501</u>

NOTE 10: KEY MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL REMUNERATION**- Key Management Personnel**

Any person(s) having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Association, directly or indirectly, including its committee members, is considered key management

Total Key Management Personnel Remuneration	<u>207,076</u>	<u>139,750</u>
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Associations Incorporation Act 1991

ANNUAL STATEMENTS GIVE TRUE AND FAIR VIEW OF FINANCIAL POSITION AND PERFORMANCE OF INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION

We, Genevieve Bolton,
and Katherine Boyle,
being directors of the board of Economic Justice Australia Inc, certify that –

The statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of Economic Justice Australia Inc during and at the end of the financial year of the association ending on 30 June 2024.

Signed: G. Bolton
Dated: 5/11/2024

Signed: Katherine Boyle
Dated: 5/11/2024

ECONOMIC JUSTICE AUSTRALIA INC
A.B.N. 13 789 701 090
CERTIFICATE BY DIRECTORS OF THE BOARD

I, Katherine Boyle of _____, certify
that:

- a. I attended the general meeting of the association held on
12 November 2024.
- b. The financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024 were submitted to the members of
the association at its general meeting.

Dated : 13 November 2024

Katherine Boyle

.....
Director

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION
UNDER DIVISION 60-40 OF
THE AUSTRALIAN CHARITIES AND NOT-FOR-PROFIT COMMISSION ACT 2012
TO MEMBERS OF
ECONOMIC JUSTICE AUSTRALIA INC

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 there have been no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audits of the above named entity.



Geoffrey B Johnson
Chartered Accountant
RCR Audit & Assurance Pty Ltd
Doncaster East VIC

Dated : 6th November 2024

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ECONOMIC JUSTICE AUSTRALIA INC

Opinion

I have audited the accompanying financial report, of Economic Justic Australia Inc., which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, statement of changes in equity, statement of cash flows and the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and the certification by members of the committee.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial report of Economic Justic Australia Inc. has been prepared in accordance with Div 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act) including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of the Association's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- b) complies with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 to the financial statements, and the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1991 and Div 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for profits Commission Regulation 2022.

Basis for Opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of my report. I am independent of the association in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 1991 and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to my audit of the financial report in Australia. I have also fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

Emphasis of Matter - *Basis of Accounting*

I draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the association's reporting responsibilities under the Associations Incorporation Act 1991 and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibility of the Committee for the Financial Report

The committee of the association are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 of the financial report is appropriate to meet the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act 1991 and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the needs of the members. The committee's responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the committee are responsible for assessing the association'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 the committee either intend to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF ECONOMIC JUSTICE AUSTRALIA INC

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report

My 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 my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with 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 the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the committee.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of responsible entities' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the association's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions that may cause the Association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.



**Geoffrey B Johnson FCA
of RCR Audit & Assurance Pty Ltd**

Doncaster East, Victoria

Dated this 6th day of November 2024

ECONOMIC JUSTICE AUSTRALIA INC

A.B.N. 13 789 701 090

Australian Government Department of Social Services Grant

Financial statement for the year ended 30 June 2024

	\$	\$
Grants Received		501,747
Expense		
Accounting/Bookkeeping Expense	25,891	
Advertising	643	
Annual Leave Expense	12,120	
Audit Fee	6,890	
Bank Charges	270	
Cleaning	2,783	
Computer Expenses	24,675	
Conference & Forum Fees	2,648	
Credit Card Fee	79	
Depreciation Expense	3,864	
EJA Conference Expense	7,874	
Insurance Expenses	7,731	
Long Service Leave Expense	(1,353)	
Meals and Meal Allowance	1,277	
MYOB Subscription	1,246	
Office Expenses	2,485	
Postage	432	
Printing & Stationery	52	
Profit/(Loss) on Sale of Asset	251	
Rent	19,388	
Research	3,367	
Staff Traing/Education	635	
Subscriptions & Publications	1,691	
Superannuation	32,178	
Telephone Expenses	104	
Travelling Expense	46,201	
Wages & Salaries	293,156	
Website	1,130	
Workers Compensation	4,038	
Total Expense		<u>501,747</u>
Net Surplus/(Deficit)		<u>-</u>

This Statement has been prepared from and is in accordance with the books and the records of Economic Justice Australia Inc. In my opinion the Financial Statement is drawn up so as to exhibit a true and fair view of the transactions for the year ended 30 June 2024.



Geoffrey B Johnson
Chartered Accountant

Dated at Doncaster East 6th November 2024

