

# In Kind

## Sparke Helmore's social sustainability report FY2023/2024

### Our impact

Our focus is to partner with First Nations communities, charities, community legal centres, and not-for-profits to enhance access to justice for individuals experiencing disadvantage. We had our strongest year to date, completing over 17,500 hours of pro bono legal assistance, with an average of 40.1 hours per FTE lawyer.

This year, we launched a fortnightly evening advice clinic in partnership with Goldfields Community Legal Centre. Our lawyers, with support from our non-legal staff, provide free legal assistance on workplace and general law matters for individuals in remote WA.

We assisted Marrickville Legal Centre (MLC) with several legal clinics, including its Food Pantry Legal Clinic which was set up in response to the cost-of-living crisis. We continued to partner with MLC on the Low Bono Legal Service, which has assisted NSW workers to recover millions.

We held Wills Workshops for First Nations clients in NSW and WA, aimed at increasing Will-making and reducing burial disputes within the community by preparing Wills, Power of Attorney, and Enduring Guardian documents. We hosted a similar workshop for women experiencing and at risk of homelessness at a Sydney-based crisis and rehabilitation centre.

**We won't stop there—our aim for FY24/25 is BIG—over 18,000 hours!**

### Our pro bono work

An overview of our achievements.

17,599.6

pro bono  
hours  
completed

40.1

average pro bono  
hours per full-time  
equivalent lawyer

3,354

hours spent on  
secondments to  
community legal  
centres and pro bono  
clearing houses

1,557

hours spent by lawyers  
volunteering at  
community advice  
clinics and self-  
representation services

71%

hours worked  
for individuals  
experiencing  
disadvantage  
or whose matter  
raised an issue  
of public interest

29%

hours worked for  
eligible charities  
and not-for-profit  
organisations

67%

of our lawyers  
participated in  
pro bono legal  
work

Our Pro Bono Practice was recognised as a finalist in the Pro Bono Program of the Year category and Madison Williams was recognised as a finalist in the Rising Star of the Year category at the Lawyers Weekly 2024 Australian Law Awards

Madison Williams was recognised as a finalist in the 2024 Lawyers Weekly 30 Under 30 Awards in the category of Pro Bono/Community Lawyer



### In the community

A snapshot of our community activities.



\$10,000

given to The Streets Movement  
for the firm's Christmas donation

\$5,000

given to the Jabalbina Yalanji Aboriginal  
Corporation through firm and staff  
fundraising to aid in the recovery efforts  
for those affected by Cyclone Jasper



\$1,000

given to  
Cisarua Learning



Our staff cooked and shared 'Meals from the Heart' with families & staff at our local Ronald McDonald House chapters

110 team members took part in the four-week challenge—STEPtember—together taking over 30 million steps and raising



\$10,558

for the Cerebral Palsy Alliance



A further

\$14,790

given to local  
charities through our  
Community Program

Plus various local  
office fundraising  
events—that's  
over



\$42,000

in donations!