

## FY24 Results

Investor Presentation 30 August 2024













# Profitable, stable and beginning to grow









### FY24 Highlights

- **Revenue growth** of 15% on prior year, with Q4 average weekly revenue of \$465k per week, **a new high**
- Normalised NPBT attributable to owners of AF Legal Group of \$0.8 million, an all-time high and a \$0.6 million increase on prior corresponding period (pcp)
  - AF Legal Group Limited has now delivered three consecutive profitable halves
  - NPBT attributable for Q4 FY24 was a pleasing \$420k assisted by the first quarter contribution of ACWE (refer below)
- Outlined our **Growth Strategy** encompassing not just continued growth across Family Law but also expanding into complementary areas of law, to grow our organisation to gain scale
- Armstrong Contested Wills & Estates (ACWE) was acquired in April 2024 and represents our first move into acquiring legal businesses which are complementary to Family Law. ACWE first quarter results (Q4) have pleasingly exceeded expectations
- We have transitioned our organisation to one that is people-first culture and practice-led
- Opened five new offices with four of these through the taking of a permanent presence where we initially set up in serviced office market entry locations. Additionally, we also entered two new markets opening new serviced office locations in Frankston VIC and Double Bay NSW
- 24 promotions announced since the start of FY24, representing over 30% of our lawyers and legal support staff and evidencing achievable and rewarding career pathways to our team members
- AFL Group completed a successful capital raising of \$1.9 million in March 2024 and also extended our NAB finance facility until January 2027





# Financial Results FY24









### Headline NPAT profit of \$1.6million

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2024 2023 Note \$'000 \$'000 Revenue 3 21,862 18,881 Expenses Cost of sales (8) 84 (13,082) (11,276) Employee expenses (3,197) Administrative expenses 4 (3,020)Other expenses 5 (2,441)(3, 591)6 Share based payment expense (51) (84) (1,242)Depreciation (1,214)Amortisation (393)(739) 7 Impairment expense 0 (6, 569)(26,437) **Total expenses** (20, 386)(7,556) Profit/(Loss) before income tax 1,476 Income tax expense/(benefit) 8 124 (37) Profit/(Loss) for the period after income tax 1,600 (7, 593)Other comprehensive income 0 0 Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the period 1,600 (7,593) Profit/(Loss) for the period attributable to: Non-controlling interest 9 638 509 The owners of AF Legal Group Limited 962 (8, 102)Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the period attributable to: Non-controlling interest 638 509 The owners of AF Legal Group Limited 962 (8,102) Total comprehensive income/(loss) for the period 1,600 (7,593)

- Headline NPAT for FY24 was a profit of \$1.6 million, up from a loss of \$7.6 million in the previous corresponding period (pcp) and the highest level ever achieved by the AF Legal Group, albeit assisted by the tax benefit outlined below
- Headline NPAT attributable to the owners of the AF Legal Group for FY24 was a profit of \$1.0 million, an all-time high, up from a loss of \$8.1 million in the pcp, key contributors:
  - **Revenue** of \$21.9 million, again an all-time high, **up by 15%** on prior year
  - Total Expenses of \$20.4 million down by \$6.1 million) compared to pcp with FY23 including impairment expense of \$6.6 million
  - **\$0.7 million** legacy other income tax provision release (following a tax related review and reconciliation), reflected in minimal tax expense for FY24
- FY23 saw \$8.415 million in one-off expenses and charges which adversely impacted results and were normalised.

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• FY24 saw a net \$174k in one-off expenses and charges, primarily relating to the ACWE acquisition. We also normalised a deferred consideration finalisation benefit and an offsetting additional debtor provision

Business acquisition costs – ACWE Deferred consideration favourable adjustment Debtor provision adjustments \$0.176 million (\$0.193 million) \$0.191 million







### Strong Q4 FY24 aided by acquisition

\$'000	FY24	Q4 FY24	Q3 FY24	Q2 FY24	Q1 FY24	FY23	H2 FY23	H1 FY23	FY22	FY21
Revenue*	21,661	6,051	4,899	5,167	5,543	18,881	10,054	8,827	16,983	11,009
Average Weekly Revenue [AWR] (excl. disbursements)	417	465	377	397	426	363	387	339	327	212
AWR Growth on prior Qtr AWR Growth on pcp Growth on prior FY	15%	23% 20%	-5% -2%	-7% 18%	10% 25%	11%	14%	5%		
NPBT	1,476	449	34	434	559	(7,556)	972	(8,528)	295	(495
NPBT attributable to the owners of AF Legal Group Limited	607	246	(149)	154	356	(8,256)	551	(8,807)	(43)	(495
Normalisation adjustments **	174	174				8,415		8,415	31	584
Normalised NPBT	1,650	623	34	434	559	859	1,043	(184)	326	89
Normalised NPBT attributable to the owners of AF Legal Group Limited	781	420	(149)	154	356	159	622	(463)	(13)	89



- Normalised NPBT of \$1.65 million, a \$0.8 million increase on pcp
- Normalised NPBT attributable to owners of AF Legal Group of \$0.8 million, a \$0.6 million increase on pcp
  - Pleasingly Q4 bounced back from a slow Q3 delivering an NPBT attrib of \$420k, our strongest quarter in FY24 assisted by the first quarter contribution of ACWE
  - Normalised NPBT attributable to owners of AFL Group is our preferred metric to gauge true profitability of our organisation from a shareholder view
- FY24 profit mostly driven by strong revenue growth, up \$2.8 million (15%) on pcp
  - Excluding the additional revenue of ACWE in Q4
     FY24 adjusted growth would be 10%
- Average weekly revenue (AWR) \$417k per week for FY24 but at an all-time high of \$465k in Q4 reflective of the ACWE acquisition adding scale to the final quarter
- All states delivered revenue lifts in FY24 relative to the prior year



### We are in the early stages of a significant turnaround

NPBT attrib\* (\$000) 900 781 622 650 400 89 150 (100)(13)(350)(463)(600) FY21 FY22 H1 FY23 H2 FY23 FY24 NPBT attrib FY21 to NPBT attrib H2FY23 end H1FY23 to end FY24

 Normalised NPBT attributable to owners of AFL Group over the past 18 months has totalled \$1.4 million

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- This represents a significant lift over the preceding two and a half years which produced a loss of (\$0.4 million)
- Historically AF Legal Group Limited profitability was presented in many different ways including EBITDA, Underlying EBITDA, Underlying EBITDA pre AASB16, NPATA, etc.
- Normalised NPBT attributable to owners of AFL Group is our preferred metric to gauge true profitability of our organisation from a shareholder view
  - Normalisation has been standardised with our current practice in the table on the prior slide and also in the adjacent graph to exclude any previous normalising of share-based payments
  - Other than truly irregular amounts it is anticipated that normalisation will be kept to a minimum see slide 5 for FY24 normalisation

\* NPBT attrib represents Normalised NPBT attributable to owners of AFL Group

Loss (\$0.4 million)

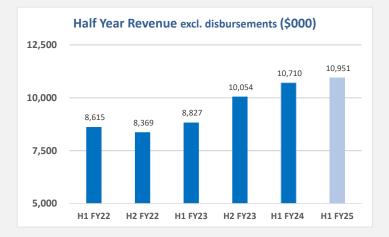
**\*\* FY21 & FY22 Normalisations** have been brought into line with FY23 onwards to exclude any prior practice of normalising share-based payments

Profit \$1.4 million

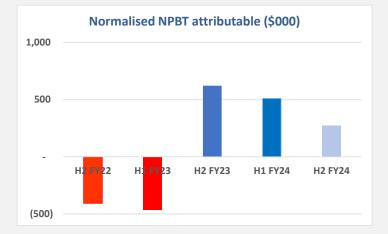


### Revenue growth & 3 consecutive profitable halves

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Continued Revenue growth



ACWE acquisition adding to scale in Q4



Third consecutive profitable half (Q4 NPBT attrib. \$420k)



### **Balance Sheet post ACWE acquisition**

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2024 2023 Note \$'000 \$'000 ASSETS CURRENT ASSETS Cash and cash equivalents 10 2.317 2.052 Trade and other receivables 11 9,543 4,476 Other current assets 12 1.073 896 TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS 12.933 7,424 NON-CURRENT ASSETS 2,532 1,907 Deferred tax assets 8(a) 13 3.208 3.683 Right of use assets 14 Plant and equipment 743 649 15 Intangible assets 4,293 4,382 10,621 TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS 10,776 23.709 18.045 TOTAL ASSETS LIABILITIES CURRENT LIABILITIES 1.985 Trade and other payables 16 2.880 Current tax liabilities 8(c) 221 243 Deferred consideration 17 625 1,194 18 792 Lease liabilities 981 21 1,039 801 Employee benefits TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES 4,851 5,910 NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES Deferred tax liabilities 8(b) 2.046 1.458 2,904 Lease liabilities 18 2,334 17 250 Deferred consideration 375 19 Borrowings 3,591 0 20 Provisions 269 310 Employee benefits 21 269 171 TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES 8.884 5.093 TOTAL LIABILITIES 13,735 11,003 NET ASSETS 9,974 7,042

- Net Total assets at \$10.0 million increased by \$2.9 million (30 June 2023: \$7.0 million), reflecting FY24 profitability and the impact of the capital raise related to the ACWE acquisition which has changed the shape of our balance sheet
  - Trade & Other Receivables up by \$5.1 million ACWE \$4.4 million reflective of payment timing being more at end of matter
    - A full and thorough review of all debtors and WIP balances was performed during the year with many longstanding amounts written off against the provision which was increased at H1 FY23
    - The review also highlighted the need for an additional provision related to a legacy matter following finalisation of a legacy litigation funding negotiation *see slide 5 for FY24 normalisation*
  - Intangibles largely unchanged with minimal Goodwill from the ACWE acquisition (\$0.3 million) offset by amortisation charges relating to legacy matters
  - Trade & Other Payables down by \$0.9 million primarily due to the release of a \$0.7 million legacy tax provision which was considered not required
  - Borrowings of \$3.6 million to fund the ACWE acquisition (\$2.7m) and various earn out payments (\$1.0m) made during FY24
  - NAB finance facility extended to January 2027 available for appropriate opportunities with a \$9 million limit

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#### Cash Flow shows impact of acquisition and funding

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		2024	2023
	Note	\$'000	\$'000
Cash Flows from Operating Activities			
Receipts from customers		20,050	23,191
Payments to suppliers and employees		(19,009)	(21,923)
Net interest paid		(54)	(2)
Income tax paid		(442)	(200)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	27	545	1,065
Cash Flows from Investing Activities			
Purchase of fixed assets		(360)	(582)
Payment for Acquisition of Business	25	(2,733)	0
Payments for Deferred Considersation		(1,000)	(432)
Payments for purchase of intangible assets		(24)	(183)
		(4,117)	(1,197)
Cash Flows from Financing Activities			
Repayment of lease liabilities		(1,049)	(1,098)
Shares Issued		1,733	0
Payments of borrowings		3,591	(116)
Payment of dividends		(438)	(351)
		3,837	(1,565)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		265	(1,697)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the financial period		2,052	3,749
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the financial period	10	2,317	2,052

- **Operating cash flow** for the full year was an **inflow of \$0.5 million\*** (2023: inflow of \$1.1 million) due in part to a number of one-off type outflows:
  - Prior year BAS \$0.5m (Following tax and related extensive reconciliation exercise)
  - Payments made to former execs \$0.4m
  - GST payment related to acquisition \$0.3m (recovered early FY25)
  - Acquisition costs \$0.2m
  - Increase in WIP & Debtors of \$0.7m in core business due primarily to growth and timing issues
    - To illustrate the sensitivity, one \$400k invoice raised mid-June was paid early August
    - Cash balance as at mid-August has increased to \$3.1 million
  - The overall **outflow from investing activities of \$4.1 million** was primarily due to the acquisition of Armstrong Contested Wills & Estates (\$2.7 million) and payments made in relation to the deferred consideration for both Watts McCray and Kordos (\$1.0m). Additionally, there were increases in fixed assets (\$0.4m) predominantly related to new offices and additional IT expenditure.
- The overall inflow from financing activities of \$3.8 million was primarily due to borrowings of \$3.6m and the net proceeds from shares issued in the capital raise of \$1.7m, partly offset by the payment of lease liabilities (\$1.1m) and dividend payments to non-controlling interests (\$0.4m)

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Overall, this delivered a net cash outflow for FY24 of \$0.3 million

\* Adjusting for the impact of the repayment of lease liabilities (now in "Cash Flows from Financing Activities" under AASB16) this would represent a net cash outflow of \$1.5 million

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# Focus and Outlook FY24









#### **Focus and Outlook**

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#### **People-first culture**

- Focus on onboarding, professional development, continual education, mentorship and care for the individual
- Focus on junior lawyers with a clear capability and professional development program and a defined career path
- Greater autonomy and involvement for our Practices & Practice Leaders
- High performance culture characterised by open communication and mutual respect

#### **New Client Activity**

- Sponsorship & Executive Producer of Millie Vs – The Film created by Barrister & Filmmaker Darren Mort (Tommy), "... investing in the power of narrative to transform lives"
- Increasingly focusing resources on SEO as a driver of digital lead flow
- Business development: Corporate services; new service offerings; maintain leading national media voice
- Expand Net Promoter Score client feedback across all our brands and markets

#### Profitability

- Returned to consistent profit levels across H2 FY23 and FY24
- High performance culture to drive revenue, incentivised through a more rewarding bonus scheme
- Cost reduction in corporate overheads and operational costs
- Invest in our most important resource, our people. Profitability and growth will naturally follow
- Investment in a new Practice Management system to maximise efficiency and effectiveness

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#### **Proven growth model**

- Expand into new regions and continue lateral hires as low risk expansion strategy
- Grow existing practices through increased recruitment activity
- Emphasis on cultural alignment
- NAB acquisition debt facility extended until January 2027 and drawn down for ACWE acquisition
- The Board retains its commitment to our longer-term growth aspirations through a combination of organic and inorganic growth opportunities





### **Our Growth Strategy**

Better leverage our cost base by adding revenue and accordingly gross margin (after fee earner costs) with minimal incremental overhead costs such that our bottom-line profitability grows at a disproportionately higher rate



Armstrong Contested Wills

& Estates

Watts McCray

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Family Law - Organic	<ul> <li>Growing existing Family Law (FL) practices through team expansion</li> <li>Opening complementary FL practices feeding off existing network, expanding suburban footprint in major cities</li> <li>Future acquisition opportunities in relation to non-controlling interests in existing operations</li> <li>A previously serviced office-based market entry locations moved into permanent office locations during FY24</li> <li>Entered 2 new markets opening new serviced office locations in Frankston VIC and Double Bay NSW</li> </ul>
Family Law - Acquisitions	<ul> <li>Regional expansion and infill opportunities where we currently do not have a presence</li> <li>Examples include Adelaide, Tasmania, Townsville, Toowoomba, Newcastle, etc</li> <li>Acquisition of existing Family Law businesses will play a role as a market entry opportunity</li> <li>Organic and/or greenfield option remains in play (e.g. Wollongong, Gold Coast)</li> </ul>
Complementary Areas of Law - Organic	<ul> <li>There are complementary areas of law currently under serviced by our existing business model which make sense for an organisation seeking to be more than a Family Law business and more of a business which is <i>Your Family's Lawyer</i></li> <li>Some we do in a limited fashion in some locations, but further such expansion represents incremental revenue</li> </ul>
Complementary Areas of Law - Acquisition	<ul> <li>Acquire legal businesses complementary to Family Law, which have significant opportunity for growth by leveraging our existing and growing Family Law practice network</li> <li>Armstrong Contested Wills &amp; Estates April 2024 acquisition is our first such move into complementary areas of law</li> <li>Future Contested Wills &amp; Estates geographic expansion will largely come through organic leveraging of the existing AF Legal office network</li> <li>Other areas of law will be considered for similar future acquisition-based growth opportunities</li> </ul>



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### **Thank You**





