



Member's Newsletter: July 2024

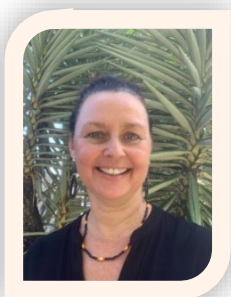
Message from our Chair



Welcome Members to the new era of the NFVPLS Forum – FNAAFV! We were so pleased to share our new brand identity and purpose with you last month and are excited to report that our rebrand was successfully launched a few weeks ago. We also shared a pre-launch look at our rebrand with several key stakeholders on our trip to Canberra, during the many discussions we had about the critical work of our sector and the challenges we face in service delivery. Having your voices at those tables was invaluable in raising the profile of our sector and we are committed to ensuring these conversations turn to actions, so we are planning further visits to the capital. Have a great month!

– *Wynetta Dewis, Chair*

From the CEO's Desk



Welcome to our new look and brand as FNAAFV! We have done it - we are now separately incorporated. This is a testament to you, the amazing people who have fought for so many years to get a voice for this sector. A special THANK YOU to Djirra (Antionette Braybrook) and QIFVLS (Wynetta Dewis) for the many years of auspicing the PEAK. The history of what has gone before us is very much connected to who we are today and who we will become.

As you can imagine there have been a few challenges in the transition... the IT component never seems to be as simple as what you anticipate. Our IT providers, True North have been amazing and really it took about a week to get IT back on track for us all following the switch to FNAAFV. Our website also underwent a refresh as part of our rebrand, which you can check out [here](#).

Late last month, we had a successful couple of days in Canberra with some of our members. It was great to catch up with those who were able to attend - it is always so nice to see everyone face to face. It has been suggested that we do this at least once a year so we will be sure to add this to next year's calendar of events. The trip gave us several opportunities to share some of our concerns and expectations about the transition from NIAA to AG next year. We will schedule regular meetings for Members, AG, DSS and NIAA throughout the remainder of the year so please keep an eye out for these invites (proposed date are below). We will also schedule some pre-briefing meetings to make sure that priority messages from members are being delivered.

Thank you again to everyone who responded to the request to update your budget asks for the new submission to NIAA. It required a very quick turnaround, but we were able to submit quickly.

It has been over a month since the release of the NLAP Review, and we are still having difficulty understanding what the Government is going to implement or which recommendations it will prioritise. The FVPLS sector is in a unique position as our negotiations are directly with NIAA at this stage and not directly under the NLAP with the AG's Department, which I think could be a positive. From the meetings I have attended as part of the ALAF group, the general consensus is that the Federal Government is struggling to be strategic and provide any leadership to



From the CEO's Desk

build consensus for change. The SCAG was held on Friday the 5th of July, and little has been reported of the outcome except to say:

As you may know, the Standing Council of Attorneys-General (SCAG) met today to discuss a number of matters including NLAP and the next legal assistance agreement. Importantly, SCAG have broadly agreed to use existing forums to harness sector expertise and collectively articulate priorities during the development of future legal assistance arrangements.

Given this endorsement we now propose to meet with the Advisory Group on a monthly basis with the first meeting set for Friday 19 July 2024.

In other great news, we have launched the Community of Practice and are happy for you to share the details with your networks. We hope that ACCOs will take this up, as well as mainstream organisations who support our principles for the initiative. They include:

- Focused on addressing Target 13 of Closing The Gap (and 12)
- ACCO-led / ACCO-driven Raise the profile and increase advocacy for DF &SV ACCO services.
- Building partnerships and sharing expertise and information on specialist DV services across jurisdictions, and Nationally
- National Agreement Priority Reforms – particularly Priority 2 – Building capacity of ACCO sector.
- Promoting a platform where grass-roots services can establish supportive, inclusive peer relationships across jurisdictions.
- Active membership with all services who are share our principles and vision.
- Build a strong sustainable sector (Workforce, infrastructure, Governance)
- Cut through intersecting sectors to address DFSV.
- Invest in front line ACCO services ACCO money to be in ACCO services.
- Promote, and identify solutions, understand gaps from Mob perspectives in in their unique communities.

You and your networks can register here: [FNAAFV Community of Practice Registration Form](#)

Also, coming up in October is our face-to-face conference for members and it will also be our first AGM. We are planning to produce an annual report that showcases the amazing work of the membership in our communities **and** will use the report to raise the profile of FVPLS next year. We would like to showcase all our members in the edition with some case studies and pictures to highlight your year and will be in touch in the coming weeks to work with you on this. As always please reach out and ask any questions.

- *Kerry Staines, CEO*



Latest News, Policies, Submissions

Grant Funding Submission Update

July has been an extremely busy month already with FNAAFV preparing and submitting two applications for funding. One submission was for a nationally competitive tender that closed on the 3rd of July: *Working for Women Program - National Women's Alliances*.

The other funding submission was a direct request to NIAA for FVPLS sector-wide investment, lodged on the 9th of July. This submission required us to pull together information very quickly from members that identified the additional annual funding and resources required to sustain and/or expand current services; and/or to deliver services to new locations (areas with unmet need).

We are truly grateful for the responses received from our members and we are so pleased that our submission incorporated input from every member service! We will certainly keep members in the loop on this and we may touch base again if NIAA has any specific requests for further information.

FNAAFV Rebrand Launch

We were so excited to share our rebrand from the NFVPLS Forum to FNAAFV with you earlier this month! Thank you for your contribution to the development of our new name, and for your lovely responses to our new brand identity. Feel free to share our new look and name with your networks via the [fact sheet on our website](#).

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY: AICD First Nations Director Scholarship Program

The Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD) recently opened registrations to their second annual 'First Nations Director Scholarship Program'. The program presents a great opportunity for directors and leaders reporting to boards of First Nations and non-Indigenous organisations to develop their governance knowledge and receive a qualification to add to their CV. You can view the full details and eligibility criteria for the full scholarships [here](#).

The Forum's Annual Member's Conference in Port Lincoln

This is the final boarding call for all passengers travelling to the annual members conference in Port Lincoln in October! We are up against our deadline to finalise numbers and require a registration form to be completed and submitted for each person attending. Almost all services have now registered their attendees. Thank you! Please let us know if anything has changed, or changes regarding your registered attendees as soon as possible. For anyone still outstanding please complete the [Registration Form for Annual Member's Conference](#) here.

Hard deadline: next Monday 15 July 2024

A reminder that we will book accommodation for you, and you will book your own travel. FNAAFV will cover the costs of flights and accommodation for two people from each service. If you wish to bring extra people, please ensure they also register. We will also be finalising the agenda over the next month so if you have any suggestions towards training or healing / creative sessions you would like to have, (or any other questions) please send your ideas through to [Marlo](#).



Member Spotlight



**Aboriginal
Family** LEGAL
SERVICES

Don't silence
the violence

W: <https://www.afls.org.au/>

1. How many staff does your service have, and what role do they each play?

Our service has 58 staff located across eight offices in Western Australia. Each office provides both legal and social support services in the communities where they are located. Our team includes solicitors, Family Advocates (social workers), administrative and management support staff, finance, and Community Engagement Workers (CEWs) — who lead and deliver our events, community awareness and education programs.

2. What locations does your service support?

AFLS provides support to communities across seven regions in WA, including the East and West Kimberley, the Midwest, Goldfields, Pilbara, Gascoyne, and the Perth metropolitan area. Alongside our head office in Perth, our offices in Broome, Carnarvon, Derby, Kununurra, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, and Port Hedland also provide outreach services to over 30 remote townships and Aboriginal communities. Our service area covers an estimated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population of 72,961 people across nearly 1,978,622 square kilometres.

3. How would you describe the service that you offer to your communities?

Our organisation provides legal and intensive social supports to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experiencing or at risk of family and domestic violence and sexual assault. However, we understand that issues of family and domestic violence are highly complex and, while early legal assistance is critical, we know that legal services alone cannot resolve all issues. That's why our service is provided through integrated service delivery model, combining legal and culturally safe, trauma-informed social assistance. Alongside our core services, our organisation has a large focus on educational and preventative projects — such as healthy relationships and awareness workshops in collaborations with schools. These are focussed on educating and empowering the communities we work with, especially women and young girls, many of whom are in remote areas of Western Australia and face a number of social challenges. Both our core services and education projects aim to create safer, more resilient communities and increase access to justice for Aboriginal people in culturally safe and trauma informed ways.

4. Tell me about a program that your service offers that you are particularly proud of.

Our Family Advocates program is central to the support we offer to communities. Working closely with our legal team, our FAs walk alongside our clients as they navigate the legal and social support systems. With this emotional and practical support, our clients can make the right decisions about legal choices, be safer, and make those decisions work for themselves and their families. Our FAs draw upon a specialised knowledge of complex post-traumatic stress issues to provide advocacy, practical support and information, crisis support including the provision of food and other vouchers, dignity packages, etc., provide case coordination with statutory agencies to address the range of issues facing the client, and complete risk assessment and safety planning (case planning) to identify and achieve safety needs for the client and their family. They also attend meetings with other agencies as necessary and provide warm referrals to a range of culturally appropriate and safe organisations.

5. If you had one wish for the clients that you support, what would it be?

That our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities live free from family and domestic violence and sexual assault and are seen and treated as equals in society.

6. What motivates you and your team to deliver your services?

Our staff have a deep understanding of the specific drivers of violence against Aboriginal women and children alongside the broader social, cultural, and political context in which this violence is perpetrated by and against Aboriginal people. As many of our team are themselves local community members, they understand the cultural history and traditions of their regions and are dedicated to supporting those around them.



Out and About



Public Sector Comms Conference & Canberra Visit

We had a busy month travelling in and out of Canberra in June, first to attend the second annual Public Sector Comms Conference and then for a series of meetings with key stakeholders at Parliament House.

Our communications cohort spent three days immersed in all things communications, marketing, PR, and media. The group learnt about the latest in AI technology, heard about the wins and challenges of delivering strategic communications projects to a variety of stakeholders, and took away some valuable learnings to implement into their services. It was a pleasure to have you there (pictured top, from left to right) Tosha (FVLSAC), Andrew (QIFVLS), Kate (Djirra), Beau (AFLSQ), David (MWRC), and Julie (Gurehlgam).

Our Canberra crusaders (pictured bottom left) also did us proud spreading the message of the tireless work of our sector and reinstating our case for secure, long-term funding.

Important dates

- **Upcoming Member's meetings**
 - Thursday, July 25, 2024 at 2:30pm – 4pm AEST
 - Thursday, August 29, 2024 at 2:30pm – 4pm AEST
 - Thursday, September 26, 2024 at 2:30pm – 4pm AEST
- **FNAAFV Forum Member's conference + AGM**
 - 15 to 17 October 2024; Port Lincoln, South Australia
- **FNAAFV Joint meeting with NIAA, AG and DSS – Transition from NIAA to AG + contract negotiations**
 - 31 July 2024 - 1:30-2:30pm [confirmed]
 - 28 August 2024 - 1:30-2:30pm
 - 25 September 2024 - 1:30-2:30pm
 - 30 October 2024 - 1:30-2:30pm
 - 27 November 2024 - 1:30-2:30pm
 - 18 December 2024 - 1:30-2:30pm (last Wednesday before Christmas closure)
- **Sector Conferences**
 - [Ending Coercive Control, Family & Domestic Violence, July 25 to 25, Gadigal Land/Sydney Boulevard Hotel & Online](#)