



## Member's Newsletter: May 2024

### Message from our Chair



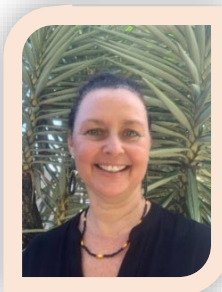
Hello Members! Welcome to the third edition of our monthly Member's newsletter. We hope you are enjoying the regular updates on the Forum's policy, advocacy, and communications activities, and we welcome any feedback and suggestions on future editions.

With Budget week upon us, we will be closely monitoring any announcements relevant to the FVPLS sector as well as how our calls for additional funding are answered. Kerry and Priya will be in the thick of the action in Canberra as our eyes and ears on the ground, so stay tuned for their updates.

Next month brings the start of our member engagement tour, with Kerry and I already locked in to visit services in WA and the NT, followed by NSW, Queensland, and SA in July. We're looking forward to connecting in person and to learn more about your unique service offerings and individual needs. In the meantime, my team and I are busy finalising plans for our second annual 'Overcoming Indigenous Family Violence Forum' in Cairns later this month – I hope to see some of you there!

*- Wynetta Derwis, Chair*

### From the CEO's Desk



As we welcome in May, I would like to acknowledge the difficulty this month has brought as the national discussion around domestic, family, and sexual violence against women spiked, and remind you all to take care of yourselves and each other.

The past few weeks has seen the Forum ramp up our response to the growing public movement to address domestic, family, and sexual violence against women. We have attended events and generated multiple press releases and social media content to share and advocate for the FVPLS sector, all with the view to enabling you to support those who are most vulnerable.

Generally, I love public holidays however with so much to be done at this time of the year they just seem to be at the wrong time 😊 I will be traveling to Canberra for the announcement of the Federal Budget on May 14, and will attend a number of key sector conferences including the 'Disrupting and Reducing Violence against First Nations Women & Children Conference' in Sydney this week, and QIFVLS' second annual 'Overcoming Indigenous Family Violence Forum' in Cairns later this month.

Wishing you all a productive month with lots of wins to celebrate your tireless efforts.

*- Kerry Staines, CEO*



## Latest News, Policies, Submissions

### **Budget Announcement – Plans for our trip to Canberra**

Kerry and Priya will head to Canberra for Federal Budget announcement this month as the Forum continues to advocate for investment into the sector. We also have secured meetings with Minister Burney, Senator Cox, Amanda Rishworth's DSS advisor, Senator Lambie's advisor along with meetings with Departmental Staff from DSS, and the Executive Officer from the Coalition of Peaks. There are also plans underway to attend several ACOSS' pre and post budget meetings.

### **Meetings with the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) & Attorney General (AG) Department**

Members have been sent an invitation to attend a meeting between the FVPLS sector, NIAA, and the AG's Department. The initial meeting will be a meet and greet to discuss more broadly, the current environment and to start the conversation around the next steps. The meeting will focus on introductions and be preparatory until we receive a copy of the NLAP review and can ascertain what potential challenges we may face as part of a potential transition to the AG's Department.

### **Legal Assistance Services ABS review**

The ABS has made the decision to update the approach for the first publication release. The first release on 9 May 2024 contained:

- National (total) statistics output in 4 separate data cubes:
  - One data cube containing tables with national aggregate data for the entire sector (i.e. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services (ATSILS), Community Legal Centres (CLCs) and Legal Aid Commissions (LACs)); and
  - Three separate data cubes - one each for the ATSILS, CLCs and LACs - with tables presenting national aggregate data for each sub-sector.
- Standard text elements/chapters of an ABS publication of this kind i.e. introduction, data commentary, methodology.

No state and territory level data was released on 9 May. The release provided the sector with the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the content and format of the report (including the essential contextual information relating to counting rules, scope, data quality and comparability that is necessary to appropriately interpret the statistics). FVPLS is not included in this data collection due to not being an attorney general funded program.

### **4Rs Network**

The National Regional, Rural, Remote and Very Remote Community Legal Network ('the 4Rs Network') is a network of non-profit legal services in 4Rs areas which provide legal and related assistance via an incorporated non-profit structure or auspicing arrangement. The network promotes the rights, wellbeing, and inclusion of people living in 4Rs communities against a backdrop of chronic unmet legal needs and the compounding effects across multiple vulnerability indicators and policy priorities.

The Forum and several FVPLS members are actively involved in the network and it's a great opportunity to discuss and elevate issues that impact services in 4R locations. The network has extended an invitation to other FVPLS members in 4R areas to participate in the network. Please contact Judy Harr at [judyharr@ozemail.com.au](mailto:judyharr@ozemail.com.au) if any of your team are keen to join us.



## NATIONAL FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND LEGAL SERVICES FORUM



### Policy Working Group

The NFVPLS Forum would like to establish a Policy Working Group, and we're reaching out to all services to nominate Policy team members who would benefit from participating. We know that everyone is busy so initially we are proposing a bi-monthly Teams meeting to:

- Share ideas and develop best practice principles for Policy development.
- Discuss the latest statistics, policies and frameworks that support the sector.
- Share tools, templates, and examples of Policy submissions to build our capability.

We have already received several nominations to join the Policy Working Group and an initial meeting will soon be scheduled. If any of your Policy staff are keen to join in but have not yet advised the Forum, please have them contact [Priya](#) or [Jenn](#) as soon as possible.

### Accessing Philanthropic Trusts

Before an entity can apply for funding from philanthropic organisations, the entity must have the relevant charitable endorsement from the ATO. To learn more, visit the [Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission \(ACNC\)](#). The following links provide useful information for those who are interested in exploring this potential revenue stream:

- [How to seek funding - Philanthropy Australia](#)
- [Philanthropy Australia – Philanthropy How to Guide](#)
- Webinar: [For charities: Understanding APS & structured giving — Australian Philanthropic Services](#)

### Register now for the Forum's Member's Conference in Port Lincoln

Our annual conference will take place on Barngarla Country at Port Lincoln in SA this year, from October 15<sup>th</sup> to October 17<sup>th</sup> (with the 14<sup>th</sup> as a travel and arrival day for everyone, and the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> for travelling back, depending on where home is). It promises to be a special event and we're excited to tell you more soon as we firm up the agenda. Our program will commence from 8:30am on the 15<sup>th</sup> and finish with a site visit to FVLSAC HO from lunch time on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

The Forum will cover costs of 2 people from each member service to attend including accommodation of 3 - 4 nights. If you want to send extra people at your own cost, please let us know. Ensure each attendee completes **registration by June 1<sup>st</sup>** using the form here: [2024 Conference Registration Form](#) Marlo Slavin as SDME Officer will coordinate the event so please direct any questions and follow up to [msslavin@gifvls.com.au](mailto:msslavin@gifvls.com.au) or 0478 398 618.

### Comms Conference in Canberra – sponsored spots still available!

So far, we have filled six sponsored spots to attend [The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Public Sector Comms Week Conference](#), which is scheduled for June 18-20 in Canberra, and we have room for more! Bookings close May 31 so please nominate one Communications staff member from your service to take up the sponsorship to attend the conference, along with Lianne Brown the Forum's Communications Officer.

The Forum will pay for their attendance, with each service to invoice the Forum for travel costs. Contact [Lianne](#) or [Kari](#) for more information.



## Member Spotlight



### Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation (SA)

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

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

We currently have 17 staff members across three offices in Ceduna, Port Augusta, and Port Lincoln. We have two Receptionists, four Client Supports Officers, one Client Intake/Class Officers, three Solicitors, a Team leader, Data and Records Officer, Project/Quality Officer, Corporate Service Manager, Corporate Services Support, Deputy CEO and CEO.

#### 2. What locations does your service support?

FVLSAC provides services to north and west of South Australia, including very remote communities, with an estimated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population of over 10,000.

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

We deliver services that are culturally appropriate, client centred, trauma informed, supportive, respectful, and empowering. Our activities include free legal advice, referrals, ongoing casework and court representation, and assistance in the following areas:

- Family & Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
- Intervention orders
- Family Law
- Child Protection
- Victims of Crime Compensation

FVLSAC also provides non-legal wrap-around support services, community legal education and early intervention programs and development activities, as well as advocacy for policy and law reform directed towards systemic change.

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

Love Colours is a program that was developed inhouse nine years ago. In lots of ways the development and delivery of Love Colours is the cumulative experience of what we've learnt from the delivery of all our programs over several years. We took into the development phase of Love Colours, and prioritised the need for, genuine community consultation, as well as the importance of personal stories and a need to find new ways to have conversations around family violence issues.

Love Colours is a two-part workshop series about love and safety in relationships. Incorporating elements of healthy relationships education, family violence awareness raising and safety planning, Love Colours aims to engage participants in thoughtful discussion about the positive and destructive elements of relationships. This is achieved by linking emotions and information to five colour stations - red, yellow, green, blue, and purple. Art features as the activity that complements discussion.

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

An equitable and safe society for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

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

We are driven by the opportunity to make a tangible difference in the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander survivors of family violence. We are motivated by the desire to help people heal and rebuild their lives after experiencing trauma. We find meaning in their work and are committed to the cause of ending family violence.



**NATIONAL  
FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION  
AND LEGAL SERVICES  
FORUM**



## Out and About



It was a privilege to be invited to attend the inaugural National Family Violence Symposium hosted by Chief Justice of the Federal Court and Family Court of Australia, the Honourable William Alstergren, in Naarm, Melbourne recently.

More than 80 State and Territory stakeholders attended the event and contributed to the many robust conversations.

It was encouraging to witness Chief Justice, the Honourable William Alstergren's leadership and commitment to reducing domestic and family violence across Australia. We look forward to closely engaging with the actions that arose from the discussions.

## Important dates

- **Upcoming Member's meetings**
  - Thursday, May 23, 2024 at 2:30pm – 4pm AEST
  - Thursday, June 27, 2024 at 2:30pm – 4pm AEST
  - Thursday, July 25, 2024 at 2:30pm – 4pm AEST
- **NFVPLS Forum Member's conference + AGM**
  - 15 to 17 October 2024; Port Lincoln, South Australia
- **Member speaking engagements & conferences**
  - QIFVLS Overcoming Indigenous Family Violence Forum, 28-29 May 2024, plus 30 May 2024 as on-country workshop day; Cairns, QLD