

Member's Newsletter: August 2024

Message from our Chair

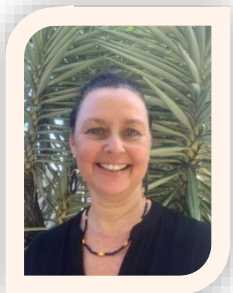


Welcome Members! We took part in some significant engagements this past month, most notably the inaugural First Nations Forum at the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (FCFCOA), in which QIFVLS' Principal Legal Officer Thelma Schwartz and I were invited to participate. It was great to see some of our members there and join the discussions around how the courts system can meaningfully engage with our sector and communities to better meet their legal needs.

Wishing you a great month!

- Wynetta Dewis, Chair

From the CEO's Desk



Welcome to August! We are more than halfway through the year, how unbelievable is that? We are pleased to welcome SisTAS back to the membership so be sure to make Jake and Tyne welcome when you see them around. As a new organisation, we are excited to be working through the full process of adding new members to FNAAFV.

Thank you again for your contributions to our funding proposal to NIAA. Details of the bid can be found in the minutes from the previous meeting. I have since spoken with NIAA about the status of the \$8.6M for pay parity and was assured it is on its way. We will continue to seek clarity and keep you informed of any developments.

Our joint meeting with AG, NIAA, DSS and the FVPLS sector was well represented by the membership. It is important that we continue to show up and keep advocating as a group to keep everyone's voices at the table. Every time we meet, we glean extra information. I think that as they progress and work through what it looks like they are testing their ideas, which allows us to influence the outcome. There is still so much to work through and realistically very little time. The Attorney is pushing for new agreements to be in draft by the end of the year, with the possibility of a 12-month extension to work through the logistics. This can leave us in a vulnerable position as we want to be included in new NLAP agreement that State and Territories sign up to, however we also don't want to be rushed to have an agreement that does not meet only the needs of our communities but lacks the flexibility to take on the recommendations of the Mundy Report. It is a challenging time with great opportunity. We are also still waiting on the outcome of the Andrew Metcalf review into the Family Relationship Services program, of which FNAAFV and a few member services contributed to.

Our first step with the Sector Strengthening Plan is to develop a needs assessment (this week) that reflects not only the needs of the sector but incorporates the work from the First Nations Action plan and fits in with the First Nations Stand Alone plan currently under development. We aim to have the needs assessment completed early in 2025. Registrations to join the group have been encouraging and are made up of Coalition of Peak members. Lastly, we recently held an online internal team day to update our progress on the current Strategic Plan, and we look forward to sharing our progress with you all at our inaugural AGM in Port Lincoln in October. **Please check the minutes from the last member's meeting to keep up to date with all our progress and projects.**

- Kerry Staines, CEO



Latest News, Policies, Submissions

Funding Opportunities

La Trobe University is leading the [Partners in Prevention of Sexual Violence](#) project in collaboration with DSS. The project will offer funding to implement and evaluate 10 community-led interventions that aim to impact identified drivers and reinforcing factors of sexual violence. Organisations that are successful and complete the implementation will receive a copy of the evaluation for their own purposes. Funding will range from less than \$150,000 to a maximum of \$600,000 over 2-3 years. To apply for funding, register your interest on the [La Trobe University e-procure portal](#). You may wish to share this information with your networks.

Grant Resources

For those new to grant writing or looking to refresh their skills, the following resources may be of interest:

- [GrantConnect Help and Information](#) (Australian Government)
- [GrantHelper-The-Grant-Application-Starter-Kit.pdf](#)
- [Online Non-Profit Grant Writing Training - Melbourne – 22 August 2024](#)

Other Grant searching resources:

- [Grants and Programs Finder](#) (Business.gov.au)
- [The Grants Hub Directory](#)

NIAA Progress Reporting Template

A very productive workshop was held on the 1st of August with the FVPLS NIAA Reporting Template Working Group (FNAAFV and FVPLS members only) where we identified improvements to the existing reporting template, discussed barriers and logistics of reporting and shared ideas on what we **would** like to see in future reporting for the sector. Feedback and comments were collated on the previous June reporting template and a new much simpler template has been drafted for discussion with NIAA at a meeting scheduled for the 5th of September 2024. Thanks very much to Djirra, Many Rivers, QIFVLS and FVLS SA for your contributing your knowledge and expertise in this Working Group. If other members wish to join in, it is never too late! Please contact [Jenn](#) or [Marlo](#) if interested.

NEW on the Member's Portal

We have added new resources to the Member only access section on our website – the Member's Portal. You can now access every edition of our monthly Member's Newsletter under the 'Resources' tab, as well as a rundown of your member benefits in the 'FNAAFV Membership' section of the 'Resources' tab.

Policy Working Group Update

A Policy Working Group meeting was held on the 24th of July where we discussed recent policy and grant submissions and jurisdictional updates. The next meeting is scheduled for the 18th of September. Membership currently includes policy staff from QIFVLS, Djirra, NAAFLS and FNAAFV and we are always open to new members joining us. We meet every two months and if anyone in your team would like to participate, please contact [Priya](#) or [Jenn](#).

Community of Practice

We now have over 50 registrations for the FNAAFV Community of Practice and are planning the first meetings from 22 August. With the number and quality of participants coming forward to join this initiative we are excited that CommPrac discussions promise to be valuable to supporting FNAAFV's leadership of the Sector Strengthening Plan across the ACCO led DFSV sector. We anticipate that the specialist expertise of our FVPLS member representatives who choose to join and contribute will also be invaluable. Therefore, please be encouraged to both share with your networks, and to register yourself and/or join staff to this initiative. The invitation will remain open, and even if people do not have time to join meetings, they are welcome to sign up to receive the correspondence and stay informed.

Link to registration: <https://firstnationsadvocatesagainstofamilyviolence.snapforms.com.au/form/fnaafv-community-of-practice-registration>



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Sector Communications Group

Our monthly 'Comms Chat' group continues to meet and provide invaluable advice and support to each other as they navigate their communications/media/marketing/PR roles in the sector. This month they will be talking all things LinkedIn and sharing how best to get the most from their company LinkedIn accounts to ensure their messaging and engagement reaches their intended audiences. The group is always open to new members, so feel free to connect with [Lianne](#), FNAAFV's Senior Communications Officer if you or a relevant staff member would like to join the group.

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

Members are reminded to book their flights as soon as possible to ensure you can catch flights in and out in time, given that Port Lincoln is a regional destination. Once you have your receipts, please have an invoice drawn up (made out to FNAAFV) and send the invoice and receipts to [Kari Greenswag](#) for processing with the FNAAFV Accounting team.

Out and About



Inaugural First Nations Forum - Meanjin

We were in Meanjin/Brisbane this month for the inaugural First Nations Forum driven by the Chief Justice Alstergren to take part in a valuable conversation around how the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia and their representatives can connect with our community in a meaningful and effective way to drive system reform.

Having access to an equitable and responsive justice system is vital for our families and communities when dealing with family law matters, so it is great to be taking part in designing a system that can better meet the needs of our mob.

Well done to Thelma Schwartz (pictured left) from Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service (QIFVLS) for sharing your history and setting the scene for the day.

Important dates

- **Upcoming Member's meetings**
 - 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**
 - 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)