



Member's Newsletter: September 2024

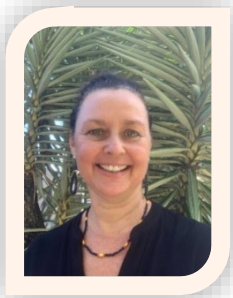
Message from our Chair



Welcome Members! We have a busy month ahead as Kerry and I prepare to hit the road for our week-long tour of the Northern Territory and Western Australia. We're so excited to spend time with our member services up North and to the West, including CAAFLU, NAAFLS, NPYWC, AFLSWA, and the Fitzroy Crossing team later this month. Then it will be just a few short weeks until we all meet face-to-face for our annual Member's Conference in Port Lincoln. We can't wait to see you all - in the same room - as we yarn and plan for the coming year. Wishing you a great month!

- Wynetta Dewis, Chair

From the CEO's Desk



It is exciting to be just weeks out from our very first Annual General Meeting for FNAAFV. Please remember to submit your director nomination forms by September 20 (these were circulated with the last member meeting minutes) to be considered by the Nomination Committee. If you have any questions about the process or eligibility, please get in touch with me.

I am following up for the next date for our joint meeting with the Attorney General's Department (AGD), NIAA, and DSS, and as a follow on from our recent Governance meeting with members, we will be presenting some of our thinking about the contracts moving forward. For those who could not make the meeting don't worry, we will arrange another meeting prior to the official joint meeting for further input and to discuss the approach.

We are still chasing a few items with NIAA including any advancement on the \$8.6M and the application form that you will all be required to send back to NIAA. We know that there will be a National Cabinet meeting on gender-based violence held this month (sounds like very early this month) where we believe our most recent funding bid will be considered. If we are successful in getting the full or significant partial amount, we will call a meeting with all members to discuss the approach as a sector and support an execution strategy to ensure we as the PEAK are supporting members.

The next Standing Committee of Attorneys-General (SCAG) meeting this month will focus on the National Legal Assistance Partnership Agreement (NLAP), but there will be no funding announcements flowing from this meeting. The goal is for the Attorneys to make decisions on the contract in the November SCAG meeting, with the aim of the sector having certainty by the end of the year. FVPLS' will sit outside this until we are given the formal word that we will move from NIAA to the AGD.

In terms of our next lobbying visit to Canberra, we are looking to have a group visit in November and have begun reaching out to Ministers and MPs to line up meetings. We will aim to secure a face-to-face meeting with Minister McCarthy and the Attorney General. Please let me know if there are any particular MPs you would like us to arrange a visit with and we will do our best to accommodate this.



From the CEO's Desk

Lastly, we are exploring some options to partner with ANROWS about creating a "State of the Sector" or something similar for the FVPLS sector. This will give us a baseline and is something that can continue to be repeated on a regular basis and will be a report that all FVPLS providers will be able to use with your own lobbying and advocacy work.

A couple of reminders:

- Send any questions you want to ask Minister Rishworth (who will be online at our AGM) through to [myself](#) or [Kari](#) by the **September 12**.
- Complete the data form we have circulated as soon as you can. Please reach out if you need any help as we would like to use this information, along with the workforce information Marlo is collecting, at our face-to-face meeting in October. If you can get the data form done by or before **September 16** that would be great. Here's the link to the form: <https://firstnationsadvocatesagainstofamilyviolence.snapforms.com.au/form/fnaafv-fvpls-data-form>
- Data will become a major focus as we as a sector need to demonstrate current need and the impact of all your programs within your communities. Without this information at a national level, it will be very difficult to provide evidence of impact. This does not exclude our current methods of case studies and sharing stories of impact. There is a team of people across the FVPLS sector (in current members services) who are great at data collection, and we look forward to continuing to work with this group to craft some new measures.

- Kerry Staines, CEO

Latest News, Policies, Submissions

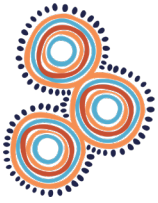
Legal Scoping Study

FNAAFV's role in this has now ended with the final draft provided and feedback given to SNAICC and NATSILS. The next steps are for it to be presented internally before being provided to DSS. We have asked to be notified when the study can be made public and will circulate to all members at that stage. The final draft is very complimentary and provides support for investment into the FVPLS in numerous areas, so we are eager for this to be in the public domain as another example of all the great work that FVPLS' provide to our communities.

Community of Practice

We now have more than 75 registrations for the FNAAFV Community of Practice, and the first meeting took place on August 22. The next meeting is scheduled for October 3. We have invited Expressions of Interest for presentations at the next meeting and encourage our members to put their hand up for this if they wish. A 10-minute presentation on a topic of your choice or simply talking about your service is welcome. Contact [Marlo](#) if interested. Please also be encouraged to both share with your networks, and to register yourself and/or join staff to this initiative. It 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>



Latest News, Policies, Submissions

Family Safety Plan

FNAAFV are working with SNAICC to support the development of the [National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Safety Plan](#) (the Family Safety Plan). The Family Safety Plan is being developed in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Safety Steering Committee (which Wynetta Dewis is a member of), the ACCO sector and Federal, State, and Territory governments. The Family Safety Plan will be a significant piece of policy that will guide a whole of society approach to addressing the unacceptable rates of family violence and abuse against First Nations women and children.

FVPLS organisations have been invited by the Steering Committee to participate in this engagement process. This engagement will seek to identify what works well, what can be learned from different place-based services, what's missing, and any barriers to service delivery. The insights, perspectives, and breadth of local knowledge from our member services will be invaluable in shaping the Family Safety Plan, which in turn will support FNAAFV's ongoing advocacy for the unique model of service provided by the FVPLS sector. To gather your input, members can either:

1. Complete the survey – link below:

<https://firstnationsadvocatesagainstofamilyviolence.snapforms.com.au/form/acco-sector-engagement---our-ways--strong-ways--our-voices-national-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-family-safety-plan>

OR

2. If you would prefer to yarn, we can facilitate an engagement discussion via Teams with any FVPLS staff nominated. Please let [Jenn](#) know ASAP if this is your preference.

IMPORTANT: The timeframe for completion of this engagement is the end of September and we would be very grateful for as many FVPLS participants as possible. For any enquiries, please contact [Jenn](#).

Policy Working Group Update

The next Policy Working Group meeting is scheduled for September 18. 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](#).

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.



Important Dates

Upcoming Member's meetings

- Thursday, September 26, 2024 at 2:30pm – 4pm AEST
- Thursday, October 31, 2024 at 2:30pm – 4pm AEST
- Thursday, November 28, 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)

External Conferences

- 11 to 12 September 2024, [Transforming Indigenous Justice Outcomes, Sydney](#)
- 2 to 4 October 2024, [First Nations National Juvenile Justice Conference 2024](#) & [2024 National Indigenous Say No! To Family and Domestic Violence Conference](#), Cairns
- 25 to 27 November 2024, [Stop Domestic Violence Conference](#), Adelaide
- 3 to 6 December 2024, [2nd National Family Safety Summit](#), Perth