



## MEETING MINUTES

### First Nations Advocates Against Family Violence – Members’ Teams Meeting

Thursday, 19 December 2024 at 2:30pm AEST (via Teams)

#### 1. Acknowledgement of Country

#### 2. Welcome and Apologies

Attendees: FNAAFV: Kerry Staines, Marlo Slavin, Jenn FitzGerald, Kari Greenswag

Wynetta Dewis (QIFVLS), Jake Smith (SiSTas), Rachel Hill (NAAFVLS), Denise Ranby (Thiyama-li), John Tonkin (FVSLAC), Julie Perkins (Many Rivers), Sarah Alberts (Binaal Billa), Lauren Day (NPYWC), Corina Martin (AFLSWA); Kathleen Wincen (AFLSQ)

FCFCOA: Kristy Maylin

Apologies: Priya Devendran (FNAAFV); Phee Clarke (CAAFU);

#### Members Meeting:

3. Minutes from previous meeting
4. Actions from last meeting – Kari

Actions	Timeframe	Level of completion
Add Phee as apology to August Meeting minutes		Completed
KG send cancellation for Oct member’s meeting (31 Oct) calendar invite		Completed
KG add alphabetical order of services for conference presentations (send in conjunction with meeting minutes)		Completed
FNAAFV to report to members after Friday’s Advisory Group Meeting		Completed
KG add reminder re: invoices for conference flights to sending out meeting minutes		Completed
Marlo check that AFLSWA info is completed for data		Completed
KG to confirm with K Staines re: costs for November Sitting week attendance by members		Completed

#### 5. Current/Hot Topics

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Kirsty Maylin – Director Indigenous Operations, Policy & Support from Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia (FCFCOA)

IFLO (indigenous family liaison officers) program and how it compliments or could compliment FVPLS service. If you want to have a look, follow the link: <https://www.fcfoa.gov.au/fl/pubs/iflo-national>

#### Background:

- Looking at how we can partner more in Rural and Remote areas; looking at how to expand IFLO to get more participation



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- How can FVPLS and IFLO can work together, to compliment and help each other

### **Kirsty Spoke About:**

- IFLO Director – building IFLO program; adapting the role to be more responsive and be more involved in case management pathway; also involved in court children’s space and policy space
- IFOL Background – it is a 2-pronged role
  - Support person: provide support to families where children have been identified as ATSI and focus on best outcomes for the children if the family wants support; could be ad hoc or through case management pathway, beyond court events including child impact reports, etc.
  - To do external engagement – to connect to services and community and let community know they’re available to provide support; have seen level of filing increase in family court when family has access to IFLO rather than going into child protection to jurisdiction
- IFLOs don’t give legal advice and cannot be advocates, but can provide practical support to practitioners and support parties who cannot obtain legal representation and assist with Cmwth portals, deadlines, etc.
- 17 IFLOs nationally (except WA); have 4 specialised national IFLOs
- The program has evolved
  - Now provide support to chief justice and CEO
  - Facilitated First Nations Forum
  - 3 IFLOs who work on things in NT; focus on NT
  - Looking at ways to better support and help in the community
- Looking to support FVPLS work and partner
  - Good current relationship in Brisbane; would like more structure and more consistent nationally
- Next Forum will be in second half of 2025
- Working on connecting with the specialist lists and revisiting what they should be doing in the court space in the future.

**Sidebar:** If you have a case that’s shows clear barriers in the processes, advise Kerry, she can help forward the matter on to the chief through her connection to the FCFCOA panel.

### **Questions for Kirsty**

- Wynetta: Sees IFLOs as being courts to be more trauma-informed; confirms that team working with IFLOs has been very helpful. Provides more wrap-around support to clients; helps deal with cross-jurisdictional issues (state & federal)
- Jenn: Why is this isn’t in WA?
  - WA has an entirely separate family law jurisdiction
- Lauren: Where are the IFLOs in the NT?
  - Are based in Darwin, not Alice/Central Desert
  - Are open for applications, and would be happy to recruit anyone nationally, are aiming to have someone in Alice, complicated because there’s no Register there for them
- Julie (in chat): I sit on the FLPN for this area and have had interaction over some time with the program. Thanks for the information
- Corina: WA does have Indigenous workers in the courts; and have Indigenous court meetings w/ Family Courts as well. AFLSWA has had little contact in relation to it.
  - Kirsty asked for contact information for the WA people
- Rachel: Has a positive experience with IFLO in Darwin
- Denise: Where are the IFLOs based in NSW? Would like to work with them as they expand their family court matters.
  - Sydney, New Castle, Parramatta, and Lismore
  - Link has more information with some of the contacts: <https://www.fcfoa.gov.au/fl/pubs/iflo-national>



### **Project/Policy Updates**

#### **6. Administration of Contracts – Kerry**

- a. With new NAJP partnership agreement there were some surprises that were not part of the consultation
  1. Have been work w/ Marlo and putting questions through to KWM to get clarity about how some of the clauses will work
  2. KWM have indicated that they would be happy to work with member when the contracts are developed
  3. Contact Marlo when you get your contracts to connect w/ KWM
- b. Using NSW as an example, there was a clause that said States/Territories could outsource admin; and in NSW the admin of the contracts will be w/ Legal Aid, and Legal Aid was not made aware that this would happen
  1. In further investigation, the department that we're with does not have a procurement arm so they cannot procure contracts
  2. Have spoken to NSW Dev Sec; will have meeting tomorrow about this; possibly due to 5 FPVLS in NSW, and they only want to manage 1 contract
- c. There might be more challenges in NT, which remains to be seen, waiting on more information from Cindy
- d. Queensland perspective: Wynetta has spoken to the QLD to AG; in QLD it will be direct contracts with the AG department in Queensland
- e. TAS: it will be directly handled directly by the DOJ
- f. As per Kerry: Victoria will likely have a direct contract
- g. In WA: the funding will be on a "needs basis" and the funds will be distributed to where the needs are. Also feels pigeonholed in silos, and gets pushback as to some of the services they do offer
  1. Asked for Jenn to come to the workshop to see what's going on in WA directly
- h. Funds should be given out according to Schedule E
- i. Wynetta wants to make sure that the core, pay parity, and CPI will be ongoing as part of the contracts
  1. We thought this would be the case, but the "devil is in the details" and we are seeking clarity as how the different components interact with the contract
  2. Imperative to keep talking to each other
  3. As a starting point each service needs to start w/ core, pay parity, and CPI and then negotiate the uplift
- j. Schedule E example:
  1. Admin arrangements will be finalised toward the end of the transitional period (toward 2027) (which is not clear with how this interacts with the power to delegate administration to jurisdictions per cl 27)
  2. There are many clauses that require further scrutiny as the whole thing comes across as patchy
  3. The point is getting legal advice and help on interpretation to get it to work in our favour, to get a backstop and assert as strong a position as possible now and going forward
- k. Have heard that some states/territories have not yet received contracts from NIAA; hope that all services have given written consent to NIAA to share information to keep processing moving



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1. NPY will have a separate meeting because they're tri-state
  - l. Written consent needs to be provided by each service directly to NIAA. If you require further clarification you can contact Marlo (or Kerry after the 20<sup>th</sup> of December) regarding giving consent to share information to NIAA. Marlo on leave from 23<sup>rd</sup> of December and it is urgent services provide this consent to NIAA.
  - m. Next meeting will be on 29 January 2025 w/ Commonwealth regarding this matter
7. Canberra visit report back – Kerry (plus input from others present)
  - a. Have had good success in meeting with the Shadows and the LNP, especially in advance of the upcoming elections
  - b. Spent good time educating the opposition, including with revised policy positions
  - c. Suggest next visit back to Canberra would be *after* the election; even if Labor gets in there could be a re-shuffle
  - d. Did get to meet with the AG and Minister McCarthy
    1. AG was very solid on FVPLS should be fighting for 5-year contracts at jurisdictional levels and stand firm on that ground
    2. Caught between federal and state jurisdictions
    3. How that will play out will be in control of states/territories
  - e. Wynetta: Thanks to the FNAAFV team for organising the meetings
8. NAJP negotiations (including update from Cwth departments meeting 27 Nov.) – Marlo
  - a. Marlo circulated minutes from Cwth departments meeting on 19 December, immediately before this meeting.
  - b. Headline times to be aware of:
    1. There were questions about how the transition to NAJP from now up to July 2025. FNAAFV requested members to be provided with regular updates by NIAA to assist them to identify action items as required, checklists, etc.
    2. The other action for members is as mentioned above – consent needs to be provided in writing to NIAA for them to share the requested information back to jurisdictions. Members should have received correspondence from NIAA about this. For some services this written consent may not have been provided to NIAA yet and yet it must be so that they can progress to next steps in establishing relationships and negotiations with jurisdictions without delay.

A reminder of what approximately has been requested (may vary by jurisdiction).

      - Agreement information - FVPLS Project Schedule, FVPLS Reporting – including performance, acquittals and budgets, Contact information
9. National FVPLS Sector GAR Report NIAA Reporting and Pay Parity updates – Jenn
  - a. NIAA have confirmed that the report is now due 15<sup>th</sup> January, and it was informed by the working group that was established
    1. Jenn returns from holiday shutdown on Jan 6<sup>th</sup>, and you can arrange a meeting with her for support in filling this out
    2. NIAA will send out report instructions today, but extensions will be granted
    3. Will cover last 6 months through December; and this template will be used for next 3 reporting periods!
  - b. Pay Parity updates:



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1. Process using the portal is clunky, but if people need support Jenn can be on Teams with you to guide you through the process while you're filling out
2. Pay parity will be assessed on Needs Assessment template, not the portal. The portal still needs to be completed
3. Deadline is May 2025

10. SSP Update – Priya

- a. Out of 6 categories, she's down to the last 2
- b. Once there is a draft, it will be circulated to the members
- c. Feedback from conference has been included

11. Conference and advocacy video – Lianne

- a. Lianne presented the videos for the members that was produced by Laundry Lane
- b. Another video is in production from the conference talking about different issues and focuses more on advocacy. Will be shared when closer to a final version.
  1. Members can use the videos for their own lobbying/advocacy

12. Pre-Budget Submission – Kerry

- a. We have sent around a draft please provide any feedback as soon as you are able, we will try to get this off this year however if feedback indicates that there is more work to be done we can send off next year.

**General Business**

13. General Business

- a. Current working groups
  1. Comms Group reminder; if you have a comms officer, or someone who helps with comms/media/marketing, encourage them to join the group with Lianne
  2. Policy Group reminder; if you have new policy officers, please encourage them to join the group with Jenn & Priya
- b. FCFCOA advisory group– feedback
  1. Discussed above
- c. Family Law round table
  1. Wynetta and Kerry invited; Thelma attended as Wynetta's proxy
  2. Was able to highlight the early childhood notification scheme; keen interest from deputy secretary to explore this further
  3. Could be a way to, nationally, advance the agenda
  4. This could be a good platform as a way to get the early notification in; Family Law round table is keen to know if there's any early findings from the NAAFLS pilot program
  5. NAAFLS currently advertising for positions to get the program up and running
- d. National DV Alliance
  1. Kerry part of National DFV Alliance; mainstream national alliance but there is a space for ATSI national and jurisdictional organisations (16-18 spots all together; most mainstream spots are taken).
  2. Kerry going to find out if there's any other vacancies and see if there's any members who are interested in joining



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3. Current experience: starting to get access to some conversations that have not been previously privy to, e.g., input to DV Commission conversations; creation of data set around family violence services
  - Allows people to see the breadth of services that the FVPLS services offer
  - Some politicians are starting to come to this Alliance for advice
- e. VET Partnership
  1. Through Coalition of Peaks
  2. FNAAFV are now one of 5 Members of the VET Interim Partnership Committee
  3. VET is about building up capacity for ACCO RTOs and having more of a seat at the table to engage in policy partnership building and have a voice in strategic planning for workforce development nationally.
  4. Have been selected to be 1 of 5 members on committee as part of an expression of interest assessment process.
  5. The first meeting of the IPC took place in person in Melbourne on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October this year. We have already met with the state representatives to begin negotiating towards several policy initiatives to be funded under the NSA by the jurisdictions. So it has been a fairly rapid path to potential policy partnership projects which aims to take advantage of opportunities under the NSA.
  6. This will give us a voice and cues to start thinking about workforce development and strategic thinking across the ACCO DFSV sector.
- f. DATA REPORTING: When reporting to NIAA, FNAAFV would like to capture some of that data as well
  1. The template has been sent out, and this will come up again in January with next round of NIAA reporting – the template and form that were previously sent will be refreshed in January 2025 to align with the updated NIAA reporting template.
  2. It is very important and has been so helpful for FNAAFV, as we are involved in rapid negotiations under NAJP to have a good understanding of sector needs and directions for data; this has given us a stronger starting point when negotiating with the states/territories because they now have your preferred data template as a starting point as a consequence of the work of the NIAA template working group.
  3. Marlo will resend template and information in January inclusive of an update.
  4. Our aim is this should be very easy to do at the same time as the NIAA reporting, members can cut & paste straight over, most of the information we require.
  5. Sidenote: reach out to Jenn if there's someone you want to participate on the reporting template working group – Jenn also gave a shout out to thank the current participants who have contributed so valuably to the sector on this.
- g. HR update new role
  1. FNAAFV advertised for a new Strategic Director & conducted interviews
  2. Hope to have a new staff member joining in new year
- h. Pre-Budget Submission and Letter to Minister Rishworth
  1. Particularly targeting DSS to fund early intervention and prevention
  2. Do any members want more time to read/approve; OR are they happy with what is already done?
  3. There's a table of funding, based on estimates of what each service would need to fund a position for EI&P



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4. Wynetta: suggests that we send members guidance for FTE amounts
  - Also under “enhancing cultural safety and community led approaches” – highlight that these are *place based solutions*
  - Need to highlight the reach of the FVPLS sector as well
  - Talk about supporting elders and young people with EI&P
5. Will circulate the letter tomorrow; respond directly to KERRY (she will be in on Mon/Tues of next week)

14. Comm Prac meeting

Over 100 members; had ACOSS at last meeting regarding allyship and their efforts

Next meeting, Corina will present about Ochre ribbon and 10 year anniversary; if any other members want to present about their Ochre ribbon events (5-10 minutes), please reach out to Marlo.

This could help encourage allies to promote Ochre ribbon week as well.

Date and times for upcoming CommOfPrac meetings in 2025:

- 30 Jan 11:30am – 12:45pm AEDT
- 13 March 1:30 – 2:45pm AEDT
- 24 April 11:30 – 12:45 AEDT
- 5 June 1:30 – 2:45pm AEST
- 17 July 11:30 – 12:45 AEST

15. Next members meeting, **Thursday 30 January 2025, 2:30pm AEST**

**Actions Arising From This Meeting:**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Level of completion</b>
Members are to provide written consent to NIAA for NIAA to share requested information with jurisdictions	Urgent - ASAP	Completed
Comm Prac – Ochre Ribbon Presentations: contact Marlo to volunteer to present Ochre Ribbon events at next Comm Prac meeting		Completed
Data – <b>Marlo</b> to send a refreshed form link. <b>Members</b> , look out for this and complete your data input for FNAAFV in January 2025 and please complete without delay.	After January 6, 2025	Completed