



MEETING MINUTES

First Nations Advocates Against Family Violence – Members’ Teams Meeting

Thursday, 30 January 2025 at 2:30pm AEST (via Teams)

1. **Acknowledgement of Country – done by Kerry**

2. **Welcome and Apologies**

Attendees: Nick Sharke (Warra Warra); Wynetta Dewis (QIFLVS); Julie Perkins (Many Rivers); David Couri (MWRC); Jake Smith (SiSTas); John Tonkin (FVLSAC); Cindy Torrens (NAAFLS); Corina Martin (AFLSWA); Kathleen Wincen (AFLSQ)

FNAAFV Team: Kari Greenswag, Marlo Slavin, Kerry Staines, Lianne Brown, Priya Devendran, Jenn FitzGerald

Apologies:

Members Meeting:

- Minutes from previous meeting – no changes from previous meeting
- Actions from last meeting – Kari

Actions	Timeframe	Level of completion
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 – Marlo to send a refreshed form link. Members , look out for this and complete your data input for FNAAFV in January 2025 and please complete without delay.	After January 6, 2025	Completed

5. **Current/Hot Topics**

- **Ochre Ribbon Day** campaign sharing – All

- Kerry opened the meeting for any members to share if they have an event going on.
- Corina – QLD Dept Justice & Housing departments contacted her, interested to be involved, and Corina redirected them to Wynetta (QIFVLS); first year that AFLSWA is doing the whole week
- Wynetta – linking the Ochre ribbon event to a Cairns-local sporting event; Wynetta will send QIFVLS events to Lianne to boost marketing for the events.
- Cindy – NAAFLS doing an Ochre Ribbon breakfast, with an eye to doing more than one event next year.
- Julie – Many Rivers have localised events in their service areas. Going to have an Ochre Ribbon Breakfast as well
- John – Community events in each of the three locations of FVLSAC
- Jake – Community event in Hobart; and all staff in TAS will go on country for an internal event



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- Nick – Noted that Melissa has left Warra Warra; Amanda King, a local elder, has taken up the position and the community has coordinated with LifeLine and put on a BBQ
- David – Doing some internal events with the team, but waiting on public-facing events in relation to a funeral taking place in Fitzroy
- Kerry – FNAAFV will help promote all events; members to send all event details to Lianne.
- **NAJP negotiations** – all to share
 - Kerry asked if any of the members wanted to share what’s going on, if there was anything they wanted to say in addition to the Joint Meeting that recently occurred
 - Noted that there are extra concerns for NSW services because Legal Aid has been asked to administer the contracts in the state. Offered that FNAAFV or another department could administer the contracts in the state. The State AG expressed “reservations” about FNAAFV administering the contracts, but he would take it up with the national AG. While Legal Aid NSW expressed concerns about them administering contracts (including conflict issues); FNAAFV and LA-NSW had a meeting and more meetings are forthcoming.
 - Cindy asked if anything has been heard in relation to contracts in the NT
 - Kerry confirmed that the funding has been earmarked for the FVPLS’s, but that each state has to decide how to administer the contracts.
 - Regarding with the NT, Wynetta noted that some of the vital personnel have been on leave, and at the national level that there are no flags raised (no problems)
 - WA and SA are frontrunners with getting the contracts organised; John reported a delay until Monday in SA
 - WA might only be a 2-year contract to start with
 - QLD will be a 5-year contract
 - ACT is not consistent, and will be managed by Dept of Infrastructure
 - VIC has new AG, are still being briefed on the matter
 - TAS, there should be some 1-on-1 conversations happening there. Jake has had meetings w/ DoJ and waiting for AG to sign off, but should be a 5-year agreement
 - For NPY, the NT will be the holder of the contract
 - **Action: Members advised to reach out to KWM (law firm) for contract support; reach out to Marlo for contact details**
- **Board Update** – Wynetta
 - Wynetta: advised members of the Board meeting in Brisbane, and the governance training, and advised members that Dr. Warren Mundy will join the FNAAFV board as an independent director
 - Wynetta updated members about the new direction regarding the Peak body. Decision was made at the Board Meeting were happy to be a contributor in the development of that Peak, and depending on the structure of that Peak, keen to be a member. Board was disappointed with the consultation process. DSS engaged the Coalition of Peaks for consultation, but further consultation wasn’t done with the members.
 - FNAAFV Board wrote letter to Coalition of Peaks regarding our disappointment with not being consulted, and further went into details about other practices that are problematic.
 - Will let members know if any letters receive a response.
 - FNAAFV Board decided that we were not in a position to be the Peak, because it encompasses the whole sector, and we are a specific part of the sector, but that we should be consulted
 - Member conference decision: Perth in 2025; Tasmania in 2026; Darwin in 2027



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- Date not locked in (possibly early November); very rough idea.
Action: update to be provided after each board meeting
- **Data reports** – Marlo
 - Marlo sent out a link to the revised data form. In part it mirrors the NIAA template, and thus the form has been simplified.
 - In addition to the template questions, FNAAFV has added six further questions, which should be straight forward to fill out
 - **Action: Members to fill out that form with current reporting data**
 - Because of the outcomes of the NAJP, it's looking like FNAAFV will be a data repository so the more members do now, the easier the transition will be.
 - Wynetta: Part of the transition we will need to look at is how the data is currently captured and then putting it into a portal which can be easily collated by FNAAFV. This will take time. While nothing will be changing the data, but moving to a more centralised data source holding the data, will be built in over time.
 - Kerry: Commonwealth seems indifferent to software use, but only care what the output is at the end, so perhaps could use Action Step and get a Commonwealth-friendly output to streamline data capture

Project/Policy Updates

6. National Partnership Agreement ideas – Kerry and Wynetta

- a. Kerry asked for feedback about NPA: asked for agreement across all departments about what the FVPLS sector is doing. When speaking to the departments, Kerry reported they:
 - i. Talked about developing some principles about being a specialist and national being a DFSV service, what role we have as a Peak, and how to have a seat at the table based on what we do and what we represent.
 - ii. Talked about accreditation standards, and how to avoid gaps and problems
 - iii. Data sovereignty conversation, and how we want to own our own data
 - iv. How the sector best works with a national idea and across the jurisdictions, to ensure jurisdictions understand FVPLSs represent a national spread, and that we're working toward Target 13.
 - v. Also talked about how to work together, being place-based, and place-owned. To help Commonwealth understand the uniqueness of services being home-grown and community driven.
- b. Wynetta clarified that there is a role for the Peak, a role for the members, and a role for the community, and that we do not work with our communities in only one way, we are community led and our model is place based responding to community need. What is the role of the Department in supporting this.
- c. suggested to have quarterly meetings with AG to keep on top of governance.
- d. This discussion was initiated due to FVPLS falling between the gaps across departments and to stop disconnection between departments and the FVPLS sector.
- e. **Action: If there are any further suggestions on this: members are to reach out to Kerry to discuss**

7. Submission updates – Priya

- a. Inquiry into measuring outcomes into First Nations Communities
 - i. If there's anything services want to add, please reach out to Priya



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- ii. **Action: Priya will send a draft to members for feedback as well.**
 - iii. Due at the end of Feb 2025
 - b. Other completed one: Rapid Literature Review for the FARS (Family and Relationship Services)
 - i. FNAAFV was asked to comment, and was submitted
 - c. Universal Period Review (UPR)
 - i. UN Human Rights Framework – for national governments and the sector to be able to comment on Human Rights activities of specific countries
 - ii. Last year FNAAFV put in an EOI to be part of the drafting process
 - iii. Have been attending meetings; currently in the consolidating stages, and there is a draft of a draft report that could be forthcoming soon
 - iv. There will be a First Nations space, but we don't know how many words we'll be given.
 - d. Pre-Budget Submission has been completed
 - i. Thank you to all members for providing feedback and costings
 - ii. Copy was submitted to Minister Rishworth (DSS) as well
 - iii. Copies was provided to some of the opposition members as well who hold portfolios
 - e. Upcoming Submissions
 - i. National Firearms Register
 - ii. Families BES – program review; next week FNAAFV will be appearing in front of a committee due to a submission we made for Youth Incarceration

General Business

8. General Business

FNAAFV, recruitment update – had to return to market for Strategic Director role
2025 Conference info – addressed above

9. Comm Prac meeting update – Marlo; nothing further to add

10. Open to other items:

- a. **Action: any remaining members to submit please each out to Jenn for any pay parity submission assistance**
- b. **Action: Add standing item to Member's Meeting Agenda around the transition to the AG department;** readdressed the items under the transition meeting with the AG, thinking about data and underspends, etc.
- c. **Action: Members should reach out to Vanessa at NIAA early to discuss and gain assistance developing a Business Case to address any underspend**
- d. Pay Parity will be carried on for at least a year, which is through NIAA. We have to show that those funds have been utilised. There will be an acquittal for the extra funding, and why Wynetta has asked for that to be folded in to avoid having two separate agreements.
- e. Related to the Business Cases: Cindy cannot project underspend until April, so asking for suggestions on how to manage that. Kerry suggests talking to Vanessa at NIAA and better off over-estimating and scale it back rather than under-estimate. Vanessa is happy to work with each service and their unique circumstances
- f. Wynetta asked to see if any other members have heard from the Commonwealth regarding a touch-base on the NLAP review.



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- i. Kathleen has received a request and has a meeting next month. Kathleen reported that the AG workshop will be done by each state and territory.
 - ii. They're in WA next week with Corina.
 - iii. Marlo asked if another members have been visited by the AG Roadshow: John has had his meeting. Kerry will make sure the dates are re-circulated to the members.
 - iv. Tasmania will likely be March; Northern Territory will also likely be March
 - v. Will be talking about how they will embed the uplift funding.
- g. Cindy shared that NAAFLS is trying to streamline their Governance related expenses, reached out to sister-orgs and other ACCOs to see what Governance they had in place, including sitting fees as FVPLS's cannot provide sitting fees. Asked if anyone would be willing to share their experience with q-/board governance and in a cost-effective way.
- h. Lianne shared the FNAAFV advocacy video with members; not ready to go public, waiting on the Board.
- i. Lianne asked for feedback, and is happy to let members share with team, and then externally once we have Board approval.
- i. Kerry closed meeting, and asked members to reach out with any questions.

11. Next members meeting, Thursday 27 February 2025, 2:30pm AEST

Actions	Timeframe	Level of completion
Members to reach out to Marlo for KWM's contact info if they need pro bono legal advice regarding the contracts		
Members to fill out Data Reporting Form – sent by Marlo		
Members to reach out to Kerry if there are further comments/questions on the National Partnership Agreement		
Priya to circulate draft of Inquiry into measuring outcomes into First Nations Communities to members for review/comments		
Members to reach out to Jenn for pay parity submission assistance		
Kari to add standing item to future meeting agendas on transition to AG's department		
Members should reach out to the department to gain assistance developing a Business Case to address any underspend		
Board to update members after every Board Meeting		