



MEETING MINUTES

First Nations Advocates Against Family Violence – Members’ Teams Meeting

Thursday, 27 February 2025 at 2:30pm AEST (via Teams)

1. **Acknowledgement of Country**

2. **Welcome and Apologies**

Attendees: John Tonkin (FVLSAC); Wynetta Dewis (QIFVLS); Anne Lenton (Djirra); Denise Ranby (Thyiyama-li); Kathleen Wincen (AFLSQ); Phynea Clarke (CAAFU)

FNAAFV team: Kerry Staines, Priya Devendran, Jenn Fitzgerald, Lianne Brown, Marlo Slavin, Kari Greenswag

Apologies: Heather Smith (NPYWC); Jake Smith (SiSTas), Corina Martin (AFLSWA); Julie Perkins (Many Rivers)

Members Meeting:

3. Minutes from previous meeting – circulated on 20 Feb 2025, no corrections

4. Actions from last meeting – Kari

Actions	Timeframe	Level of completion
Members to reach out to Marlo to advise if you wish to opt in for KWM support	By end of Feb	Still open – all but 1 member have responded yes so far, 1 nonresponse
Members to fill out Data Reporting Form – sent by Marlo: https://firstnationsadvocatesagainfamilyviolence.snapforms.com.au/form/data-form-2-july-24-jan-25 (If you started the form and saved it incomplete use your personalised link) Contact Marlo if any issues.	End of February or early March (Jan reporting period)	Request members to action by Mid-March
Members to reach out to Kerry if there are further comments/questions on the National Partnership Agreement		Completed
Priya to circulate draft of Inquiry into measuring outcomes into First Nations Communities to members for review/comments		Jenn completed
Members to reach out to Jenn for pay parity submission assistance		Still open
Kari to add standing item to future meeting agendas on transition to AG’s department		Completed
Members should reach out to the department to gain assistance developing a Business Case to address any underspend		Members to contact NIAA ASAP
Board to update members after every Board Meeting		To be added to Agenda for May Member Meeting Completed



5. Current/Hot Topics – none at the moment
6. Standing Item: **Transition to AG's department update from all**
 - a. Kerry opened floor for anyone to start with their experiences to share with other members
 - b. **John's update:** Received all tendered documents. KWM have reviewed the documents, and all initial concerns have been rectified by the AG regarding services they do not undertake (e.g., criminal law, duty law). Very close to finalising everything. Had visit from AG department week previous, visiting all 3 FVLSAC sites. AG still learning about the service, but John feels good about it.
 - i. Question: Will indexation and SEO payments continue under AGD?
 - ii. Answer: SEO payments will not transfer to services with AGD transfer, but indexation will continue. CPI funding will also go forward.
 - iii. Regarding criminal law: possibly outcome of Dr. Mundy's suggestions, but as per John criminal law has become an optional item, rather than a requirement
 - iv. Will submit on March 7th; board meeting on March 5th for approval.
 - c. **Anne's update:** no update from Djirra/VIC. Were supposed to be contacted by DOJ on 21 Feb, but have not been contacted as yet. Have been advised that things have been progressing as normal. Regarding indexation: in VIC, it may be paid at a higher rate, so it might have to be taken out of the pay parity stream of funding, but will have to wait and see.
 - i. Anne extended thanks to Jenn Fitzgerald for her assistance with Pay Parity and AG uplift.
 - d. As per Kerry: any funding that services have with NIAA that are not part of core funding, they will stay with NIAA and pay parity is one of those grants.
 - i. *Further, as per Kerry and Wynetta, the new funding is intended to have the pay parity bundled with the base funding as the services are fully transferred to the new NAJP agreements.*
 - e. **Kathleen's update:**
 - i. **NSW:** still no updates on contracts and negotiations regarding Warra Warra; ALFSQ will be able to continue the auspicing while the community works to be positioned to take on the services. Warra Warra has hired a PLO and another solicitor. Potential counsellor coming on, depending on salary negotiations
 - ii. **QLD:** met on road show with AG and Justice Dept around contracts moving forward. They didn't answer many questions, and indicated they will get back possibly around March. Then will get legal advice like SA service. All things seem full steam ahead.
 - f. **Wynetta's update:** similar to Kathleen's update for QLD. Agreements are forthcoming but haven't heard anything yet. Waiting on contract before doing anything further.
 - g. **Denise's update:** no contact with anyone regarding new agreement
 - h. **Reminder: NSW jurisdiction meeting on Monday at 10am NSW time.**
 - i. Kerry has had conversations with NSW legal aid, specifically around Moree and how the legal aid is setting up shop. Marlo will coordinate meeting with Denise and local Legal aid to try to get something sorted.
 - j. Denise has had meeting with ALS related to care and protection and families' referrals. ALS will be using one of their rooms.
 - k. **Phee's update:** past 3-4 weeks have been productive. Not sure if all meetings have been positive. Met with AGD for NT. Everything seems new to them, and CAAFLU sharing about their service. CAAFLU reiterated the lack of support from the NT government, and the depth of how troubling the DFSV issues are in the NT.



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- i. Were successful from DSS to receive \$4.8M, picking up 2 additional remote communities where CAAFLU is not known.
 - ii. Have run out of room at main office in Alice Springs – will face staffing and space challenges.
 - iii. Have met with new owners of premises and there are vacant spots in the same street; hoping to get a nearby additional office.
 - iv. Thanks to Jenn Fitzgerald for helping CAAFLU, especially for the business case and supporting Jordan.
- l. Kerry's update for FNAAFV: We're going to the CLSP Department but have not yet received our funding guidelines. Currently in a waiting space.
- m. **Next joint meeting with AGD and NIAA is on 26 March**
- i. **Action: Marlo will schedule a joint pre-meeting**
 - ii. Haven't received the FAQ yet from AGD or NIAA; expecting those early next week from NIAA but haven't heard anything from AGD, they will be like a guiding checklist for the transition away from NIAA and the transition into AG Dept.
 - iii. **Action for members: For those who are going to have surplus funds from NIAA – contact Vanessa & Cass at NIAA to get a business plan signed off well before June (note that the relevant contacts may be updated in the FAQs due to be circulated by NIAA)**
 - iv. **Item of note: Wynetta urged members to put in a business case and urge NIAA along because otherwise they will have to acquit any underspend by end of June.**
 - v. Kerry asked: is anyone waiting on payment for their contract this year: Denise is waiting and shared some rationale for this.

Project/Policy Updates

7. National Partnership Agreement update – Kerry and Wynetta
- a. Wynetta and Kerry meet again with NIAA (DSS apology) and AGD – this conversation is how to have a joint agreement across departments that recognises the FVPLS sector from a strategic perspective.
 - b. Asking for feedback from members about how to embed principles around the FVPLS sector (acknowledging us as specialists in this field) because government depts still don't exactly understand how the sector works or what it does. Will have high level governance principles, and how we will have standards across the sector, data sovereignty, and how to address targets 13 and 12.
 - c. Will likely be a National Alliance (rather than NPA) wording yet to be decided.
 - d. Currently looking at Terms of Reference and governance structure to avoid falling between the gaps of Govt Dept.
 - e. Will be an opportunity to reaffirm history of FVPLS sector to get it firmly planted within gov't – will stay at a national level and be there to support member services.
 - f. Could be a great opportunity for specific information from service providers to be brought up at that higher level.
 - g. Wynetta notes: change from Agreement to Alliance, about trying to have a way to still have the collaboration with 3 departments without compromising the other agreements. It just needs further development. Will also give opportunity to continue to have conversations with all 3 departments and helps position FNAAFV as PEAK body on behalf of members. Will keep members abreast of next steps.
8. Independent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Review on CtG – Kerry



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- a. Kerry shared previous email that gave the opportunity for members to respond to a call for EOI's to attend the assembly in April in Canberra.
 - b. While the current EOI window is closed, there will be ways to provide feedback.
 - c. Kerry will not be able to attend, but Phee will attend if the FNAAFV EOI is successful as a member of the FNAAFV Board
 - d. Wynetta will attend from a jurisdictional standpoint as a QIFVLS representative
9. Ochre Ribbon Week – Kerry
- a. Congrats to everyone around the country for their celebrations, especially having the bridge in Perth lit up in Ochre
 - b. Wynetta, Antionette, and Jenn attended in Perth
 - c. NAAFV breakfast event in Darwin looked very impressive
 - d. Big effort from all the services and circulated as much as possible on FNAAFV socials.
10. Election looming – Kerry & Priya
- a. Comms Strategy around the election from Lianne:
 - i. Finalising our comms strategy for the duration of the Federal election period
 - ii. Landed on making sure as FNAAFV we remain future-focused and go in with what we see as specific needs for the sector, which are outlined in pre-budget submission.
 - iii. Working to make sure that we don't fall off the radar regardless of whoever is voted in
 - iv. Key message; a commitment to the sustained ability of the FVPLS sector in general; reinforce commitment to working with next Commonwealth government that our calls from the last pre-budget submission are heard & met; and continue to tell the story about the devastating impacts of DFSV on communities and making sure the communities are not voiceless during this fight.
 - v. That FNAAFV as the PEAK is here to amplify the voices of the member services and the communities they serve
 - vi. Socials will be important, and working to get Kerry and/or Wynetta in front of traditional media to
 - vii. Looking to do Parliamentary visit as part of first sitting and will keep members posted
 - b. This is to cover the 4 to 6 weeks of the election cycle; this is a small slice of time and an opportunity to platform some of the asks for the sector. Working on a positive, future-focused campaign.
 - c. **Action: Members it is suggested to engage with local federal members – both the incumbent and the challenger**
 - d. If it's a minority government, we will be sharpening our pencil on the asks for the Greens, as we've had a lot of support from the Greens as a sector.
 - e. Wynetta: in the past we put together tiles, and asked CEOs quoted and have their names attached to a quote, if members are open to that, could be a good way to bolster social media presence and campaign. **ACTION**
11. Submission updates – Priya
- a. One submission due tomorrow (Measuring outcomes on First Nations Communities); will be submitted tomorrow (28 Feb); thanks to all those who read & commented
 - b. Universal Period Review (UPR); UN review; NGOs are coming together as a third sector submission to the UPR. Put our hands up for Equality for Women, Justice, and two others. Will provide updates on this as we go along.



General Business

12. General Business

- a. FNAAFV, recruitment update:
 - i. Interviews next week for Strategic Director role due to previous applicant pulling out of the role and having to go to market again.
 - ii. Brought consultant on board as cultural advisor (Aunty Bino) as a contractor. Kerry asked members if they had cultural advisors to have a working group meeting so they can have peer supervision.
- b. 2025 Conference dates and location: 4 to 6 of November in Perth.
 - i. Action: Kari to send Date Claimers to Member’s list
- c. Wynetta congratulated Kerry as membership to ACOSS board and to the Administrative Review Council (5-year appointment).

13. Data – Marlo

- a. Link to the data form:
<https://firstnationsadvocatesagainfamilyviolence.snapforms.com.au/form/data-form-2-july-24-jan-25>
- b. Marlo asked for feedback about the form, and asked how we can best support members to input data into that form.
- c. Please click through to all three pages.
- d. **Action: Members to have data form completed for each service by 15 March 2025, in future we would like to aim for this to be completed in line with required 6-monthly reporting.**
- e. Phee: suggested that it would be good if services provide FNAAFV with the required reporting and then FNAAFV siphons the data and not have this going elsewhere.
- f. Marlo: the form has 2 parts, there are six questions to the 6-monthly report; and while there are similarities to the 6-monthly report, there are some differences.
- g. Kerry: members can answer the 6 additional questions, and provide the official report provided members are comfortable with sending that information to FNAAFV/staff.

14. Community of Practice meeting: 13 March w/ E-Safety committee presenting.

- a. Action: If members wish to receive information about the Community of Practice and / or join the meetings please ensure you and any staff you wish to have attend or receive information are joined up using the registration form:
<https://firstnationsadvocatesagainfamilyviolence.snapforms.com.au/form/fnaafv-community-of-practice-registration>

15. Next members meeting, **Thursday 27 March 2025, 2:30pm AEST**

Actions	Timeframe	Level of completion
Marlo to schedule pre-meeting with members ahead of AGD and NIAA joint meeting that is on 26 March		
Action for members: For those who are going to have surplus funds from NIAA – contact Vanessa & Cass at NIAA to get plan signed off well before June (see FAQ to be circulated by NIAA as these contacts may change)		
Action for Members suggested to engage with local federal members – both the incumbent and the challenger		



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Action: Members to have data form completed for each service by 15 March 2025, in line with required 6-monthly reporting.		
Action: CEOs of Member services to have their quotes turned into social media tiles & Members, if willing, to post tiles on their social media.		