



MEETING MINUTES

First Nations Advocates Against Family Violence – Members’ Teams Meeting

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

1. **Acknowledgement of Country**

2. **Welcome and Apologies**

Attendees: John Tonkin (FVLSAC); Julie Perkins (Many Rivers); Heather Smith (NPYWC); Denise Ranby (Thiyama-li); Kathleen Wincen (AFLSQ); Jake Smith (SiSTas);

FNAAFV staff: Kerry Staines, Kari Greenswag, Marlo Slavin, Jenn Fitzgerald, Priya Devendran

Apologies: Sara Alberts (Binaal Billa); Wynetta Dewis (QIFVLS); Lianne Brown (FNAAFV); Phynea Clarke (CAAFU)

**Members Meeting:**

3. Minutes from previous meeting – circulated on 20 May 2025 via email; no corrections provided.

4. Actions from last meeting

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Level of completion</b>
Marlo to schedule pre-meeting with members ahead of AGD and NIAA joint meeting that is on 26 March		Completed
<del>Action for members: For those who are going to have surplus funds from NIAA – contact Vanessa &amp; Cass at NIAA to get plan signed off well before June (see FAQ to be circulated by NIAA as these contacts may change)</del>		Struck from Actions due to updates from NIAA
Action for Members suggested to engage with local federal members – both the incumbent and the challenger; talk to Priya if you would like policy reminders/information		Standing Reminder
Action: Members to have data form completed for each service by 15 March 2025, in line with required 6-monthly reporting.		Standing Reminder
Action: CEOs of Member services to have their quotes turned into social media tiles & Members, if willing, to post tiles on their social media. Related to election campaign.		Standing Reminder

5. Current/Hot Topics

6. Standing Item: **Transition to AG’s department update from all**

- a. Kerry asked members if there was anything new to share, and opened the floor to debrief regarding current dealings with NIAA or AG
- b. NPYWC: Question – for those who have ongoing schedules with NIAA under the action plan, could underspends be attached to the contract for the next financial year
  - i. Answer: that will come up in 1-on-1 conversations, but it the answer might vary by service.



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- c. Marlo sees the road ahead being a rapid-fire process from NIAA, based on indication so far.
- d. Kerry: We will send out membership invoices early, which can be paid in June for 25-26 year.
- e. Possible list of expenditures was circulated by Jenn yesterday (26 March)
- f. Jenn: re: NIAA suggesting that pay parity funds need to be spent by 30 June, NIAA hope to have further advice to members by early next week

**Project/Policy Updates**

7. Election looming – Kerry & Priya
  - a. Priya expects the election will be called tomorrow, likely for 3 May 2025
  - b. Members are suggested to release some communications tomorrow to highlight that whatever government is formed, the FVPLS sector is looking forward to working with them, especially on early intervention & prevention
  - c. The feeling is that it will be a minority government
8. Budget – Kerry
  - a. FNAAFV was going to do a budget media release, but given the events of 26 May, decided against posting the release considering recent information from government.
  - b. Conversations in the budget lockup was that government has put in tax cuts and Medicare rebates, but that it's very little because they are spending very little – ultimately not much there to speak about
  - c. The dot points about the \$19.6M were already in there; and the Women's Budget paper read like a report card with only some case studies.
9. Submission updates – Priya
  - a. No new submissions since last month
  - b. UPR (Universal Periodic Review) of Australia's record of social issues
    - i. FNAAFV has been involved and has been convening the women's section
    - ii. Will be going back to the coordinating committee of the UPR next week;
10. SSP – Priya
  - a. Finished the Needs Assessment, which is what precedes the SSP
  - b. Will be putting out an EoI to be part of the SSP working group
  - c. **Action: Priya will be sending an email with a form for Members to circulate**
    - i. Looking for a broad range of people: Elders, people with lived experience, etc.
11. Surplus – Kerry – conversation tabled
12. Urgent recovery orders – Kerry
  - a. Have chief justice of family circuit law court who is interested to hear how things are going; Kathleen brought up urgent recovery orders and the impact that has on those leaving violent situations
  - b. Interested in hearing about the risk assessments and if clients are not getting accepted onto that list; or if there are reasons why it is difficult for clients to get the risk assessments done; or if there are other challenges (e.g., urgent recovery orders)
  - c. Has anyone been successful to get someone onto the Everett List?
  - d. Thiyama-li: last year had someone on the Indigenous List and someone on the Everett List, but in the end the person had to be referred out



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- e. AFLSQ: conflict when a recovery order was used to contravene a DV order filing; forced the mother to return to an unsafe environment to stay near her child. Further, it is very difficult to get clients on the Everett List for a variety of reasons, primarily that it is not very accessible.

13. Data – Marlo – already spoken to during actions review

14. **Invitation to join Services Australia legal advocates email channel** – Guest Speakers: Anita Bogdanovski, Donna Field; Valerie Marshall, Scott Briody, Jane Roberts, & Larissa Panowski

- a. The Advocates Channel; a channel open to legal professionals with a direct line to Services Australia.
- b. Operates via a secure inbox which facilitates: legal advocates making enquiries, direct access to skill staff, uses a case management approach, provision of information to assist clients of legal professionals who are experiencing highly vulnerable and complex circumstances
- c. Advocates must sign an Advocates Agreement to access the channel
- d. Programs accessible include: financial hardship, disability, debt, etc.
- e. Thiyama-li: has been contacted on a number of occasions by Centrelink to assist clients, but is not certain if this is the same channel.
  - i. This channel does not “reach out”, as legal advocates must sign up to be part of the program
  - ii. There is a form to fill out, which indicates that the legal professional has client consent to work with Centrelink on their behalf
- f. Shared the enquiry form and the Advocates Agreement for members to view them both
- g. Have set up pathways within Services Australia to manage all requests as priority within Services Australia itself
- h. Open to feedback to improve the service
- i. Is a boon for those who are in vulnerable positions and have legal representation, allowing clients to have an advocate with them for Services Australia. For example, to make sure people are on the correct payment and that the payment is backdated
- j. The agreement itself needs to be signed by a legal representative, but secondary contacts be added part of the agreement, such as a case manager, which allows that person to be looped in.
- k. Team is trained in Medicare, Centrelink, and Child Support matters

**General Business**

15. General Business

- a. FNAAFV, recruitment update
  - i. Admin support role referred to FNAAFV by Julie
  - ii. New Strategic Director role to start on 5 May 2025
- b. Time to gather quotes from CEOs for social media tiles related to election campaign
  - i. **Action: Lianne will send possible quotes to CEOs for them to attach their names to**
- c. 2025 Conference dates and location – date claimer sent
  - i. **Action: Kari will send Registration email**
- d. Young Leaders Day – Monday 3 November will be a “Young Leader’s Day” for 1 or 2 people in each service, to be introduced to the wider network of FVPLS sector. Accommodation & flights for 2 people per service to be covered by FNAAFV
- e. NPYWC: checking in proposed amendment to NT DV submissions – will FNAAFV be making a submission?
  - i. Previously, when members in a particular jurisdiction have made something, FNAAFV will endorse



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- ii. Priya will reach out to Cindy next week if they need any help and/or drafting work
- iii. Based on conversation w/ Cindy earlier today, there might be some strategizing about which service might be best to put a voice to it, if a service or if it will be FNAAFV

16. Next members meeting, **Thursday 24 April 2025, 2:30pm AEST**

<b>Actions</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Level of completion</b>
Priya to send an email with Expression of Interest form for Members to circulate in their networks to be part of the SSP working group		
Kari to send Conference Registration form to Members		Completed
For social media tiles: Lianne to send CEOs quotes they would like to attach their names to and be used as a basis for social media tiles		Completed
Action for Members suggested to engage with local federal members – both the incumbent and the challenger; talk to Priya if you would like policy reminders/information		Standing Reminder
Members to have FNAAFV data form completed for each service by 15 March 2025, in line with required 6-monthly reporting.		Standing Reminder