



Emerging Leaders Day Statement – Boorloo (Perth), WA

Monday, 03 November 2025

In 2025, on Whadjuk Noongar Country, *First Nations Advocates Against Family Violence (FNAAFV)* the national peak body brought together emerging leaders from the *Family Violence Prevention Legal Services (FVPLS)* across Australia for the first time.

Delegates learned from each other, from sector leaders, and from experts who guided us to reflect on our hopes, dreams and ambitions for safe and fulfilling lives and careers in the FVPLS sector.

As emerging leaders, standing in our power as the future of our communities and organisations, we present the following statement:

To the matriarchs who built this sector we say thank you.

We recognise your struggle, your strength, your persistence and your love.

Some of us grew up knowing the stories of how this sector began; others are still learning.

But all of us know where we want to go, and we know we can't get there alone. We are ready to carry the sector forward, but we need your continued guidance and support to be the best we can be.

We know the future holds challenges some old, some new.

But we also know what we need to stay safe, strong and connected for the long haul. We want solidarity and opportunities to connect with our peers.

We want time and space, supported by leadership, to learn and grow through things like cross-service secondments, mentoring, and professional development.

We need real investment in self-care and wellbeing, and work environments that not only respect but *embrace* these needs with proactive cultural supervision, clear boundaries, and structures that reduce the expectation of client contact after hours.

Working in this sector is how we care for our community.

We live it every day. We've watched our mentors and colleagues burn out, and we've seen relationships and health suffer under the weight of responsibility.

We don't want to repeat that cycle. We want to honour your legacy by changing the conditions that make this work unsustainable.

Because this job takes a lot out of us and if nothing changes, we risk becoming part of the very problem we're here to solve. If our organisations can't keep *us* safe, how can we keep our clients and communities safe?

We are the next generation of this sector.

We are ready to lead with care, courage, humility and culture at the centre. We stand together, not just in hope, but in commitment to build a future that sustains our people, our services and our spirits.

Together, we can build a future that sustains our people, our services, and our spirits where leadership is shared, wellbeing is protected, and community is at the heart of everything we do.

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