

## Minutes

VLAFF Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Working Group

<b>Date</b>	<b>Tuesday 23 August 2016</b>		
<b>Time</b>	<b>10am – 11:30am</b>		
<b>Location</b>	<b>FDRS – Avoca Room, VLA, 338 Latrobe Street. Melbourne</b>		
<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Jenna Davey-Burns</b> Aboriginal Family Violence Protection Legal Service (Co-Chair) <b>Katie Fraser</b> Federation of Community Legal Centres (Vic) Inc <b>Daniel Nguyen</b> Indigenous Law Students & Lawyers Association of Victoria - Tarwirri <b>Patrick Warner</b> Justice Connect <b>Kate Brown</b> Law Institute of Victoria <b>Monica Ferrari</b> Victoria Legal Aid <b>Christa Momot</b> Woor-Dungin		
<b>Apologies</b>	<b>Clara Bradley</b> Law Institute of Victoria <b>Meena Singh</b> Victoria Legal Aid <b>Carman Parsons</b> Victoria Legal Aid <b>Matthew Millar</b> Merri Health <b>Annette Vickery</b> Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service (Co-Chair) <b>Wayne Muir</b> Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service <b>Emily Buchanan</b> Fitzroy Legal Service <b>Emma Fox</b> The Victorian Bar <b>Ruth Barson</b> Human Rights Law Centre		
<b>Item</b>	<b>Led by</b>	<b>Time allocation</b>	<b>Attachment number</b>
<b>1.</b> Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country  <i>"Our meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the Wurundjeri people and I wish to acknowledge them as Traditional Owners. I would also like to pay my respects to their Elders, past and present"</i>	Chair		
<b>2.</b> Minutes of previous meeting held on 3 March 2016  Moved – Daniel Nguyen  Second – Katie Fraser	Chair	5	1
<b>3.</b> Scoping the sector - members will bring up to three major issues that their organisations have identified since the last working group meeting in the areas of: legal needs, identified gaps in services, emerging issues and research projects  <b>LIV</b> Reconciliation advancement committee reviewing treaty process  Work around optional protocol in to youth justice & also looking in to Royal Commission.  <b>FVPLS Victoria</b>  Following the NT enquiry announcement and QLD cases,	Chair	20	

FVPLS is pushing for a broader enquiry in to youth justice/Aboriginal Children in custody across all States. Strong on view that legal intervention/advice early on very beneficial.

Legal aid research in to what happens to kids – frequent flyers – coming back in as adults.

Further updates included under agenda item 5.

### **Tarwirri**

increase in calls and informal referrals – not manageable but trying to make warm referrals – will formalise doc around triage and referrals, relevant contacts etc. Will forward around to stakeholders for feedback

Training for legal professionals working with indigenous clients – broad look at what's out there and discussions with stakeholders. Putting together a curriculum to also go out for consultation.

Will seek feedback on both from working group.

CLC referrals working group, also VLAs ORBIT – perhaps potential for Tarwirra to be more involved in these and feed in their perspective.

### **JC**

Reconciliation action plan in progress – Rec Australia has provided feedback on latest draft. RAP has meant that all staff have attended a full day of cultural awareness training. Awareness of making programs culturally accessible.

Koori client numbers up 125% at homeless law – referrals from other orgs. VALS, prisons, office of housing. Also increase in female clients.

Tenancy in general seems to be growing for Koori clients – trying to build better relationships with coops and other orgs.

Ombudsman report into debt accrued by family violence victims/survivors underway.

Referrals tool for tenancy & Koori people – survey sent out to CLCs involved in working group around who is doing what. Not a good response rate but conversations have started around whether tool may be premature – perhaps more focus on ensuring CLCs are good services for Koori clients, before looking in to referrals – NSW model? Zac Armitage & Aboriginal Liaison officers (as mentioned last meeting). Similar position could be recruited for VIC to undertake project? LIV grants round or PPF?

### **Federation**

Symposium for CLCs – 14 October – to start this work. Will involve session on cultural awareness. Announced as save the date in sector news, full agenda to follow.

### **VLA**

Noting impact of significant work and investment of VLA to increase services for Aboriginal clients and the recruitment of Aboriginal staff, particularly within last 12 months

Meena - main focus has been relearning VLA's practice. Transition period from working in Aboriginal controlled org. 3% of VLA's in house services delivered to Aboriginal and Torre Strait Islander clients. Keen on improving pathways in to org. for Aboriginal staff.

Action



