

Agenda

VLA Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Working Group

Date	Tuesday 31 May 2016	
Time	10am – 11:30am	
Location	Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service, 273 High St Preston	
Attendees	<p>Annette Vickery Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service (Co-Chair) (AV) Jenna Davey-Burns Aboriginal Family Violence Protection Legal Service (Co-Chair) (JDB) Katie Fraser Federation of Community Legal Centres (Vic) Inc (KF) Carman Parsons Victoria Legal Aid (CP) Daniel Nguyen Indigenous Law Students & Lawyers Association of Victoria – Tarwirri (DN) Clara Bradley Law Institute of Victoria (CB) Matthew Millar Merri Health (MM) Jon Cina Victorian Legal Aid (guest) (JC)</p>	
Apologies	<p>Ruth Barson Human Rights Law Centre Laura Williams Human Rights Law Centre Emma Fox The Victorian Bar Patrick Warner Justice Connect Wayne Muir Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service Meena Singh Victoria Legal Aid Gregor Husper Victoria Legal Aid (Guest) Emily Buchanan Fitzroy Legal Service</p>	
Item		Attachment number
1. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country		
2. Minutes of previous meeting held on 3 March 2016		1
CB will send through minor amendments. (Action) . Otherwise approved.		Action
3. Actions arising from meeting held on 3 March 2016:		
<p><u>Referral resource</u></p> <p>Improving access to tenancy law issues and VCAT and raise awareness of specialist services to ATSI clients.</p> <p>What is the work and what does it look like? General agreement to move forward, just confirming who will do the work.</p> <p>Also working on making generalist CLCs safe for Aboriginal clients. Further discussions with CLC tenancy working group – will come back to main meeting at later stage.</p> <p>VLA RAP circulated – open to being shared or repurposed where needed.</p>		
4. Scoping the sector		
<p>VLA (CP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RAP support card produced • Meena Singh's appointment noted – VLA will continue to work on the RAP 		

<p>alongside her role.</p> <p>Merri Health (MM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with victims assistance program • Looking at co-location arrangement with VALS <p>Tarwirri (DN)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing on two main items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Providing more specific training for service delivery - Referral service pathways • Also scoping potential for Tarwirri student members to present CLE in prisons on court attendance and other issues specific to Aboriginal clients. <p>LIV (CB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events/awareness training in progress. Prison songs being held next week • RAP also being renewed. Cultural awareness training is part of this. <p>Committee/VALS looking into building a CPD training model for this.</p> <p>Federation (KF)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New EO has been recruited – Serina McDuff to start 20 June. • Accreditation – round one completed. Second round has cultural & sensitivity standard built in. CLCs will need a plan to become culturally safe to meet this criterion. Fed will look into training for this. • Visit from Zack Armitage – CLCs NSW. NSW have five Aboriginal liaison officers funded at generalist CLCs. Has increased number of Aboriginal employees (23 across sector) using generalist funds. <p>VALS (AV)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy tool on self-determination – training staff and lawyers across the sector. Meeting with Aboriginal Affairs minister this week. 	
<p>5. Family Violence Royal Commission recommendations</p> <p>Steering Committee not yet formed but needs Aboriginal representatives.</p> <p>Cross Sectoral alliance by DV Vic – service providers across the sector to provide leadership to govt. Ensuring smaller groups/orgs don't miss out on funding.</p> <p>Indigenous Family Violence Partnership Forum met on 4 & 5 May. Some concern that this forum was not a safe space for discussion. Codes of conduct were created for meetings going forward.</p> <p>JDB to circulate further info on Cross Sectoral Alliance and other meetings. (Action)</p>	Action
<p>6. NPA Planning</p> <p>TOR adopted at VLASP committee meeting. Aiming to meet every three months.</p> <p>NSW Law & Justice foundation map resource created to show greatest need. Perhaps better for all CLCs to focus on local legal needs analysis.</p>	
<p>7. Funding for our sector and the Federal budget</p>	

<p>NACLC campaign – “Fund Equal Justice” Encouraging CLCs to approach their local members</p> <p>Separately from this, Law Council campaign – “Legal Aid Matters”. VALS involved in raising ATSI awareness for this campaign.</p> <p>Federation will arrange media training to VALS. (Action)</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>8. Access to Justice (Victoria)</p> <p>Confirmed Federation, VLA, LIV, FVPLS all provided submissions.</p> <p>Kerin Leonard attended VLAF Main Forum to discuss the A2J review.</p> <p>Should there be a working group response going forward?</p> <p>DHHS are developing an Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing framework. Symposium to be held 2 June.</p> <p>The group agreed that we would attempt to action a joint letter/response to the Attorney-General when the Access to Justice report is released.</p>	
<p>9. Commonwealth’s response to the Productivity Commission Report on Access to Justice</p> <p>Funding has been deferred from Commonwealth to State. Currently facing issues with roll fill.</p>	
<p>10. NSW case of Lynette Daley and the DPP review</p> <p>JDB to circulate Antoinette Braybrook’s piece to The Drum. (Action)</p> <p>Concerns around cases being ignored. Do we have a place to pick up missed cases? VALS/FVPLS to take this offline for now. May bring back to the group later on.</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>11. VLA prisoner’s advice line introduction</p> <p>Gregor Husper has taken on the Prisoners Helpline role and project has formerly kicked off. Aiming to launch in November.</p> <p>Will be linking with Fitzroy Legal Service who also have a prisoner’s helpline.</p> <p>Feedback on evaluation encouraged.</p>	
<p>12. Other business</p> <p>KF – Ashurst lawyers have been providing free wills service in NSW to ATSI clients.</p> <p>Discussions held with Gilbert & Tobin Lawyers to do trial in Victoria – currently looking at Hume Riverina Community Legal Centre, Murray Mallee Community Legal Service, Eastern Community Legal Centre (Healesville branch). Also suggestion made of Goulburn Valley CLC. VALS are also a CLC interested in this trial.</p>	
<p>Additional information</p>	
<p>Next meeting: 10am – 11:30am, Tuesday 23 August 2016</p> <p>Location: Aboriginal Family Violence & Prevention Legal Service, 292 Hoddle St. Abbotsford</p>	