



Family Violence Legal Service
Aboriginal Corporation (SA)

ANNUAL REPORT 2014/15

Proudly funded by the Australian Government
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet



Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation (SA)

Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation (SA) acknowledges the traditional owners of the lands across Australia and in particular the traditional owners in Port Augusta, Port Lincoln and Ceduna, the lands on which the FVLSAC offices are situated. We pay our deep respects to Elders past, present and future.

We would also like to express our appreciation for the continued support provided through 2014-15 by

- The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet • Corporation Members • Stakeholders
- Staff • Board Members (past & present) • Artist: Katrina Williams.

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Reconciliation Statement

Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation (SA) acknowledges the traditional owners of the lands across Australia and particularly acknowledges the traditional owners in Port Augusta, Port Lincoln and Ceduna, the lands on which our offices are situated. We pay our deep respects to Elders, past, present and future.

Our vision for Reconciliation is an Australia where all Australians recognise, respect and advance the intrinsic rights, cultures and traditions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities.

The Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation joins with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and the broader Australian community on the journey towards Reconciliation. We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the original custodians of this land and encourage all Australians to be proud of our unique connection to the world's oldest living culture. We recognise the unique status of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through our governance, management, planning, service delivery and the relationships we build.

We commit to continue to strengthen our service delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are victim-survivors of family violence and/or sexual assault and to provide social and cultural support to assist our clients to obtain equitable access to the legal system.

We strongly believe Reconciliation is everybody's business and all Australians should walk the Reconciliation journey together.

Reconciliation is a shared journey which sees Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples working together with all other Australians to make communities safer so that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples enjoy the same level of physical, emotional and social wellbeing as all other Australians.

We will ensure Reconciliation is alive within the Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation (FVLSAC) by:

- Continually increasing our understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures;
- Providing opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to work for and contribute to our organisation;
- Supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victim-survivors of family violence and sexual assault to realise their legal rights;
- Continually reflecting on our progress.

We acknowledge we will only succeed if we are guided by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and organisations.

Our Vision

Our Vision is to create an equitable and safe society for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Our Purpose

Our Purpose is to eliminate family and sexual violence through quality holistic legal services, education and community partnerships.

Our Belief

We believe that client safety and trust is created when we keep confidentiality at the centre of everything we do.

About Our Service

Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation (FVLSAC) is an Aboriginal controlled organisation whose predecessors have been established in our communities for a number of years. Those services were regionalised in 2011 to form FVLSAC.

The service is funded to provide legal advice, legal representation, client support, community education and assistance to Aboriginal victim-survivors of family violence and sexual assault.

An essential component of FVLSAC's service delivery model is the provision of a holistic legal service that encompasses client support, legal services and community education. The holistic service delivery model differentiates the service from much of the domestic violence and legal service sector. The focus on providing assistance to victim-survivors also separates FVLSAC from others in the sector that provide gender-based or perpetrator focused services.

FVLSAC staff live and work in the communities that we service. This allows for increased engagement with our communities as well as other local stakeholders and service providers. Being local assists us to build trust within our communities.

FVLSAC provides a free service to Aboriginal victim-survivors of family violence and sexual abuse requiring assistance in the areas of:

- Family violence
- Child protection
- Intervention orders
- Family law
- Victims of crime compensation
- Other minor civil assistance.

We also provide support to our clients should they need to engage with other services such as counselling, drug and alcohol services, housing and family support services.

FVLSAC services regional South Australia with three offices based in Port Augusta, Port Lincoln and Ceduna. Our three offices service the following communities:

- Port Augusta, Davenport Community, Leigh Creek, Nepabunna Community, Umoona Community (Coober Pedy), Dunjiba Community (Oodnadatta), Whyalla;
- Port Lincoln;
- Ceduna, Koonibba Community, Yalata Community, Maralinga Tjarutja (Oak Valley) Community, Scotdesco Community.

FVLSAC offices are open Monday to Friday from 8.30am until 5.00pm. The offices can be contacted on the following free call numbers:

- Port Augusta ~ 1800 111 052
- Port Lincoln ~ 1800 309 912
- Ceduna ~ 1800 839 059

FVLSAC Directors

Current Directors

Emma Richards

Chairperson | Port Lincoln
(appointed February 2014)

Faith Thomas

Port Augusta
(appointed February 2014)

Noeleen Ryan-Lester

Port Augusta
(appointed June 2015)

Professional Directors

Sharyn Potts

Port Lincoln
(appointed January 2011)

Johanna Boylan

(appointed September 2014)

Former Directors

Tracey Laughton

Port Augusta
(resigned October 2014)

Peter Miller

Ceduna
(resigned April 2015)

Chairperson's Report



This has been a very challenging 12 months with a lot of movements within FVLSAC. July 2014 began the new financial year and along with the new changes to Government Indigenous funding Australia wide. The application process was a long, complicated and tedious one that left a lot of applicants confused to how it was going to be assessed, managed, delivered and monitored. The task of researching the requirements and preparing the application was given to Robert Vandenberg who along with many others rose to this challenge and helped us successfully secure more funding. Robert has been instrumental with coming on board while the organisation was in rough weather and helped us stabilise the service in many ways.

Unfortunately we sadly farewelled our previous CEO Robert Vandenberg as he retired from his position as CEO in December 2014. He will be sadly missed. The Board has also had some sad farewells as a few members resigned due to other commitments. Amongst them were long term member Peter Miller (Ceduna Representative) who was an original from the beginning of the service and Tracey Laughton (Port Augusta Representative). Thanks so much to you both for your commitment to the board.

It has been great to welcome new board members that have come on this financial year. Our roles are always a challenge but is very rewarding, so welcome to Faith Thomas, Noeleen Ryan-Lester, and Johanna Boylan (Professional Director). All of which we do value and appreciate, your time and commitment has been fantastic. Without the community directors this service would not be possible, it's an important link to the community and is even more important to have good governance that supports a great service.

The beginning of this year started with newly appointed CEO Kendall Field. Big welcome and congratulations to you on winning the position. Kendall has been doing a fantastic job of bringing structure and guidance to the service that is now very comfortably working within the funding guidelines and is proving that the service is ticking all the right boxes in accountability and service delivery. We have had a lot of old and new staff movements. Sad to see us lose many staff but happy to see us gain others. Currently the team is looking very good with many great key personnel bringing and continuing to bring valuable knowledge and skills to the service and the community. The future is looking very exciting in all areas.

The community has seen some awesome new community programs and initiatives happening in all three regions which has allowed the community engagement officers and legal teams to interact and provide information and support to all places. This is ever increasing our linkages and networks in the communities and continuing to support clients and communities in what is required.

The service is one that is very needed in all communities. I wish everyone the best for the new year of governance and for the new board members who elect to join us in supporting the best possible positive, culturally appropriate service delivery to the three communities in which we serve. To our staff, all the best. I am looking forward to a great productive year ahead for FVLSAC and working towards the best possible service delivery for Port Augusta, Port Lincoln and Ceduna.

Emma Richards
Chairperson

Chief Executive Officer's Report

With a funding threat on the horizon, 2014-15 was predicted to be a challenging year.

The Federal Government had announced its 'Indigenous Advancement Strategy' (IAS) and the open tender process commenced in September 2014. FVLSAC submitted an application under the Safety and Wellbeing Programme. In March 2015, we welcomed the news that our funding was secured for a further 12 months, and were further relieved in April 2015 when the Minister announced an extension of our funding term, until 30 June 2017.

A short time after Robert Vandenberg lodged the IAS funding application, he announced his retirement from the role of Chief Executive Officer. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Robert for his contributions to the service and wish him well during the next chapter in his life.

News of the CEO's departure felt like another blow, during an already difficult period. I would like to credit the staff of our three offices for rising to the occasion, embracing change and ensuring we not only survived but thrived in the process. Particular thanks is owed to Bethany Lohmeyer who jointly acted with me in the role of CEO before she commenced maternity leave in June 2015.

I was honoured to start my tenure as CEO in July 2015, with a strong commitment to reducing family violence and deliver better services and outcomes to our Aboriginal communities. It is encouraging to see the Federal Government recognising and responding to the fact that in Australia, on average, two women a week lose their lives as a result of domestic and family violence.

Our hope is to see that commitment continue, and for our Aboriginal communities to benefit. Going forward, our aim is to play a lead front-line role in reducing alarming statistics such as:

- Aboriginal people being 2-5 times more likely to experience violence than non-Aboriginal people
- Aboriginal women being 5 times more likely to be killed as a result of violence and 34 times more likely to be hospitalised due to violent assault
- In South Australia, the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care was 11.5 times the rate of non-Indigenous children (AIHW 2014)

These statistics paint a bleak picture, and a broad collaborative approach is required if we are to see real progress in reducing family violence. With this in mind we have adopted a 'think local, act global' approach. On a local level we have sought to stabilise our foundations by improving internal work practices and strengthening existing stakeholder relationships. From this we can work on building the multiple tiered relationships which ultimately branch up to Federal Government.

Throughout the year our senior staff members have remained engaged with bodies including the South Australian Legal Assistance Forum, South Australian Council of Community Legal Services and National Association of Community Legal Centres. FVLSAC has also continued to be an active member of the National Family Violence Prevention Legal Services (NFVPLS) Forum through regular participation in teleconferences and various working groups. Bethany Lohmeyer also co-hosted some of the legal sessions at this year's face to face meeting which was held in Perth in April 2015. Our membership of the Forum has continued to build the organisations capacity and facilitated our involvement in discussions relating to family violence issues at a national level, as well as increasing our presence at a federal level. The Forum work continues to deliver benefits to FVLSAC and we look forward to providing ongoing support in the year ahead.



In January 2015 community engagement, the delivery of early intervention and prevention programs and community legal education was made a priority. A recent review of programs and the development of an annual plan ensures this will remain the case going forward.

2014-15 also saw the launch of our endorsed Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). Reflective of our ongoing commitment to Reconciliation, I am thrilled to report the number of Aboriginal staff members has already increased since the launch of our RAP. Formation of a RAP working group has been instrumental in our progress to date and will ensure our RAP continues to be a genuine priority for the service.

May 2015 brought Reconciliation Week, when our service proudly launched the Ochre Ribbon: 'don't silence the violence' campaign in South Australia. An initiative of the NFVPLS Forum, the campaign aims to raise awareness of the devastating impacts of family violence, and spark real action to end family violence against Aboriginal people. We are committed and passionate about continuing to support and promote the Ochre Ribbon.

2014-15 brought with it challenges and setbacks, but with them it delivered opportunities. We united and worked tirelessly to focus our attention on our core objective of ending family violence.

This strategy is seeing results, with key indicators showing improvement and stability across the organisation. We look forward to the year ahead and being able to build upon our progress and increase the safety and wellbeing of our clients and community members.

Kendall Field
Chief Executive Officer



Connecting with Community: Education and Engagement

Programs have had a significant injection in 2014-15. FVLSAC programs encapsulate all of our early intervention and prevention strategies together with our community legal education efforts. A fresh strategic direction has facilitated revitalised delivery of our programs. We recognise that our programs are essential to build relationships with our communities and that they are a key platform for service delivery. Our short and long term view remains that our programs will enhance FVLSAC's capacity to engage, empower, educate and assist our communities.

The restructuring of programs in 2014-15 aimed to bring together the best of previous events and combine those successes with creative thinking about current implementation. A key focus has been on greater integration of legal and community education/client support staff to deliver more targeted, cohesive and informative content.

Program service delivery has consisted of a combination of regular and recurring programs as well as one-off events. These have all been subject to analysis and evaluation by staff which has fed into future planning. Among our programs are Sista 2 Sista Day, the Healthy Relationships Program, the Yarning Circle, a radio segment on Umeewarra Media, Healing Arts and Yalata Outreach. In 2014-15 we participated in a number of campaign launches and annual events including the Ochre Ribbon Campaign, Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC Week and we also launched our service's Reconciliation Action Plan.



Sista 2 Sista Day

The popularity of our Sista 2 Sista Day continues its upward trajectory. Capitalising on earlier events, from 2015 the one day workshop has been held quarterly in Port Augusta, Port Lincoln and Ceduna. It provides an opportunity for Aboriginal women to come together in a welcoming and positive atmosphere and be pampered while being presented with various perspectives about family violence. Information and referrals are delivered through formal and informal means.

On occasion guest speakers, stakeholders and other services providers give presentations. We have and will continue to focus on Sista 2 Sista Days offering opportunities for women to be educated and empowered in a discrete and non-threatening environment.



Healthy Relationships

One of the service's long standing and successful community legal education programs is the Healthy Relationships program, delivered at Port Lincoln High School in conjunction with Yarredi Services and others. This program provides year 11 students with tools to enable them to identify unhealthy or abusive relationships. Various legal components educate students about the age of consent, sexting and consent in sexual relationships. These have evolved during the four years in which FVLSAC has been involved. It is a program well regarded in the community and often subject to local media attention. Work is underway to facilitate an extension of this program to Port Augusta Secondary School and Ceduna Area School in the latter half of 2015.

Yarning Circle

In Port Augusta one of the service's newer community legal education initiatives is the United Against Violence Yarning Circle. This is an informal monthly gathering of women which combines opportunities for relationship building and support and the delivery of educational content. To date much of the educational content has been centred on family violence. The Yarning Circle is gaining momentum in the community and we will be building on that as we move into 2015-16.



Umeewarra Media

One of the more innovative programs is the service's weekly radio segment on Umeewarra Media in Port Augusta. This is a short radio segment where staff engage in conversation with the host and deliver information with the aim of educating the community. The radio segment reaches a wide audience and it is pleasing to see this program go from strength to strength. This program was recently recognised for its innovative delivery of community legal education by the National Association of Community Legal Centres in their 'Working Smarter' brochure.

Healing Arts

In the early intervention and prevention space, success has accompanied the weekly Healing Arts Program in Port Lincoln and the fortnightly Yalata Outreach in Ceduna. These programs provide invaluable opportunities to maintain a regular connection with community and to consider their legal needs while providing information and education in an informal, approachable and supportive forum. They also involve working collaboratively with other local services.

Several one-off programs have been initiated at each of the sites, with the most popular in 2014-15 being the Reconciliation Family Film night held in Ceduna during Reconciliation Week. The event was a 'box office hit' with around 200 people in attendance.



Ochre Ribbon Campaign

Two important and exciting campaigns were launched in South Australia by the service in 2015. The first was undertaken with support from the National Family Violence Prevention Legal Service Forum. Launching the Ochre Ribbon: 'don't silence the violence' campaign took place in Port Augusta and Ceduna in June 2015. This campaign recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims of family violence and seeks to raise awareness and generate action to prevent family violence and address the needs of Aboriginal communities living with family violence. With statistics demonstrating that Aboriginal women are 34 times more likely to be hospitalised as a result of family violence and 11 times more likely to be killed as a result of violent assault compared to non-Indigenous women, and with Aboriginal children being 7 times more likely to have received a child protection service than non-Indigenous children, the impact on families is extensive. FVLSAC staff are highly committed and enthusiastic in their ongoing support of this campaign and can be seen wearing their Ochre Ribbon in the community. This campaign will carry over into the 2015-16 year.



RAP Launch

The FVLSAC Reconciliation Action Plan was also launched in 2015 with events across multiple sites involving community, stakeholders and other services. The Member for Stuart, Mr Dan van Holst Pellekaan MP attended the Port Augusta event, which was a great show of support. Community members contributed their hand print to a reconciliation mural painted by a local Aboriginal artist that now hangs proudly in the Port Augusta office. A fantastic mural also emerged from the Ceduna event where community members attended to talk about what reconciliation means to them. The RAP events were very positive occasions and we will be keeping these principles in the forefront of our minds and our conduct, within our service and while out in the community.



Royal Commission Collaboration

A significant collaboration took place this year with Knowmore Legal Service. This program provided community information sessions about the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses into Child Sexual Abuse. Given the enormity of the Royal Commission process, information and education was provided to the communities with the aim of assisting and supporting anyone considering telling their stories to the Royal Commission. Sessions were held at Davenport Community, Lakeview Accommodation Centre, Bungala Aboriginal Corporation, Mallee Park Sport and Recreation Club, Ceduna and Yalata Community. With so many sessions across different parts of the region, this was a significant undertaking on the part of the service. It was pleasing to have the opportunity to participate in an extensive community engagement and client support project.

NAIDOC WEEK

As always, NAIDOC Week was an exciting time for the service and staff. Staff attended opening and closing ceremonies and NAIDOC marches. In Port Augusta, staff attended the Cultural Day at Davenport Community and hosted an emotional and moving Remembrance Ceremony in conjunction with Red Cross. Port Lincoln staff held a stall at the Wombat Pit Cookout, made damper and basked in community spirit in spite of the inclement weather.

In Ceduna, staff members were part of the fun of the Family Fun Day. Staff at all sites contributed to committee activities and the Children's, Youth and NAIDOC Balls. It is great for our Aboriginal staff to be part of such a well-run and nationally recognised event. We all benefit from the positive celebration of culture and community.



Community and Stakeholders

As mentioned above, community engagement is integral to positioning the service as a trusted and valued organisation within our communities. Community engagement featured this year with staff expending their efforts networking with community and stakeholders at all levels. This ranged from attendance by the senior community engagement and client support worker at the Statewide Aboriginal Women's Gathering and our sister service in Victoria to all staff, especially the community engagement and client support workers, engaging locally based services such as Red Cross and Aboriginal Family Support Services in Port Augusta, Yarredi Services in Port Lincoln and Centacare in Ceduna as part of their daily service provision. We will continue to look for ways to collaborate with our communities and local services as we move into the future. We recognise that working together has the capacity to deliver success for all.

Looking Forward

The success of the programs mentioned above, as well as other FVLSAC programs not mentioned, mean that many will be ongoing into the new financial year. We look forward to our programs continuing to underpin and reinforce our commitment to providing a trusted, respected and culturally safe service to the community. The work done by FVLSAC's dedicated staff on our programs in 2014 -15 demonstrates their passion for the community and the services we offer. Their proficiency means that FVLSAC moves into the next phase of service delivery optimistically, with energy and great capability.

One of our innovations for 2015-16 is to link our program delivery periods to a member of the family. We will target our program content on Mums, Dads, Kids and Young People, and Grandparents during all programs that fall within the upcoming program delivery periods. This will emphasize our holistic, family inclusive approach. Our family member theme will extend across each FVLSAC site, with a cohesive and exciting suite of programs offered across the organisation over the next 12 months.

The service will be aiming high in 2015-16. We hope that the success of our programs demonstrates FVLSAC is an essential, unique, community based service for Aboriginal families, with caring and capable staff who provide meaningful assistance to Aboriginal victim-survivors of family violence. We look forward to reporting on the success of our programs in the coming year.

From the Frontline:

Legal Service

We hope history will reflect on the past year at FVLSAC and see it as a watershed moment in the evolution of the service's legal practice. Thus far 2015 has revealed itself to be a year of opportunity with the combination of new leadership and natural staff attrition welcoming a new era for the strategic and operational direction of the legal practice.

That new direction has seen a renewed focus upon the role of our lawyers and community engagement client support workers as the face of our organisation. We want staff to be proud of their frontline positions in our communities. We are committed to ensuring the right staff are recruited for the legal practice and remain in the practice for the long term. Given the vulnerability of our clients and their high and unique legal needs, it is an absolute priority that the practice is staffed by quality lawyers whose commitment to social justice principles and legal know-how are second to none.

The challenges in recruitment for the legal practice are obvious, short term funding cycles present limited opportunities to present long term security for legal staff and the distance of our offices from the metropolitan centre continues to be a factor. However, with overwhelming numbers of law graduates and a contraction in the legal sector nationally, FVLSAC has found itself in a good position to recruit top quality legal staff. In relation to the year that was, the competitive IAS tender process required a significant time commitment from legal staff to the extent that service delivery capacity was somewhat interrupted during that period. However FVLSAC has emerged from the challenges of the 2014-15 financial year in a strong position to continue to provide our clients with culturally safe, holistic legal services that are of the highest quality.

We have retained several extremely experienced lawyers, particularly in our Port Lincoln office where our three lawyers have been admitted to legal practice for over 40 years. We have recruited some excellent new lawyers with varying levels of experience. Another development was the reintroduction of a Principal Legal Officer position for the service. Carissa Bosch, a lawyer with more than 10 years experience was recruited for this role. Carissa was most recently working for the Legal Services Commission as a family lawyer and prior to that worked in the CLC sector and private practice. She brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience to the role.

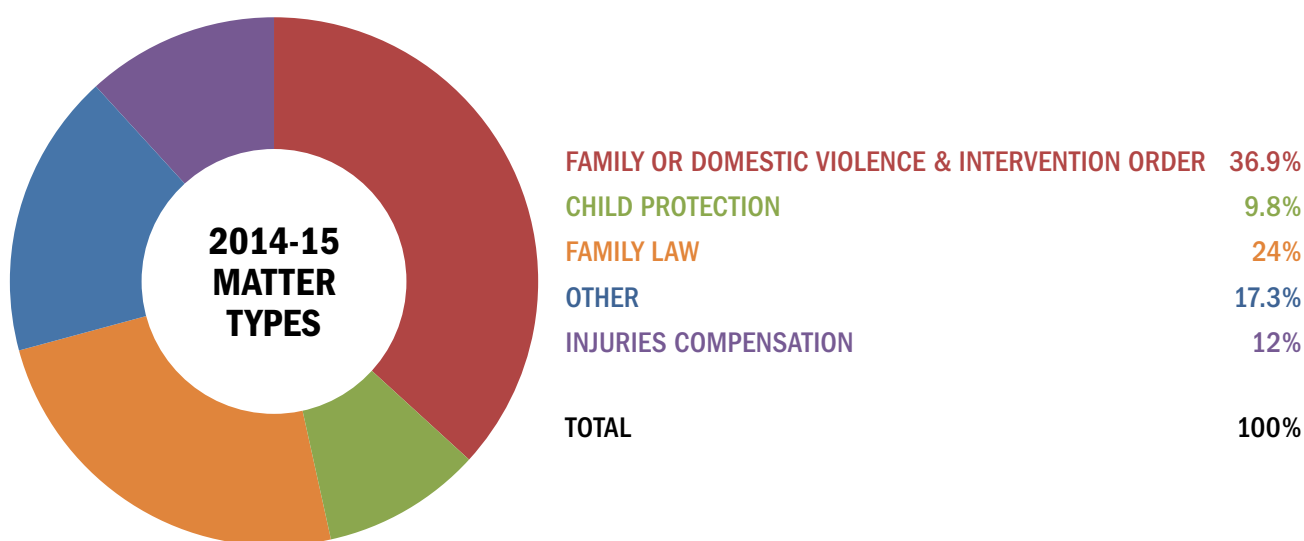
During the 2014-15 year the legal service continued to provide essential family law advice and representation, assistance applying for and seeking variations of intervention orders, assistance in victim's compensation applications and representation in child protection matters. In addition to these areas of core business, we have provided Aboriginal victim-survivors of family violence with advice and representation in a variety of other related legal matters including housing and tenancy matters, child support and welfare rights.

One of the new legal service delivery programs introduced in 2014-2015 was a fortnightly outreach service commenced by our Ceduna office to the remote Aboriginal community of Yalata. In recognition of the need for the women of Yalata to have access to a regular, consistent, reliable and high quality legal service, our Ceduna lawyer attends the Yalata Women's Group in conjunction with Centacare staff. This collaborative approach has shown promising results and we look forward to continuing to work with Centacare and the local community to consolidate and expand this service in the coming year.

In our ongoing legal work, intervention order and victims of crime matters remain dominant. The focus for the practice over the next 12 months is to demonstrate how our service can better meet the child protection and family law needs of our communities. We will draw on our programs and education and engagement platforms to enhance and develop these areas of the practice. The Indigenous Advancement Strategy offers the chance to investigate innovative approaches in legal service delivery. We will be exploring these opportunities to improve access to justice options for our most vulnerable clients. We remain as keen as ever to ensure we are at the forefront of holistic legal service delivery.

We hope staff, stakeholders and our communities will see real and lasting change in FVLSAC's legal service delivery in the next 12 months. We are aiming for our staff to have opportunities to develop their skills and capacity in a legal practice that offers clear strategic direction and a supportive and innovative operational environment. We want our communities to have new opportunities to utilise legal systems to the advantage of themselves and their families. An exciting 12 months of legal practice lay ahead.

Legal Matters



Behind the Scenes:

Administration and Business Support

For Administration Staff the 2014-15 financial year has been a year of two parts.

During the first half of the year a great deal of our time and capacity was devoted to securing future funding under the Commonwealth's Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) as part of the Safety and Wellbeing Programme.

This was a significant process of engagement which involved developing a funding application that aligned the new IAS Safety and Wellbeing Strategy with the organisation's missions and values. Administration staff across all three sites contributed to this process which required them to take a broad all-encompassing approach in a collaborative context. They did this admirably as they worked through tasks which included future planning and reviewing statistical data and budgetary requirements. This was integral in negotiating the key performance indicators which the service is now required to meet.

Despite difficulties around staff attrition as a result of funding uncertainty, FVLSAC was able to recruit and retain quality administration staff. The service has benefited greatly from the injection of fresh ideas, contagious enthusiasm and a renewed spirit provided by new staff.

Once funding was secured, staff had the capacity to resume their focus on building the profile of the service in our communities and increasing the output of community legal education and early intervention and prevention programs. Staff continued to cast a critical eye over the service's internal processes searching for ways in which improvements could assist in enhanced service delivery. The collective output of our sites during this period was fantastic. As a result of this busy period and the commitment of staff to improve, the administrative branch identified a number of solutions. Implementation of these has led to a maturing of internal systems. The resultant increased efficiencies have served to benefit both staff, in their delivery of services and programs, and consequently, the communities.

Support staff have continued to play an integral role within the organisation throughout the year. The staff in these roles are the glue of our multi-disciplinary team. They work hard behind the scenes to ensure our client services and events are thoroughly organised and run smoothly. It is at times a tireless job with limited external recognition. Our administration staff are also responsible for coordinating a range of tasks such as training, conferences and meetings. Attendance at these events allows staff to grow their knowledge and skill set, which benefits the community through improvements to service delivery. The flow on effect from this contributes to building the safety and wellbeing of the communities we service.

The staff at FVLSAC strongly believe in the mission, vision and beliefs of our organisation. We look forward to carrying our current momentum into the new funding period where hard work and striving to improve will increase efficiencies and contribute to organisational growth.

2014 - 2015 Highlights!



Financial Reports

as at 30th June 2015

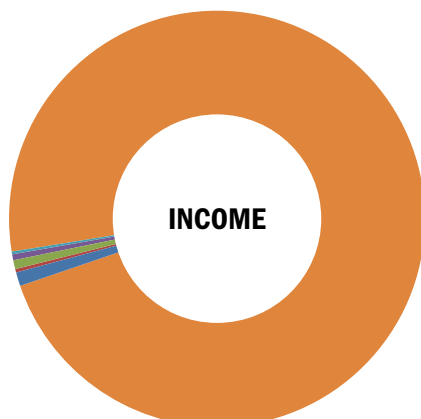


Marnie Smith

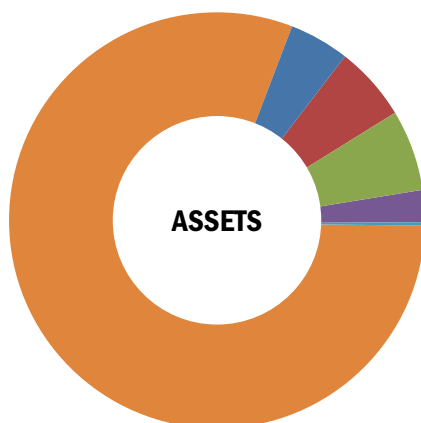
Client Business Support

Services - Manager

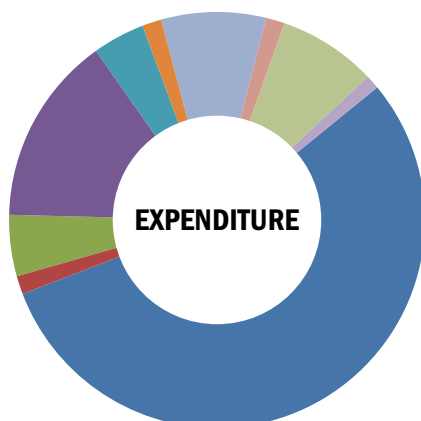
Rowe Partners



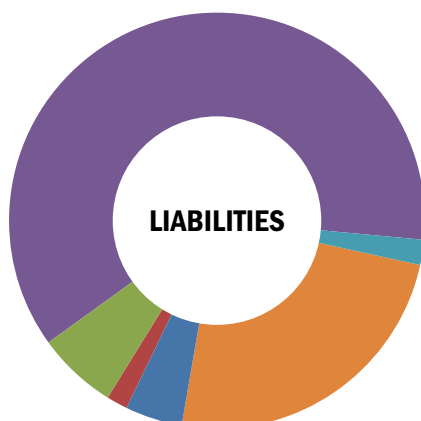
GOVERNMENT GRANTS - \$1,585,264
 INTEREST - \$18,007
 PROJECT GENERATED INCOME - \$4,595
 SUNDRY INCOME - \$12,607
 WORKCOVER REIMBURSEMENTS - \$8,409
 LOSS OF SALE OF ASSET - \$1,842



BUILDINGS WDV - \$90,984
 PLANT AND EQUIPMENT WDV - \$112,301
 MOTOR VEHICLES WDV - \$122,125
 FURNITURE AND FITTINGS WDV - \$47,472
 TRADE AND OTHER DEBTORS - \$2,799
 CASH AT BANK - \$1,534,874



SALARIES AND WAGES - \$925,656
 REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE - \$24,153
 ADMINISTRATION - \$83,943
 OPERATIONAL EXPENSES - \$249,907
 COMMUNITY PROJECTS/SUNDRY - \$68,870
 LEGAL EXPENSES - \$22,848
 DEPRECIATION - \$131,959
 PROV FOR GRANT FUNDING SURPLUS \$22,445
 STAFF RELATED COSTS/CONFERENCES - \$129,858
 MOTOR VEHICLE EXPENSES - \$15,601



PROVISION FOR GRANT FUNDING SURPLUS - \$345,249
 CREDITORS AND PAYG - \$56,957
 ACCRUED EXPENSES - \$26,652
 GST OBLIGATIONS - \$85,433
 GRANTS RECEIVED IN ADVANCE - \$892,561
 PROVISION FOR ANNUAL LEAVE AND LSL - \$30,428

Committee's Report

Your committee members submit the financial report of the Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation (SA) ICN: 7499 for the financial year ended 30 June 2015.

Committee Members

The name of each member of the committee during the period and if different, at the date of the report:

- Peter Miller
- Sharyn Potts
- Emma Richards
- Faith Thomas
- Tracy Laughton
- Angela Johanna Boylan
- Noleen Ryan-Lester

Principal Activities

The principal activities of the association during the financial period were:

- Provision of Aboriginal Family Legal Violence Services.

Significant Changes

No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

Operating Result

The loss of the association after providing for income tax amounted to \$(51,074.00).

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Members of the Committee.

Sharyn Potts (Committee Member): _____

Emma Richards (Committee Member): _____

Faith Thomas (Committee Member): _____

Angela Johanna Boylan (Committee Member): _____

Noleen Ryan-Lester (Committee Member): _____

Income Statement

| INCOME | NOTE | 2015 \$ | 2014 \$ |
|------------------------------------|------|------------------|------------------|
| OTHER INCOME | | | |
| Interest Received | | 18,007 | 12,218 |
| Project Generated Income | | 4,595 | 22,955 |
| Sundry Income | | 12,607 | 307 |
| Workcover Reimbursements | | 8,409 | 17,862 |
| Government Subsidies | | 1,585,264 | 1,690,747 |
| Loss on Sale of Non-current Assets | | (1,842) | - |
| | | 1,627,040 | 1,744,089 |

| EXPENDITURE | NOTE | 2015 \$ | 2014 \$ |
|-------------------------------------|------|----------|----------|
| Accountancy Fees | | 64,620 | 77,645 |
| Advertising | | 20,889 | 8,500 |
| Audit Fees | | 18,723 | 16,519 |
| Bad Debts Written Off | | - | 16,178 |
| Bank Charges | | 600 | 554 |
| Brief Out | | 972 | 376 |
| Cleaning | | 8,182 | 4,894 |
| Community Activities | | 68,443 | 58,694 |
| Conferences | | - | 52,403 |
| Consultants | | 10,000 | 78,542 |
| Depreciation | | 134,833 | 131,959 |
| Disbursements | | 9,824 | 12,500 |
| Doubtful Debts | | - | (14,527) |
| Electricity | | 10,012 | 12,401 |
| Provision for Annual Leave | | (11,311) | 7,216 |
| IT Support | | 35,639 | 38,332 |
| Insurance | | 12,856 | 9,439 |
| Provision for Grant Funding Surplus | | 22,445 | 70,298 |
| Meetings & Seminars | | 13,795 | 14,223 |
| Motor Vehicle Expenses | | 15,601 | 24,305 |
| Permits, Licences & Fees | | 8,486 | 8,935 |
| Postage | | 3,304 | 3,898 |
| Printing & Stationery | | 28,912 | 75,404 |
| Practising Certificate | | 3,566 | 4,680 |
| Recruitment | | 17,254 | 43,482 |
| Rates & Taxes | | 9,804 | 12,215 |
| Rent | | 73,190 | 63,452 |
| Repairs & Maintenance | | 24,153 | 12,244 |
| Security Costs | | 5,665 | 2,020 |
| Leave Loading | | 10,132 | 8,758 |
| Staff Training & Welfare | | 43,483 | 12,348 |
| Sundry Expenses | | 427 | 3,139 |
| Superannuation Contributions | | 78,779 | 75,336 |
| Telephone | | 41,454 | 40,701 |



| | | |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| Travel Allowance | 45,326 | 56,443 |
| Wages | 841,711 | 814,366 |
| Workcover | 6,345 | 5,441 |
| | 1,678,114 | 1,863,313 |
| Loss before income tax | (51,074) | (119,224) |
| Loss for the year | (51,074) | (119,224) |
| Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year | 524,349 | 643,572 |
| Transfer to Reserves | 114,415 | - |
| Retained earnings at the end of the financial year | 358,860 | 524,348 |

Balance Sheet

| ASSETS | NOTE | 2015 \$ | 2014 \$ |
|--------------------------------------|------|------------------|------------------|
| CURRENT ASSETS | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | | 1,534,874 | 1,078,701 |
| Trade and other receivables | 3 | 2,799 | 15,418 |
| TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS | | 1,537,673 | 1,094,119 |
| NON-CURRENT ASSETS | | | |
| Property, plant and equipment | 4 | 372,882 | 479,088 |
| TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS | | 372,882 | 479,088 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | | 1,910,555 | 1,573,207 |
| LIABILITIES | | | |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | | |
| Trade and Other Payables | | 142,391 | 83,950 |
| Provision for Grant Funding Surplus | | 345,248 | 322,803 |
| Employee benefits | 5 | 19,368 | 41,740 |
| Accrued Expenses | | 26,652 | 39,839 |
| Income in Advance | | 892,561 | 560,527 |
| TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES | | 1,426,220 | 1,048,859 |
| NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES | | | |
| Employee Benefits | 5 | 11,060 | - |
| TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES | | 11,060 | - |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | | 1,437,280 | 1,048,859 |
| NET ASSETS | | 473,275 | 524,348 |
| MEMBERS' FUNDS | | | |
| Reserves | 6 | 114,415 | - |
| Retained earnings | 7 | 358,860 | 524,348 |
| TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS | | 473,275 | 524,348 |

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

This financial report is a special purpose financial report prepared in order to satisfy the financial reporting requirements of the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 (CATSI Act). The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historic costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where specifically stated, current valuations of non-current assets.

The following significant accounting policies, which are consistent with the previous period unless stated otherwise, have been adopted in the preparation of this financial report.

Property

Freehold land and buildings are shown at their cost or fair value (being the amount for which an asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable willing parties in an arm's length transaction), based on periodic, but at least triennial, valuations by external independent valuers, less subsequent depreciation.

Property, Plant and Equipment (PPE)

Leasehold improvements and office equipment are carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

The depreciable amount of all PPE is depreciated over the useful lives of the assets to the association commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Leasehold improvements are amortised over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements.

Depreciation

The depreciation method and useful life used for items of property, plant and equipment (excluding freehold land) reflects the pattern in which their future economic benefits are expected to be consumed by the association. Depreciation commences from the time the asset is held ready for use. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of either the unexpired period of the lease or the estimated useful lives of the improvements. The depreciation method and useful life of assets is reviewed annually to ensure they are still appropriate.

Impairment of Assets

At the end of each reporting period, the association reviews the carrying values of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is recognised immediately in the income and expenditure statement.

Employee Benefits

Provision is made for the association's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits that are expected to be wholly settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Employee benefits expected to be settled more than one year after the end of the reporting period have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits. In determining the liability, consideration is given to employee wage increases and the probability that the employee may satisfy vesting requirements. Cashflows are discounted using market yields on national government bonds with terms to maturity that match the expected timing of cashflows. Changes in the measurement of the liability are recognised in profit or loss.

Employee benefits are presented as current liabilities in the balance sheet if the association does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least one year after the reporting date regardless of the classification of the liability for measurement purposes under AASB 119.

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the association has a legal or constructive obligation, as a result of past events, for which it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will result and that outflow can be reliably measured.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprises cash on hand, demand deposits and short term investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Revenue and Other Income

Revenue is recognised when the amount of the revenue can be measured reliably, it is probable that economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the association and specific criteria relating to the type of revenue as noted below, has been satisfied. Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable and is presented net of returns, discounts and rebates.

Interest revenue

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method. If the outcome cannot be reliably estimated then revenue is recognised to the extent of expenses recognised that are recoverable. Revenue from training services is generally recognised once the training has been delivered.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of GST. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included as part of receivables or payables in the balance sheet.

Notes to the Financial Statements

| | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| 3. Trade and Other Receivables | 2015 \$ | 2014 \$ |
| Current | | |
| Trade Debtors | 2,799 | 15,418 |
| 4. Property, Plant and Equipment | | |
| Land and Buildings | | |
| Buildings & Houses | 304,584 | 304,584 |
| Less: Accumulated Depreciation | (213,600) | (194,692) |
| | 90,984 | 109,892 |
| Total Land and Buildings | 90,984 | 109,892 |
| Plant & Equipment | 598,993 | 588,089 |
| Less: Accumulated Depreciation | (486,692) | (413,452) |
| | 112,301 | 174,637 |
| Motor Vehicles | 251,699 | 251,528 |
| Less: Accumulated Depreciation | (129,574) | (110,441) |
| | 122,125 | 141,087 |
| Office Furniture & Equipment | 92,639 | 92,639 |
| Less: Accumulated Depreciation | (45,167) | (39,167) |
| | 47,472 | 53,472 |
| Total Plant and Equipment | 281,898 | 369,196 |
| Total Property, Plant and Equipment | 372,882 | 479,088 |
| 5. Employee Benefits | | |
| Current | | |
| Provision for Annual Leave | 19,368 | 41,740 |
| Non-Current | | |
| Provision for Long Service Leave | 11,060 | - |
| 6. Reserves | | |
| Capital Reserve | | |
| Capital Reserve | 114,415 | - |
| 7. Retained Earnings | | |
| Retained earnings at the beginning of the financial year | 524,349 | 643,572 |
| Net loss attributable to the association | (51,074) | (119,224) |
| Transfer to Reserves | (114,415) | - |
| Retained earnings at the end of the financial year | 358,860 | 524,348 |
| 8. Cash Carryover Reconciliation | | |
| Reconciliation of Cash Flow from Operations with Profit | | |
| Loss after income tax | (51,074) | (119,224) |
| Non-cash flows in profit | | |
| Provision for Employee Entitlements | (11,311) | 7,216 |
| Depreciation | 134,833 | 131,959 |
| Provision for Grant Funding Surplus | 22,445 | 70,298 |
| Net profit (loss) on disposal of property, plant and equipment | 1,842 | - |
| Assets Acquired | | (58,470) |
| Investing flows in operating profits | 9,091 | - |
| Increase in Grants in Advance | 892,561 | - |
| Profit(Loss) per Cash Carryover | 958,828 | 31,779 |

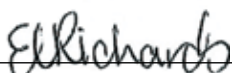
Statement by Members of the Committee

The committee has determined that the association is not a reporting entity and that this special purpose financial report should be prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the financial statements.

In the opinion of the committee the financial report as set out on previous pages:

1. Presents a true and fair view of the financial position of Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation (SA) ICN: 7499 as at 30 June 2015 and its performance for the period ended on that date.
2. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation (SA) ICN: 7499 will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed for and on behalf of the Committee by:

Emma Richards (Chairperson):  _____

Sharyn Potts (Committee Member):  _____

Dated this 21st day of August 2015

Auditor's Report



WARNECKE & Co.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

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**FAMILY VIOLENCE LEGAL SERVICE
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION (SA)**

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To the Members,

Scope

We have audited the special purpose financial report of Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation (SA) for the year ended 30th June 2015, comprising:-

1. Balance Sheet and Income Statement and Notes thereto;
2. Statements of Income and Expenditure per budget;
3. Cash Carryover Statement;
4. Schedule of Bank Reconciliations;
5. Schedules of Debtors, Creditors, Annual Leave Loading Provision, Accrued Expenses, Prepaid Expenses and Income Received in Advance;
6. Asset Register; and
7. Schedule of Insurance Policies.

The Responsibility of the Board of Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation (SA) for the Financial Report


The Board of Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation (SA) are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations).

This responsibility included designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. These Auditing Standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Board of Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation (SA), as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.



We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

We have excluded from the scope of the audit assets located in Ceduna & Port Lincoln. Due to the remoteness and distance between the assets we consider it impractical to physically inspect these assets as at 30th June, 2015.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.


Audit Opinion

In our opinion the financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation (SA) as of 30th June 2015 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including Australian Accounting Interpretations).

We further certify that:

- (a) all grant funded assets with a purchase or construction cost of over \$10,000 were not adequately insured with an approved insurer; the corporation has advised it will review this as a matter of importance.
- (b) the Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation (SA) is maintaining an Asset Register of assets acquired with grant funds where the purchase or construction price exceeds \$10,000;

Dated this 30TH day of SEPTEMBER 2015.



.....
P.J. Warnecke
Warnecke & Co.
Chartered Accountants

