



Family Violence Legal Service
Aboriginal Corporation (SA)

ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17

**NATIONAL FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION
LEGAL SERVICES**

WORKING TO ACHIEVE IMPROVED JUSTICE OUTCOMES FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
VICTIMS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE AND LEGAL ASSISTANCE

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 2016-17 by

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



Contents

Reconciliation Statement & Our Vision	4
About Our Service	5
FVLSAC Directors	6
Chairperson's Report	7
Acting Chief Executive Officer's Report	8
Programs Report	10
Making Headlines	13
Legal Report	14
2016 - 2017 Highlights	16
Financial Reports	18

PORT AUGUSTA
26 Jervois Street (PO Box 2087)
PORT AUGUSTA SA 5700
P (08) 8641 2195
F (08) 8641 2348
FREE CALL 1800 111 052
portaugusta@fvlsac.org.au

PORT LINCOLN
56 St Andrews Terrace (PO Box 750)
PORT LINCOLN SA 5606
P (08) 8683 1896
F (08) 8682 4825
FREE CALL 1800 309 912
portlincoln@fvlsac.org.au

CEDUNA
17 McKenzie Street (PO Box 319)
CEDUNA SA 5690
P (08) 8625 3800
F (08) 8625 3200
FREE CALL 1800 839 059
ceduna@fvlsac.org.au

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 well-being 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 Islanders.

Our Purpose

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

Our Core Values

We acknowledge and respect those who fought for the establishment of family violence prevention legal services to support our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and we continue to build upon their work and dedication.

We recognise the lasting effects of intergenerational trauma and violence and pay respect to the resilience and strength of our communities.

We work in partnership with the community because we respect that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people own their futures.

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

Tania Benbolt
Chairperson | Ceduna
(appointed June 2016)

Linda Dare
Port Augusta
(appointed November 2015)

Jason Ryan
Port Augusta
(appointed November 2016)

Desley Gray
Ceduna
(appointed January 2017)

Professional Directors

Angela Johanna Boylan
(appointed September 2014)

Linda Davies
(appointed December 2016)

Ivan Phillips
(appointed June 2017)

Former Directors

Emma Richards
Port Lincoln
(resigned May 2017)

Maryanne Clements
Port Lincoln
(resigned April 2017)

Natalie Giles
Port Augusta
(resigned November 2016)

Chairperson's Report

It has been a big year and it's good to take a moment to look back on what's been done.

Our Ceduna office is coming along nicely now, even though we haven't been able to get a solicitor there, having our support and community engagement staff is excellent. I'm glad to see them out and about making connections with the community.

The Port Lincoln office move was a big job but a rewarding one. The new office at 56 St Andrews Terrace has allowed for programs to be run in a well-designed area at the rear of the building. It is spacious and allows freedom of movement for those that use it. I look forward to seeing what opportunities come from this going forward.

Our Port Augusta office has been most impacted by recent staffing movements but this will steady soon and you are all doing a great job as things resettle.

Key staff changes

In July 2015, Kendall Field was appointed to role of Chief Executive Officer. Kendall provided the leadership and drive alongside the Board of Directors to showcase the FVLSAC in the three sites (Ceduna, Port Augusta and Port Lincoln). In June 2017, Kendall resigned from the position to take up a new role in Adelaide. The Board acknowledges and thanks Kendall for the wonderful and significant contribution she made during her entire service to FVLSAC, and especially for her time as CEO.

The Board of Directors appointed Lisa Abinett to the role of Acting CEO in June 2017 as an interim arrangement while the Board attend to formal recruitment for the CEO position. Lisa brings many years of leadership and management experience to the role. Lisa has excellent corporate knowledge and operational experience. She has worked for the FVLSAC since 2010 and in more recent times, as the Operations Manager.

As I write my Chairperson's Report, the advertising for the position of Chief Executive Officer for FVLSAC is underway.

Successes and achievements

Successes and achievements are often difficult to measure. I know the communities in which we serve are extremely grateful for the service FVLSAC provides, including the skilled staff and the programs that are delivered across the three sites. We all look forward to seeing FVLSAC grow in its capacity to deliver more programs and continue quality service delivery to our communities.

Board Training and Development

On the On 31 January 2017 and 1 February 2017, the Board of Directors attended a Governance Workshop facilitated by the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC) as well as financial training with Rowe Partners who have been working with the service for a long time now with our financial management. This was a really valuable few days of training and development for us as Directors.

Acknowledgements

As Chairperson, I would like to thank all Directors (past and present) for their hard work and efforts. I would also like to acknowledge the challenges being a Director brings. Directors often hold a full time job and then volunteer their time to be a Board Member.

If you have the opportunity to visit any of the three FVLSAC sites, you will see the great work that the FVLSAC staff do. They work very closely with the community to make a real difference to the lives of our people.

We all have challenges in our lives, but we hope with the support, encouragement and commitment from the FVLSAC staff, that your journey will be less stressful.

There are many individuals and organisations to thank, in particular our funding body, the Department of the Prime Minister & Cabinet, for without them we wouldn't be able to provide the comprehensive services that we do. To the FVLSAC staff, thank you for your resilience and dedication. To the community who continue to access our services and to the organisations who support the work we do, our working relationships can only strengthen.

In closing, I would like to pay respect to the Members of the Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation (SA). Without Members, the organisation wouldn't exist.

Tania Benbolt
Chairperson FVLSAC

Acting Chief Executive Officer's Report

This year's report is unique, in that our previous CEO, Kendall Field, held the position through to 12 June 2017. So as I put pen to paper and reflect on the year that has been I am acutely aware of the significant contribution Kendall made during her period of service with FVLSAC. However, at this point in time we have the opportunity to acknowledge and capture the progress of the organisation during the past year, which is a testament to not only Kendall's leadership, but also to the collective dedication of FVLSAC staff and Board to the pursuit of the FVLSAC vision.

When taking stock of the year through a third party lens, the dual themes of stabilisation and positioning FVLSAC for the future are evident. The latter of these is pleasingly unsurprising given it is one of the strategic directions of the organisation under the current three-year strategic plan, which commenced on 1 July 2016. Our strategic plan and working to deliver on it has been very important as FVLSAC moved in to the final year of our funding term. To the relief of all, official notification of a 12 month extension to our funding was received in the second half of the year with funding now secure until 30 June 2018.

Stabilisation of the service is evident on a variety of fronts. The 2015-16 CEO report detailed an increase in Aboriginal staffing levels, and these levels have remained consistent at 50% throughout this year. Notably we have four long term Aboriginal employees who have been with the organisation from 18 months through to approximately six years. This correlates to the organisational commitments under our Reconciliation Action Plan and reinforces our progress as we look to the future with the view to becoming an employer of choice for both Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal People.

However with the good also comes the challenges and we acknowledge that FVLSAC faces challenges in relation to recruitment and retention across our frontline service delivery roles. A priority has been and continues to be persistence and perseverance in this area with a clear view to finding staff who are the right fit for our positions and for our organisation. We are seeing the results of this approach, as despite these challenges we have still performed well across a number of our KPI targets. Our results in 2016-17 have been consistent with the previous year.

Significant progress was made to increase staffing levels at our Ceduna site between February and April 2017, where three new local staff members were recruited to that location. Our Ceduna team have hit the ground running, and their enthusiasm and passion have seen us through a busy period to the end of June with community engagement, profile raising activities and the re-establishment of outreach trips to the outer lying communities. These will be covered in more detail in the programs report, but it is very positive to be heading into the new year with more feet on the ground in our far west region.

A major endeavour this year was identifying and securing new premises in Port Lincoln. This had been a consideration for quite some time given the space restrictions and the limitations this posed around program delivery. Our Ceduna and Port Augusta sites both have dedicated space for programs, and Board and management alike acknowledged the many benefits in facilitating programs onsite and the need to redress this at Port Lincoln. Conducting programs on site is practical in terms of both safety and staffing resources, but importantly it also encourages community to become familiar with the service and what it does, and a reminder about the office location contributes to maintaining a front of mind presence with community and other stakeholders.

The benefits of an office relocation extended beyond improving programs opportunities in Port Lincoln. It also enabled the utilisation of Port Lincoln as a hub for recruitment purposes, as this site has historically demonstrated appeal to the legal professional job market. I am pleased to report that this approach has had a number of positive outcomes for our legal branch which is covered in more detail in the following pages.

With the impending expiry of our lease, the timing was finally right for a move. Practically speaking, the enormous task of the physical relocation of the office with required detailed planning and organisation. I would like to take this opportunity to commend our staff who rose to the occasion superbly and as a team were successful in minimising service delivery downtime to only one day! This was a primary consideration through the entire planning phase, and a huge accomplishment. Once we occupied

the new space in April 2017, further work was done to fit out our new premises to be a multifunctional environment that reflects our holistic service model.

There have been some external influences that have led to the review of timelines in relation to some important IT projects described in the previous annual report. The rollout of our new data collection program CLASS, which was due for release in November 2016, was delayed by three months by the National Association of Community Legal Centres. The February 2017 rollout meant that our document management system was not able to be operationalised as planned despite the extensive design work invested. The implementation of two new systems is a huge undertaking, and management were committed to ensuring that wherever possible the systems would complement each other. This was important for staff who are faced a challenging transition but equally necessary was maintaining the integrity of our systems in the face of unknown variables outside of our control.

At a governance level Board Directors had the opportunity to participate in face to face training activities in early 2017 in line with our strategic goals to strengthen governance. In addition to this we had some new Directors come onto the Board throughout the year, including two additional Professional Directors. It is so important to have a diversification of skills, knowledge and experience at the Board level as this contributes strongly to ongoing quality governance and it is positive to see the organisation moving in this direction.

Importantly we have maintained engagement within the Aboriginal Family and Domestic Violence Sector through the year through the national Family Violence Prevention Legal Services Secretariat. This includes the CEO Forum, the Principal Legal Officer Network and the Data and Evaluation Group. A presence at the table nationally across these sections ensures our voices are heard on a wide range of issues and provides the opportunity to showcase the work that we do as a FVPLS and the only FVPLS in South Australia. We have also been a presence across the peak bodies in the legal assistance sector through the South Australian Legal Assistance Forum and with the South Australian Community Legal Centres.

Further to the above, our service was showcased at an International level, when our former CEO Kendall Field was invited to be a guest speaker at the 3rd Indigenous Stop Domestic and Family Violence World Conference.

More recently our Principal Legal Officer Carissa Bosch attended the Redfern Statement: Preventing Family Violence and Justice Workshop, which looked at solutions for the problems around high incarceration rates for Aboriginal people noting that the fastest growing group of incarcerated people in Australia are Aboriginal women, addressing family violence rates and addressing the over-representation of Aboriginal kids in out of home care. These are priority areas of concern for the sector and we can expect there to be further action in the coming year.

As always there is a balancing act in that the service needs to be grounded in the communities in which our members and clients are part of, but we also need to take the specialised knowledge we have and ensure we communicate the needs of our communities to the broader public. Reminders of the importance of working collaboratively at all levels is never far from view.

In closing, I would like to say thank you to our members for your ongoing belief and commitment to the service. Thank you to the Board for your confidence and for all the encouragement and support to date. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity. Finally, to the staff who have displayed outstanding professionalism throughout our current transition period, I know Kendall would be very proud.

Lisa Abinett
Acting Chief Executive Officer



Programs Report

Over the past two years, FVLSAC has worked hard to develop a suite of programs that contribute not just to the well-being of our communities but which also encourage our communities to be well informed about their legal options in the areas that we service.

Programs are a key way for FVLSAC to engage with community and to collaborate with like-minded stakeholders.

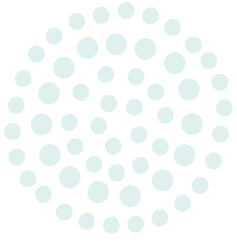
We have tried to set a high bar for our programs and consistency in service delivery ranks highly among our goals. It is the programs area that has borne the brunt of staffing difficulties over the past 12 months. This is reflected in the statistics from each site. Whereas Port Lincoln exceeded the key performance indicator in relation to delivery of early intervention programs, neither of the other sites were able to do this. Port Augusta, and to a lesser extent Ceduna, have been the sites where inconsistency in staffing among community engagement/client support worker roles and changes in solicitor staff have been felt most deeply. Ceduna made a late running and shows signs of an extremely positive and productive next 12 months should the current trend continue.

The positive in where we currently find ourselves is that we now have a number of well-established programs that new staff can draw upon to expand the program service delivery at all sites. This has been the cumulative effort of many staff over the past few years. In that time, we have trialled several approaches looking to see which programs and delivery styles will best suit our communities and which programs our staff can best accommodate. We anticipate the benefit of this organizational maturation will be increasingly evident over the coming years.

In 2016-17 FVLSAC staff delivered the following programs: Sista 2 Sista Day, Healing Arts, Healthy Relationships, attendance and participation in NAIDOC week events, White Ribbon Football Rounds in Port Lincoln and Ceduna, Yarning Circle and Yalata Outreach. We were involved in consultations which saw the establishment of a new program, Love Colours, and we worked together with Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement and Women's Legal Service of South Australia in the Far North Collaboration which saw workshops delivered on the APY Lands.

Sista 2 Sista Days have been a mainstay of FVLSAC's program delivery since the service held its first Sista 2 Sista Day on 12 May 2010 in Port Lincoln. The program has been reviewed and refined since its inception and has formed a fixed and regular part of the programs calendar at all sites since 2015. One of this year's highlights transpired in May when the new Ceduna staff managed to arrange a Sista 2 Sista Day with more than 80 women in attendance. That is, by far, the greatest number of attendees FVLSAC have had at an event in Ceduna. The theme of the day was, 'Women for Women: supporting each other' with an emphasis on how women can support each other as mothers, daughters, aunties, nieces, cousins and friends if someone known to them is experiencing family violence. All the usual Sista 2 Sista treats, haircuts, massages and manicures were present and welcomed by the women. With presentations by local services and our solicitor staff, it was a great showing for our service in the wider Ceduna community.

Healing Arts has taken on a life of its own in Port Lincoln. Now running consistently since 2015, women from the Port Lincoln community meet each week to complete art projects and reflect on community concerns, particularly those connected to family violence. A fabulous innovation was and will be the hosting of this program from our Port Lincoln office, following the office relocation in April 2017. We thank our long term friends and colleagues at Port Lincoln Aboriginal Community Council who assisted by providing a friendly and welcoming premises to hold this program over a number of years. We look forward to seeing more stunning art coming out of the St Andrews Terrace premises.



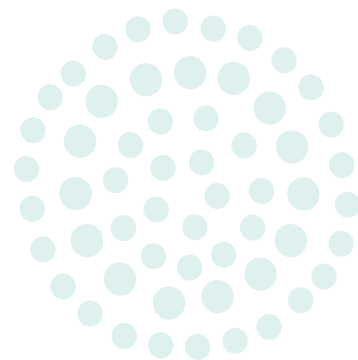
A new innovation this year was the White Ribbon Football Round. Kicking off in Port Lincoln as a collaboration among the coalition of domestic violence services (Domestic Violence Action Group), the services engaged with the local football community to bring their attention to the prevalence of family violence in the community. The white footballs and arm bands certainly garnered significant media attention and, more than just window dressing, local White Ribbon Ambassador Ivan Phillips, spoke with local players and officials about the impact family violence had had in his life.

Not to be outdone, our Ceduna staff were instrumental in organizing a White Ribbon Round in that community as well. Again the event was well covered in the media and following multiple presentations by Ivan, players spoke about how affected they were by what Ivan had to say. It is fair to say the White Ribbon Football Rounds were a fantastic way to include the whole of the community, and as we are often asked, to provide a service to men and families in relation to family violence. We hope these events will be repeated next year and we will look to reinforce the Ochre Ribbon campaign – ending family violence in Aboriginal communities – and its message at that time, as we did this year.

With collaboration always a hot topic, it was a very positive step to see the State Government provide funding to enable a collaboration between FVLSAC, Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement (ALRM) and the Women's Legal Service of South Australia (WLS). ALRM and WLS are state-wide bodies and happen to also deliver legal services within the FVLSAC catchment zones. ALRM are known for assisting Aboriginal clients with criminal and native title matters and WLS are known for provision of legal services to South Australian women, particularly victims of domestic violence. It can be seen how each member of the collaboration was able to bring a different perspective to the table and from there a program of education sessions was devised based on material developed by FVLSAC and then modified by the group for the APY lands communities. Delivering the program was a big undertaking given the travel and distance factors. During the year one round was delivered

to Amata, Indulkana and Mimili. It was intended for Fregon to be visited but community advice received at the time suggested that was not appropriate. A second round visits to Pipalyatjarra, Fregon and Mimili was imminent at the conclusion of the reporting period.

The 2016-17 year has ended with real momentum in our programs zone. We will aim to capitalize on that momentum in the coming year and look forward to reporting back next year about a number of new initiatives that will roll out in 2017-18. For now, though, we thank our staff for their ongoing efforts and we thank community for their ongoing involvement in FVLSAC programs. As always we welcome feedback from our members and we will continue to aim high in our delivery of programs to community.



Programs Report





Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation staff Fantasia Laughlin, Katarah Coleman and Janel Muller.

Sistas score pampering – and support

SA MORE THAN 80 women enjoyed a little pampering during a Sista 2 Sista event focusing on family violence held in Ceduna, South Australia.

The women came together and enjoyed haircuts, manicures and massages, as well as speaking about family violence, all in a safe space.

The event was organised by Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation staff community engagement and client support worker Fantasia Laughlin, legal administrator Katarah Coleman and general administrator Janel Muller.

Ms Laughlin said the Sista 2 Sista event is held twice a year, with the latest the biggest and best yet.

"Women come together to speak up about family violence or anything else that might be affecting them," she told the Koori Mail.

"We have guest speakers who come and talk to the ladies, but it's mostly about having an open forum."

Ms Laughlin said it is important that Aboriginal women are given the opportunity to speak freely.

"This gives them the opportunity to stand together," she said.

"They get to come and speak freely and get pampered with haircuts and massages. It helps them to feel special."

Ms Laughlin said she hopes the events keep expanding because it is important for every woman to feel supported.

"Having all these women come together, it shows there is support out there," she said. "A lot of women are too shy or too scared to speak up. But when they get together in that safe space it empowers them."

"They can share their stories and



River Coleman, Wendy Blissett, Deanne Wilson, and Rhiannon Cuddeback.



Lucky draw prize winners Sita Peet Dodd and Rosella Peet. Protection, victims of crime, family violence and intervention orders. It has offices in Ceduna, Port Lincoln, and Port Augusta, all providing legal advice, information and referrals.

22 THE KOORI MAIL, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 2017.

Taking to the field in white



Ready for footy: Richard Peel, Peter Thompson, White Ribbon ambassador Ivan Phillips, Charlie Coleman and Michael Newchurch.

motorbike tour around Australia, advocating for the White Ribbon cause.

"We were very happy with the outcome," she said.

"The men really engaged with him when he was talking to them."

"It was very powerful."

Ms Coleman said she hopes next year the event will be bigger and better.

"We want to get the netball clubs involved as well as the people out, we can get more out this year but we just want it to keep getting bigger."

what they love – football – and it was really successful.

"We thought if we get men involved in the discussion, we're targeting everyone, and they all know about domestic violence."

The football matches were played between Koorabba and Ceduna, and Western United versus Theroonard.

Ahead of the football matches White Ribbon ambassador Ivan Phillips visited the football clubs.

Ms Coleman said the men now want him to come back and speak to them about his

THE Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation in Ceduna, South Australia, has sponsored a White Ribbon Round for the Fur West Football League.

Legal administrator Katarah Coleman said the event was held to help men engage with 'violence'.

"Everything we had done so far was for women," she told the Koori Mail.

"So we thought why not host something for the men through

10 THE TRANSCONTINENTAL Wednesday June 21, 2017

NEWS

transcontinental.com.au

'Sistas' end family violence

BY AMY GREEN

FAMILY VIOLENCE is a serious problem in many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across the country.

The Family Violence Legal Service organised the event Sista 2 Sista to gather women and girls from the Port Augusta and Davenport community to learn about the

impacts of family violence and the legal issues that may arise in certain situations.

Community Engagement and Client Support Worker Heather Shearer has said the event was well received with 34 women and girls attending.

"It was good to hear the issues directly from women in the community," Mrs Shearer said.

"It allowed us to get a clear direction on the information and the issues so that we can take them to the relevant sources, which will ensure that there's more coordination and cooperation."

The women were provided with an open environment to speak about issues affecting them and their community. Mrs Shearer said the panel of women from the community

provided valuable insight and support regarding family violence.

The women also heard from Gues: speaker Vicky Welgraven, an Adnyamathanba woman who has advocated for Indigenous women at various conferences.

"It was really about how we as workers, whether we are employed or not, are

working in our community to find a balance between being a woman, a wife, a mother or a grandmother dealing with the issues within our family as well as providing an advocacy voice," Mrs Shearer said.

The event was also filled with activities designed to help the women relax and have fun.

Betty Sumner from Raukkan, Point Mcleay came and did some silk painting with the ladies and Barbara Rafnuz from Bush Scene performed massage on their hands and feet, providing them with a relaxation technique to be able to just breathe," Mrs Shearer said.

"For the ladies that attended, it was a long time coming and it was a great opportunity for them to come along to talk about family violence."

Legal Report

The annual report is always a time of reflection, looking at what we have achieved over the past 12 months, what we are doing well and, importantly, looking at where we heading and what we need to do to achieve those goals.

Over the past two years we have been very clear about what the legal practice is trying to achieve and it is gratifying to see that we are progressing as we hoped and continuing to move the practice in a positive direction.

The last year has borne many similarities to the previous year in terms of results. This is a positive indicator that our goal to stabilize and rebalance the legal practice is well on track. It is also a sign the we are bringing consistency to the legal practice which reinforces the renewed clarity with which the legal practice is operating.

The legal service is now operating under clear policies and procedures and the benefit of this has been the smooth internal operation of the practice, which is very pleasing from a management perspective. The goal is also to provide certainty to our staff and to our clients such that our staff are clear about the expectations they are to meet and our communities know what services and legal outcomes we can pursue on their behalf.

A significant development over the past 12 months has been the shift of all solicitors to a central location at our Port Lincoln office. This occurred partly in recognition of the recruitment advantages which have become apparent at this site as well as seeking improvement in risk management practices. As noted in last year's report, recruitment and retention are issues which require significant attention given their impact on service delivery and our recruitment processes have continued to be subject to review and refinement. Sadly, the Ceduna office has still been unable to attract a suitably qualified and culturally competent applicant. This year, refinement saw the service acknowledge that more applications, and better quality applicants, are received for legal positions connected to the Port Lincoln site. As a consequence, it was determined that all solicitors will be based in Port Lincoln under the management of the Principal Legal Officer and solicitors will undertake fortnightly or monthly travel to Port Augusta and Ceduna. Of note is that this change has not had any adverse impact upon the Port Augusta site, where this change was first implemented, as we have seen the numbers of legal advices, cases and new clients remain steady.

The benefits of this approach are evident in that we have retained the same solicitor staff for a longer period with no change. Being in the same office has helped solidify the solicitors as a team and they have additional professional support in each other, which is important given the difficult

matters they often deal with. They also have direct access to their manager and it has helped with training and development opportunities. There can be challenges for clients who may not be as comfortable with the video-conferencing system which is used when staff are not on site, but we are able to give those clients the option of having a community engagement/client support worker present with them during their appointment, or the option of waiting for a face to face appointment. There is a balance to be struck in this approach, but at this juncture it is fair to say the benefits have far exceeded impediments.

Another benefit in this approach has been the strengthening of links between the solicitor staff and the community engagement client support workers. Distance requires them to connect and cultivate good communication in order to work together for the benefit of clients. Both sets of staff have adjusted to the change and taken to their roles beautifully.

Under the banner of trying to ensure the practice is well balanced across the four legal areas FVLSAC services, child protection, family law, intervention orders and family violence and victims of crime compensation, we have streamlined how our solicitors address each of these areas. As a result, we have seen consistency in our service delivery which is evident in the statistics relating to legal advices and cases. Here we have again exceeded our key performance indicator for legal advices and increased upon the number of advices delivered in 2015-16. As was the case last year, we came very close to meeting our KPI in relation to new clients, with this year's number almost matching last year's number exactly. As I indicated last year, the service does very well in attracting repeat clients but it can be a challenge to break in to new sections of community. Our consistency in legal advice and new client numbers is a credit to our solicitors and a sign of the communities' confidence in our legal service.

Within those performance areas we have observed some trends across the work we are attracting. Within the legal advice section of the practice we have seen that the area where most clients seek assistance relates to intervention orders. While we do not currently have precise figures it could be validly estimated that between 60 to 70% of legal advice work relates to intervention orders and within that, it is most common for clients to seek assistance to vary an existing intervention order. This necessitates liaising with local police at each of our three sites and it has been pleasing to see very solid working relationships develop between our solicitors and SAPOL officers, which is of benefit to our clients.

Within our case work a noticeable trend has been the steady flow of family law cases arising out of Port Augusta. This has now been a trend over several years and we see more court

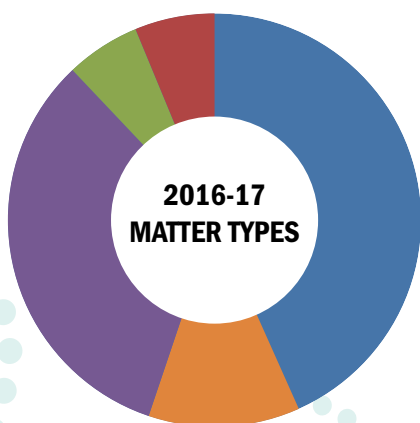
applications to the Federal Circuit Court (usually for recovery orders) coming from this site as compared to the other sites. Similarly, the greatest proportion of new clients walk in the doors of our Port Augusta office and this too has been a constant. We ponder whether this is a result of greater understanding of legal rights and services, or higher population numbers or a more transient group which sees kids move between their parents. In all likelihood it is perhaps a combination of those factors.

A greater number of court appearances by our solicitors is another feature of the legal service in 2016-17. Our solicitors appear before the courts when dealing with child protection, intervention order and parenting and property disputes. In addition to appearing before the Federal Circuit Court, Youth Court and Magistrates Courts more often, our solicitors are increasingly engaged in more complex arguments. Their commitment to clients and skill in court has seen a number of successes in Court in some very challenging matters. This is of course encouraging for our clients but also of importance in relation to the professional development of our staff, which is an essential factor in retention of staff, the latter being a key focus for management.

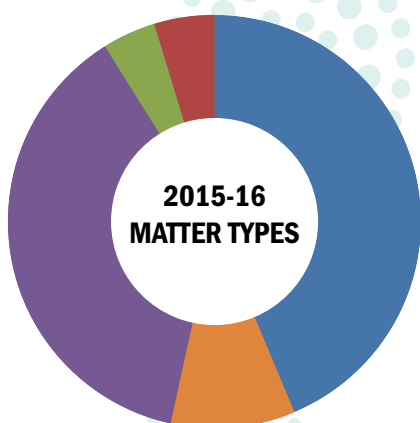
It would be remiss of me to finalise this report without acknowledging the outstanding work of our former CEO Kendall Field who left the service in June 2017. Kendall provided a supportive and stable environment for all staff and particularly for the solicitors. Having a CEO that understands the special requirements of legal work and of our clients is a rare thing. The improvements that have been initiated in the legal practice over the past two years have operated more smoothly for having had Kendall's full support. I thank Kendall for her commitment to the staff and clients of FVLSAC and wish her all the very best.

Similarly, I would like to thank our staff for their hard work in 2016-17. It makes my job easier and more enjoyable knowing what a great team we have. You are doing good work which you ought be very proud of. Let's kick on in to 2017-18.

Legal Matters



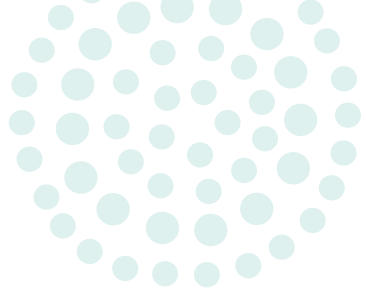
FAMILY OR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & INTERVENTION ORDER	43%
CHILD PROTECTION	12%
FAMILY LAW	33%
OTHER	6%
INJURIES COMPENSATION	6%
TOTAL	100%



FAMILY OR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & INTERVENTION ORDER	43%
CHILD PROTECTION	10%
FAMILY LAW	38%
OTHER	4%
INJURIES COMPENSATION	5%
TOTAL	100%

2016 - 2017 Highlights!





Financial Reports

as at 30th June 2017



Business accounting
for city & country



Marnie Smith

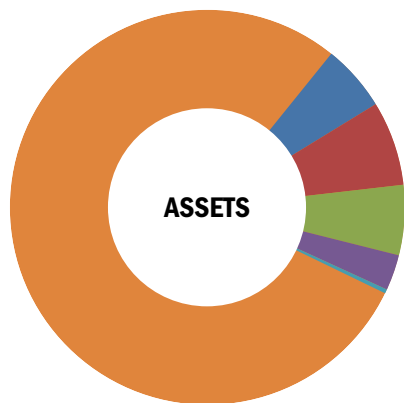
Client Business Support

Services - Manager

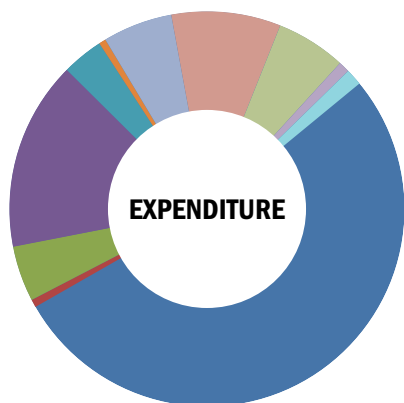
Rowe Partners



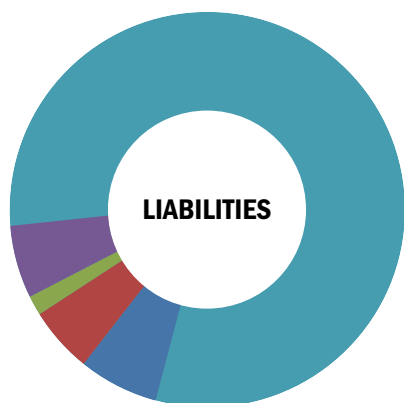
GOVERNMENT GRANTS - \$1,588,244
SUNDRY INCOME - \$19,827
INTEREST - \$8,070



BUILDINGS WDV - \$63,950
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT WDV - \$79,698
MOTOR VEHICLES WDV - \$64,591
FURNITURE AND FITTINGS WDV - \$35,216
TRADE AND OTHER DEBTORS - \$2,175
CASH AT BANK - \$925,987



SALARIES AND WAGES - \$851,435
REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE AND REPLACEMENTS - \$10,501
ADMINISTRATION - \$73,024
OPERATIONAL EXPENSES - \$250,466
COMMUNITY PROJECTS/SUNDRY - \$54,688
LEGAL EXPENSES - \$8,572
DEPRECIATION - \$90,087
PROVISION FOR GRANT FUNDING SURPLUS \$142,475
STAFF RELATED COSTS/CONFERENCES - \$90,289
LOSS ON SALE OF ASSETS - \$15,146
MOTOR VEHICLE EXPENSES - \$20,361



PROVISION FOR GRANT FUNDING SURPLUS - \$679,331
CREDITORS AND PAYG - \$34,138
ACCRUED EXPENSES - \$31,002
GST OBLIGATIONS - \$9,865
PROVISION FOR ANNUAL LEAVE AND LSL - \$35,991

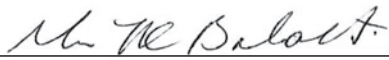
Committee Report

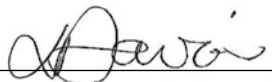
Your committee members submit the financial report of the Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation (SA) ICN: 7499 for the financial year ended 30 June 2017.

Committee Members

The names of Committee Members throughout the year and at the date of this report are:

- Tania Benbolt
- Linda Davies - Appointed 09/12/2016
- Angela Johanna Boylan
- Desley Gray - Appointed 24/01/2017
- Ivan Phillips - Appointed 09/06/2017
- Linda Dare
- Jason Ryan - Appointed 23/11/2016
- Emma Richards - Resigned 16/05/2017
- Maryanne Clements - Resigned 24/04/2017
- Natalie Giles - Resigned 23/11/2016

Tania Benbolt:  _____

Linda Davies:  _____

Dated this 13th day of September 2017

Principal Activities

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

- Provide Aboriginal Family Violence Legal Services.

Significant Changes

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

Operating Result

The surplus after providing for income tax for the 2017 financial year amounted to \$9,097.00.

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

Income Statement

INCOME	NOTE	2017 \$	2016 \$
Operational Grants		1,588,244	1,647,429
Interest Received		8,070	14,243
Sundry Income		19,827	13,085
		1,616,141	1,674,757
EXPENDITURE	NOTE	2017 \$	2016 \$
Accounting Fees		60,540	60,663
Depreciation Expenses		90,087	99,135
Audit Fees		12,419	12,873
Bank Charges		65	79
Loss on Sale of Assets - Property, Plant & Equipment		15,146	-
Advertising and Promotion Expenses		4,077	4,136
Bad Debts Written Off		-	348
Brief Out		3,139	858
Catering		912	-
Cleaning		12,441	11,505
Community Activities		51,432	59,434
Consultants		5,470	8,681
Disbursements		2,072	9,101
Electricity		11,363	12,550
IT Support		25,583	40,544
Insurance		9,876	8,658
Meetings & Seminars		14,375	15,816
Vehicle Expenses		20,361	19,829
Permits, Licences & Fees		8,482	7,295
Postage, Printing & Stationery		24,554	29,574
Practising Certificate		3,361	2,820
Recruitment		12,043	16,026
Rent, Rates & Taxes		91,980	87,758
Repair, Maintenance & Replacements		10,501	42,333
Security Costs		7,924	2,874
Staff Training & Welfare		21,783	34,375
Salaries & Wages - Superannuation		70,959	71,557
Salaries & Wages		767,338	818,941
Sundry Expenses		3,256	6,864
Telephone		47,805	40,187
Travel Allowance		42,088	20,557
Leave Loading		7,832	8,978
Workcover		4,600	5,297
Provision for Annual Leave		(1,869)	4,857

Provision for Grant Funding Surplus	142,475	191,608
Provision for Long Service Leave	2,575	-
	1,607,044	1,756,109
Current Year Surplus before Income Tax	9,097	(81,352)
Net Current Year Surplus (Deficit)	9,097	(81,352)
Retained Surplus at the beginning of the Financial Year	277,508	358,860
Retained Surplus at the end of the Financial Year	286,605	277,508

Balance Sheet

ASSETS	NOTE	2017 \$	2016 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash on hand	4	925,987	710,099
Accounts Receivable and Other Debtors	2	2,175	870
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		928,163	710,969
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, Plant & Equipment	3	243,454	335,429
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		243,454	335,429
TOTAL ASSETS		1,171,617	1,046,398
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Accounts Payable & Other Payables		16,764	49,567
Employee Provisions	5	19,980	21,848
Net GST Payable / (Refundable)		(9,865)	(7,040)
Amounts Withheld from Salary, Wages & Other Payments		17,374	12,910
Provision for Grant Funding Surplus		679,331	536,856
Accrued Expenses		31,002	26,898
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		754,585	641,038
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee Provisions	5	16,012	13,437
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		16,012	13,437
TOTAL LIABILITIES		770,597	654,475
NET ASSETS		401,020	391,923
MEMBERS' FUNDS			
Capital Reserve		114,415	114,415
Retained Surplus		286,605	277,508
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS		401,020	391,923

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

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

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and are based on historical costs. They do not take into account changing money values or, except where stated specifically, 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 these financial statements.

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 corporation 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 corporation. 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 committee reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible and intangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have been impaired. If such an indication exists, an impairment test is carried out on the asset by comparing the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs of disposal and value in use, to the asset's carrying amount. Any excess of the asset's carrying amount over its recoverable amount is recognised in the income and expenditure statement.

Employee Provisions

Provision is made for the corporation's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee provisions 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 high quality corporate bond rates incorporating bonds rated AAA or AA by credit agencies, with terms to maturity that match the expected timing of cash flows. Changes in the measurement of the liability are recognised in profit or loss.

Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the corporation 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.

Provisions are measured at the best estimate of the amounts required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting

Cash on Hand

Cash on hand includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks, and other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

Accounts Receivable and Other Debtors

Accounts receivable and other debtors include amounts due from members as well as amounts receivable from donors. Receivables expected to be collected within 12 months of the end of the reporting period are classified as current assets. All other receivables are classified as non-current assets.

Revenue and Other Income

Revenue is measured at the fair value of the consideration received or receivable after taking into account any trade discounts and volume rebates allowed. For this purpose, deferred consideration is not discounted to present values when recognising revenue.

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest method, which for floating rate financial assets is the rate inherent in the instrument. Dividend revenue is recognised when the right to receive a dividend has been established. Grant and donation income is recognised when the entity obtains control over the funds, which is generally at the time of receipt.

If conditions are attached to the grant that must be satisfied before the corporation is eligible to receive the contribution, recognition of the grant as revenue will be deferred until those conditions are satisfied.

All revenue is stated net of the amount of goods and services tax.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST, except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Receivables and payables are stated inclusive of the amount of GST receivable or payable. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the assets and liabilities statement.

Accounts payable and other payables

Accounts payable and other payables represent the liability outstanding at the end of the reporting period for goods and services received by the corporation during the reporting period that remain unpaid. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability.

Notes to the Financial Statements

2. Accounts Receivable & Other Debtors	2017 \$	2016 \$
Trade Debtors	2,175	870
	2,175	870

3. Property, Plant & Equipment

Plant & Equipment	604,466	660,675
(Accumulated Depreciation)	(524,769)	(532,054)
	79,698	128,621
Office Equipment	83,571	92,639
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(48,355)	(51,165)
	35,216	41,474
Motor Vehicles	251,699	251,699
(Accumulated Depreciation)	(187,109)	(160,710)
	64,591	90,989
Buildings & Houses	295,793	304,584
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(231,843)	(230,239)
	63,950	74,346
Total Property, Plant & Equipment	243,454	335,429

4. Cash on Hand

Cash at Bank	923,537	708,099
Cash on Hand	2,450	2,000
Total Cash on Hand	925,987	710,099

5. Employee Benefits

Current

Provision for Annual Leave	19,980	21,848
----------------------------	--------	--------

Non-Current

Provision for Long Service Leave	16,012	13,437
----------------------------------	--------	--------

6. Reserves

Capital Reserve

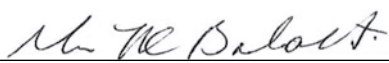
Provision for Depreciation	114,415	114,415
----------------------------	---------	---------

Statement by Members of the Board

We Tania Benbolt and Linda Davies, being members of the Board of Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation (SA), certify that:

The statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair view of the financial position and performance of Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation (SA) during and at the end of the financial year of the association ending on 30th June 2017.

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.

Tania Benbolt: 

Linda Davies: 

Dated this 13th day of September 2017

Auditor's Report

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE LEGAL SERVICE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION (SA)

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation (SA) ("the entity") which comprises the assets and liabilities statement as at 30 June 2017, the income and expenditure statement for the year then ended and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the statement by members of the committee.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation (SA) is in accordance with Div 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- a) giving a true and fair view of the entity's financial position as at 30 June 2017 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1, the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013 and the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the entity in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* ("the Code") that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

Management is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards-Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the entity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intend to liquidate the entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the entity's financial reporting process.

**basso
newman**
audit
chartered
accountants

Basso Newman Audit Pty Ltd
ABN 98 618 562 824


286 Flinders Street
Adelaide, South Australia

PO Box 7033 Hutt Street,
South Australia 5000

Telephone: (08) 8224 0066
Facsimile: (08) 8224 0670

bnc@bassonewman.com.au
www.bassonewman.com.au

"Liability limited by a scheme
approved under Professional
Standards Legislation"



**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
FAMILY VIOLENCE LEGAL SERVICE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION (SA)**

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide the those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.



Trevor Basso - Director
Basso Newman Audit Pty Ltd
Chartered Accountants
286 Flinders Street, Adelaide
Dated this 23rd day of September 2017

