

NEWSLETTER



**Family Violence Legal Service
Aboriginal Corporation (SA)**

New Leadership Team

Meet our CEO and Principal Legal Officer

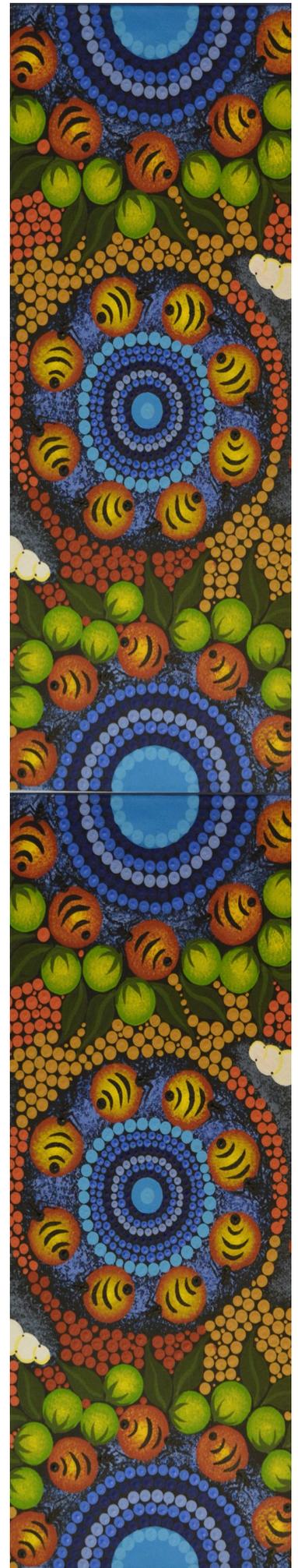


Kendall Field, CEO

I grew up in country South Australia before moving to Adelaide for study and work. After living in remote WA for six years, I was excited to return to SA with my young family in 2013. I have a background in business management and accounting. Since joining the FVLSAC team in 2014, I feel fortunate to be able to work for a cause I am so passionate about.

Carissa Bosch, Principal Legal Officer

I am excited to be part of the FVLSAC team, a passionate and enthusiastic group who care a great deal about their communities. I am a lawyer and have worked in Adelaide and country SA over the past eleven years. My husband, young daughter and I have lived in Whyalla for the last five years. We enjoy the country living and love being on the coast. Surrounded by the caring, can-do spirit of our communities we cannot see why anyone would want to live and work anywhere else!



SISTA 2 SISTA

WORKSHOP IN CEDUNA



During NAIDOC week our Ceduna office hosted **Sista 2 Sista Day** and we were excited to see around 55 ladies in attendance. Sista 2 Sista is a regular program held by FVLSAC at each site every three months. It is a one day workshop for local Aboriginal women.

The purpose of the Sista 2 Sista Program is to provide a safe and welcoming environment for women to come together be pampered. We hope they feel comfortable to yarn with each other and learn from each other. We also present information about different aspects of family violence. We aim to provide a fresh perspective for women and cover different situations including offering possible solutions for families who are experiencing family violence.

It is a priority for our service that women feel safe and that we provide opportunities for them to participate in a range of activities, ranging from beauty and relaxation to education and arts and culture activities.

In Ceduna guest speaker **Fiona Mead** spoke about domestic violence and abuse, and tactics perpetrators use. She talked about the “cycle of violence” and some of the effects of family violence on survivors. She spoke about how survivors often try to deal with the mental pain of violence through drugs and alcohol but how the help of services like ours can assist with legal solutions and support instead.

Our next Sista 2 Sista Day in Ceduna is on 15 October 2015. Sista 2 Sista Days will be held in Port Lincoln and Port Augusta on 8 October 2015.

We will focus on Mums and what family violence means for them and their children



KNOWMORE LEGAL SERVICE

Knowmore Legal Service, set up in response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, spoke at Sista 2 Sista Day about their service, and how people can tell their stories to the Royal Commission. It is important for people to talk to this Service so that the government is told about the sexual abuse of people taken into government care and how it occurred. This might include members of the Stolen Generation, if they were sexually abused while in care. The Royal Commission also want to talk to anyone who has been sexually abused in other situations, say in a sporting club or youth club.

Centacare, Women’s Legal Service, Aboriginal Family Support Services, Save the Children, and Ceduna Health also attended providing information for all attendees.



NAIDOC WEEK in CEDUNA

The team from FVLSAC Ceduna loved getting involved in NAIDOC week. Our staff joined the community for the **NAIDOC march** (pictured left). We also attended the **Family Fun Day**, where we had an opportunity to chat with families about our service.

We let the community know that our service can provide holistic family focused assistance in a culturally sensitive way. We can help with legal issues like child protection, family law, family violence and intervention orders and victims of crime compensation.

We also visited **Yalata Women’s Group**. Megan and Kim from Knowmore Legal Service came along and we chatted with the women about the Royal Commission and how people can tell their stories. We told the group about how the Royal Commission is very important as it is a special investigation that looks into past child sexual abuse and where things went wrong in the past and in particular how some institutions failed to keep kids safe. This may be relevant to members of the Stolen Generation.

The Royal Commission is looking into conduct by those in power in schools, sporting clubs, children’s services, foster care and religious groups.



Yalata Outreach

Our Ceduna lawyer Shelley travels to Yalata every **second Wednesday** so that women on community can talk to her if they would like help from our service. She can provide lots of information about family violence and help that is available for women and families.



In early June our staff attended Yalata Festival. Connie, Jacinta and Chanel yarned with the Yalata Women’s Group around the campfire while the women cooked Kangaroo tails. The festival was a huge success. Mimi, Yalata Elder, opened the Festival with an address to elders past, present and future, and spoke about Yalata community and what makes it such a special place to live.



HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS PROGRAM

From the Port Lincoln Times, 30 July 2015

For the last five years Port Lincoln FVLSAC has been involved with a program within the Port Lincoln High School which aims to assist students with knowledge around abusive and non-abusive relationships—this is part of our HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS PROGRAM. The aim of our program is to provide young people with up-to-date and relevant knowledge about some of the issues they face such as sex and consent, “sexting” and online harassment, assault, Intervention Orders etc.

Port Lincoln High School assistant principal (Year 11-12) Jill Murdoch said there have been people in the community who have advocated for the program to grow and continue, including Sharyn Potts from Yarredi Services and Nola Fehrenbach from Victim Support Services.

"The goals of the program are to provide accurate information and a safe environment to discuss listed topics so that young people can make informed, respectful decisions," she said.

This year small groups of Year 11 students met with guest presenters for six to eight sessions during personal development lessons in term two. Presenters included Kirsty Dow from Yarredi Services and Ms Fehrenbach.

Topics discussed have included healthy and unhealthy relationships, gender roles, respectful sexual relationships and domestic violence. Students were also provided with a wallet sized list of community support contact numbers.

Last week saw the final session of 2015 delivered, with Port Lincoln mayor and White Ribbon ambassador Bruce Green addressing the male students.

Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation senior solicitor Amanda Spalding [pictured below] addressed the female students with a presentation about domestic violence, its implications and available support.

Regular meetings have been held to review the program, with the most recent addressing new topics to be discussed for next year.



These include anger management, mental health and information about drugs and alcohol.

Mrs Murdoch said the Year 11 students and staff thanked the local community groups for their continued support of the Respectful Relationships Program.



Healthy Relationships Update

FVLSAC are working in collaboration with Port Augusta Secondary School and Ceduna Area School to extend the Healthy Relationships Program into these schools. Stay tuned for future developments in this program.



OCHRE RIBBON CAMPAIGN



FVLSAC are proud to join with the National Family Violence Prevention Legal Services Forum to launch the Ochre Ribbon Campaign in South Australia.

With a motto of “don’t silence the violence” the Ochre Ribbon campaign seeks to raise awareness of the devastating impact of family violence in Aboriginal families and spark real action to end family violence in Aboriginal communities

Launch days have taken place in Port Augusta and Ceduna with one to follow shortly in Port Lincoln.

We encourage our communities to support the Ochre Ribbon campaign and show solidarity in ending family violence in Aboriginal communities.

You will see our staff wearing their Ochre Ribbon badges in the community. We would love to see more badges out and about. If you would like one, come and pick up an Ochre Ribbon badge from one of our offices.



NAIDOC WEEK in PORT LINCOLN

2015 WOMBAT PIT COOK OUT

Damp weather did not stop the mob at the Wombat Pit from having the NAIDOC cook out! Constance Mundy had help from Chris Prestage in the FVLSAC stall. Delicious damper and kangaroo tail was on offer.

Staff were also involved in organising the children’s disco and participated in the NAIDOC March and helped on the NAIDOC committee.



SISTA 2 SISTA

PORT AUGUSTA WORKSHOP



The Port Augusta Sista 2 Sista day held 26 June 2015 attracted women both young and old as well as some of FVL-SAC's local stakeholders.

A highlight of the day was local artist, Jeanne Miller developing a S2S mural, which is now finished and looks amazing. Jeanne also helped participants with their own rock paintings.

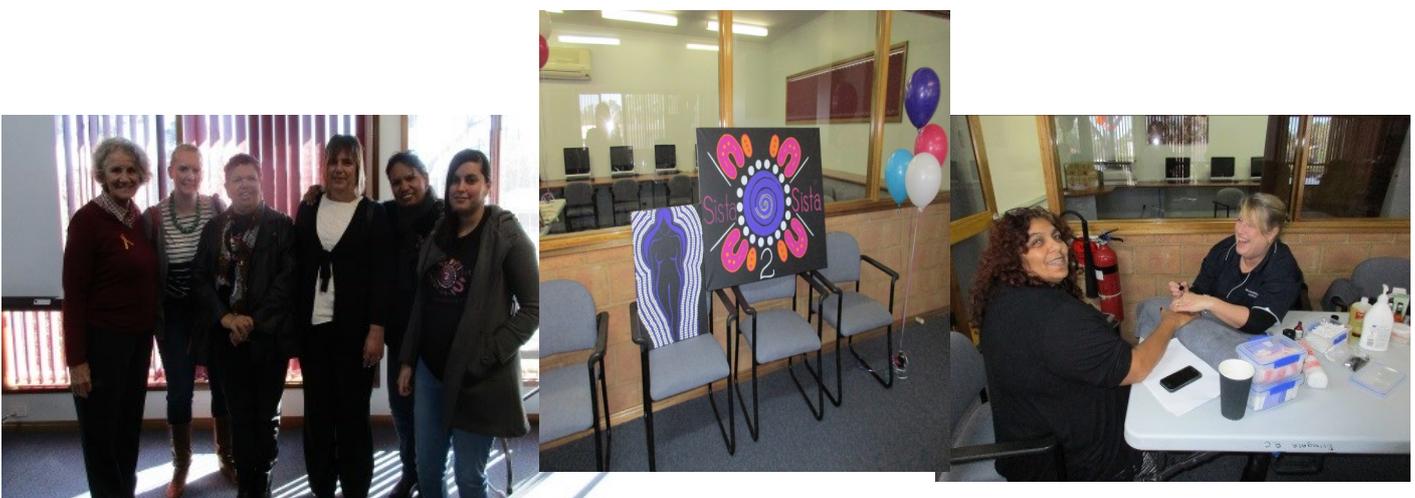
Women were pampered with relaxing massages from Barbara Rasmus from Bush Scents and Tina from Bella Bliss doing some fantastic nails. Another activity on offer was a jewellery table where people were able to sit and talk while making necklaces and bracelets.

This set the scene for the Knowmore duo, Hannah and Megan, to provide their presentation and DVD about the services they provide to the Port Augusta community. Dionnie Thompson from Red Cross followed with a lively 'yarndrum' session. Dionnie is a fabulous group leader and got many women involved, including our CEO Kendall!

Yarndrum sessions aims to help provide bonding and team building opportunities for groups who have been personally affected by with family and domestic violence. Yarndrum offers women the chance to have a positive experience while they are yarning and singing about traumatic times in their lives. It was a chance to improve their self esteem and do some healing. It was a delight to see women getting involved, having a laugh and we hope they left feeling good about themselves and their participation.

Guest speaker Professor Judy Atkinson addressed the participants. She was very relatable as she spoke of her experience as a Aboriginal women dealing with family violence. She talked about her many exemplary accomplishments. Judy's information also highlighted that violence against Aboriginal women and children affects not just women and children who are harmed, but those who perpetrate the violence. She emphasized that family violence harms us all. She gave lots of information about where violence comes from and its generational consequences. It was positive to hear her whole of community (educaring) approach which responds to all our needs—men, women and children. She told the audience about ways that are designed to address the layered trauma in Aboriginal people's lives.

Women attending were very moved by Judy's presentation and her personal story. FVLSAC was pleased to see Judy's message connect with the community.



RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN LAUNCH

FVLSAC Reconciliation Statement

Family Violence Legal service Aboriginal Corporation (SA) acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands across Australia and particularly acknowledges the traditional owners in Port Augusta, Port Lincoln and Ceduna, and 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 and 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.

You can find the FVLSAC Reconciliation Action Plan on our website at www.fvlsac.org.au



UPCOMING EVENTS



Ceduna

- Yalata Women’s Group (every Second Wednesday in Yalata)
- Sista 2 Sista Day - Thursday 15 October 2015

For further information please call Shelley Anderson on 08 8625 3800.



Port Lincoln

- Healing Arts (each Wednesday in the Kuju Arts Shed
10am until 3 pm)
- Sista 2 Sista Day —Thursday 8 October 2015

For further information please call Connie Mundy on 08 8683 1896.



Port Augusta

- Yarning Circle (the first Friday of each month)
- Sista 2 Sista Day —Thursday 8 October 2015

For further information please call June Lennon or Tahlia Wanganeen on 08 8641 2195.



PORT AUGUSTA

26 Jervois Street

Ph: 08 8641 2195

Freecall: 1800 111 052

PORT LINCOLN

32 Napoleon Street

Ph: 08 8683 1896

Freecall 1800 309 912

CEDUNA

17 McKenzie Street

Ph: 08 8625 3800

Freecall 1800 839 059

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