



Family Violence Legal Service
Aboriginal Corporation (SA)

ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25



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.



FVLSAC acknowledges those who have survived family violence. Our work is inspired by the courage, strength and resilience shown through their shared experiences.

We also acknowledge the practitioners, services and organisations who walk alongside survivors on their journey to safety and recovery, and those whose work is to prevent violence before it occurs.



We would also like to express our appreciation for the continued support provided through 2024-25

- The National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA)
- Corporation Members • Board Members (past & present) • Staff



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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 peoples 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

An equitable and safe society for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.
To eliminate family and sexual violence through quality holistic legal services, education and community partnerships.

Our Purpose

We will deliver high quality and culturally appropriate legal assistance, to help vulnerable people facing disadvantage to navigate the legal system.

Our Underlying Principles

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 as a result of colonisation, and we pay respect to the resilience and strength of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

We work in partnership with the community because we respect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples right for self-determination.

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

Our Values

- Community
- Culture
- Respect for people
- Trust
- Compassion



Who We Are and What We Do

The Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation (FVLSAC) is an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO). Our team includes a CEO, administration staff, lawyers, client support officers, a board of directors and a membership base from our community groups.

FVLSAC provides free and confidential legal and non-legal support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families. Our holistic service model combines legal and non-legal support to ensure clients are supported through every stage of their journey. We deliver our services in a culturally safe and trauma-informed way, recognising the importance of trust, respect, and healing in every client interaction.

FVLSAC has 3 offices located in Ceduna, Port Augusta and Port Lincoln. Our offices are open Monday to Friday from 9am until 5 pm. You can contact us on one of our free call numbers:

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

You can also visit our website at www.fvlsac.org.au or follow us on Facebook to stay up to date with our programs and community events.



Family Violence Legal Service
Aboriginal Corporation (SA)

Who We Help

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victim-survivors of family, domestic and sexual violence.
- Parents or carers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.
- Families and Communities that are affected by family, domestic or sexual violence.
- Clients living in the Far West Coast, Spencer Gulf and Upper North regions of SA:
 - Ceduna, Koonibba Aboriginal Community, Yalata Aboriginal Community, Scotdesco Aboriginal Community and Maralinga Tjarutja (Oak Valley);
 - Port Augusta, Davenport Community, Nepabunna Community, Umoona Community (Coober Pedy), Leigh Creek and Dunjiba Community (Oodnadatta);
 - Whyalla; and
 - Port Lincoln.

FVLSAC Directors

Current Directors

Katryne Miller
*(appointed November 2019,
and resigned in June 2025)*

Tamy Pond
(appointed September 2024)

Joy Reid
(appointed 5 May 2021)

Patrick Sharpe
(appointed Dec 2023)

Board Appointed Directors

Angela Johanna Boylan
*(appointed September 2014
and reappointed)*

Natasha Budimski
*(appointed November 2018
and reappointed)*

Edward Ben Watson
(appointed February 2022)



Chairperson's Report

The past 12 months have marked a period of strong strategic focus and renewal for the Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation (FVLSAC). We have made significant progress in laying the foundation for statewide service expansion while continuing to support Aboriginal victim-survivors of family violence and sexual assault through culturally safe, client-centred legal and support services.

The Board has remained committed to strong governance and oversight throughout this time of transition. Following our rule book requirements, we have maintained a stable Board with a mix of Community and Appointed Directors. Our goal remains to secure a full complement of Directors in the year ahead, ensuring continued community representation alongside professional expertise.

The Board was pleased to support the CEO and management team in the successful negotiation of a five-year National Access to Justice Partnership (NAJP) agreement with the Commonwealth Government. This funding provides the stability required to support our future vision and allows us to extend our services across South Australia. The expansion strategy has been presented to key stakeholders, including the South Australian Attorney-General's Department and the National Indigenous Australians Agency, with a strong emphasis on staged implementation, workforce development, and community engagement.

Our offices in Ceduna, Port Augusta, and Port Lincoln remain central to our operations, with continued investment in maintaining safe, welcoming spaces for staff and clients. Planning is now underway to establish new solicitor hubs in Adelaide, Mount Gambier, and Murray Bridge as part of our expansion rollout.

As a Board, we wish to express our heartfelt thanks to every member of our staff and leadership team for their hard work and dedication in what has been a demanding year. Despite ongoing recruitment challenges, particularly in securing legal staff, the team has remained focused on delivering high-quality services. Programs such as 'Sista 2 Sista' have continued to thrive, and our involvement in key forums - including hosting the First Nations Advocates Against Family Violence conference in Port Lincoln - demonstrates the important role FVLSAC plays at both state and national levels.

On behalf of the Board, I extend thanks to the CEO, John Tonkin, for his leadership and commitment to advancing the strategic direction of the organisation. His work in building relationships with government, securing funding, and stabilising operations has been critical to our progress this year.

We also acknowledge the continued support of our funding partners, particularly the Attorney-General's Department and NIAA, and the many service providers we collaborate with across the legal, health, and community sectors.

To my fellow Directors, thank you for your dedication and governance leadership. Being a volunteer Director is not without its challenges, but your contribution ensures FVLSAC remains a strong, community-led organisation grounded in Aboriginal values and self-determination.

Finally, I would like to thank all FVLSAC members for your continued support. As a member-based organisation, your voice and engagement are vital to our identity and accountability. Together, we continue to stand with Aboriginal women, children, and families affected by violence - and to build safer futures, community by community.

Ben Watson
Chairperson
Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation (SA)

Chief Executive Officer's Report

This past financial year has been one of growth, transition, and strategic positioning for the Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation (FVLSAC) as we laid the groundwork for an ambitious expansion of services across South Australia under the National Access to Justice Partnership (NAJP).

Our team has continued to provide culturally safe, trauma-informed legal and non-legal support services to Aboriginal victim-survivors of family violence and sexual assault. Despite ongoing workforce challenges, particularly in solicitor recruitment, we maintained our commitment to quality, care, and community connection.

Strategic Highlights

In 2024–2025, FVLSAC secured a five-year NAJP funding agreement that provides the certainty required to plan for long-term growth. This enabled us to embark on a carefully staged expansion plan that will see new solicitor hubs established in Adelaide, Mount Gambier, and Murray Bridge, with additional outreach and support across the Riverland, Whyalla, and Coober Pedy.

We are energised by the opportunity to grow our footprint and connect with more communities who have long been underserved. Our approach is grounded in both strategic clarity and deep respect for community leadership. We have been working closely with the South Australian Attorney-General's Department to ensure that our expansion is sustainable, well-coordinated, and aligned with state priorities. These relationships have laid a solid foundation for FVLSAC's continued growth and systems-level engagement.

Service and Program Delivery

Our signature 'Sista 2 Sista' program continued to be well received, offering a culturally affirming space for community connection and legal education. We also hosted the First Nations Advocates Against Family Violence annual conference in Port Lincoln, providing a platform for national dialogue on systemic reform.

Internally, the demand management process developed the previous year proved crucial in stabilising client intake during solicitor shortages. While this has at times required temporary pauses in new matters, the process has ensured that high-risk clients continue to receive coordinated care, often with the support of trusted sector partners.

Workforce and Governance

The Board endorsed a benchmarking process this year to ensure salaries align with sector expectations. Importantly, we remain conservative in our approach, balancing staff retention with funding constraints. We also continued work on leadership development pathways for Aboriginal staff, including supporting employees to undertake management training.

A key focus for the year has been readiness for NAS accreditation and finalising compliance documentation to meet governance, HR, and risk standards. This has included a refresh of our policies, improvement of Actionstep file management, and digital transformation planning.

Looking Ahead

As we enter the 2025–2026 year, FVLSAC is firmly focused on implementation. Expansion brings complexity, but it also brings enormous opportunity - to reach more Aboriginal women and children, to create culturally safe legal pathways, and to amplify Aboriginal community voices in the legal assistance landscape. Our work with the SA Attorney-General's Department has been a critical part of this journey, and we look forward to building on that collaboration as we deliver our expanded service model.

I would like to acknowledge the dedication of the FVLSAC staff and the leadership of our Board. Together, we have continued to uphold the organisation's values while navigating complexity and seizing opportunities to extend our reach and impact.



John Tonkin
Chief Executive Officer
Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation (SA)



Principal Legal Officer Report

Our Achievements in the year 2024-2025

Both the Solicitor and Client Support Officer teams were kept busy this year, providing legal assistance and non-legal support to our communities. I returned to the FVLSAC in January 2025 in the role of Principal Legal Officer based in our Port Lincoln office.

In the 2024-2025 year, our dedicated legal and non-legal team have worked together to provide the following services –

- FVLSAC empowered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victim-survivors of family, domestic and sexual violence (DFSV) to make informed legal choices, with 276 discrete legal services (advice) provided. Legal advice is provided by telephone, via Teams or in person at one of our office or outreach locations.
- FVLSAC provided comprehensive and culturally safe non-legal support to 369 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victim-survivors of DFSV, including support to attend Court and appointments, providing information, referrals and transport.
- FVLSAC held 18 early intervention and prevention activities, assisting in the early detection of legal and non-legal issues affecting our communities.

The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victim-survivors of DFSV remains unacceptably high and the demand for our services continues to outweigh our current legal staff. The recruitment and retention of lawyers remains an ongoing issue. FVLSAC are working on a recruitment strategy campaign to address this issue as a matter of priority. To this end, since January 2025, we have prioritised the provision of discrete legal services (advice) to clients to assist as many victim-survivors of DFSV as we can. This saw an increase in services provided to 200 clients in the last 6 months of this reporting period.

Educating our Communities about the law

FVLSAC provides community legal education (CLE) and training to both community and professional groups. We completed 12 CLE activities in a range of mediums. Some highlights include –

- SEWB statewide forum, presentation to Aboriginal Health Practitioners on responding to family and domestic abuse in May 2025.
- Career and Industry Immersion Event, presentation in partnership with Kate McShane of Good Country Law to year 9 students considering a career in law, June 2025.
- Healthy Relationships session to year 12 students at St Joseph's High School on sex and consent in June 2025.

We also hold information stalls and attend community events. Highlights throughout the year include –

- NAIDOC week 2024
- Yabaardu Music Festival Ceduna, 19 July 2024
- Yadu Aboriginal Corporation, Embrace Life – Mental Health & Suicide Prevention, 11 September 2024
- ADAC, Women's Health & Wellbeing Day, 28 April 2025
- Reconciliation Week, May 2025

You can read more about this work later in the report.

Law Reform Policy and Advocacy Work

We are committed to amplifying the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities in legal and policy reform. Through our advocacy at both state and federal levels, we work to influence systemic change and ensure that laws, policies and practices better reflect the lived experiences, rights and needs of Aboriginal Communities. A big thank you to our Deputy CEO, Tosha Sambo for her work in this space. Some highlights of our law reform, policy and advocacy work this year include –

As part of the state-wide consultations on proposed changes to Coercive Control legislation, the Legal Services Commission (LSC) engaged with FVLSAC to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women with lived experience were consulted and informed the process. The LSC attended our Sista2Sista event in Port Augusta, creating a culturally safe space for open discussions and meaningful engagement. As a powerful outcome of this session, twelve Aboriginal women formed a working group dedicated to developing culturally relevant resources and responses on coercive control.

This collaboration reflects the strength of community-led initiatives and the importance of ensuring our voices guide legal and policy reform. The 'see the signs' coercive control t-shirt and resource will be launched at our next Sista2Sista event in Port Augusta later this year.

Staff at FVLSAC worked with Douglas Clinch, Project Officer with the Victims of Crime SA Project Officer at the Attorney General's Department providing input to the development of a First Nations resource for victims of crime. The primary purpose of the project is to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims of crime can access information in culturally appropriate language and formats.

Partnerships and Collaboration – thank you to our key partners and supporters

Our team fosters relationships with local service providers. We would like to thank the following organisations that have partnered with us in the 2024-25 year. We look forward to working with you again!

- Aboriginal Drug & Alcohol Council, Port Augusta
- Aboriginal Family Support Service, Port Lincoln
- ALRM Inc
- Centacare Catholic Country SA, Ceduna
- Centacare, Family Dispute Resolution Services, Port Lincoln
- Far West Community Partnerships
- KWY, Port Augusta
- Legal Services Commission SA
- Lincoln Gardens Primary School
- Pika Wiya Health Services
- Port Lincoln Aboriginal Community Council
- Port Lincoln Aboriginal Health Service
- Red Cross, Ceduna
- Stepping Stones, Drug & Alcohol Day Centre, Ceduna and Port Augusta
- Umeewarra Aboriginal Media Association
- West Coast Youth & Community Support, Port Lincoln
- WW@34
- Yadu Health, Ceduna
- Yarredi Domestic Violence Service, Port Lincoln

Looking Ahead

In the 2025-26 year, we look forward to recruiting more staff to the legal team, seeking new opportunities for collaboration and strengthening our partnerships in the communities we work in. An exciting initiative in the year ahead is our planned service expansion over a 3-to-5-year period, increasing our client reach, service delivery areas and in doing so, enhancing access to our service.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the following staff members who have moved on to other endeavors. FVLSAC farewellled PLO Julie Detchon in November 2024, Solicitor Charlotte Pountney, CSO Esther Joslyn, Client Intake Officer Michelle Craig, Receptionists Daelanah Hudson and Jamelia Haseldine. A big thank you to Solicitor Joanna Dohler for all your hard work, reliability and overall commitment to FVLSAC. Congratulations on completing your restricted practice in July 2025! Lastly, a huge thank you to the current FVLSAC team - the achievements outlined in this Annual report are a reflection of your dedication, professionalism and integrity. Our commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victim-survivors of DFSV remains as important as ever.

Feedback - what our client's said:

'I liked this service because it's culturally appropriate, flexible and the easy-going staff at the Port Augusta office'.

'The staff are friendly, respectful and helpful'.

'They were welcoming and made us feel comfortable at the service'.

Lesley Kirkwood
Principal Legal Officer



Community Legal Education and Early Intervention Activities

Early Intervention and Prevention Programs and Community Legal Education are central to the work we do at FVLSAC. Our programs are designed to empower community members with knowledge about their legal rights and pathways to safety, particularly in relation to family, domestic and sexual violence. Throughout the year, we delivered a range of culturally safe programs that focussed on building awareness, fostering healthy and respectful relationships and promoting safety and well-being.

Early Intervention and Prevention Highlights for 2024-2025

Ochre Ribbon Week, 12 – 19 February 2025 – celebrating 10 years

The Ochre Ribbon campaign was created in 2015 by our sister service in Western Australia, the Aboriginal Family Law Service. Ochre ribbon aims to raise awareness of the impact of family and domestic violence on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children and reduce family violence in Aboriginal communities. This year marked 10 years of the Ochre ribbon campaign. Staff at FVLSAC took part in the following events –

- Ceduna – FVLSAC joined forces with the Red Cross to hold a community BBQ lunch.
- Port Augusta – FVLSAC worked in collaboration with Pika Wiya Health Service and the Aboriginal Drug & Alcohol Council to provide breakfast, health checks and vaccinations to community.
- Port Lincoln - FVLSAC hosted a BBQ lunch for students at the Lincoln Gardens Primary School in conjunction with the community hub.

Reconciliation Week, 27 May – 3 June 2025 – Bridging Now to Next

Each year the FVLSAC takes part in Reconciliation Week, promoting the national colouring in competition to our local schools and sponsoring prizes. This year's theme was about the ongoing connection between past, present and future. The highlight of this year was our work in Port Lincoln. FVLSAC partnered with the Women's Wellbeing (WW@34) to hold two morning tea and craft activities events - one for service providers and one for clients and community members. FVLSAC also held an information stall at the Mallee Park Football Club home games during Reconciliation Week called the First Nations round.

Shark Cage workshop, 7-week program, delivered by Melissa McNabb from the Aboriginal Family Support Service, with the support of Jasanne Cole from FVLSAC, May – June 2025

The Shark Cage program is aimed at Aboriginal women and young women. The workshops aim to increase awareness of the impacts of abuse and knowledge of healthy and unhealthy relationships, empower women to build their capacity to set boundaries and recognise a potentially abusive or exploitative person. The workshops were facilitated by accredited Shark Cage provider Mel McNabb from the AFSS, with the support of FVLSAC Client Support Officer, Jasanne Cole.





Sista 2 Sista (S2S)

S2S is a yearly event held in Port Augusta, Port Lincoln, Ceduna and Whyalla, providing a community legal education session and early intervention and prevention strategies. S2S is open to women only, offering a space safe for participants to learn, engage and speak with a variety of service providers. Local organisations attend S2S, providing women with a chance to learn what the service has to offer, along with information and merchandise to take away.

Sista 2 Sista also features activities for the women, some pampering and good food throughout the day. A highlight of this year's S2S events was the session by Kristen Bobyk from the First Nations Women's Leadership summit. Kristen held a drumming workshop with the women. This was a fun, musical and interactive activity that was well received and we hope to do it again next year!

Community Legal Education Highlights for 2024-2025

Sista 2 Sista

This year's theme for the community legal education component of S2S was 'kids & family law'. The presentations by FVLSAC Solicitor Joanna Dohler offered insight to families navigating the family law system with a special focus on the Indigenous List and the role of Indigenous Family Liaison Officers in the Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia. Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner, Bethany Lohmeyer from Centacare explained pre-court processes and the mediation process in a conversational Q and A format. This year S2S reached 259 women across Ceduna, Port Augusta, Port Lincoln and Whyalla.

A special guest at the Whyalla S2S held in May 2025, was Natasha Stott Despoja, AO – Commissioner for the Royal Commission into Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence. The event was reported in the local media, the Whyalla News with the Commissioner quoted as follows – 'It was such a great experience to come to Whyalla and sit in on this empowering, educative and pampering session'.



Love Colours

Love Colours

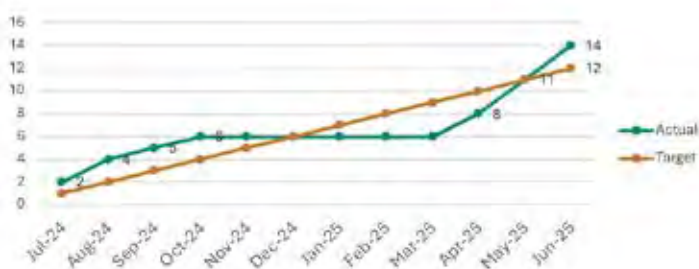
Love Colours is a FVLSAC program that engages women in small-group workshops to explore respectful, safe and healthy relationships through art therapy. Using colour to represent different emotions, red, yellow, green, blue and purple, women are able to express how they feel about the themes discussed. Each group creates their own piece of unique artwork that reflects their experiences, with a winning design selected and printed on a t-shirt. This year, Love Colours workshops were held in Ceduna and Port Lincoln.



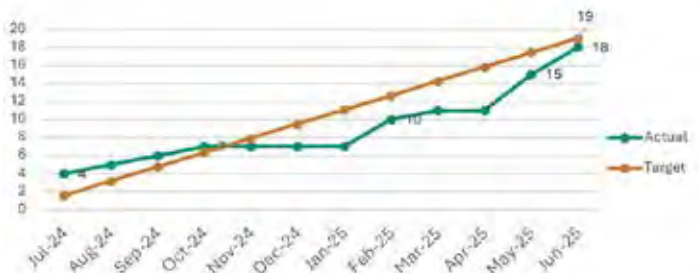
Healthy Relationships

In July 2024 and June 2025, FVLSAC Solicitor Joanna Dohler in partnership with Yarredi Domestic Violence Service and West Coast Youth and Community Support Service, delivered respectful relationships education sessions to Year 12 students at St Joseph's High School. These sessions focused on sex, consent and the foundations of healthy relationships with a total of 195 students participating. By reaching people at this critical development stage, the program plays a vital role in breaking the cycle of violence. Adolescence is a period where beliefs and behaviours around relationships are shaped and without timely education and support, harmful patterns can be carried into adulthood. Programs like this equip students with knowledge and confidence to build respectful, safe and equal partnerships, contributing to long term cultural change.

Community Legal Education



Early Intervention and Prevention



Community Events Highlights

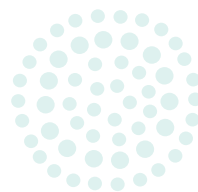
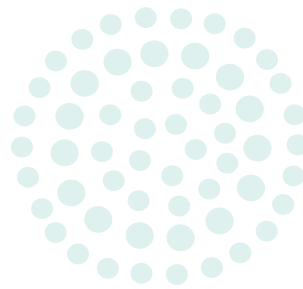
In May 2025, during Domestic Violence Prevention Month, the FVLSAC team proudly participated in the Ceduna Inter-agency “Darkness to Daylight Challenge”, co-ordinated by Centacare. The month-long event called on local agencies to walk, run or exercise with the shared goal of reaching 110 kilometres, the symbolic distance representing the 110 lives lost each year to family and domestic violence in Australia. Demonstrating strong commitment and teamwork, the FVLSAC team exceeded the target significantly, logging a total of 482.99 kilometres and placing 4th overall. The challenge served not only as a show of team spirit and unity but also as a powerful reminder of the urgent need to prevent violence and support safer communities.

What our communities say about our programs:

‘I found everything was great! Love the hairdressers, the speakers, feet massages, everything!’
(Sista2Sista)

‘I learned a lot, I’m going home happy’.

‘I learned things I wouldn’t know otherwise’.



Stakeholder Engagement and Collaboration

Stakeholder Engagement & Collaboration - Partnering for Impact (2024–25)

Relationships sit at the heart of our work. Every warm referral, interagency meeting, and shared cup of tea with a community partner helps someone feel safer, heard, and supported. In 2024–25, FVLSAC strengthened those relationships - across governments, peak bodies, legal services and local networks, so that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families encounter a coordinated, culturally safe pathway to justice and healing.

Working with Government to Create Stability for Clients

This year marked the transition of our core funding arrangements from the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) to the Attorney-General's Department (AGD) under the National Access to Justice Partnership (NAJP). We are grateful for NIAA's long-standing support, which concluded on 30 June 2025, and we welcomed the opportunity to shape the new settings with AGD.

The outcome is a five-year agreement that gives us something our clients deserve and our staff have earned: stability. With that stability we can plan outreach with confidence, progress workforce development, and invest in the systems that make services more responsive. Our engagement with AGD throughout the year was practical and solutions-focused, mapping how NAJP can support culturally strong, place-based legal help across our regions, and ensuring that reporting and planning requirements remain fit for purpose.

Contributing to Systems Change through Independent Processes

We also contributed to the South Australian Royal Commission into Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence. Our Deputy CEO, Tosha Sambo, served on the Aboriginal Partnership Committee, which met regularly between September 2024 and June 2025 and held its inaugural meeting at our Port Lincoln office. This forum has enabled community-led perspectives to shape the Commission's work. We look forward to the Commission's final report and recommendations in August 2025 and to working with partners to translate those recommendations into action on the ground.

Standing with Our Peaks and Networks

Change happens faster when we move together. As an active member of First Nations Advocates Against Family Violence (FNAAFV), our leadership participated in bi-monthly national meetings that elevated First Nations voices in advocacy, law reform and sector coordination.

In October 2024, Port Lincoln hosted the inaugural meeting to formalise FNAAFV and conduct elections - a proud moment for our community and a signal of the sector's momentum.

Closer to home, our membership of Embolden (the SA peak for DFV/SV) and the South Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation Network (SAACCON) kept us at the table where policy is shaped. Through SAACCON sub-committees - including the SA Justice Partnership Committee, Child Protection Working Group, Youth Justice Working Group and the Women & Families Safety Partnership Committee - Tosha Sambo and other staff ensured practical, culturally safe approaches were considered from the outset.

We also continued our commitment to Wakwakurna Kanyini, standing alongside services advocating for Aboriginal children to grow strong in family, culture, spirituality and Country. These peak-body engagements give us a shared language for talking about safety and accountability - and a stronger platform for advocating what works.

Partnering Across the Legal Assistance Sector

Our collaboration with the broader legal sector remained intentional and hands-on. Through AGD's Collaborative Services Planning (CSP) Forum, we contributed to the delivery and monitoring of the Legal Assistance Strategy and Action Plan 2022–25. Participation in the South Australia Legal Assistance Forum (SALAF) kept us aligned with colleagues across CLCs and Legal Aid to reduce duplication, strengthen referral pathways and maximise client outcomes with available resources.

We again partnered with Family Law Pathways (FLP) SA to bring the Indigenous Family Law Roadshow to Mallee Park Football Club in Port Lincoln (March 2025). This practical, community-based session improved understanding of the Indigenous List at the Adelaide Registry of the Federal Circuit and Family Court and the role of Indigenous Family Liaison Officers, demystifying processes that can otherwise feel overwhelming.

On the ground, our Senior Client Support Officer Jackie Footner (Port Augusta) stayed connected through monthly FLP Network meetings, ensuring local practitioners know who we are, what we do, and how to refer clients safely and quickly. Engagements like these turn "cold" referrals into "warm" ones, and that difference matters when someone is deciding whether to reach out for help.



Showing Up in Community, Consistently

Our commitment to community is visible in the places we show up and the roles our staff play. During NAIDOC Week (7–14 July 2024), teams from Ceduna, Port Augusta and Port Lincoln, led locally by Client Support Officers Jasanne Cole and Teresa Gurney, and Senior CSO Jackie Footner - supported celebrations that centred culture, connection and pride. These are not one-off appearances; they are part of the local relationships that help community members see us as trusted and culturally safe.

We maintained regular involvement in local planning forums. In Port Lincoln, six-weekly Interagency Meetings and the Domestic & Family Violence Advisory Group brought together partners including SAPOL, Housing SA, DCP, AFSS, West Coast Youth and Community Support, Headspace, PLACC, Country & Outback Health and Centacare. Jasanne Cole and Principal Legal Officer Lesley Kirkwood represented FVLSAC, ensuring client voice and cultural safety remained central to coordinated responses. In Whyalla and Port Augusta, monthly interagency meetings - regularly attended by Jackie Footner - helped us spot risks early, align services, and create smoother pathways for clients moving between legal and non-legal supports.

We also reviewed how we use shared spaces. Our service agreement with Yarredi Services & Women's Wellbeing @34 (Port Lincoln) for confidential rooms and small-group activities concluded in June 2025 following a broader look at service delivery and space utilisation. This intentional review means we can invest resources where they deliver the most client benefit, while keeping relationships strong.

What This Collaboration Achieved for Clients

Stronger partnerships must translate into better experiences and outcomes for clients. In 2024–25 we:

Smoothed the pathway to help. Routine participation in CSP, SALAF, FLP and local interagencies improved the speed and quality of referrals. Clients were more likely to arrive with context already shared, reducing the need to repeat traumatic stories and enabling earlier safety planning.

Kept culture at the centre. Our roles in SAACCON forums and Wakwakurna Kanyini placed cultural safety at the core of design and delivery. This influenced everything from how intake questions are asked to how we coordinate with non-legal services when risk escalates.

Strengthened the voice of Aboriginal peoples in reform. Contributions through Embolden, Law Society committees (including the Indigenous Issues Committee and the Rural, Regional and Very Remote Committee) and FNAAFV helped ensure law reform and sector planning reflect the realities of regional and remote communities.

Prepared for a stable future. Close work with AGD during the NAJP transition set the groundwork for sustained service delivery, workforce planning and data-informed improvement over the next five years.

These gains are cumulative: when a client walks into a safe space and is met by someone who knows the local context and can pick up the phone to a trusted partner service, their journey through the system becomes shorter, safer and more empowering.

Looking Ahead (2025–26)

The year ahead is about building on firm ground:

Embed NAJP settings. We will use the five-year agreement to stabilise our workforce, strengthen supervision and leadership pathways for Aboriginal staff, and expand outreach where data and community voice show the greatest need.

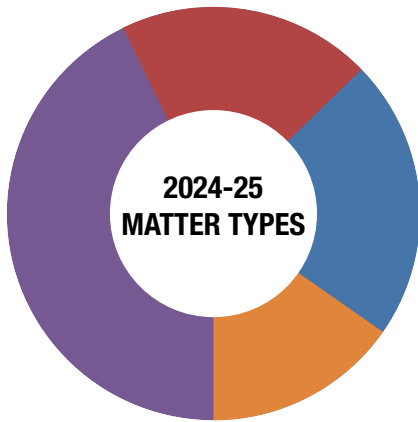
Deepen regional partnerships. We will keep showing up at interagencies, advisory groups and community events - while co-designing prevention and early-intervention initiatives that reflect local priorities.

Strengthen sector leadership. We will continue contributing to SAACCON, FNAAFV, SALAF and Law Society committees, advocating for culturally safe justice reform that works in regional and remote contexts.

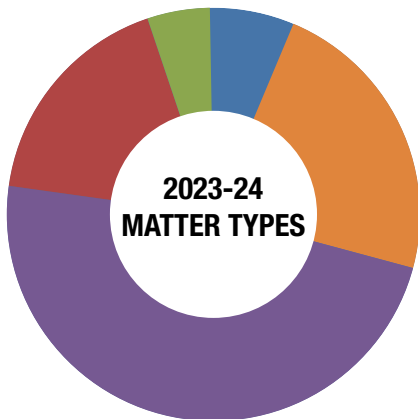
In summary:

2024–25 was a year of purposeful partnership. We transitioned major funding, supported system reform, and maintained a strong local presence. Most importantly, we kept faith with the communities we serve: that culturally safe, coordinated support delivered by people who know you, where you live, and what matters to you can change the trajectory of a family's life.

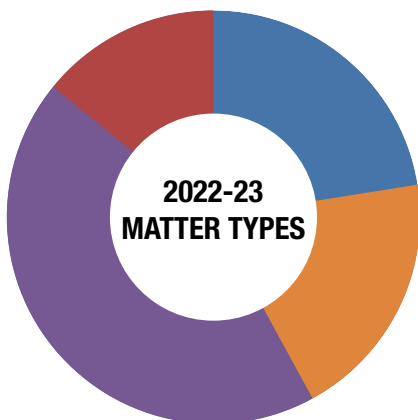
Community Impact



FAMILY OR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & INTERVENTION ORDER	22%
CHILD PROTECTION	15%
FAMILY LAW	43%
INJURIES COMPENSATION	20%
TOTAL	100%



FAMILY OR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & INTERVENTION ORDER	7%
CHILD PROTECTION	22%
FAMILY LAW	48%
INJURIES COMPENSATION	18%
HOUSING	5%
TOTAL	100%



FAMILY OR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE & INTERVENTION ORDER	22%
CHILD PROTECTION	20%
FAMILY LAW	44%
INJURIES COMPENSATION	14%
TOTAL	100%

Financial Reports

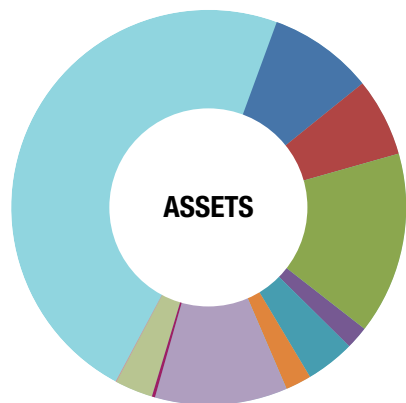
as at 30th June 2025



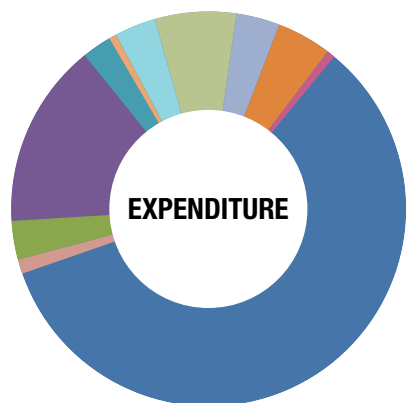
Marnie Smith
*Client Business Support
 Services - Manager
 Rowe Partners*



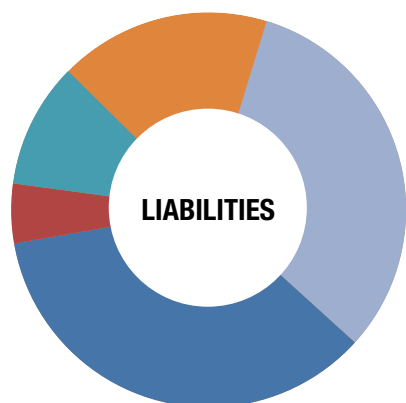
GOVERNMENT GRANTS: \$3,584,550
SUNDRY INCOME: \$57,842
INTEREST: \$2,093
PROCEEDS ON SALE OF ASSETS: \$40,161



BUILDINGS WDV: \$262,479
PLANT AND EQUIPMENT WDV: \$188,345
MOTOR VEHICLES WDV: \$455,777
OFFICE EQUIPMENT WDV: \$57,509
LAND: \$120,000
LEASEHOLD IMPROVEMENTS: \$62,524
RIGHT-OF-USE ASSET: \$326,182
PRE-PAYMENTS: \$7,266
GST: \$92,479
OTHER DEBTORS: \$719
CASH AT BANK: \$1,438,078



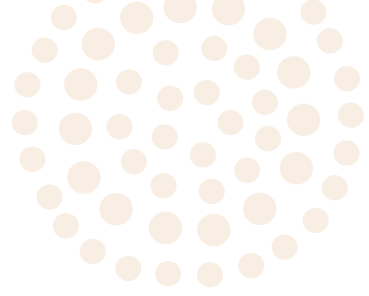
SALARIES AND WAGES: \$1,934,908
REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE AND REPLACEMENTS: \$31,650
ADMINISTRATION: \$107,493
OPERATIONAL EXPENSES: \$501,329
COMMUNITY PROJECTS/SUNDRY: \$77,397
LEGAL EXPENSES: \$18,498
DEPRECIATION: \$110,380
STAFF RELATED COSTS/CONFERENCES: \$220,070
AMORTISATION EXPENSE: \$121,090
CONSULTANCY FEES: \$145,000
MOTOR VEHICLE EXPENSES: \$27,226



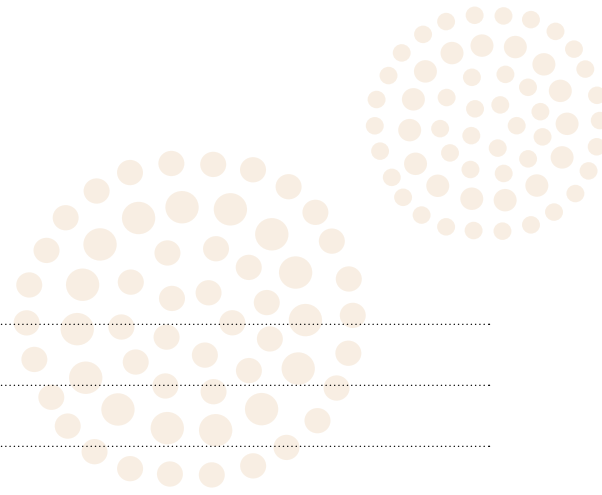
LEASE LIABILITIES: \$354,160
CONTRACT LIABILITY: \$443,321
CREDITORS AND PAYG: \$304,326
ACCRUED EXPENSES: \$56,864
PROVISION FOR ANNUAL LEAVE AND LSL: \$153,829

2024 - 2025 Highlights!

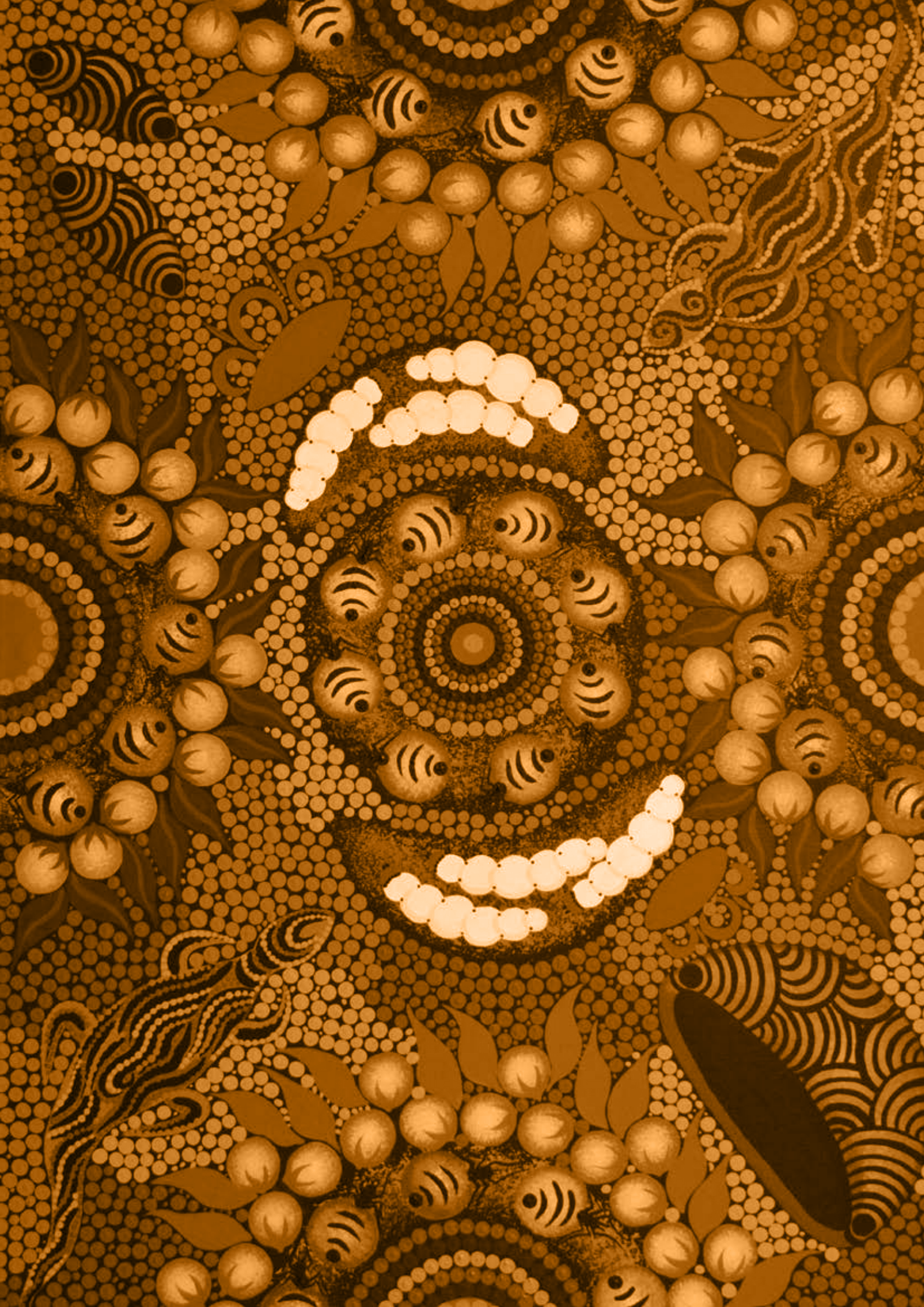




Notes



A series of horizontal dotted lines for writing notes, spanning the width of the page.





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Artist ~ Katrina Williams