

Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention
& Legal Service Victoria

FVPLS Victoria



Annual Report
2013–14



Our objectives are

- *to provide assistance to victims/survivors of family violence;*
- *to reduce the incidence of violence and abuse in communities through community education and early intervention and prevention activities;*
- *to increase the recognition of the problem of violence and abuse in communities through community education and working with families and communities affected by violence; and*
- *to facilitate long-term solutions to violence and abuse in communities.*

*Artwork by Wanda Bargo
'Celebration of the Strength of Aboriginal Women'*

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About us

Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service Victoria (FVPLS Victoria) is an Aboriginal community-controlled organisation established in 2002 to provide assistance to victims/survivors of family violence and sexual assault and to work with families and communities affected by violence.

FVPLS Victoria provides free legal advice, referrals, ongoing casework and court representation, and assists in the following areas:

- intervention orders
- child protection
- family law
- victims' compensation, and other legal problems arising from family violence.

FVPLS Victoria also engages in community legal education and community development activities.

FVPLS Victoria is funded through a number of sources including the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Victoria Legal Aid (VLA), Victorian Department of Justice and Victorian Department of Human Services. We also receive project grants from various other funding sources.

The FVPLS Victoria services metropolitan Melbourne and the following areas through our regional offices:

Barwon South West – Our office and staff are based in Warrnambool and cover the entire region including Framlingham, Heywood, Hamilton and Portland.

Gippsland – Our office and staff are based in Bairnsdale and cover the entire Gippsland region.

Mildura – Our office and staff are located in Mildura and cover the Mildura Local Government Area and Robinvale, as well as Wentworth and Dareton in NSW.

FVPLS Victoria's hours of operation are 9.00am – 5.00pm Monday – Friday.

Callers contacting FVPLS Victoria's toll free number out of business hours who require crisis support are advised to phone the Women's Domestic Violence Crisis Service on 1800 015 188 or, for criminal law, the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service on 1800 064 865.



Chairperson's report

In looking back over the 2013–14 year, it seems to have been one with “highs” and “lows”. One highlight is that during the year we identified a building FVPLS Victoria could acquire through our grant from the Indigenous Land Corporation (ILC), and as the year closes we have an executed Deed of Grant from ILC which will enable negotiations for the purchase of our new head office to be concluded early in the 2014–15 financial year. The building we have identified is in Hoddle Street, Abbotsford, and the larger premises will enable FVPLS Victoria to expand its services and activities, and provide improved amenities for clients, community and staff.

During the year, however, FVPLS Victoria has been concerned with funding developments affecting the FVPLS program. After the federal election in 2013, the responsibility for the FVPLS program moved from the Attorney-General's Department to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

In December 2013 the Federal Government announced \$43 million in devastating cuts to legal assistance services that support some of the most disadvantaged people in Australia, and it was announced that there would be \$3.6 million in cuts over the next three years to the FVPLS program. Subsequently, the Federal Budget cut \$534.4 million from Indigenous Affairs over the next five years, exacerbating the concern and uncertainty for the future of the FVPLS program.

These developments have led to a concerted effort from the National FVPLS Forum to ensure the government understands the impacts of its cuts and the need to safeguard the FVPLS program. Through this process, we have highlighted the critical role FVPLSs have in delivering a culturally safe and accessible service to Aboriginal victims/survivors of family violence and sexual assault.

In May 2014, we were officially notified by the department that funding for the national FVPLS program was extended for a further 12 months to 30 June 2015. Whilst this was welcome news, it did not alleviate the concern about the future of the program.

It is pleasing to report that the Department of Justice, Victoria, has funded two lawyer positions under a three-year agreement. Previously these positions were funded on an annual basis, and it is a significant breakthrough to be able to have funding certainty for these two critical positions. We express our appreciation to the Victorian Attorney-General and his department.

We were successful in obtaining funding for early intervention and prevention programs, such as the *Sisters Day Out*[®] Koori women's wellbeing workshop program. FVPLS Victoria conducted ten *Sisters Day Out* workshops, and six *Dilly Bag* workshops through funding from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's Indigenous Capability and Development Program, Department of Human Services' Community Initiatives Fund, Relationships Australia, and a number of workshops in collaboration with Mallee District Aboriginal Services. Once again, the workshops received very positive participant feedback.

For the legal practice, it has been a busy year. There has been an increase in casework across all areas of law handled by FVPLS Victoria, particularly in child protection, but also in intervention orders, victims' assistance and family law.

FVPLS Victoria currently employs 31 staff, nine of whom are Aboriginal. It is pleasing to note that this year two young Aboriginal staff members have been enrolled in Tranby Aboriginal College to undertake a Diploma of National Indigenous Legal Advocacy.

In July 2013 FVPLS Victoria received its Certificate of Accreditation under the National Association of Community Legal Centres Accreditation Scheme. I thank staff, past and present, who contributed to this achievement.

I conclude by expressing my appreciation to Antoinette Braybrook, CEO, for her leadership during the year. Antoinette has been supported by dedicated and hard-working staff, and on behalf of the Directors I thank them all for their support and commitment.

I thank my fellow Directors for their support during the year. As Directors we are mindful of the specialised and important work undertaken by FVPLS Victoria. The FVPLS program was established because these services understand the complexities around family violence in Aboriginal communities, and have developed effective ways to support women and children that address unique community and cultural needs. We remain committed to achieving a more certain future for FVPLS Victoria.

Marion Hansen
Chairperson

FVPLS Victoria Directors

Marion Hansen

(Initially appointed 2002)

Marion has worked in various positions within the Aboriginal community for more than 40 years. She is currently employed by the Department of Health Southern Region as Coordinator, Aboriginal Health. Marion has taken a lead role in advocating for the prevention of family violence in Aboriginal communities. Marion's leadership in this area is well recognised through her representation on key state-wide forums.

Karen Bryant

*Deputy Chairperson
(Initially appointed 2002)*

Karen currently works as the Aboriginal Liaison Officer at the Northern Hospital. Previously she worked for many years at the only Aboriginal women's refuge in Victoria. Karen is a well-respected leader in the Aboriginal community.

Damien Goodall

Secretary (Initially appointed 2002)

Damien is a proud Koori man who is the Family Services Coordinator at Yoowinna Wurnalung Healing Service, based in Lakes Entrance, which provides programs and services to support Aboriginal victims affected by family violence. Damien has extensive experience in the areas of men's programs and the safety of Aboriginal women and children. Damien is well respected in the Aboriginal community for the work he undertakes in the prevention of family violence.

Jaynaya Williams

(Initially appointed 2007)

Jaynaya is a young Aboriginal woman who works for the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO). Jaynaya is considered a role model for the work that she undertakes in respect of family violence in Aboriginal communities.

Bernice Clarke

(Appointed 2013)

Bernice is a Gunditjmara/Kirrae woman. She was the driving force in setting up the Gunditjmara Co-operative back in the late 70's, early 80's. Bernice is currently on the board at the Gunditjmara



Co-operative, and has extensive knowledge on how a board should operate. She has also completed a Certificate IV in Business Governance.

Jessie Lloyd

(Appointed 2013)

Originally from the tropics of North Queensland, Jessie is a proud Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander woman. An award winning singer, musician and producer, Jessie has toured and performed around Australia and is now focusing on community development and self-determination for Indigenous people through the media of music and the arts. Jessie has extensive music business and arts management skills and is currently the CEO of Songlines Aboriginal Music Corporation and producer of acts such as Skin Choir, the Koorie Tiddas, Sunshine Sisters and Black Jacks.

Pursuant to the rules of the organisation, a member must be of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, identify as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person and be recognised by the community as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person.

Legal practice

Over the last 12 months FVPLS Victoria has continued to provide culturally safe legal representation and support to address the complex legal needs of our clients. The assistance provided in terms of advice and casework has grown over the past year by approximately ten per cent. Over the 2013–2014 year we have assisted 500 clients with over 750 files opened.

We have also provided information to over 450 clients, an increase of approximately eight per cent on last year. Our lawyers helped clients to identify their problem, inform them of their legal rights and obligations and help them to understand what course of action can be taken.

FVPLS Victoria continues to play a significant role in helping to build culturally safe practices within the legal system. The staff engage fully with all aspects of the service's activities, as well as engaging externally with the community by liaising with external bodies such as the courts and other stakeholders, sitting on committees, attending social events and presenting papers at conferences. Staff have again taken the opportunity to communicate with relevant courts about issues specific to our clients.

We met with:

- Judge Dominica Whelan in relation to The Federal Circuit Court Reconciliation Action Plan;
- Magistrate Sue Wakeling at Heidelberg Magistrates Court in relation to the needs of Aboriginal applicants in family violence matters;
- the Koori Family Violence workers at Melbourne Magistrates Court; and
- attended the Children's Court conference centre and provided a presentation to their staff on Family violence in Koori communities and Working effectively with Koori women experiencing family violence. In addition,



Head office legal team

FVPLS Victoria is also working closely with the Aboriginal Children and Young Person's Commissioner, Andrew Jackomos, to identify and address the systemic issues that lead to Aboriginal families having contact with the child protection system.

Our head office

FVPLS Victoria acknowledges with appreciation the support of Victoria Legal Aid and the Victorian government for continuing to provide funding for our family law, family violence and child protection lawyer positions. These staff have assisted clients in metropolitan and regional areas that are not covered by the FVPLS program funded by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

We are keenly motivated to service the unmet demand for legal services across communities in Victoria. This goal is a priority in our development plan.



Nikahlia Braybrook, community engagement worker, Deb Edsall, paralegal support worker, and Avital Kamil, lawyer

Child protection

Our child protection casework has markedly increased during this reporting period, with 27 more files opened during 2013–14, compared with the 2012–13 reporting period, representing a 66 per cent increase.

An important aspect of our work in child protection matters involves government accountability. Where state child protection intervention is required in our clients' lives, we work to ensure that Department of Human Services' decisions are transparent and accountable and any intervention is the least restrictive required. FVPLS Victoria's work has played an important role in assisting clients to engage with DHS and other relevant agencies to get better and fairer outcomes and to bring about systemic change. In cases where children cannot live with their



Sarah Bain, paralegal support worker with lawyer Barbara Tindall, BSW regional office



Heather McLean, Gippsland regional lawyer

parents, we work to ensure that where possible children are placed with family members and have an appropriate Cultural Care Plan in place.

FVPLS Victoria lawyers continue to build positive working relationships with the Department of Human Services Child Protection Litigation Officers and Court staff. Where possible, a paralegal support worker has attended court with the child protection lawyer to provide client support and assistance. We continue to focus on early intervention with clients, resulting in fewer matters reaching court.

Family law

There has been a steady and growing demand for family law advice and casework services.

As our clients are victims of family violence, mediation is not an appropriate mechanism for the resolution of their family disputes. This is largely due to a power imbalance due to domestic violence. As a result, we are assisting clients with urgent matters and interim hearings in the Federal Circuit Court whilst aiming to negotiate a consent outcome through that process.

Regional offices

Our regional offices located in Bairnsdale, Mildura and Warrnambool are each staffed by a lawyer and paralegal support worker. Our Mildura office has also had the assistance of a volunteer law student who will work part time as a paralegal support worker to assist with the high caseload in this office.

Paralegal support workers

Paralegal support workers assist clients and families with access to FVPLS solicitors and provide other assistance in legal matters in and outside the courtroom.

Court support is a key issue. Due to issues of confidentiality and trust, this role is best filled by a

paralegal support worker as they are in a unique position to provide intensive court support for our clients. Paralegal support workers work with our lawyers to ensure clients are provided with a culturally safe service which has led to an increased number of clients participating in the court process. This has translated to better legal outcomes, particularly in family law as well as Children’s Court and intervention order proceedings.

Paralegal support workers are our link to the community.

- All paralegal support workers are involved in community legal education activities and the FVPLS Victoria early intervention and prevention workshop program.
- Our paralegal support workers play a key role in the provision of information and options in a supportive, confidential and culturally safe environment, based on an understanding the individual choices people make given their particular circumstances, and the community in which they reside.



Natalie Larsek, volunteer, Barbara Egan, paralegal support worker and Kim Avers, lawyer, Mildura office.



Case studies

LEGAL PRACTICE CASE STUDY 1

A client contacted FVPLS Victoria after the birth of her baby. Her older children were not in her care, but in separate permanent care placements. The Department of Human Services had concerns surrounding the mother's ability to parent due to a history of drug use, mental health issues and exposure to family violence.

The child protection lawyer identified that the mother's best chance to have the child returned to her care would be for the mother and child to remain engaged in a supported, residential maternity centre. As there was not a placement immediately available, the lawyer was able to ensure regular access could occur so that the mother could continue to breastfeed and the primary bond could be maintained as best as possible given the child's young age and developmental stage.

Prior to the mother and child entering the maternity centre, the lawyer was able to make appropriate mental health and drug and alcohol support referrals. The lawyer was mindful of mental health issues facing the client and the risk of a relapse into drug and alcohol misuse, particularly in light of the client's previous mental health diagnoses and the fact that three of her children had been removed previously and were now on permanent care orders.

The lawyer also identified family violence issues which were having a detrimental effect on the mother. The

child protection lawyer established that an intervention order (IVO) was in place, then made referral internally to FVPLS Victoria family violence lawyers in order to assist the mother to vary and extend the IVO. The IVO was successfully varied to include the child and extended for a period of 12 months. Steps were also taken to refer the mother to a women's refuge and other culturally safe support services.

Despite a favourable report from the maternity centre, the Department of Human Services' position remained that it would like the child to be placed in out of home care. The matter went to a submissions contest and FVPLS Victoria was ultimately successful in obtaining an order for the child to be placed in the care of the mother, on the condition that she remain in a refuge, remain connected to services and complete regular drug screens.

An Interim Protection Order (IPO) was made, placing the child with the mother and at the IPO return mention, a six month Supervision Order was made.

In accordance with our holistic client-service model, FVPLS Victoria continues to assist the client with access to services and counselling, despite the current application being finalised. Mother and child are continuing to reside together and do well.

LEGAL PRACTICE CASE STUDY 2

Our client was assisted by FVPLS Victoria in relation to IVO, child protection, family law and victims of crime matters. We also assisted in linking the client to Elizabeth Hoffman House Aboriginal Women's Service and ongoing counselling.

Our client applied for victims of crime assistance after extensive violence perpetrated against her by her ex-partner (the "offender"). They have one child together. Client also applied for secondary victim assistance on behalf of her daughter, who witnessed the violence.

The offender was never charged or convicted in relation to the assaults against our client. Our client was scared of what might happen to her if she reported to police, as the offender had threatened to kill her in the past. The Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal raised the lack of reporting to police as an issue. FVPLS Victoria assisted the client to obtain her medical records which evidenced ongoing abuse. Our client was assisted in writing a statutory declaration in which she outlined further details in relation to the assault, as there were no police statements pertaining to this.

Our client advised that the other party had severely assaulted her leaving permanent damage to her face. Our client did not attend the hospital or see a doctor in relation to this assault. There were therefore no medical records to submit to the Tribunal as evidence. Our client was seeking plastic surgery to repair the damage to her face. The Tribunal originally made an offer to our client for special financial assistance and for safety related expenses.

FVPLS Victoria did not accept the original offer, and obtained a report from a plastic surgeon in which he stated that he believed there was a link between the assault and the injury to our client's face. We submitted to the Tribunal that under the VOCAT regulations, given permanent disfigurement to our client's face, our client should be awarded a Category A amount of special financial assistance.

The Tribunal amended its original offer and our client was awarded a significantly higher amount by way of special financial assistance (highest SFA amount awarded in Victoria is \$10,000). She was also awarded an increased amount for safety related expenses.

Community legal education (CLE)

In our third year of funding from the Legal Services Board, the CLE program continued to expand with new and innovative activities. While the CLE team consists of the CLE Manager, Tania McKenna, Community Engagement Worker, Nikahlia Braybrook, and the CLE Worker, Meriki Onus, all FVPLS Victoria staff participate in CLE activities and have contributed to the success of the program in the 2013–14 year.

Child protection forums

In recognition of the disproportionate number of Aboriginal children in out of home care, and the correlation between family violence and child protection notifications, FVPLS Victoria conducted two community workshops for Aboriginal families impacted by child protection practices. These forums provided Aboriginal families with information about local community supports and programs available, and also generated discussion on the issues impacting on families that lead to child protection involvement. The forums took place in Robinvale and Warrnambool, with Aboriginal Children and Young People Commissioner, Andrew Jackomos, attending the Warrnambool forum in May 2014. FVPLS Victoria intends to host further forums across Victoria in the 2014–15 year.

Legal needs assessment survey

In the 2013–14 year FVPLS Victoria conducted legal needs surveys at *Sisters Day Out* workshops across Victoria. These surveys assessed the types of legal needs experienced by participants in relation to family violence. Almost half (48%) of all participants that completed the survey had experienced a family violence related legal issue in the 12 months prior to completing the survey. This data will be used to inform FVPLS Victoria's planning processes as well

as demonstrating the need for family violence prevention and crisis response activities.



Morgan Miller, paralegal support worker and Nikahlia Braybrook

Workshops for Koori people considering sharing their story with the Royal Commission

In partnership with the *knowmore* legal service, FVPLS Victoria conducted information workshops for Aboriginal community members who may be considering providing evidence to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Taking place in Mildura and Gippsland, the workshops provided information about the process for providing evidence, the different ways that evidence could be provided, and the support available for those that choose to provide evidence. In recognition of the correlation between childhood sexual abuse and other forms of victimisation, the workshops also provided information on family violence with a particular focus on child protection issues and victims of crime assistance.

Cultural awareness training for the legal and family violence sector

The need to improve sector responses to Aboriginal victims of family violence and sexual assault was identified as a key objective over the 2013–14 year. The CLE team worked with Kellawan Pty Ltd to develop a full day training program that combined cultural awareness training with practical strategies for working with Aboriginal clients. This program has now been provided to lawyers at Victoria Legal Aid, staff at Seniors' Rights Victoria, and staff at the Domestic Violence Resource Centre. Presentations on culturally safe practice were also provided to



Tania McKenna, CLE manager, with Nikahlia Braybrook

staff at the Children's Court of Victoria, included as part of Domestic Violence Resource Centre's *Introduction to Family Violence* training, as well as to staff at the Royal Women's Hospital as part of the *Acting on the Warning Signs Project* conducted by the Inner Melbourne Community Legal Centre.

Koori Women's Legal Clinic

In late 2014 FVPLS Victoria trialled a new program, the Koori Women's Legal Clinic. The purpose of this clinic was to provide a 'one-stop shop' for Koori women accessing legal advice and other dispute resolution services. Over 14 agencies participated in this first clinic and FVPLS Victoria will extend this pilot in the 2014–15 year.

Community engagement

It is estimated that through community legal education activities over the 2013–14 year, FVPLS Victoria was able to directly provide information on family violence related legal processes to over 1600 Aboriginal community members across Victoria, the majority of whom were Aboriginal women. A much

larger number of community members accessed information through our resources and the FVPLS Victoria website which underwent a major facelift at the start of the financial year. FVPLS Victoria looks forward to continuing to support access to justice for Koori community members through our CLE program in 2014–15.



Meriki Onus, CLE worker, with Nikahlia Braybrook

Early intervention and prevention (EIP)

FVPLS Victoria's EIP program thrived in the 2013–14 year with funding for activities provided by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (formerly FAHCSIA funding), the Department of Justice Victoria, Relationships Australia, and the Department of Human Services Victoria. FVPLS Victoria also collaborated with Mallee District Aboriginal Services to deliver EIP activities across the Mallee region.

In 2013–14 FVPLS Victoria conducted 11 *Sisters Day Out* workshops with an average of 100 participants per event. For the first time since funding was cut to the *Sisters Day Out* program by the Commonwealth

government in areas covered under the FVPLS program in 2012, FVPLS Victoria was able to conduct activities in the Gippsland region with one workshop taking place in Lakes Entrance and another workshop taking place in Morwell. These activities were funded through the DHS Community Initiatives Fund administered by the local Indigenous Family Violence Regional Action Groups. Other workshops were delivered in Mildura, Dandenong, Swan Hill, Eynesbury, Ballarat, Swan Hill, Bendigo, Echuca and Safety Beach.

The *Sisters Day Out* is a wellbeing day for Aboriginal women with a focus on family violence prevention.





The workshop provides Aboriginal women with some respite from life stressors, enabling participants to benefit from therapeutic and relaxation activities provided as part of the workshop program. Local agencies participate in the event. The program includes a presentation on family violence and legal options available. Lawyers and counsellors are available for private consultations on the day.

The *Sisters Day Out* program continues to receive strong endorsement from the community. Participant comments from the workshops include the following:

- *Sisters Day Out has helped me to leave a bad situation of family violence (marriage of 20 years) the information provided gave me courage to know there is help available to all women in those situations*
- *Thank you, I saw young girls really listening and nodding in agreement throughout the presentation*
- *As women we need to stand up and say enough is enough and support each other, today is a great day to give each other the strength to do this*
- *I will never let another violent person in to my life*

The FVPLS Victoria EIP program also includes the *Dilly Bag* program, as well as an extended version of the workshop including a three day intensive program known as *Dilly Bag: The Journey*. This year the *Dilly Bag* program was conducted in Mildura, Swan Hill and Robinvale and *Dilly Bag: The Journey* workshops were conducted for Aboriginal women

residing in Dandenong, Werribee and Ballarat.

Based on cultural principles, the *Dilly Bag* program incorporates aspects of healing with personal and community development. The *Dilly Bag* workshop provides a foundation of strength and learning for women to build upon by reaffirming identity and creating the opportunity to overcome personal barriers.

A highlight of the EIP program in the 2013–14 year was the *Dilly Bag: The Journey* workshop conducted for women from the Southern Metropolitan region. This workshop was attended by 22 Aboriginal women, including five women from Winja Ulupna Women's Recovery Centre, and four Elders. The location for the workshop was the tranquil Wattle Point at Gippsland Lakes.

Comments from participants attending this workshop included the following:

- *The women, inspirational!! I just can't express here what all the women have taught me. Aunty Wanda and Aunty Kelly and Nikahlia taught us so much about our culture that I didn't know and now I have an extreme urge to learn more about my culture and about myself. It is my responsibility to do so for myself, my children and all of my community. I feel accepted and understood.*
- *I am leaving here a totally different woman; I believe I can achieve anything. I am braver and stronger than I ever thought. All the women here have made an impact on me.*





- *Thank you to all the women here, you have taught me a lot about myself. I am leaving here a new, stronger, empowered woman. On behalf of my two beautiful boys, I thank you. You have all changed our lives*
- *Enjoyed the company, stories and friendships. Thanks for having me and giving me the opportunity to connect with other women walking in the shoes I once did. Because we have all come out strong, cried, laughed but made wonderful friendships.*

Evaluating our early intervention and prevention programs

A grant from the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation provided FVPLS Victoria with the opportunity to

engage an external consultant to conduct an evaluation of FVPLS Victoria's family violence early intervention and prevention programs including *Sisters Day Out*, *Dilly Bag*, and *Dilly Bag: the Journey*.

The final evaluation report found that following participation women felt not only more positive and empowered, but were also able to provide examples of family violence protective decision-making such as significant changes to lifestyles, living arrangements, matters relating to custody of children and personal care.

This evaluation report will be used to further refine FVPLS Victoria programs and to seek funding for the program to continue.



Strengthening law and justice outcomes

FVPLS Victoria is grateful to the William Buckland Foundation for providing a grant of funding to allow FVPLS Victoria to employ a policy worker and to maintain a policy development function. FVPLS Victoria does not receive any government funding to undertake policy, law reform and advocacy work.

FVPLS Victoria continues to recognise the importance of strategic policy, advocacy and law reform work to address the systemic barriers faced by our clients and to

advocate for law reform where required to empower Aboriginal victims/survivors of family violence.

The demand for our services has not abated with family violence reporting rates continuing to climb, Aboriginal women remaining 31 times more likely to be hospitalised as a result of violence (in comparison with non-Aboriginal women) and the numbers of Aboriginal children in out of home care on child protection orders in Victoria at their highest recorded rate.

During the 2013–14 year, FVPLS Victoria developed a number of policy and law reform submissions to relevant inquiries and consultations. For example, submissions were made to:

- the Second Action Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–22;
- the Productivity Commission's Inquiry and Draft Report on Access to Justice Arrangements;
- the United Nations Economic and Social Council's High Level Segment Open Call; and
- the Senate Inquiry into grandparents who take primary responsibility for raising their grandchildren.

FVPLS Victoria also made contributions to the Shadow Report Indigenous Supplement to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, and the Joint NGO Report for Australia's Universal Periodic Review by the United Nations Human Rights Council.

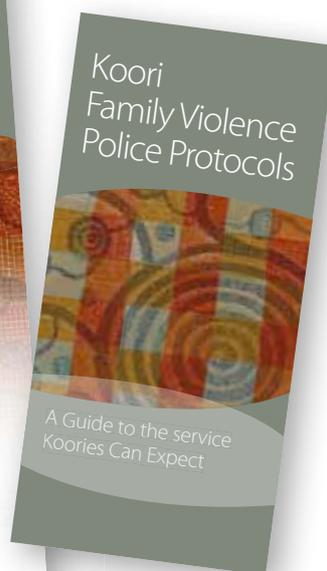
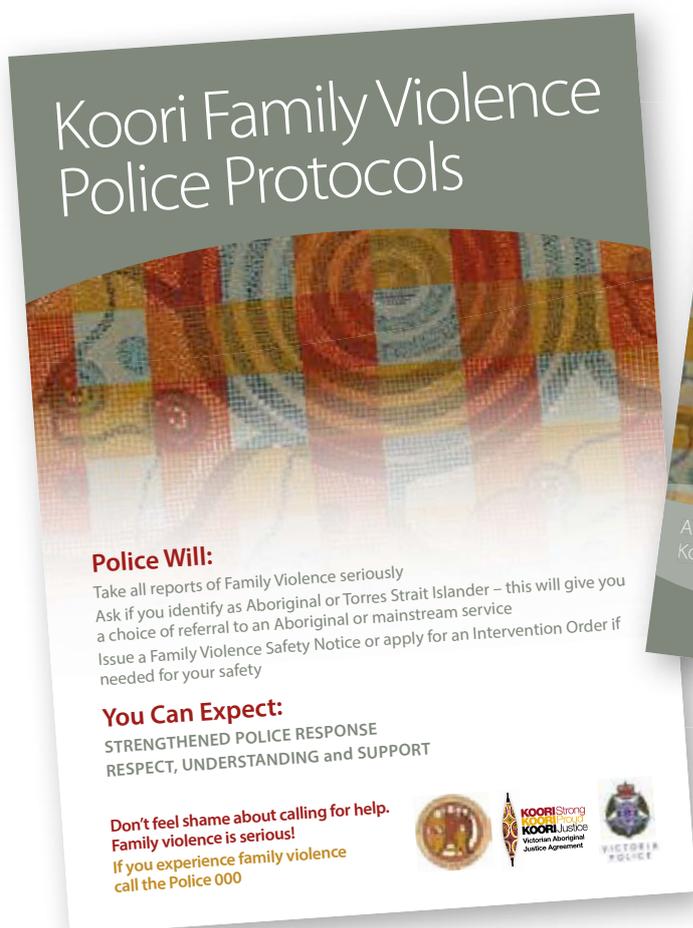
FVPLS Victoria advocated for the rights and interests of Aboriginal victims-survivors to the State Government concerning sexual assault law reforms, proposed changes to Family Violence Intervention Orders and adherence with the cultural rights of Aboriginal children in contact with the child protection system.

FVPLS Victoria continues to be called upon to represent the interests of our clients on high level

advisory panels and important forums such as the Victorian Department of Justice Sexual Assault Advisory Committee, Family Violence Stakeholder Reference Group, Victorian Indigenous Family Violence Partnership Forum and the Victorian Aboriginal Justice Forum. FVPLS Victoria also participates in the National Family Violence Prevention Legal Service Forum, National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance, Victorian Legal Assistance Forum and Koori Courts Reference Group, as well as the Indigenous Family Violence Regional Action Groups, Local and Regional Aboriginal Justice Advisory Committees in Victorian service regions.

During the 2013–14 year, the FVPLS Victoria has continued to build a strong evidence base for the value and efficacy of FVPLS Victoria's critical frontline legal assistance services and its community legal education and early intervention/prevention activities. This year we have continued our involvement in the Koori Family Violence Police Protocols Project which has been successfully implemented in multiple sites across Victoria.

FVPLS Victoria remains committed to striving for improvements in the way the community, the legal system and authorities respond to and address family violence and sexual assault. Our on-the-ground experience and community feedback informs this work.



The National FVPLS Forum

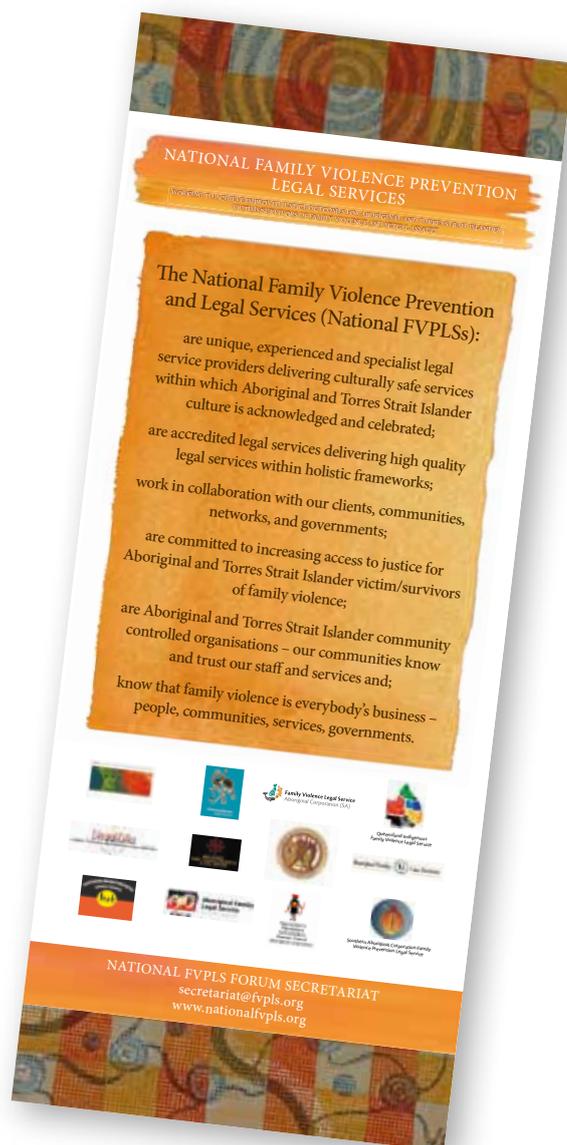
In May 2012 a forum was established comprising 13 member organisations who are service providers under the Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Legal Services Program. Family Violence Prevention Legal Services are located in 31 rural and remote locations around Australia. Since that time, a Secretariat for the National Forum has been based in the office of FVPLS Victoria to support Antoinette Braybrook (CEO, FVPLS Victoria and the currently elected National Convenor), and forum members.

The last 12 months have been a challenging time for the National FVPLS Secretariat, with uncertainty of funding for the FVPLS program having a considerable impact on the capacity and priorities of the Secretariat and members of the National FVPLS Forum. As Convenor of the National FVPLS Forum, Antoinette played a vital role in leading this work, which included securing a one year extension of funding for the program nationally for the 2014–15 year.

A major overhaul of the Indigenous Affairs portfolio was announced in the Federal Budget in May 2014, suggesting there may be greater challenges ahead. The FVPLS Program was shifted from the Attorney-General's Department to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet under the *Indigenous Advancement Strategy* through a 'rationalisation' of 150 Indigenous programs into five. The long-term implications for the FVPLS program are unclear.

Despite these challenges, the last 12 months has seen significant progress within the National Forum with extensive collaboration between units. The National Secretariat has provided support to units on many wide-ranging issues, with members sharing and creating good practice standards across data collection and evaluation, stakeholder engagement, legal practice and capacity building. Capacity building activities for individual units were co-ordinated through the Secretariat with a focus on training and development. For example, this program supported paralegal support workers from Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation South Australia to undertake an exchange visit to FVPLS Victoria, creating two-way learning between units.

The Secretariat also administered funding for community legal education projects to raise awareness of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. These projects provided an opportunity for units to undertake further engagement with their local communities and create a safe environment for victims/survivors of sexual abuse to share their stories.



The National FVPLS Forum contributed to relevant inquiries and reviews, including but not limited to the Productivity Commission's *Access to Justice Arrangements Draft Report* and public hearings, the *National Partnership Agreement on Legal Assistance Services Draft Review Report* and the *Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Study on Access to Justice Submission to the United National Human Rights Council*. Policy support for this work was provided to the National Secretariat through FVPLS Victoria.

The National Forum has undertaken many profile building activities this year and achieved membership of the Australian Legal Assistance Services Forum, National Congress's Chamber One, Australian Council of Social Service and the National Rural Law and Justice Alliance.

The National Secretariat looks forward to a productive year in 2014–15.

Our staff*

Head office (Collingwood)

Chief executive officer	Antoinette Braybrook
EO, programs	Paula Stewart
Principal legal officer	Kathy Davis
CLE manager	Tania McKenna
Finance manager	Maggie Barford
State senior lawyer	Laura Vines
Regional senior lawyer	Dale Gerner
Child protection lawyer	Anne Lenton
Family violence lawyers	Amy Moore, Avital Kamil
Community legal education worker	Meriki Onus
Paralegal Support Workers	Debbie Edsall, Morgan Miller, Falea'i Fesili, Deborah Liebhaber
Policy officer	Ginger Ridgeway
Reception and office support	Emily Turner, Petra Theilhaber
Workshop program project officers	Wanda Braybrook, Kelly Faldon
Community engagement worker	Nikahlia Braybrook
Executive support	Samantha (Sam) Nixon
Program support	Margaret Portelli
Executive officer, National FVPLS Secretariat	Ashleigh Crees (Acting)

Gippsland regional office (Bairnsdale)

Lawyer	Heather McLean
Paralegal support worker	Jeanette McKenzie

Mildura office

Lawyer	Kim Avers
Paralegal support worker	Barbara Egan
Volunteer	Natalie Larsek

Barwon South West regional office (Warrnambool)

Lawyer	Barbara Tindall
Paralegal support worker	Sarah Bain

Past staff

We acknowledge the contribution of the following former staff members who left FVPLS Victoria during the year: Jenni Smith, Megan Ross, Brooke McKail, Aunty Pam Pedersen, Geraldine Mazordze, Tracey Ryan and Lucy Hodson.

* As at 30 June 2014



Acknowledgements

We express our appreciation to the following:

Our funding bodies

- Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
- Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs
- Department of Human Services, Victoria
- Department of Justice, Victoria
- Legal Services Board, Victoria
- Relationships Australia
- Victoria Legal Aid
- Victoria Police
- William Buckland Foundation
- Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation

Pro bono and other supporters

- Lander & Rogers – pro bono support
- Herbert Smith Freehills – pro bono support
- Telstra Corporation through the Phone Card and Recharge Assistance Programs

We also acknowledge the many donors who support us through:

- cash donations which assist our work with clients
- contributions by several businesses to our workshop program.

The Directors and staff of FVPLS Victoria express our appreciation to John Burke, who this year concluded eight years' involvement as our external advisor. John's contribution to FVPLS Victoria's strategic planning over a period of significant change and growth was invaluable, and his generous involvement in our effort to acquire our own building is acknowledged with gratitude.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation
Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service (Victoria)

Financial Report
for the year ended
30 June 2014



Directors' Report

Your directors present this report on the corporation for the financial year ended 30 June 2014.

DIRECTORS

Marion Hansen *Chairperson*
Jessie Lloyd
Damien Goodall *Secretary*
Jaynaya Williams
Karen Bryant *Deputy Chairperson*
Bernice Clarke

Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

DIRECTORS' MEETINGS

During the year, five Directors' meetings were held.

OPERATING RESULT

The profit of the company for the financial year after providing for income tax amounted to:

Year ended	Year ended
30 June 2014	30 June 2013
\$	\$
31,866	201,962

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE STATE OF AFFAIRS

No significant changes in the corporation's state of affairs occurred during the financial year.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The principal activities of the corporation during the course of the year were assistance to Aboriginal victims/survivors of family violence and sexual assault through, legal advice, counselling, information, referral and support, and community education. No significant change in the nature of these activities occurred during the year.

AFTER BALANCE DATE EVENTS

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the corporation, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the corporation in subsequent financial years.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

The corporation expects to maintain the present status and level of operations and hence there are no likely developments in the operations in future financial years.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

The corporation's operations are not regulated by any significant environmental regulation under a law of the Commonwealth or of a State or Territory.

DIRECTORS' BENEFITS

No director has received or has become entitled to receive, during or since the financial year, a benefit because of a contract made by the corporation or related body corporate with a director, a firm which a director is a member or an entity in which a director has a substantial financial interest.

INDEMNIFYING OFFICER OR AUDITOR

No indemnities have been given or agreed to be given or insurance premiums paid or agreed to be paid, during or since the end of the financial year, to any person who is or has been an officer or auditor of the corporation.

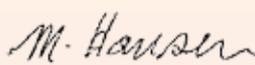
PROCEEDINGS ON BEHALF OF CORPORATION

No person has applied for leave of Court to bring proceedings on behalf of the corporation or intervene in any proceedings to which the corporation is a party for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the corporation for all or any part of those proceedings. The corporation was not a party to any such proceedings during the year.

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

A copy of the auditor's independence declaration as required under section 339-50 of the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* has been included.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Directors



Marion Hansen



Jessie Lloyd

Dated this 22nd day of September 2014

Statement of Financial Performance for the year ended 30 June 2014

INCOME	2014	2013
Grant Income		
Dept Prime Minister & Cabinet	2,358,895	1,326,421
Department of Justice	196,324	317,064
Victoria Legal Aid	234,912	179,289
FAHCSIA	102,000	100,000
Legal Services Board	130,000	130,520
Victoria Police	40,909	35,454
Department of Human Services	297,654	240,672
William Buckland Foundation	–	370,626
Other Grants	210,709	4,445
Grants brought forward	369,971	432,221
Grants carried forward	(753,751)	(466,846)
	3,187,623	2,669,866
Other income	54,575	176,373
Interest received	52,457	47,761
TOTAL INCOME	3,294,655	2,894,000
EXPENSES		
Staff Costs		
Salaries	1,663,459	1,517,338
Staff Leave Provisions	39,916	19,282
Superannuation	150,837	132,236
Workcover	41,271	37,478
Leave Loading	17,695	16,327
	1,913,178	1,599,096
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Audit Fees	998	3,000
Advertising & Promotion	7,767	14,756
Bank Charges	1,233	2,825
Client Expenses	42,359	31,014
Consultants/Facilitators	70,680	34,484
EIPP expenses	210,304	71,843
Insurance	8,610	7,937
Motor Vehicle Expenses	32,768	32,143
Office Furniture & Equipment	5,478	925
Postage & Courier	8,737	9,419
Recruitment	4,047	3,148
Rent & Occupancy Costs	242,978	236,053
Telephone/Fax/Internet	48,435	44,420
Training & Professional Development	15,641	20,456
CLE Expenses	29,653	25,210
IT Support	37,916	37,047
Library & Resources	11,290	7,803
Meetings & Conferences	56,936	164,455
Memberships & Subscriptions	7,601	6,992
Office Supplies	16,590	16,399
Practising Certificates	4,577	3,467
Printing & Copying	8,646	13,094
Project Expenses	263,881	9,474
R&M Equipment/Replacement	1,030	2,993
Staff Costs	18,914	15,597
Travel Expenses	147,132	122,778
	1,304,201	937,732
DEPRECIATION		
Depreciation – Office Furniture & Equipment	14,066	10,659
Depreciation – Motor Vehicles	31,344	20,986
	45,410	31,645
TOTAL EXPENSES	3,262,789	2,692,038
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	31,866	201,962

Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2014

	2014	2013
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash assets	1,942,852	1,458,291
Receivables	114,106	16,683
Other	53,192	1,376
Total Current Assets	2,110,150	1,536,350
Non-Current Assets		
Property, plant and equipment	103,097	135,264
Total Non-Current Assets	103,097	135,264
TOTAL ASSETS	2,213,247	1,671,614
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities		
Payables	149,064	124,728
Financial liabilities	16,448	16,915
Current tax liabilities	73,252	16,048
Provisions	170,456	125,540
Other	968,645	584,867
Total Current Liabilities	1,377,865	868,098
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1,377,865	868,098
NET ASSETS	835,382	803,516
EQUITY		
Retained profits	835,382	803,516
TOTAL EQUITY	835,382	803,516

Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June, 2014

	2014	2013
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Receipts from grants & others	3,144,775	2,867,576
Payments to Suppliers and employees	(2,697,245)	(2,622,705)
Interest received	52,457	47,761
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities (note 2)	499,987	292,632
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Payment for:		
Other Assets	(1,716)	5,831
Payments for property, plant and equipment	(13,243)	(83,270)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	(14,959)	(77,439)
CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Proceeds of borrowings	–	13,932
Repayment of borrowings	(467)	–
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	(467)	3,932
Net increase (decrease) in cash held	484,561	229,125
Cash at the beginning of the year	1,458,291	1,229,166
Cash at the end of the year (note 1)	1,942,852	1,458,291

Note 1. Reconciliation Of Cash

For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash includes cash on hand and in banks and investments in money market instruments, net of outstanding bank overdrafts. Cash at the end of the year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to the related items in the balance sheet as follows:

Cash At Bank	1,941,752	1,456,591
Petty Cash Floats	1,100	1,700
	1,942,852	1,458,291

Note 2. Reconciliation Of Net Cash Provided By/Used In Operating Activities To Net Profit

Operating profit (loss) after tax	31,866	201,962
Depreciation	45,410	31,645
Changes in assets and liabilities net of effects of purchases and disposals of controlled entities:		
(Increase) decrease in trade and term debtors	(97,423)	21,337
(Increase) decrease in prepayments	9,900	21,601
Increase (decrease) in trade creditors and accruals	28,030	(21,158)
Increase (decrease) in other creditors	380,084	53,970
Increase (decrease) in employee entitlements	44,916	19,282
Increase (decrease) in sundry provisions	57,204	(36,007)
Net cash provided by operating activities	499,987	292,632

Notes to the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June, 2014

Note 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial report is a general purpose financial report that has been prepared in accordance with Accounting Standards and other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board and the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* and where appropriate the relevant applied provisions of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

The financial report covers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation Family Violence Prevention & Legal Service (Victoria) as an individual entity. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation Family Violence Prevention & Legal Service (Victoria) is a corporation, incorporated and domiciled in Australia under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*.

The financial report has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs and does not take into account changing money values or, except where stated, current valuations of non-current assets. Cost is based on the fair values of the consideration given in exchange for assets.

The following is a summary of the material accounting policies adopted by the economic entity in the preparation of the financial report. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

Income tax

The corporation is a charitable institution and is endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient. It is exempt from Australian Income tax and holds a GST Concession and an FBT Rebate concession.

Property, Plant and Equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost or fair value less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation.

a) Property

Freehold land and buildings are measured on the fair value basis, being the amount for which an asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable willing parties in an arm's length transaction. It is a policy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation Family Violence Prevention & Legal Service (Victoria) to have an independent valuation every three years, with annual appraisals being made by the directors.

b) Plant and equipment

The carrying amount of plant and equipment is reviewed annually to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from those assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of the expected net cash flows that will be received from the assets employment and subsequent disposal. The expected net cash flows have not been discounted to present values in determining the recoverable amounts.

The cost of fixed assets constructed within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation Family Violence

Prevention & Legal Service (Victoria) includes the cost of materials, direct labour, borrowing costs and an appropriate proportion of fixed and variable overheads.

c) Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all fixed assets including buildings and capitalised leased assets, but excluding freehold land, is depreciated on a straight line basis over their useful lives to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation Family Violence Prevention & Legal Service (Victoria) commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Properties held for investment purposes are not subject to a depreciation charge. 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 rates used for each class of depreciable asset are:

Class of Asset	Depreciation Rate %
Other plant and equipment	13.1 %
Motor vehicles	20 %

Leases

Lease payments under operating leases, where substantially all the risks and benefits remain with the lessor, are charged as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred.

Lease incentives under operating leases are recognised as a liability. Lease payments received reduce the liability.

Employee entitlements

Provision is made for the liability for employee entitlements arising from services rendered by employees to balance date. Employee entitlements expected to be settled within one year together with entitlements arising from wages and salaries, annual leave and sick leave which will be settled after one year, have been measured at their nominal amount. Other employee entitlements payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash out flows to be made for those entitlements.

Contributions are made by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation Family Violence Prevention & Legal Service (Victoria) to an employee superannuation fund and are charged as expenses when incurred.

Cash

For the purpose of the statement of cash flows, cash includes cash on hand and in all call deposits with banks or financial institutions, investments in money market instruments maturing within less than six months, net of bank overdrafts.

Comparative Figures

Where required by Accounting Standards comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation for the current financial year.

Revenue

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

Independent Auditor's Report

TST AUDIT & ASSURANCE PTY LTD

Level 3, 468 St Kilda Road
Melbourne Victoria 3004

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation Family Violence Prevention & Legal Service (Victoria) (the corporation), which comprises the Directors' Declaration, the Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income, the Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Changes In Equity, a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes for the financial year ended 30 June 2014.

The Responsibility of the Directors for the Financial Report

The directors of the company are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the financial reporting requirements of the corporation's constitution. This responsibility includes designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances. In Note 1, the directors also state, in accordance with Accounting Standard AASB 101: Presentation of Financial Statements, that compliance with the Australian equivalents to International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) ensures that the financial report, comprising the financial statements and notes, complies with IFRS.

Auditor's Responsibility

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

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

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

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006*, applied provisions of the *Corporations Act 2001* and Australian professional ethical pronouncements. We confirm that the independence declaration required by the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders) Act 2006*, which has been given to the directors of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation Family Violence Prevention & Legal Service (Victoria), would be in the same terms if given to the directors at the time of the auditor's report.

Auditor's Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation Family Violence Prevention & Legal service (Victoria) is in accordance with the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* and applied provisions of the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:

- giving a true and fair view of the corporation's financial position as at 30th June, 2014 and its performance and its cash flows for the year ended on that date; and
- complying with Australian Accounting standards to the extent described in Note 1 and the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* and its Regulations.

Basis of Accounting

Without modifying our opinion we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling the directors' financial reporting responsibilities under the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* and applied provisions of the *Corporations Act 2001*. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose.

TST Audit & Assurance Pty Ltd

Authorised Audit Company Number: 453122
Chartered Accountants



Anthony Robert Ager

Director – Audit & Assurance
Chartered Accountant

Dated this 22nd day of September 2014

Auditor's Independence Declaration

TST AUDIT & ASSURANCE PTY LTD

Level 3, 468 St Kilda Road
Melbourne Victoria 3004

UNDER SECTION 339–50 OF THE CORPORATIONS (ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER) ACT 2006

To THE DIRECTORS OF: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation Family Violence Prevention & Legal Service (Victoria)

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2014 there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006* and applied provisions of the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the Audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit

TST Audit & Assurance Pty Ltd

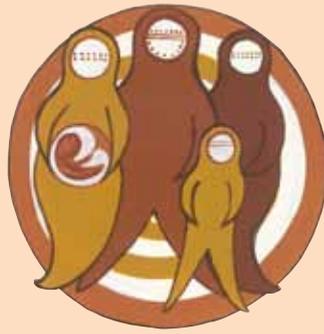
Authorised Audit Company Number: 453122
Chartered Accountants



Anthony Robert Ager

Director – Audit & Assurance
Chartered Accountant

Dated this 22nd day of September 2014



FACTS AT A GLANCE

Over the 2013–2014 year we have assisted 500 clients, opened in excess of 750 files and provided more than 1000 legal advice and casework services.

A 66 per cent increase in our child protection casework in 2013–14, compared to the previous year – an indication of the record number of Aboriginal children in out-of-home care and the continuing over-representation of Aboriginal children on child protection orders in Victoria.

Over 1000 participants in *Sisters Day Out* Workshops in 2013–14, with an average of 100 participants per event.

Overall FVPLS Victoria has conducted 87 *Sisters Day Out* Workshops, attracting over 6000 participants since their inception in 2007.

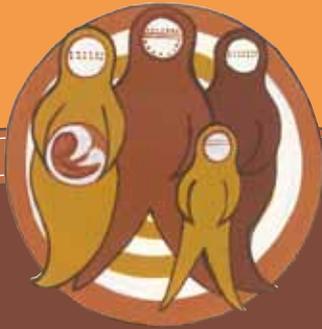
Through community legal education activities, FVPLS Victoria was able to directly provide information on family violence related legal processes to over 1600 Aboriginal community members across Victoria, the majority of whom were women.

An independent evaluation of FVPLS Victoria's early intervention and prevention program found that following participation, women felt not only more positive and empowered but were also able to provide examples of family violence protective decision-making.

FVPLS Victoria has entered into a Deed of Grant with the Indigenous Land Corporation to acquire a building which will be our new head office in 2014–15.

Notes





Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention
& Legal Service Victoria

Servicing Victoria with offices in

Melbourne
Warrnambool
Bairnsdale
Mildura

FVPLS Victoria
Standing Firm Against Family Violence

1800 105 303

Level 3, 70–80 Wellington Street,
Collingwood 3066

www.fvpls.org

information@fvpls.org

FVPLS Victoria is registered as a deductible gift recipient
under Subdivision 30-BA of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

ABN 47 125 370 108