



Meeting Minutes

NATIONAL FVPLS FORUM MEMBERS' E-MEETING

Thursday, 30 November 2023, 2.30pm AEST

General meeting

1. Acknowledgement of Country

2. Welcome and Apologies

Apologies:

Warra Warra: Melissa Calliss

Djirra: Antoinette Braybrook, Anne Lenton

QIFVLS: Wynetta Dewis

AFLSQ: Kathleen Wincen

Thiyama-li: Denise Ranby

NAAFLS: Wendy Jennings

Attendees:

The Forum: Kerry Staines, Kari Greenswag, Pryia Devendran, Lianne Brown

FVLSAC: John Tonkin, Tosha Sambo

NPYWC: Heather Smith

Djirra: George Selvanera

AFLSWA: Corina Martin, Laney Gould

Many Rivers: Julie Perkins

CAAFLU: Phynea Clarke

Warra-Warra: Lisa Braid

Binaal Billa: Jade Acheson

Continuation of members' meeting

3. Minutes from previous meeting

- Members have been provided a copy of the minutes of the last meeting in November 2023

4. Actions from the previous meeting

- Face to Face conference in Dec 2023
 - No comments—mostly silent from membership
 - Kerry notes AGM might conflict, and invites emails for after thoughts

5. NFVPLS Company Status Update

- Registered with ASIC as First Nations Advocates Against Family Violence (FNAAFV)
- First Board meeting in February
- We have an interim Board: Wynetta, Phee, and Corina
- Working through a lot of set up: creating all governance structures and processes
- The Forum organising our own back of house services (Payroll, HR, Finance, governance, and IT)



Feedback

6. 2023 Face-to-Face Conference Feedback

- Kerry did reminder for members to send in flights for reimbursement
- Kerry: will want to do breakout sessions and hear more from members
- Plan is to work our way around the country, going to SA in 2024 and include site visit
- Strategic Plan: Strategic plan is sent out to Board, and then Kerry will share once endorsed
- NOUS and data collection: NOUS and data team have not yet given their final report

7. Volunteers (2-3) for testing Member's Portal on Website

- Lianne: Building a members portal attached to Forum website to access resources, including minutes, etc.
- Would like some one to test it; Lisa did volunteer
- Lianne looking for 2 more; contact Lianne later

8. Request coming for email addresses for weekly media monitoring emails

- Signed up to media monitoring platform, George has already volunteered
- Lianne suggests weekly report
- Lianne will ask for who will be point person for each membership office to receive reports on weekly basis
- Lianne suggests CEO or someone in the legal team

Aside: Kerry informed membership about new Forum Team member, and that she will be introduced after she arrives.

Updates

9. Policy, Blueprint, Women's Voices

- Pryia: Done a couple of submissions
- Women's Voices:
 - Done as a aspirational piece in terms of what we would like to see and how we would like to see women's voices further embedded in further policy frameworks
 - Submitted before 2023 holiday shutdown
 - Priya thanks Laney and others who had input
- NGO sector development submission
 - More broad in what we would like to see across the NFP sector in general
 - Put forth our stance for what NFP sector needs and how it aligns with the FVPLS sector
- More submissions coming up
- ANZSOG sought feedback on interim report, very brief on what we see as priorities as the FVPLS sector; around performance measurement project
 - Emphasised need to work collaboratively with community controlled organisations to come up with these measures to ensure they are: measurable, meaningful, and self-determined
- All submissions are also on the website

10. Grant DSS

- Kerry: met with most members about this funding
- Nearly everybody is going to go and put in for the funding



- Have given all members going ahead similar wording from the Forum to make clear that each membership organisation is part of a larger whole but cover a specific area and highlight the relationships across the services
- Kerry asks for feedback on the wording
- No feedback

11. Meeting with DSS

- Kerry met with Letisha Hope from DSS, talked to her about what the approach is going to be with this Grant
- DSS say it very favourably with how we were approaching it, especially with how the funding would go directly to members
- Other conversation was around the Forum has been endorsed by the Collation of PEAKS for the FVPLS sector for the sector strengthening plan; i.e., we're not only legal services, but a DV prevention, recovery, etc. program
- Kerry thinks they're starting to get the message, but it needs to be repeated and reinforced and the conversation is on going
- Knows they followed up with the Collation of PEAKS, as the CoP clarified with us what DSS communicated with them
- Kerry spoke to DSS about having our services have access to some of their funding, where appropriate
- Overall very positive conversation
- Kerry believes they will be named as the co-partner for the sector strengthening plan; once we are named the leader for the sector; supposed to start in February
- Once the above starts, there will be conversations with the membership, time for feedback from community, as well

12. Update SNAICC Partnership

- Reminder: SNAICC got 6-month partnership on the steering committee
- Kerry provided SNAICC feedback from the previous members meeting where members opted for the NFVPLS to be the conduit with SNAICC as opposed to individual services corresponding with SNAICC
- It needs to be resourced
- We'd work with the members on what it is what we're looking for
- SNAICC would resource the Forum a .5 policy officer position; the new policy person would spend some time supporting SNAICC with the new safety plan
- SNAICC put out option for members to join consultation and site visits, and it would be resourced
- Nothing firm yet, Kerry will come back with further updates.
- Kerry pushing for SNAICC to recognize NFVPLS as a partner in this project

13. Pre-budget submission

- Pre-budget submission was circulated.
- We're asking for an additional \$60M on top of our \$20M, to increase the salaries of legal and non-legal, and help with relocation costs



14. Coalition of PEAKS

- Have had first meeting of year; largely about Remote Food Strategy feedback and digital inclusion
- Kerry volunteered to be part of two task-groups/sub-committees
 - How to address challenges in remote areas, to be on a joint working group or sub-committee
 - Inter-governmental housing issues; what the principles are for getting housing, etc.
- Hearing what is happening in the housing and health spaces, puts us in a good position to tie down some more tangible outcomes for our communities
- Justice was first sector strengthening plan
 - Done a great job
 - But there were lots of learning outcomes that we can apply going forward
 - Particularly about handling cross-jurisdictional issues
 - Important outcome: make sure that we hold the federal government more accountable to have more scrutiny about where new money goes into states

NOTE: In 2022 there were supposed to be 500 new DFV workers to be hired, and 50% were supposed to go to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers

- Corina: they never got any money
- Phee: got email, some recollection for Centerlink workers; but FVPLS's didn't get money out of that
- Kerry: the problem is that DSS doesn't know where the money has really gone
- Apparently Queensland doesn't keep that data, so they can't share it
- In SA: have they gotten any funding?
- John: No, no funding received. Will investigate and check.
- Kerry: No stress, she just wants to know what happened and be able to report back
- Julie: made inquiries at the time, and DV NSW, they were supposed to receive 148 of those workers, but all she got back that NSW was going through DCJ, and that's all they said. No indication of what was really going to happen from there. Asked her group if they receive state funding. The organization does, but nothing major. They were going to get back to her, but no one has.
- 2nd point about Wellness:
 - Kerry: brings up the Wellness money/Wellness Centres, \$23.2M for First Nations Healing Services
 - Kerry: does not recall a process where people could apply
 - George does not recall seeing anything about that
 - Julie: not much information is coming forth
 - Julie: didn't know about the new Wellness Centre (were they NIAA funds? Kerry: yes). Julie contacted regional office and wanted to know how this was determined because they had an old Healing Centre, but left after a year and a half; at Region they had no part of that, but this was done at the Canberra level.
 - Kerry will circulate what she has, and her hunch is that it's gone to established Wellness centres, thank you to Amy for bringing attention to this.
 - Julie: reads off official notice, and that the NSW government will determine where the money goes.



15. Advisors meeting

- Djirra has organised this and invited Kerry to attend in March where she will be talking about the overall position of the FVPLS, such as increased funds, child notification, etc.
- Kerry invites emails from members if there's something from every service that Kerry could take to the Advisors on the day.
- One highlight from each service that Kerry could plug and do a briefing fact sheet to leave with the Advisors on the day.
- On Feb 7th
- Advisors being all the Ministers that relate to the FVPLS sector.
- The idea is to educate across all the Advisors how the FVPLS services are of interest to all of them, so that we're not just siloed into one department or another.
- George: at meeting with Antoinette with hosting Minister, talking about how different departments point at other departments as the "proper funder", but when working across prevention to legal and non-legal assistance we're working across everything
- That we need to be mindful of NLAP, though the report hasn't been made public yet, and he's calling for a high-end system, but even with Commonwealth pushback, there's opportunity for the FVPLS to see better ends around indexation and increasing funding, i.e., if Legal Aid is doing a lot of work with Aboriginal women, the FVPLS should be the primary support, and the funding should reflect that
- We're hoping GAR report will be delivered in February

16. Changes to reporting template NIAA Update

- NIAA: if there's some information that we're not collecting: "We are not collecting this information currently, but we will endeavour to include this in our next report."
- Talked about the report changing due to the GAR review
- Don't see it as a lot more information
- NIAA said the case studies were helpful and showed what happens when you work with somebody

17. Ochre ribbon day

- Ochre Ribbon is coming up, and Lianne is working with the team
- The logo will be sent out for other members to use
- Corina: Laney's team is covering that
- Laney: it would be good if everyone could wear their pins
- Kerry: would be good if people could run an event
- Corina: developed a banner to put on people's signatures; sending out some pins to some of the services, particularly the smaller ones; next year is the big 10 year event
- Australia Day on the 26th: Corina's offices are staying open, and the staff are having Monday off instead.
- Kerry: Another member office is working on that day as well

General Business

18. Art competition FNAAFV

- Running an art competition to go along with the new name



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FORUM**

- Kerry asking to put out an expression of interest to groups, if anyone wanted to make a piece and take a photo, but there would be some prize money (\$500) for the group that is selected and use the art to enhance the logo and explain the story of our journey
- And if somebody doesn't win, they get to keep their own art piece
- Or: put an EOI out, and then pick from some working as opposed to an art piece as to who to progress to, and help pay for some resources to pay for the art piece
- Kerry asked if there were any thoughts on this:
 - Corina: asked to have Kerry send through something, and they could put it up on their socials
 - Similar to the children art competition Corina's office ran; they got funding for it so the children got some prizes for the Ochre ribbon day
 - Laney: Highlight that it's an amateur art competition
 - Kerry: Lianne will email Laney
 - Corina: reminder that we will need to do an agreement about the IP

19. Other business - Sharing

- Other business asked about
- None raised
- Meeting ended at 3:31pm AEST

20. Next meeting

- The next meeting is on Thursday 29 February 2024, 2:30pm AEST

Actions from this meeting:

Actions	Timeframe	Level of completion
Kerry will circulate latest media announcement from Amy		
Pre-Budget Submission to be posted to website		
Ochre Ribbon day socials, graphics, and logos, example posters		
Opening up the art competition for the Forum logo		
Lianne to reach out about volunteers for Website testing and Media Monitoring		