

Aboriginal Family



Law Services

# 2018-19

## Annual Report





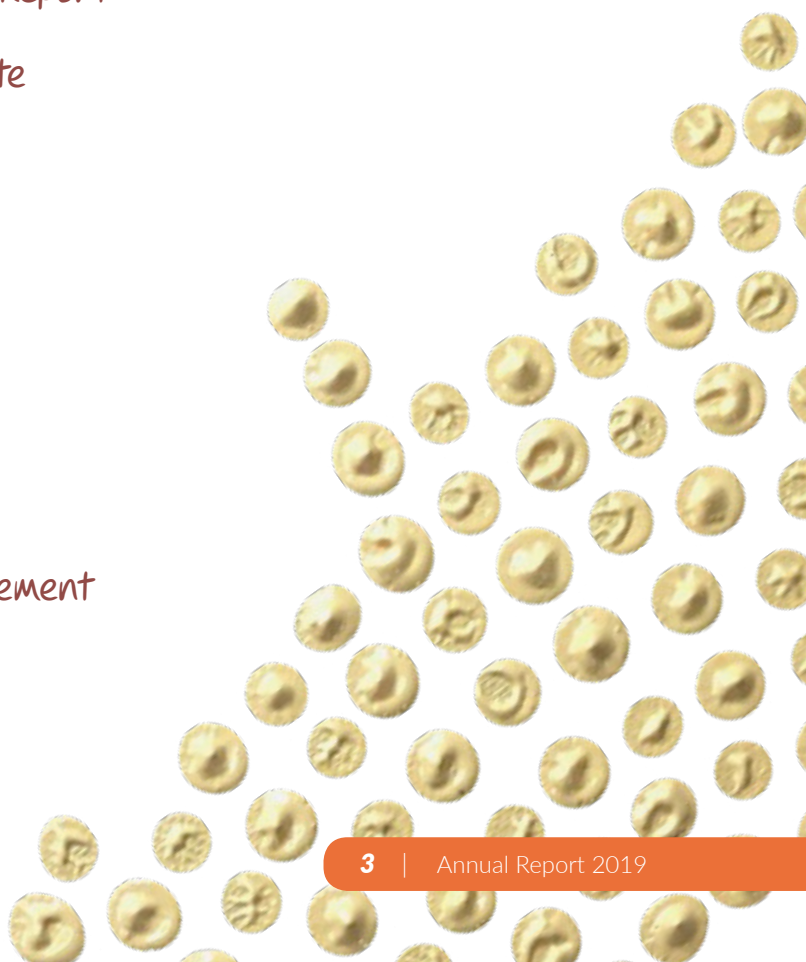
"The vision of this community driven initiative is safety and wellbeing for everyone, and an investment in the future of our children and our culture.

Thanks again to the great crew from the Aboriginal Family Law Services for bringing everyone together to talk about this, particularly as the campaign's adage is, 'don't silence, the violence'."

**Senior Sergeant Jeremy Marklew**  
Officer in Charge – South Hedland Police Station

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# Introduction

## Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

*The Aboriginal Family Law Services (WA) would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the lands on which we work. We pay respect to elders, both past and present, and acknowledge the many people who act as custodians of the cultural heritage of these lands. We would also like to acknowledge all the victims/survivors of family violence.*

*Indigenous Disclaimer: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are warned that this report may contain images of deceased people.*



# Corporate Profile

## ABOUT US

The Western Australian Family Violence Prevention Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation, trading as the Aboriginal Family Law Services (WA), “AFLS”, provides legal representation and community education to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Western Australia in the areas of family and sexual violence.

## GOVERNANCE AND MEMBERSHIP

The Western Australian Family Violence Prevention Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation, ICN 7333, trading as Aboriginal Family Law Services WA “AFLS” is funded by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet under the national Family Violence Prevention Legal Service “FVPLS” Program. We are the largest FVPLS provider in Australia. The organisation has its Corporate Services office in Perth and has six regional offices, located in Broome, Carnarvon, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Kununurra and Port Hedland. The Corporate office is responsible for overall coordination and financial management of the various operations of the corporation as a whole.

The AFLS operates under governance principles outlined in its Rule Book and policies, as well as a statement of professional ethics and conduct. The organisation’s commitment to ethical conduct applies to the Board of Directors, employees and volunteer staff.

We encourage all Aboriginal people concerned about family violence to become a member of our organisation. Our membership base is statewide. To become a member you need to be at least 18 years of age, be an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person, reside normally and permanently in the State of Western Australia and have no conviction of an offence in the last five years that involved any act of violence. Application forms are available from any of our offices, or on our website.

## POLICY AND COMPLIANCE

### National Accreditation Scheme For Community Legal Centres

AFLS has continued to comply with the necessary requirements into 2018 and 2019 and have maintained our accreditation status. Achieving accreditation status supports and gives recognition to our good practice in the delivery of our legal and client services. This includes areas of governance, financial accountability and human resource management. The maintenance of our status under the National Accreditation Scheme administered by the National Association for Community Legal Centres (NACLC) is a condition of our new funding arrangements.

### OUR PHILOSOPHY OF SERVICE

**We strive to address family and sexual violence through:**

- » Acting swiftly and with compassion to ensure our services are as effective as possible;
- » Providing a supportive and trusted environment for people to access our services;
- » Creating a service that is accessible to all who are in need;
- » Recognising the importance of kinship to our wellbeing;
- » Celebrating Aboriginal culture, history and diversity in all services;
- » Providing social and emotional wellbeing support where possible; and
- » Evaluating and acting on feedback to improve our services.



# Strategic Plan 2018-2020

## OUR VISION

To lead and provide holistic family and sexual violence legal and prevention services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Western Australia.

## OUR MISSION

To support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander survivors of family, domestic and sexual violence to access legal services and to promote safe families through community education, early intervention and advocacy to end the cycle of violence and improve life outcomes.

## OUR ORGANISATIONAL VALUES

**Cultural Security** – Aboriginal cultural values are recognised and respected.

**Confidentiality** – information is held in trust.

**Respect** – everyone is treated with fairness, equity, honesty and integrity.

**Ethical** – act with professionalism, trustworthiness, accountability and transparency.

**Responsibility** – every individual has a professional responsibility to uphold the integrity of the organisation.

**Innovation** – develop new ideas and conduct ongoing evaluation and quality improvement of the organisation.

## OUR OBJECTIVES

### *Improved safety for survivors of family violence and sexual assault*

- » Increased knowledge of safety options, services and future planning.
- » Clients are supported to access services and meet safety needs.
- » Clients feel safer in their environments.

### *Improved access to justice for survivors of family violence and sexual assault*

- » Clients have fair access to the legal system to pursue justice.
- » Clients are empowered to participate in the legal process and obtain required recourse.
- » Increased community understanding of family violence through community legal education.

### *Improved social and emotional wellbeing and resilience for families*

- » Improved access to support services.
- » Increased resilience and self-esteem.
- » Clients and families better understand their options and can make decisions to improve wellbeing.

### *Support restitution for survivors and families*

- » Clients are supported throughout the legal process.
- » Clients are compensated.
- » Families are reunited and strengthened.

## OUR CAPABILITY

### Governance

- \* Strong Board with diverse skills
- \* Strong organisational performance
- \* Secure funding base
- \* Reach targets and achieve outcomes
- \* Commitment to evaluation and improvement

### Workforce

- \* Streamlined management and operational structure
- \* Supportive workplace
- \* Having the right people and retaining them
- \* Trauma informed
- \* Robust policies and systems

### Engagement

- \* Good communication
- \* Authentic community engagement
- \* Strong membership base
- \* Strong stakeholder collaboration

### Service Delivery

- \* Culturally safe and secure
- \* Holistic Approach
- \* Outcomes focused
- \* Innovative and responsive
- \* Legal assistance, case management and community legal education



*Kalumburu Ochre Ribbon March*



*Port Hedland staff and Police Law Week 2019*



*Port Hedland staff with the Local Family Protection Unit at the 2019 Ochre Ribbon Event*



*Dance Group at Perth Ochre Ribbon Forum*





# Highlights

562

CLIENTS



288

NEW CLIENTS

445

LEGAL ADVICE



181 FAMILY VIOLENCE RESTRAINING ORDERS

142 FAMILY LAW MATTERS

170 CHILD PROTECTION FAMILY SUPPORT

219 CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION

237

COMMUNITY LEGAL EDUCATION EARLY  
INTERVENTION PREVENTION



REGIONAL STAFF AWARDED THE  
PADDY FIRSTENBERG AWARD



52%

ABORIGINAL  
STAFF



87

OUTREACH  
TRIPS



16

PARA-LEGAL TRAINED  
SUPPORT STAFF

1726

REFERRALS



3136

INFORMATION



258

MEMBERS 100%  
ABORIGINAL



# Chairperson's Report



At the 2018 AGM we welcomed incoming Member Director William Milroy, Regional Representative Rowena Puertollano, re-elected Member Director Hannah McGlade, and appointed Professional Director Kay Benham. The new Board reappointed me as Chairperson.

During the year, we farewelled Professional Directors Troy Williams (February 2019) and Dr Dawn Bessarab (May 2019). I would like to make special mention of Dawn's long service to the organisation from its original inception, and extend my sincere thanks to Troy and Dawn for all their work on the Board and their support for the AFLS.

This year has been a busy one as the organisation continues to consolidate the new changes and policies and procedures implemented because of the review of the organisation undertaken in 2017 by Mandy Gadsdon. There was also a national review of the Indigenous Family Violence Prevention Legal Services (IFVPLS) initiated by our funding body, Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) and undertaken by Charles Darwin University. I am happy to report that the AFLS fared well in the outcomes of the review, and I am confident that the AFLS will continue to deliver quality services to our clients as we further consolidate as an organisation.

The AFLS once again held a successful Ochre Ribbon event that was supported by Crown Resort and was well attended by our stakeholders. I would like to extend my thanks to the staff for all their hard work in putting together a successful event.

With Regional Representative Rowena Puertollano, I was privileged to be involved in the opening of the new AFLS Carnarvon Office in July of this year. The office is in a central location, which has improved its accessibility to clients. I would like to thank the CEO Corina Martin and staff, particularly the Carnarvon staff, for their support in hosting a well-attended wonderful event with local stakeholders.

The AFLS was also invited to participate in Commonwealth consultations for the Fourth Action Plan to reduce violence against women and their children, WA consultations on Closing the Gap, and our CEO was invited to be a member of the Policy Consortium established by the WA Department for Communities to advise on a State Family Violence Strategy. These invitations reflect the work of the CEO in promoting the AFLS as a key stakeholder not only in WA but nationally.

As we approach 2020 the Board will seek input from members on future directions for the organisation which will inform its strategic planning for beyond 2020. The Board in representing the AFLS members will also continue to work towards acting on a petition from a number of members calling for changes to our Rule Book to increase the number of regionally based directors. The Board is committed to ensuring that there is strong engagement with regional members. We will continue to work on establishing a working group to consider the proposed changes and their likely effect on the functioning of the Board and the AFLS more broadly. The Board will be seeking input from members to share their ideas with the working group and will report to members as things progress.

I would like to thank the CEO and all the dedicated staff in the regions and corporate office for their ongoing commitment to the service. As a result of your hard work and commitment I am pleased to report that services to clients continues to be of a high standard and we know that the staff strive to ensure that a professional, culturally safe and trauma informed service is delivered to our clients in the regions in which we work.

As always, we look forward to continuing the important work of the AFLS, continuing to consolidate our systems and structures, and supporting the work of the sector and communities more broadly, in moving ever closer to achieving safety for all of our families and communities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Victoria Hovane'.

**Dr. Victoria Hovane**  
Chairperson





## Chief Executive Officer's Report

Reflecting on the work and activities for AFLS over the past twelve months, it has been another challenging and busy year.

### Review

AFLS was again, been subjected to another review. Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C), commissioned a national review of all Aboriginal services that receive Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS) funding. This included all Family Violence Prevention Legal Services such as AFLS. Charles Darwin University conducted the review and the findings were released in June this year. Both Geraldton and Kununurra offices were sites selected for the review of AFLS. Overall, our service was found to be performing well above adequate levels. The report outlined the extent of the work our service provides and our coverage of servicing clients. It did highlight some gaps and a lack of resources to fill those gaps. However, the findings were positive and reported how important it is to have Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, such as AFLS, working in communities with Aboriginal people in a culturally safe and trauma informed way.

Regardless of the review, our focus has been and continues to be on how we ensure our clients are receiving a professional legal and support service that delivers positive and long-term outcomes that may assist our clients lives by ensuring they have equality and understanding of their legal and basic human rights and can live free from violence.

### Funding

AFLS receives no State funding, we receive Commonwealth funding, yet we assist many State government agencies working in this space, such as the Department of Communities with its 10 year Family Violence Strategy and representing the State at the Coalition of Australian Governments meeting (COAG) in Adelaide.

We have also participated in legislative reviews, such as the WAA Adoption Act review. I was on the Australian Law Reform Commission Reference group for the changes to the Family Court Act.

AFLS has a two-year funding contract that requires reporting against additional KPIs. We are working with the Community Legal Assistance Service System (CLASS) and the National Indigenous Australian Agency (NIAA), formerly PM&C, to see how we can capture the information required to report against the new KPIs.

The pilot project for the Third Action Plan (TAP) ended in June 2019, however AFLS was fortunate to receive ongoing funding for a further three years under the Fourth Action Plan (FAP). A further 1.5 positions were funded on top of the original two positions. We now have a manager located in the Corporate Office, a social worker in Geraldton and one in Kalgoorlie with an extra part-time position for Kalgoorlie.

Our service funding ends 30 June 2020 and we are eager to hear whether there will be ongoing funding post 2020 to continue to deliver a culturally secure, trauma-informed service in regional WA.

We continue to maintain involvement with the National Forum, there is strength in numbers to carry a consistent message to the Commonwealth and State Governments about what is needed to prevent violence against Aboriginal women.

## Internal

There has been a number of structural changes within the service in the last few years. The last year has bedded down the restructure and the service has grown in the last twelve months with new initiatives and staff.

We had several changes to corporate staff. James Segedin, our Corporate Service Manager retired at the end of January and we welcomed Janet Leerson as his replacement. Janet comes from Midlas; thankfully, we still have a good relationship with Midlas!

As AFLS has grown with more staff, we reviewed the Human Resource Management and decided that there was too much work for one person to manage. With approval from the Board and our funders, we outsourced our human resource (HR) to Employsure and our HR Manager, Nicky Davison, left our employment in June. We still have a HR Co-ordinator who, at this stage, works part-time.

On behalf of AFLS, we thank James and Nicky for their contribution to AFLS.

We also have a new Principal Legal Officer (PLO), Brad Ferguson. Brad started his legal career with AFLS initially as a volunteer over 6 years ago, we wish him well in his new role.

The previous PLO Michael Back stepped down from the role due to personal circumstances, however he continues as a senior lawyer within the service assisting with submissions and Murdoch project.

Since Janet and Brad commenced in their roles and with assistance and advice from Employsure, we have been auditing processes and assets, such as the IT, internal forms, reviewing policies, Awards and contracts and each regional office to improve effectiveness.

Recruitment in regional WA continues to be very difficult. Most offices have experienced a change of staff in relation to at least one position in the team. We thank all staff for their contribution and dedication to delivering the service to our clients in the regions.

Congratulations Caris Collard for winning the Paddy Firstenberg Memorial Award from the National Women's Council WA. This award is given to young women who have been outstanding in their community work. Caris organised a Community, Family and Youth

Forum to discuss and address solutions for threats of violence towards youth on social media, how to prevent anti-social behaviors, improve collaboration between Geraldton family and youth services, provide community activities and increase community safety and reduce crime.

We also launched our new website and Facebook page in April this year. Thank you to Julie Dabb, our Training /Marketing Officer who maintains and keeps our public information pages up to date.

## Delivering the service

The regions continue to provide outreach to the communities as well as the prisons. Even though we deliver community legal education, family violence is still prevalent in most communities.

Our Carnarvon office has finally moved to a new central location in the town shopping centre. It has been a long wait for the staff and this move has seen an increase in people attending our office.

**CEO Corina Martin with Hon. John Robert Quigley MLA**





Ochre Ribbon events were held across WA this year. Kununurra held an Ochre Ribbon event in Kalumburu for the first time where the whole community participated. We supported other events in communities across our regions to make people aware of family violence and its impact on our people. Corporate office held its biennial event, hosting a high tea luncheon at the Crown Resort for over 300 invited guests. We thank the Crown for their support in hosting the event.

## Working with Stakeholders

Legal Aid WA and AFLS teamed up to provide paralegal training for our administrative staff in the regions.

We also implemented other initiatives to promote positive relationships with communities in the regions where we work, such as Geraldton staff commencing working in schools, Kalgoorlie office delivered CLE to hospital staff and our ongoing good relationship with the Bega Garnbirringu - Clinical Services.

**CEO Corina Martin with  
MP Ken Wyatt**



We initiated a Memorandum of Understanding with Murdoch University which has resulted in a Law Clinic being established on campus where students assist our staff and clients in the regions with Criminal Injuries Compensation matters. This has been very successful for our clients and the students as it provides the student with the experience of client contact and running a file under supervision. It has been beneficial for our clients to receive quicker service for their matters to be submitted to the Office of Criminal Compensation.

We have also hosted Aurora students in our Geraldton, Broome and Kununurra offices. This has been a learning curve for our offices to supervise students, which has had benefits and challenges.

We have also been involved with the Family Court Djidji Nyitti Project in Newman. This project is discussed further in the PLO report.

I would also like to thank Retired Chief Judge Stephen Thackray for his mentorship of our lawyers.

## The Future

Another year has passed and family violence and child removal is still on the rise in this state. We are aiming to focus more on child protection in the next year and we need the State Government to work with us so we can work with our communities to keep our children safe at home with kin, live on country, and continue to learn culture.

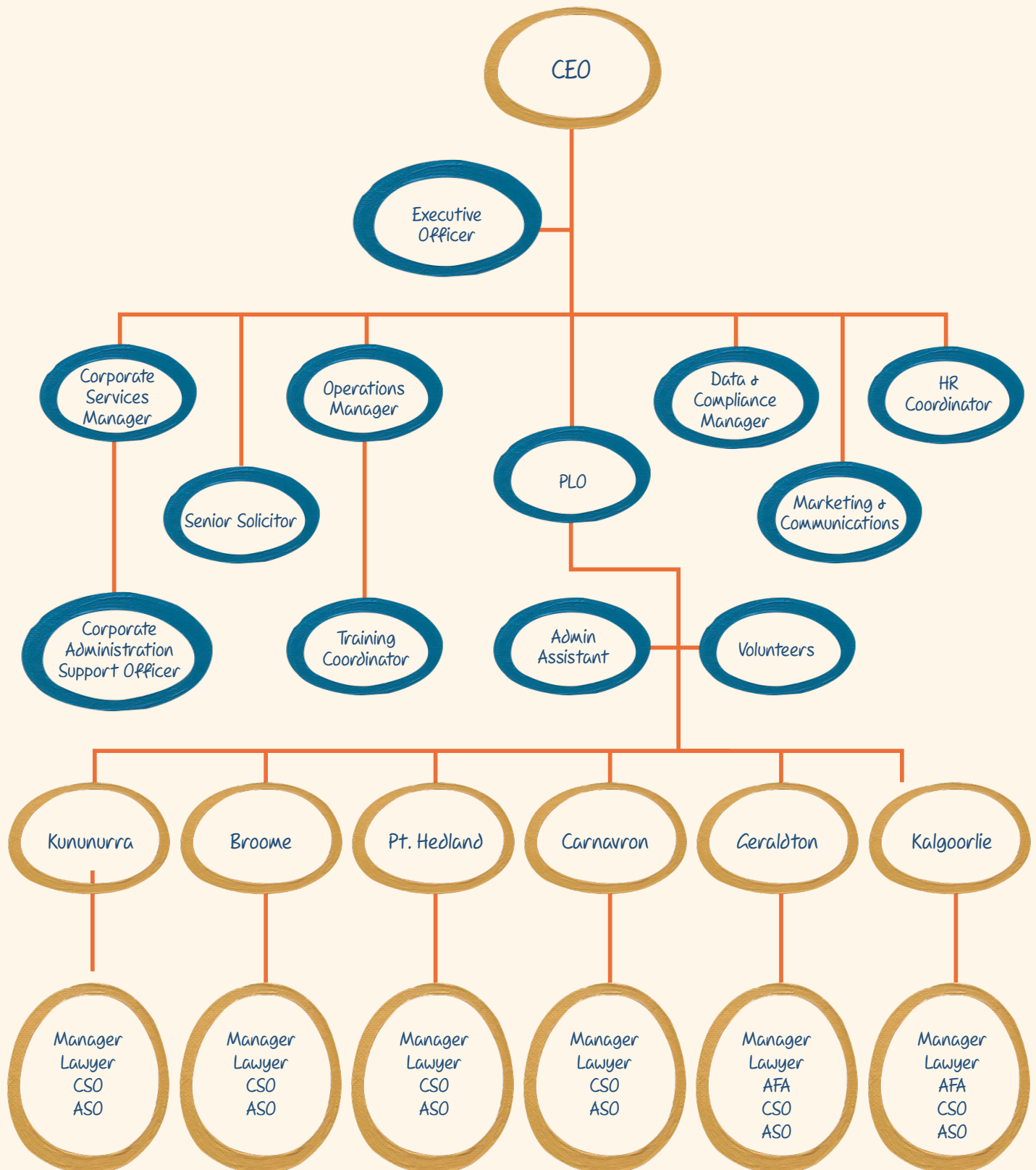
I would like to thank AFLS Chair, Professor Vickie Hovane and all the directors, our Patron Hal Jackson and members for their support in the last year. I would also like to thank the outgoing directors for giving up their time to sit on our Board.

Finally, I would like to give my appreciation to all our current staff and the staff that have left our service during the year for the tremendous effort and hard work each one gives for the service but more importantly for our clients. I thank you all.

**Corina Martin**  
Chief Executive Officer

# Organisational Chart

## Board of Directors





# Director Profiles



## Chairperson Prof Victoria Hovane

Professor Victoria Hovane is an Aboriginal woman from Broome in the Kimberley region of WA. She belongs to the Ngarluma people of the Pilbara and the Jaru and Gooniyandi peoples of the Kimberley. She is a registered psychologist and an experienced consultant and practitioner having worked in several areas of social welfare, legal, victim and offender services, research projects and advisory roles over the past 37 years. Grounded in Aboriginal Psychology and place-based responses, Victoria specialises in the areas of family safety and wellbeing in Aboriginal communities, Aboriginal violent offending and behaviour change programmes, and ethical research and evaluation in Aboriginal communities.

Vickie is highly sought after as an advisor at both State and Commonwealth levels. Vickie is an Independent Director on the Board of Australia's National Research Organisation on Women's Safety (ANROWS). She is also a member of the National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Mental Health & Suicide Prevention Advisory Group, the National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Mental Health Leadership Forum, and the Advisory Panel to the WA Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations (Ombudsman's) FDV and Child Fatality Review Committees. Her other roles have been as Managing Director, Tjallara Consulting, and as a member of the COAG Advisory Panel on Preventing Violence against Women and their Children, Member of the WA Mental Health Advisory Council and Co-Chairperson of the Australian Indigenous Psychologists Association.



## Dr Hannah McGlade

Dr Hannah McGlade was admitted as a Solicitor and Barrister of the Supreme Court of Western Australia in 1996 and has since been involved in law reform and advocacy for Aboriginal people in the areas of race discrimination, family violence, sexual assault and child protection.

Hannah was formerly the CEO of Aboriginal Family Law Service, and she has held appointments as a Member of the State Administrative Tribunal, the Administrative Appeals Tribunal and currently the Mental Health Tribunal. She was the 2016 Senior Indigenous Fellow at the United Nations Office of the High Commission for Human Rights in Geneva, and assisted The Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP). In July 2016, she was appointed as a Senior Indigenous Research Fellow at Curtin University.

Hannah has served on many boards and committees, and is currently the Deputy Chairperson of the Noongar Child Protection Council and a member of Family Matters WA. She has played a key role in establishing services for the Aboriginal community in relation to media, family violence and the stolen generations. She received the NAIDOC award in 2008 for outstanding achievement in recognition of her extensive work in the community.



### William Milroy

William (Bill) Milroy is a descendant and member of the Palyku Native Title group from the Eastern Pilbara, whose claim was won in May 2019. Bill represented his family on the Palyku Trust Committee, the Palyku Working Group, and served as a Director of the Palyku Hospitality Services for two years.

Bill was born and educated in Perth, and has worked in the State Public Service for over thirty years across a range of management and advisory positions in justice and health. Bill has a particular interest in the area of health and well-being; and in supporting Aboriginal people to achieve positive outcomes in their lives and communities.



### Rowena Puertollano – Regional Representative

Rowena Puertollano is a descendant of the Yawuru /Bard people and was born in Broome. Her connection is through Idarr Buru (Roebuck Plains/Lake Idarr) Buru (Country) and Goolarrgon people Bardi/Jawi. Rowena has a Diploma in Counselling and Psychotherapy and is an accredited practitioner in Seasons for Healing (Adults) and Seasons for Growth (Youth).

Rowena works as a Senior Youth Worker with Nirrumbuk Aboriginal Corporation in Broome, a role that aims to reduce recidivism in youths, teenagers and families who encounter the WA Court system. Her role also includes working with young people who are disengaged from school to reduce the numbers of young people in detention centres such as Banksia Hill. Rowena has an extensive knowledge and experience working with Aboriginal people and organisations in the Kimberley.

Rowena worked as an Aboriginal and Islander Education Officer and Aboriginal Liaison Officer, was involved in the development of the ABC Two Way Literacy and Learning and helped establish the Cultural Centre at Broome Senior High School.

Rowena was a founding director of AFLS when it was established in 2010 and now returns as a Member Director having been appointed to the Regional Representative position on AFLS Board at the 2018 AGM. Rowena also sits on the Board of Environs Kimberley and Chile Creek Aboriginal Corporation.

## Professional Directors



### Dorinda Cox (appointed 20/2/2018)

Dorinda Cox is an Aboriginal (Noongar) woman from the South West region of WA with French and Irish heritage. Dorinda is a mother of two daughters, a skilled practitioner, trainer, advocate and mentor. Dorinda has over 20 years' experience working in government and the non-government sectors at both the local, State and National levels. Her current role is the Managing Director of the Inspire Change Consulting Group. Dorinda recently stood as a candidate for Greens WA political party in the 2017 State Election and recent Federal by-election. Dorinda's advocacy network in



the justice sector extends far and wide and includes being a member of the Victims of Crime Advisory Group to the Attorney General WA, a member of the Advisory Committee on Child Death Reviews and Family Violence Homicides for the WA Ombudsman, a member of Aboriginal and Community Justice Centre Advisory Group at the University of WA and a member ANROWS (Australian National Research Organisation for Women's Safety). Dorinda is also as a member of the Expert Indigenous Women's Working Group working on the Global Treaty on Preventing Violence against Women in the *Everywoman, Everywhere Campaign*. Dorinda uses her big picture visions, innovative thinking and passionate leadership to challenge, improve and strengthen our current service systems to achieve better evidence based outcomes for Aboriginal people and communities.



### Kay Benham (appointed 8/11/2018)

Kay joined the Board as a professional director in November 2018. She brings her extensive knowledge and expertise in family and domestic violence gained while working as a social worker, manager and senior executive for over 25 years.

Kay held the position of Executive Director responsible for operational and strategic policy and practice for the Department for Child Protection between 2010 and 2017. In this role she was also responsible for child protection legal services and the development and implementation of the Family and Domestic Violence Strategy and Action Plans for Western Australia. Between 2001 and 2010 she worked for the Department of the Attorney General and was the Director for the Family Court Counselling Service as well as Victim Support and Child Witness Services, which provide practical and emotional support to children and adults required to give evidence in sexual abuse, family violence and other criminal matters. She oversaw the development and implementation of six Family Violence Courts across the metropolitan area and the Aboriginal specific Barndimalgu in Geraldton.

Kay has served on numerous committees and her recent board experience includes being Western Australia's representative on Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS) and the working group responsible for the National Framework for Protecting Australia's children (NFPAC). Kay was appointed as an Independent Decision Maker for the National Redress Scheme in May 2019.

## Outgoing Directors



### Gningala Yarran-Mark

Gningala Yarran-Mark served as Chairperson of the Board from the 2017 AGM until September 2018. Gningala grew up on Yamatji Country in Mount Magnet and her Aboriginal heritage is Wongathu/ Yamitji on her mother's side and Nyoongar/Gitja on her father's side. Gningala completed a Law degree whilst a single mother of five children. She was the first Aboriginal Judge's Associate in WA and was later admitted as a Barrister/Solicitor working for the Department of Public Prosecutions as the first Aboriginal State Prosecutor in WA. Gningala completed a Masters in Business Leadership in 2016 and her Honours program in 2017 completing a Bachelor of Science in Indigenous Research Methodologies. Gningala was recently awarded an Aurora International Study Tour scholarship.



### Maureen Kelly OAM

Maureen Kelly is a Yindjibarndi and Ngarluma Elder from Port Hedland Western Australia. She has lived in the Pilbara all of her life and has extensive kinship links in the Pilbara, Kimberley and across the State. In 2014 she was awarded an Order of Australia Medal in recognition of her outstanding achievements and service to Indigenous communities across Western Australia. Maureen served as the Board's regional member representative from the 2016 AGM.

Maureen has over 35 years' experience working across all levels of Government as well as being an active community advocate. She is recognised as a strong community leader who has devoted her professional and personal life to promoting equitable service delivery for all citizens in regional Western Australia. In addition to being awarded an OAM, she has also been nominated and won numerous awards for her voluntary community service work, including the Town of Port Hedland Elder of the Year in 2011 and National Female Elder at the 2012 NAIDOC awards in Tasmania.



### Prof Dawn Bessarab

Professor Dawn Bessarab was a founding director of the Aboriginal Family Law Services and served as a professional director since 2015. Dawn is an Aboriginal woman of Bard (West Kimberley) and Yindjarbandi (Pilbara) descent who grew up in Broome. She is the Director for the Centre of Aboriginal Medical and Dental Health at the University of Western Australia and a senior Indigenous health researcher and social worker with extensive experience across the Western Australian public sector, specifically in the area of community development, child protection, family violence, alcohol and substance abuse and the criminal justice system. Dawn has collaborated with the Department of Child Protection in the development of resources for use in the Aboriginal community.



### Troy Williams

Troy Williams served as a professional director from 2015. He is an internationally chartered governance professional who has worked across Australia for over 20 years assisting ASX-listed, not-for-profit and private companies in a variety of roles including governance consultant, management consultant, director, company secretary, executive sales director and chief financial officer.

Troy has served on a number of Boards including as Chair of WA State Council and the Governance Institute of Australia Ltd, a Member of National Communications Committee, Governance Institute of Australia Ltd, a Director of the WA Chapter of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners and as a Member of the University of South Australia Mentor Program.



### Our Patron – Hal Jackson

Hal Jackson is the Patron of Aboriginal Family Law Services. Hal was the inaugural President of the Children's Court of WA prior to his retirement. He also served as Chairperson of the Western Australian Ministerial Advisory Council on Child Protection and was instrumental in bringing together Aboriginal practitioners for the report *Developing Therapeutic Communities for Abused Aboriginal Children and their Communities* (2007).





*Corporate Staff CEO Corina Martin at the Law Week Walk for Access to Justice*

# Human Resources Report Our Staff

as at 30 June 2019 (FY 2018-2019)

## Corporate Services

**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Principal Legal Officer**  
**Corporate Services Manager**  
**Human Resources Manager**  
**Human Resources & Finance Assistant**  
**Executive Officer**  
**Administration Assistant**  
**Operations Manager**  
**Data & Compliance Manager**  
**Solicitor**  
**Training Coordinator**  
**Admin Support**  
**Marketing & Communications Officer**  
**Volunteers**

**Corina Martin**  
**Bradley Ferguson**  
**Janet Leerson**  
**Nikcky Davison**  
**Ashleigh Brown**  
  
**Anita Field**  
**Jill Evans**  
**Stephanie Brahim**  
**Margaret King**  
**Michael Back**  
**Julie Dabb-Walker**  
**Kris Salman**  
**Ashleigh Brown**  
  
**Kim Axford**  
**Catinca Hozoc**

## Broome

**Managing Solicitor**  
**Lawyer**  
**Community Support Officer**  
**Administration Support Officer**

**Kerrin Lawn**  
**Sita Samtani**  
**Lucy Dann**  
**Kerryn Albert**

## Carnarvon

**Managing Solicitor**  
**Lawyer**  
**Community Support Officer**  
**Administration Support Officer**

**Marnie Williams**  
**Gail Bellotti**  
**Sussan Dean**

### Geraldton

Managing Solicitor  
Lawyer  
Aboriginal Family Advocate  
Community Support Officer  
Administration Support Officer

Neil Hofmeyr  
Kate Thompson  
Rayleen Councillor  
Jaime Rayson  
Zamaria Councillor

### Kalgoorlie

Managing Solicitor  
Lawyer  
Aboriginal Family Advocate  
  
Community Support Officer  
Administration Support Officer

Frank Martin, Roberta  
Councillor, Tanya Richardson  
  
Zylao Bonney

### Kununurra

Managing Solicitor  
Solicitor  
Community Support Officer  
Administration Support Officer

Lachlan Withnall  
Lucy Bourne  
Rush Bin Omar  
Ingrid Harvey

### Port Hedland

Managing Solicitor  
Solicitor  
Community Support Officer  
Administration Support Officer

Tyne Mconnon  
  
Latorshia Brockman & Zoe Lee  
Kaylee Budd

### Staff Turnover

57.5% staff turnover, 52.1% Aboriginal 43.4% non-Aboriginal Staff

### Aboriginal Staff Employed

52% Aboriginal Staff employed

### AFLS Permanent Staff Turnover

James Segedin, Pam Oram, Claire Porter, Roberta Hicks, Devina Deeble, Ireasha Victor, Peter Korboe, Amber Wear, Caris Collard, Chanoa Cooper, Frank Martin, Jalba Dann, Marelda Tucker, Martina Narrier-Grace, Bev Chaplin, Najette Alaraibi, Carlos Waina, Kate Thompson, Simone Chee, Ruth Storer, Roberta Winder

### Casual Staff

Mandy Gadsdon, Linda Cao, Catinca Hozoc



# Principal Legal Officer's Report

I was appointed Principal Legal Officer (PLO) of the Aboriginal Family Law Services (AFLS) in April 2019 in what has been a challenging time for the organisation. My key responsibilities have been working with the CEO's executive staff, supervising the legal division, particularly the restricted practitioners working at AFLS, and the recruitment of legal staff. I started my career with AFLS as a volunteer, proceeded to becoming an admitted lawyer and have now arrived at the position of PLO. I am committed to the organisation, have thoroughly enjoyed working with AFLS, assisting Aboriginal clients and look forward to progressing in my role as PLO.



## Recruitment of Lawyers

The recruitment of lawyers to regional areas in Western Australia is challenging. Indeed, staff of other legal practices in regional Western Australia have informed me that they have the same recruitment challenges.

For the majority of last year, the AFLS regional offices were well staffed with very capable lawyers. Kununurra, Geraldton, Broome and Kalgoorlie offices were staffed with a full complement of lawyers. However, unfortunately in the latter part of the year, several legal staff decided to move on for personal reasons or to take up positions in other organisations. The loss of legal staff has created issues around service to clients, however this has been mitigated by a recruitment drive and careful reallocation of resources.

## Djidi Nyitti Project

As remarked upon in last year's PLO report, AFLS was invited to be involved in the Djidi Nyitti Project (the Project) in Newman, which was the brainchild of former Chief Judge Stephen Thackray. The project was a success and raised AFLS' profile in Newman and amongst the organisations involved, including the Family Court WA. The organisations and attendees involved in the Project went to Newman on three occasions in the past year.

The purpose of the Project was to raise awareness of the Family Court in regional Western Australia and provide clients with access to the Family Court so that formal arrangements could be made between parties for the care of children.



Positives that emerged from the Project included:

- » Hearings were informal, presided over by Magistrate Martino and culturally informed.
- » Amended initiating application Form 1 was practical and minimised requirements for paperwork.
- » Consent orders were made in the best interests of the children concerned.

The Project is now being facilitated in the Goldfields and AFLS is still involved in aspects of the Project.

## Legal Service to Clients

The core business of AFLS is providing Aboriginal people with legal assistance in respect to family law, criminal injuries compensation, child protection, and family violence restraining order application matters.

In light of the amendments to the Restraining Orders Act in July 2017 to include provisions relating to family violence restraining orders, including providing for a broader definition of family violence, it has been noteworthy that 37% of legal work in the Kununurra office is devoted to family violence restraining orders, with 30% of the legal work in the Broome offices devoted to such work. This gives an indication of the scope of family violence issues facing communities in those regions.

AFLS has continued to fulfil its obligations to its clients in the area of family law. Lawyers in the regional offices are providing Court legal representation to clients in complex Family Law parenting matters and have carried out particularly good work in pursuing recovery order applications on behalf of clients for the return of their children.

A frustration we are trying to address as an organisation, by way of submission, is that some Magistrates in regional courts refuse to hear Family Law recovery order applications despite having the power to do so. When a Magistrate will not hear such an application,

the hearing of the application is delayed due to having to file the application in the Family Court in Perth rather than in the regional Court.

While AFLS has provided clients with excellent legal representation generally, we feel one area in which we can improve is providing greater representation to clients in matters involving the Department of Communities, namely care and protection matters. It is a concern that 100% of the children in care in the Kimberley are Aboriginal and while we have endeavoured to provide legal representation to as many clients as possible in this area, we feel that we can improve in this area.

## Indigenous Law Clinic

As noted on page 30 in this report, AFLS in conjunction with Murdoch University has agreed under a Memorandum of Understanding to teach and facilitate a unit at Murdoch University. I wish to thank Assessor Hafford and Assessor Guthrie of the Office of Criminal Injuries Compensation for providing presentations to the students in respectively semester one and semester two.



**Brad Ferguson**  
Principal Legal Officer





# Aboriginal Family Advocate

*Project to provide intensive case management support for clients*

Aboriginal Family Law Services received additional funding for a two-year pilot project to embed intensive case management support for clients through the Australian Government's Third Action Plan of the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022. Kalgoorlie and Geraldton were chosen as the office locations to deliver the case management program.

The program aims to provide a holistic case management service to clients experiencing family violence who are traumatised and facing a range of challenges in addition to the demands of their legal case. The service employed two Social Support workers, one in each location, and they proved to be a valuable addition to the local teams.

The Social Support worker in Geraldton had an average caseload of nine clients at any one time, and the Kalgoorlie worker an average of five clients. External mentoring provided the two social support

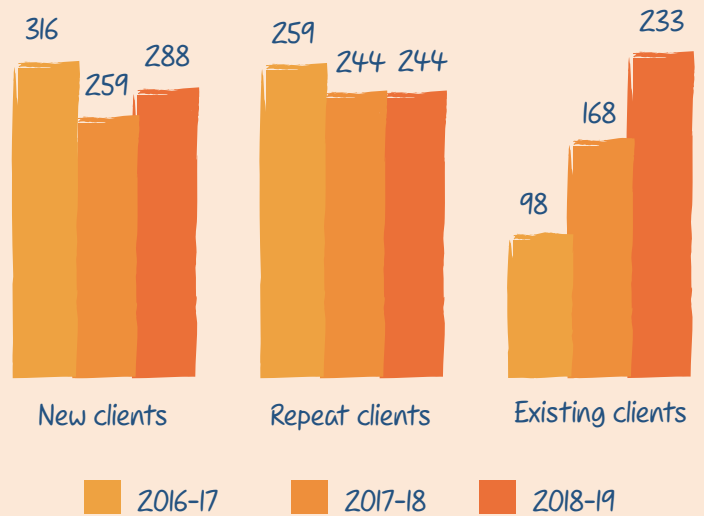
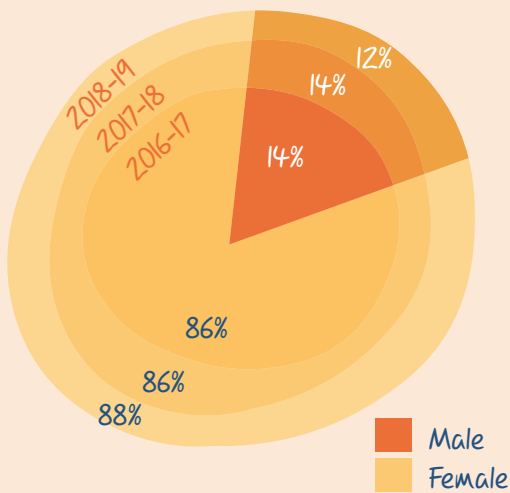
workers with professional mentoring and debriefing support. We thank the mentors - Lynn Hazelton, Trish Langdon and Kris Dwyer - for their guidance and contribution to the effectiveness of the program.

We would like to thank the Social Support workers who were employed during the year – Devina Deeble, Frank Martin, Roberta Hicks, Lucy Dann and Rayleen Councillor. Anita Field assisted the coordination of the project from the corporate office.

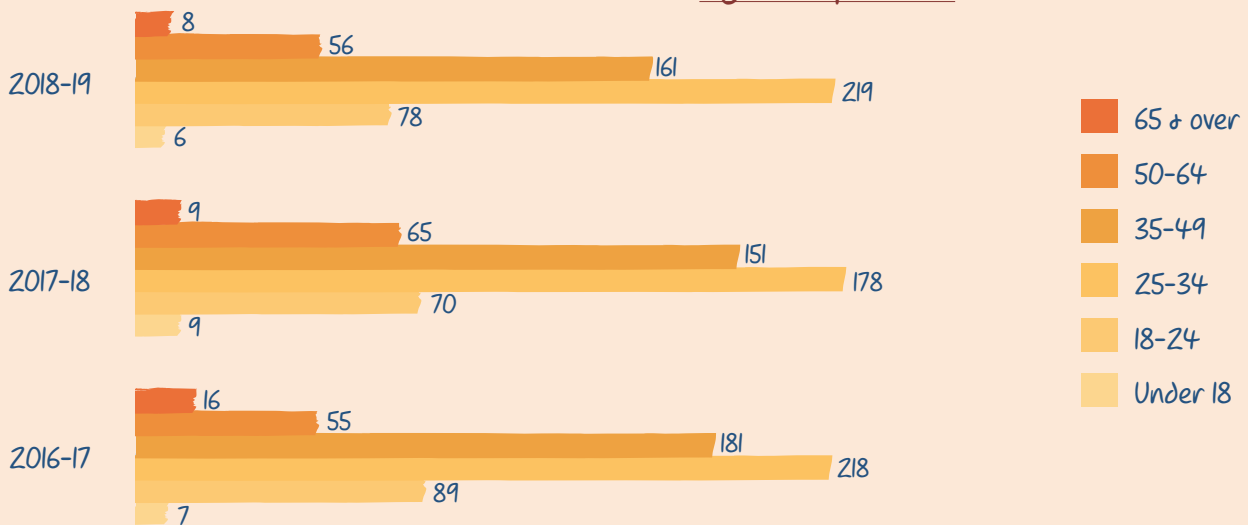
The initial funding ended 30 June 2019. We are pleased to report that the Australian Government has extended funding for the project for a further three years to 2022 under the Fourth Action Plan. Since the confirmation of ongoing funding, we have been able to build upon the foundation of the pilot project. The program has been renamed the Aboriginal Family Advocate Program with the addition of a dedicated manager and part-time male worker in the Kalgoorlie office.

# Statistical Overview

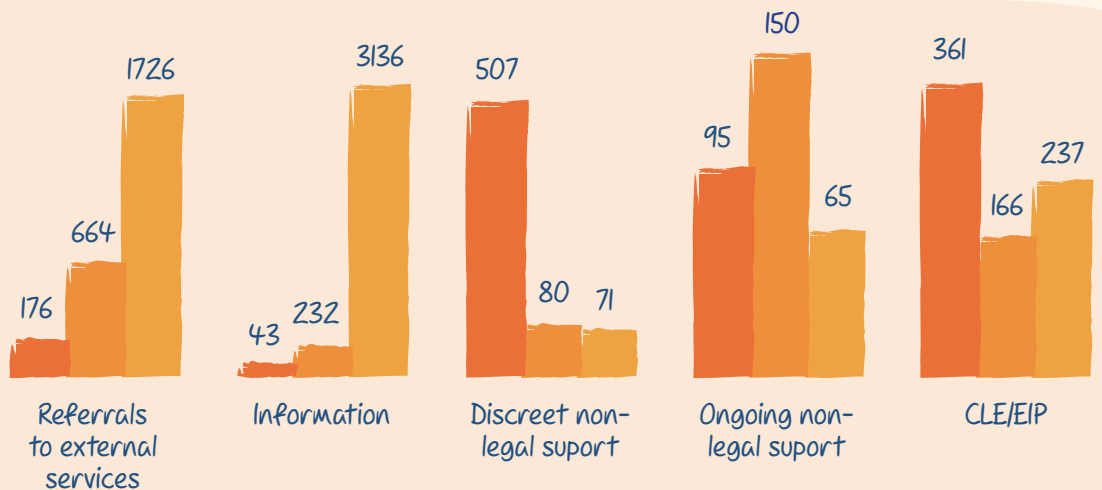
Total number of clients



Age comparison



Non-legal services



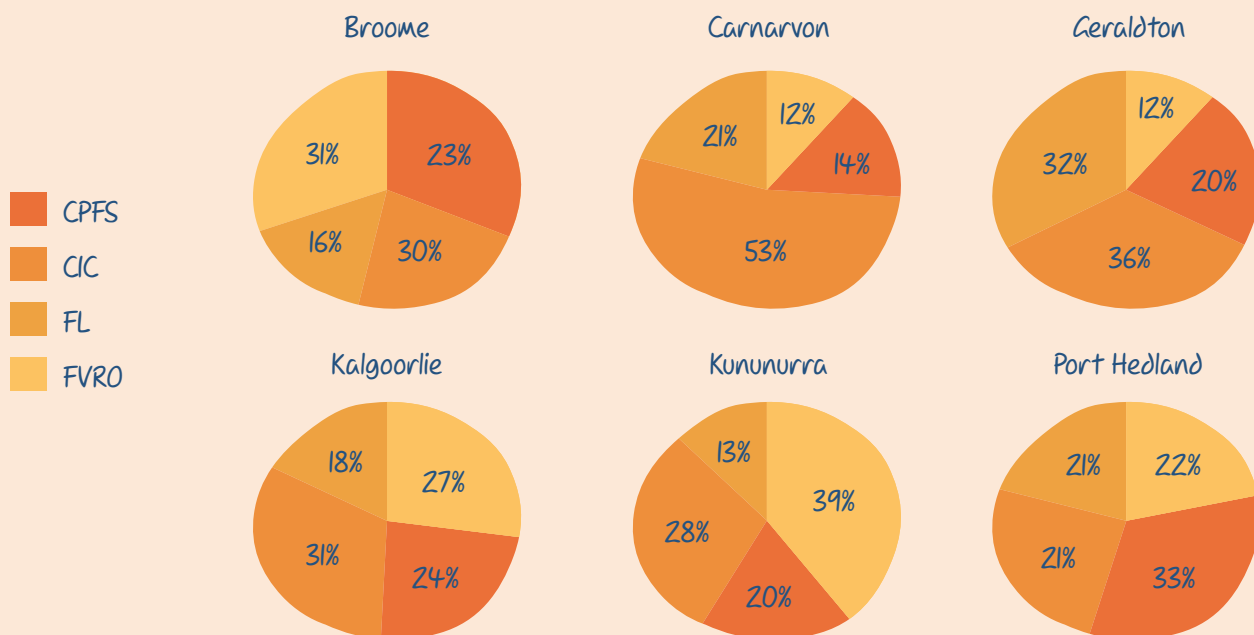
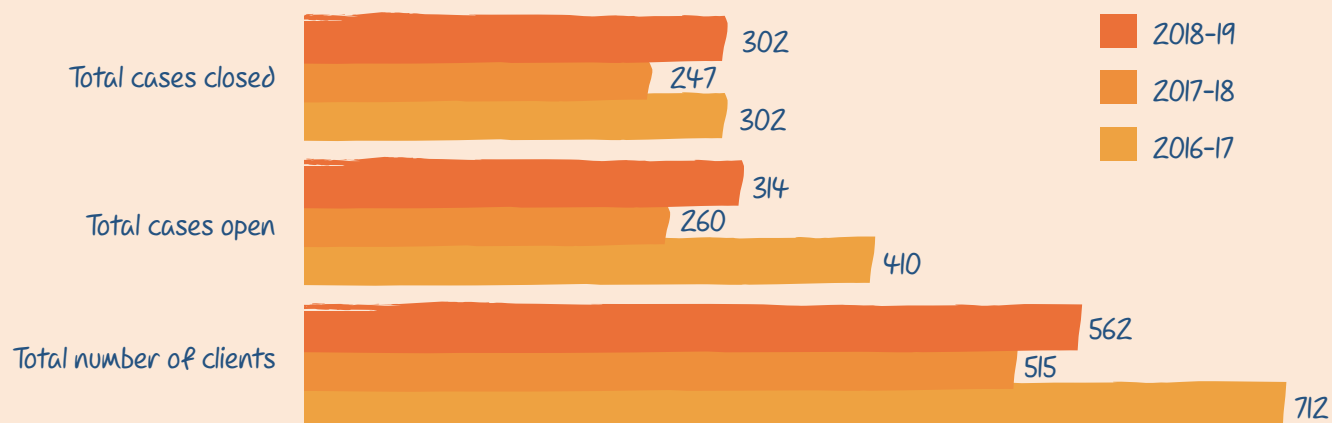


# Statistical Overview

## Legal services



## Legal client and case activity



# Outreach Services

## Broome: (West Kimberley)

- » Broome LGA (including Ardyaloon, Beagle Bay, Bidadanga and Djarindjin/ Lombadina)
- » Derby
- » Looma
- » Mowanjum
- » Yurmulun

## Carnarvon (Gascoyne)

- » Burringurrah
- » Carnarvon LGA
- » Exmouth
- » Shark Bay
- » Onslow

## Geraldton (Mid-West)

- » Cue
- » Geraldton LGA including Mullewa
- » Meekatharra
- » Mount Magnet
- » Wiluna
- » Yalgoo

## Kalgoorlie (Goldfields)

- » Kalgoorlie LGA
- » Coolgardie
- » Esperance
- » Laverton
- » Leonora
- » Menzies
- » Norseman

## Kununurra (East Kimberley)

- » Halls Creek
- » Kalumburu
- » Kununurra
- » Wyndham
- » Warmun

## Port Hedland (West Pilbara)

- » Port Hedland LGA
- » East Pilbara (including, Warralong and Yandeyarra)
- » Roebourne
- » Karratha
- » Newman

AFLS is funded to assist clients in these listed locations, either in person in the regional office, by phone or when on an outreach visit. Travel is approved at the discretion of the CEO, PLO and Regional Managers.







# Regional Office Updates

## BROOME

Broome office started the year with 85 ongoing files and throughout the year opened 102 new cases and provided 77 legal advices despite only having one solicitor for the first 5 months. Sita Samtani was admitted to practice in November 2018 and has slowly taken on her own caseload under supervision. We currently have 90 open files.

Staff in the Broome office have been active in the community, organising and attending many community events including Ochre Ribbon march in Djardinjin, White Ribbon march in Broome, NAIDOC week events, Derby Community Day and other local events. We have provided an outreach service to the Dampier Peninsula, Bidyadanga, Derby, Looma and Mowanjum on a regular basis.

Between April and June 2019, we had Aurora Intern, Clare Manning, who volunteered for 6 weeks. It was beneficial for both Clare and AFLS, but more planning around future students would benefit AFLS and the students.

Community Support Officer (CSO) Lucy Dann has been establishing regular education sessions with local groups, which is having a positive impact in the community.

We have noticed an increase in children entering care and we are working with the Department of Communities to see whether AFLS can assist in early intervention to avoid further increases. We haven't noticed an increase in FDV however it is still a prevalent issue in Broome.

## CARNARVON

The Carnarvon office started the year with 25 open matters. Throughout the year we handled 34 matters and by June a number of matters were closed and

we ended with 30 ongoing matters. We provided 21 legal and non-legal advice and 22 referrals to other agencies.

There had been a number of staff handovers, we said goodbye to Roberta Winder, who was a long time worker with AFLS, Jalba Dann, who provided invaluable community guidance and Peter Korboe, Managing Solicitor who moved to the Port Hedland office.

Marnie Williams, Martina Narrier-Grace, Rebecca Chubby, Jalba Dann and Bev Chaplin, commenced in the Carnarvon office. Bev had previously been employed in the Broome office and came out of retirement to assist our service. We thank her for her work and wish her well as she returned to retirement.

We continued to service our new and existing clients throughout the year while maintaining a presence in the community and outlying communities and participated in a number of community activities over the year.


AFLS Carnarvon office moved to a new location, away from a residential location to a central shopping mall where we have improved our presence within the town. We look forward to another year supporting the communities in the Gascoyne region.

## GERALDTON

The Geraldton office averaged 98 open cases, with a split of Criminal Injuries Compensation, Care and Protection, Family Law and Family Violence Restraining Orders.

In the first week of August 2018, researchers from Charles Darwin University evaluated our service in Geraldton on behalf of Prime Minister & Cabinet. Later in August all staff attended the WeAl-Li Workshop for trauma informed practice.

Geraldton office is proud to announce that Caris Collard, our CSO, received from the National Women's Council of WA, the Paddy Firstenberg Award, for her commitment, leadership and empowerment of young women in Geraldton.



In February 2019 we held a quiz night for the Ochre Ribbon event attended by about 50 stakeholders.

We had about 7 outreaches to Meekatharra and Mount Magnet and about 20 Radio Mama CLE events. We also participated with stakeholders in the LAW Week, NAIDOC week and the launch of the Community Respect and Equality initiative by Desert Blue Connect, an initiative for employers to make their employees aware of FDV and to build up points and rewards in return for their participation.

AFLS Geraldton focus on working with stakeholders in the community in order to obtain referrals. As such, we sit on the Midwest Family Violence Alliance, the CRE group and Midwest Aboriginal Organisation Alliance. The stakeholders are Radio Mama, Desert Blue Connect, Geraldton Aboriginal Medical Service, Magistrates Court Legal Aid Community Legal Centre, Family Relationship Centre, Mission Australia and Aboriginal Legal Service.

AFLS collaborate with a number of agencies including the Department of Communities Child Protection (Department). We hold regular CLE sessions with the stakeholders, which in turn helps them to better understand our role and what AFLS can assist with. Since we have been doing this, the Department has started to refer family carers to us for Family Court proceedings.

The carers are family members such as grandparents and aunts that are looking after the children. Where family members are already caring for the child/children, the Department refer them to us and we assist with a Family Court application, rather than a care and protection application, in most cases this is with consent of parents. That way the children remain with family members and stay on country.

This has meant that our care and protection work has reduced and the family law work increased. The magistrates have also started referring clients to us if they think the client could benefit from our service.

We have continued to service our communities via outreach, servicing existing and new clients, stakeholder meetings and community events.

## KALGOORLIE

This year the Kalgoorlie office averaged 61 open cases, with a split of Criminal Injuries Compensation, Care and Protection, Family Law and Family Violence Restraining Orders.

Staff in the office addressed issues in the Goldfields Service Area by attending outreach in Esperance, Norseman, Laverton and Leonora.

Attendance at events such as NAIDOC, Healing Hands, the Boys and Girls Football Academy and White Ribbon Day, gave staff the opportunity to deliver the message of our support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander survivors of family and domestic violence and sexual assault.

Stakeholder engagement was a high priority. Staff attended various stakeholder meetings in Coolgardie, Kalgoorlie and Esperance. Kalgoorlie staff also participated in the Djidji Nyitti Project in Newman with other staff members from the Corporate Office.


## KUNUNURRA

Kununurra had a busy year, with 70 new cases opened and an additional 53 legal advices given across Kununurra and outreach areas (Wyndham, Warmun, Kalumburu and Halls Creek). These matters were a mix of Criminal Injuries Compensation, Family Law, Care & Protection and Restraining Orders.

Kununurra assisted 38 new clients over the course of the year. Given the significant number of new cases and advices, this means that Kununurra had a very successful year in attracting previous/return clients to the service and assisting clients with multiple matters. This is certainly a credit to the Kununurra team, past and present.

The Kununurra team has continued its stakeholder engagement, both in town and in community. This has proven especially vital to maintaining and developing our referral pathways, considering the high turnover of staff at service providers in the East Kimberley. However, it would seem that our KPIs for the 2018-





2019 financial year indicate that these engagements have been positive and effective in several regards.

The team continued its efforts to provide education to the wider community across the year, delivering 51 education sessions (legal and otherwise). These sessions focused largely on our practice areas and were aimed at providing some information around rights and relevant law. These sessions are hosted informally with various groups in the region, with staff usually sitting down for a “yarn” with community members. While these sessions certainly assist our service in attracting new clients, they also play a role in providing crucial (and sometimes life-saving) education to some of the country’s most vulnerable persons.

Alcohol abuse continues to be a key feature in many of our cases, especially those involving domestic violence. This is despite liquor restrictions being in effect in Kununurra since December 2017. However, the police continue to exercise their powers to enact temporary tighter restrictions on occasion and Kununurra has seen such restrictions effected on several occasions in the last financial year.

In July 2018 the team participated in the NAIDOC Community March and Family Day at Whitegum Park in Kununurra. We marched through the town before hosting an information stall at the Park. The team also hosted a photo booth on the day, encouraging participants to take photos of themselves with the important/significant women in their lives and write a message about how those women empower them, echoing the year’s NAIDOC theme, “Because of her, we can”.

Additionally, the team took the Ochre Ribbon event to community this year, hosting an Ochre Ribbon March in Kalumburu in February 2019. The day was well attended and has received extremely positive feedback. The staff have been encouraged by senior members in the community to facilitate this event in future years.

Towards end of 2018, Prime Minister & Cabinet evaluated our service in Kununurra under the Indigenous Advancement Strategy (IAS). Our staff participated in the WE- Al-Li Workshop for trauma informed practice.

We look forward to another year of servicing the East Kimberley community.

## PORT HEDLAND

The Port Hedland office has 92 open cases this year, with a mix of Criminal Injuries Compensation, Family Law, Child Protection matters and Family Violence Restraining Orders.

Port Hedland office had a busy year assisting our new and existing clients while maintaining a large presence in Port Hedland and the surrounding communities. We held many programs in collaborations with numerous stakeholders over the year and a few standouts are mentioned below.

AFLS facilitated 11 sessions of the “Strong Men and Strong Families” program to participants in the Roebourne Regional Prison. The program consists of a Team Building exercise and Family and Domestic Violence Activities followed by a Community Legal Education session facilitated by the Solicitor. Services within the prison offered ongoing counselling to participants, if required. The program was also noted by the Western Australia Parole Board as a significant program for perpetrators of domestic violence to attend to complement their Parole application.

This year AFLS and the North Pilbara Football League continued its 4 year partnership highlighting the need for the community as a whole to recognise and work together to eliminate Family and Domestic Violence in our community. Because of the partnership a Memorandum of Understanding was developed to promote the message “Don’t Silence the Violence”. We also hold an Ochre Ribbon round in the season fixtures every year. During the season each club of the league proudly displayed an AFLS banner - ‘Violence is not our Game’ - reminding players, families and the football committees of their responsibilities in reporting family, domestic and sexual assault. CEO Corina Martin and the team in Port Hedland received recognition of the partnership by receiving a framed North Pilbara Football League guernsey thanking AFLS for their contribution.

The AFLS team in Port Hedland also held its Annual NAIDOC Quiz night for the fourth year running with the largest number of community members in attendance to date.

# Indigenous Law Clinic

*Project to provide intensive case management support for clients*

The Indigenous Law Clinic (“ILC”) is a partnership between Murdoch University Law School and the Aboriginal Family Law Services. The ILC came into being through the vision of Corina Martin, CEO of AFLS and Anna Copeland, Director of Clinical Legal Programs, Murdoch University to provide legal assistance to Indigenous people living in remote regions and provide Murdoch University Law students with practical legal experience. It is structured as a three-point elective unit, running throughout semester 1 and 2 of 2019.

The ILC involves Murdoch Law students working under the supervision of AFLS Lawyers one day per week at Murdoch University. In semester 1 of 2019 five final year Murdoch University Law students enrolled in the ILC.

The students primarily worked in the area of Criminal Injuries Compensation. They were responsible for interviewing and keeping their clients informed with the state of their matter, arranging mental health assessments, drafting statements and preparing compensation applications.

Guest speakers have included Chief Judge Thackray of the Family Court, and Professor Robert Guthrie of the Office of Criminal Injuries Compensation.

The students involved have welcomed the opportunity for real life experience, one saying:

“when I first looked at the legal file, the client was just a name, but having to undertake an interview with the client made me realise that I am dealing with a person and how could I best focus on providing that person with help and legal assistance”

More importantly, the service assists in service delivery to Indigenous clients in the regions by supporting the important work of the Aboriginal Family Law Services.

The first semester of the project was a great success and semester 2 has seen a greater number of interested students enrolling.

***CEO Corina Martin and Solicitor Michael Back with Students from the Murdoch Project***





# Programs & Campaigns

## Ochre Ribbon 2019

Ochre Ribbon was celebrated in style this year with a high tea luncheon for 300 invited guests at the Crown. AFLS CEO Corina Martin was the MC for the day and Noongar elder Mrs Vivienne Hansen gave the Welcome to Country.

The event kicked off with a performance from Aboriginal contemporary dancers, Shaynee Brayshaw, Cezera Critti-Schaars and Derek Nannup Jnr choreographed by Simon Stewart. AFLS Chair Prof Victoria Hovane spoke about the significance and origins of the Ochre Ribbon, an awareness campaign which arose from the family violence tragedy of a Goldfields family.

Young Noongar woman Tiffany Narrier shared a very personal and powerful insight into youth suicide. Other guest speakers included Stephen Thackray Retired Chief Judge of the Family Court who talked about the Djidji Nyitti Project, Anna Copeland Murdoch University, Dennis Eggington CEO of Aboriginal Legal Service, Ms. Josie Farrer Member for Kimberley, Hon Simone McGurk, Minister for Child Protection; Women's Interests; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services, Tanya Elson from the Department of Communities, Women's Council CEO Angela Hartwig and Greg Mackay Principal Solicitor from Albany Family Violence Prevention Legal Service.

The day closed with an original song performed by Jessie Pigram, followed by duo Gina Williams and Guy Ghouse.

The AFLS office in Broome commemorated Ochre Ribbon Day by organising a march with Djarinjin Community on the Dampier Peninsula. The local school children, community members and service providers in Djarinjin, Ardyaloon, Beagle Bay and Broome joined in the march which ended with a BBQ at the KRICI office in town. There were speeches,

some dancing and activities for the children. We had a great turn out and everyone enjoyed the activities and stories shared by community members. It was a great way to raise awareness of the Ochre Ribbon and the violence in the communities.

The Port Hedland Office held their Ochre Ribbon Day on 27 February 2019 at South Hedland Lotteries House. They came together with the local police to support the message 'Don't Silence the Violence'. The day consisted of a community barbeque, a few guest speakers, activities and loads of AFLS goodies.


*"The vision of this community driven initiative is safety and wellbeing for everyone, and an investment in the future of our children and our culture."*

*Thanks again to the great crew from the Aboriginal Family Law Services for bringing everyone together to talk about this, particularly as the campaign's adage is, 'don't silence the violence'."*

Senior Sergeant Jeremy Marklew  
**Officer in Charge – South  
Hedland Police Station**

The Kununurra team hosted a community Ochre Ribbon Day in Kalumburru, the most northern community in Western Australia and perhaps one of the most remote. The day was well attended and commenced with a march through the community, followed by speeches and a sausage sizzle. Feedback from the event was extremely positive and AFLS has been encouraged to facilitate the event again in Kalumburru in the future.

Geraldton hosted their annual Ochre Ribbon Awareness Quiz and Dinner Night. Elder Derek Councillor opened the night with a lovely father and daughter Welcome to Country. The quiz night



highlighted the strong community support in Geraldton with businesses donating gifts for prizes and a strong turn out on the night with over 45 people participating in the quiz. Supporting community groups were Desert Blue Connect, ALS, RAW, Police – FDV unit and TAFE. Kate Thompson, our resident Quiz master stumped many with her well researched questions. The 2019 winners were the Police – FDV.

## Community Engagement

Since commencing in the Broome office in January, Lucy Dann has been active in delivering programs about FDV to the community, including local Women's Groups, attendees at Milliya Rumurra Rehabilitation Centre, Parents Next program, Mums and Bubs groups, and other local groups. The programs have been well received and have led to an increase in self-referrals to our service.

Carnarvon has been busy networking and keeping up with clients. Before the end of financial year the staff organised a moved to a new location.

In Geraldton Neil, Jaime and Andrea have been busy with outreach and running early intervention / prevention programs at Rangeway Primary School and in Yalgoo.

## NAIDOC 2018 "Because of Her We Can"

NAIDOC was celebrated over three weeks in Broome in 2018. We attended the Reconciliation Walk on 22 June, held a stall at the Kimberley Stolen Generation event on 23 July and held a stall at the Courthouse NAIDOC event on 12 July.

Our Port Hedland office held its fourth annual Quiz Night. The event was very successful and had over 80 guests attend. The evening was filled with laughs and a lot of fun. We had many donations of prizes from many different organisations, which was very much appreciated. Stakeholders, community groups and Government departments attended to make up teams to compete for the overall prize.

The Kununurra office participated in the community march through the town of Kununurra before hosting a stall at the Community Day in Whitegum Park. Staff on

the stall provided information regarding AFLS services and were able to reach many prospective clients during the day. A photo booth was included in the stall, encouraging participants to take photos of themselves with the significant women in their lives and to write a message about how those women empower them.

## Mental Health Week October 2018

During Mental Health Week in October 2018, the Broome office held a stall at the Boulevard Shopping Centre, along with other service providers, to raise awareness of AFLS services and the assistance we can provide for people with complex legal needs and mental health issues.

## Silent March 23 November 2018

AFLS Broome, in collaboration with other service providers, organised and attended the Silent March event for White Ribbon Day. The event commenced with a march from Broome Senior High School and ended at Male Oval in town. At Male Oval there were a number of speeches about domestic violence and the effects on our community followed by activities for the children and food. The event had a great turn out, including community members, schoolchildren, police and other service providers.

## Derby Community Day 17 February 2019

On 17 February 2019, staff from the Broome office attended the Derby Community Day in Derby. It was a great turn out with the Derby Sports Hall packed with stalls by local service providers spreading information about the services available in Derby. The AFLS stall received a lot of interest from community members and other service providers.

## North Pilbara Football League

AFLS has continued into its fourth year of partnership with the North Pilbara Football League (NPFL). The partnership takes a preventative approach to the issues of family violence and sexual abuse currently taking a devastating toll on children and families in local communities across WA.



The program was delivered in Round 13 in the 2019 season with a strong anti-violence message “Violence is Not Our Game” displayed throughout the local Pilbara football clubs and the communities.



### **NPFL Clubs at the Tackling Violence out of our Communities**

On Friday the 26th of July 2019, the Port Hedland office attended the North Pilbara Football League (NPFL) AFLS ROUND – Round 13 – “Violence is not our game” hosted by Port Hedland Rovers Football Club. We were lucky to have our CEO Corina Martin toss the coin alongside Operations Manager Stephanie Brahim.

Two other games were also played in the AFLS football round, one in Wickham and Karratha.

### **Strong Men, Strong Families Programs**

The Port Hedland office is going onto its third year of facilitating the ‘Strong Men & Strong Families’ program in Roebourne Regional Prison. The program is voluntary for sentenced prisoners to attend. Strong Men, Strong Families program is also noted by the Western Australia Parole board as a significant

program for perpetrators of Domestic Violence to attend to complement their Parole application.

‘Strong Men, Strong Families’ aims to educate and encourage participants to fully understand the signs and effects of family and domestic violence. The program also encourages and supports participants who have experienced, or are experiencing family violence, to seek services that can help them develop positive, healthy and strong relationships within their families and communities. The program consists of team building exercises and Family and Domestic Violence activities, followed by a Community Legal Education session facilitated by the solicitor. Each session addresses topics such as family violence, safe families, identity and belonging, and child protection issues.

### **Radio Mama**

This is our Geraldton teams fifth year of running the Radio Mama program, a radio segment delivered every second week by AFLS lawyers. Neil, Kate and Andrea have enjoyed appearing over the radio letting listeners know about the legal services AFLS provides. Radio Mama’s listeners can tune in from Geraldton, Carnarvon, Mt Magnet, Meekatharra, Mullewa and can be live streamed anywhere from their website.

### **Law Week**

Corporate Services participated in the 4th Annual Law Access ‘Walk for Justice’, which raised \$80,126. This is a week dedicated to raising awareness about legal services across Australia, and assists in raising funds to provide pro-bono services for vulnerable people who may otherwise fall through the gaps.

The Port Hedland team enjoyed themselves getting out and about in the community, giving out information and hosting a BBQ with the local Police’s Family Violence Team in Centenary Park.

Geraldton team held a barbecue in the forecourt of the courthouse. This was to coincide with the Barndimalgu Court. About 80 people attended this community event.

# Stakeholder Acknowledgement

The Aboriginal Family Law Services would like to acknowledge and thank the following organisations for their continued support in the delivery of our services:

## National

Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet  
Department of Attorney-General  
National Family Violence Prevention Legal Service Forum (NFVPLS)  
National Association of Community Legal Centres (NACLC)  
Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations  
Australian Law Reform Commission  
Australian Human Rights Commission  
National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance  
Department of Social Services  
Family and Relationships Services Australia

## State

Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia  
Children's Court of Western Australia  
Family Court of Western Australia  
Department of Communities  
Women's Council for Domestic & Family Violence Services WA  
Legal Aid Western Australia  
Department of Attorney-General  
Community Legal Centres Association of Western Australia  
WA Delegation to Coalition of Australian Governments  
Western Australian Police  
Murdoch University School of Law  
White Ribbon  
WA Family Pathways Network

Commissioner for Children and Young People  
Law Access  
Family Matters WA  
Close the Gap Interim Aboriginal Working Group  
National Women's Association WA Branch  
West Kimberley Family Violence Priority Working Group  
Family Inclusion Network of WA

## Broome

Anglicare WA Inc (Family Relationship Centre, Victim Support Service)  
Australian Red Cross  
Broome Youth and Families Hub Drop in Centre  
Bidyadanga Aboriginal Corporation (Community Office, Women's Resource Centre)  
Broome District High School (Broome Girls Academy – part of Role Models Australia)  
Catholic Church Broome  
Centacare Kimberley  
Circle House  
Community Resource Centre (Broome)  
Djarindjin Aboriginal Corporation (Safe House, Family and Early Learning Centre, Women's Centre)  
Garl Garl Walbu Sobering Up Shelter (Derby)  
Goolarri Media Enterprises Headspace  
Jalygurr Guwan Aboriginal Corporation (Daycare Centre)  
Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services Council (KAMSC)  
Kimberley Community Legal Service  
Kimberley Mental Health and Drug Services (Dept. of Health)



Kullarri Regional Communities Inc. (KRCI)  
(Ardyaloon, Bidyadanga, Beagle Bay)

Lombadina Aboriginal Corporation

Marnin Bowa Dumbara Derby Family Healing Centre

Marnin Bowa Dumbara Family & Domestic Violence Support and Outreach Service (Refuge)

Marnja Jarndu Women's Refuge and Outreach

Men's Outreach Service

Men's Shed Broome

Milliya Rumurra Rehabilitation Centre

Nyamba Buru Yawuru Ltd

Office of Josie Farrer MLA

Parenting WA Services

Peninsula Women's Group

Save the Children

Shire of Broome

Uniting Church

## Carnarvon

Carnarvon Medical Service Aboriginal Corporation

Carnarvon Family Support Services

Carnarvon Women's Refuge

Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC)

Carnarvon Tenancy Support Services

Carnarvon Financial Support Services

STEP (Support Tenancy Education Program)

TAFE

Carnarvon Aboriginal Men's Group

Mungullah Aboriginal Corporation

Centacare

Clerk of Courts

Remote Schools Attendance Strategy Program

AOD & Mental Health

## Geraldton

Barndimalgu Court

Bundiyarra Aboriginal Corporation including Irra Wangga Language Centre

Centacare Family Services

- Family Relationship Centre
- Bidi Bidi Centre, Mount Magnet
- Family Services Yalgoo
- Victim Support Services

Chrysalis Support Services

- Support Services
- Women's Refuge

Communicare

Community Drug Service Team

Nursing Posts – Mount Magnet, Cue, Yalgoo

Cue Primary School

Durack Institute of Technology

Geraldton Yamatji Community Patrol

Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service

Geraldton Resource Centre

Geraldton Regional Community Education Centre

Geraldton Aboriginal Streetwork Corporation

360 Medicare Local

Greenough Regional Prison

### AFLS Carnarvon hosting a Morning Tea





Meekatharra Aboriginal Women's Group WOTM  
 Mission Australia School Engagement team  
 Midwest Family Support Network  
 Midwest Yellow Ribbon for Life Inc.  
 Mount Magnet District High School  
 Radio Mama  
 Health Communication Resources  
 Shire Council and Staff

- City of Greater Geraldton (incl Mullewa)
- Cue
- Yalgoo
- Meekatharra
- Mount Magnet

WA Centre for Rural Health  
 Women's Health Resource Centre Geraldton  
 Yulella Aboriginal Corporation  
 Yamatji Marlba Aboriginal Corporation  
 MEEDAC

### Kalgoorlie

360 Health  
 Aboriginal Workforce Development Centre  
 Anglicare  
 Bega Garnbirringu  
 Centrecare Goldfields  
 Centrelink  
 Dundas Shire  
 Eastern Goldfields Regional  
 Esperance Tjaltjraak Native Title Aboriginal Corporation Eastern Goldfields Regional Prison  
 Goldfields Rehabilitation Services Incorporation  
 Goldfields Women's Refuge  
 Kalgoorlie Hospital  
 Kalgoorlie-Boulder Shire  
 Laverton Community Resources Centre  
 Laverton Shire  
 Leonora Community Resource Centre  
 Life Without Barriers  
 LLCCA  
 MEEDAC/GETS

Population Health  
 Red Cross  
 Sexual Assault Referral Centre  
 WAPOL Family Protection Unit  
 Yorgum Aboriginal Corporation

### Kununurra

Ngnowar Aerwah Rehabilitation Centre  
 Ngnowar Aerwah Community Centre  
 Jungarni- Jutiya Corporation  
 Purayanga-Ranka Kerrem Radio (PRK Radio)  
 MDWG Language & Culture Centre  
 Wunan Halls Creek Children & Family Centre  
 Wunan Kununurra Family and Children's Centre  
 East Kimberley Job Pathways (EKJP)- Kununurra-Wyndham-Warmun-Halls Creek-Kalumburu.  
 District High Schools-Kununurra-Wyndham-Halls Creek-Kalumburu  
 Anglicare  
 Ngaringga Ngurra Safe House  
 Victim Support Service  
 Family Dispute Resolution  
 Kimberley Community Legal Services Inc.  
 Legal Aid  
 Aboriginal Legal Services  
 Kimberley Mental Health & Drug Team  
 Save the Children  
 Gawooleng Yawoodeng Women's Crisis Centre  
 Waringarri Aboriginal Corp  
 MG Corporation  
 Wunan Aboriginal Corp  
 Warmun Aboriginal Corp  
 Shire of Wyndham East Kimberley  
 Shire of Halls Creek  
 Yura Yungi Aboriginal Medical Centre  
 Wyndham Safe House  
 WELA Children's Centre  
 Kununurra, Halls Creek and Wyndham Hospitals  
 Kalumburu Aboriginal Corp  
 Ord Valley Aboriginal Health Centre (OVAHS)

Dept. of Communities - Child Protection (DoC)  
 Wyndham Resource Centre  
 Ngnowar Aerwah Safe House Wyndham  
 Boab Health Kununurra  
 Wyndham Work Camp  
 Kimberley Language Resource Centre  
 Yura Yungu SWB Halls Creek  
 Clontarf Halls Creek  
 Shooting Stars Halls Creek  
 Dept Of Housing- Kununurra-Halls Creek  
 Kalumburu Mission  
 Kalumburu Community Resource Centre  
 Kalumburu Aboriginal Corp  
 WAPOL

### Port Hedland

Hedland Woman's Refuge  
 Department for Communities  
 Bloodwood Tree  
 Relationships Australia

Well Women's Centre  
 Youth Involvement Council  
 Hedland Health Campus  
 Victims Support Services  
 Childcare Links  
 Child Australia  
 Pilbara Community Legal Service  
 Wirraka Maya Health Service  
 Mawarnkarra Health Service  
 Roebourne Regional Prison  
 Anglicare Karratha (FDR)  
 Community Radio Hedland  
 Roebourne Women's Group  
 Roebourne Radio Centre  
 Mission Australia –Port Hedland  
 Family Protection Unit – Karratha Mission Australia  
 Police – Hedland DV Task  
 Police  
 Yorgum  
 McKillop's  
 Department of Housing  
 Pilbara Community Service LTD – Wickham  
 Hedland Family Action Group  
 Hedland Senior High School  
 St Cecilia's Catholic School  
 South Hedland Court House  
 Karratha Court House  
 Helping Minds - Hedland  
 Roebourne Safe House  
 ALS – Hedland  
 Legal Aid – Hedland  
 Pilbara Disability Advocacy  
 Pilbara Community Service LTD – Newman  
 Bart Wszola – Psychologist  
 Town of Port Hedland  
 Lotteries House- Hedland  
 North Pilbara Football League  
 Turner River Rehabilitation Centre  
 Yaandina – Roebourne



**Perth Ochre Ribbon Forum**



# Financial Report

**WESTERN AUSTRALIAN  
FAMILY VIOLENCE  
PREVENTION LEGAL  
SERVICE ABORIGINAL  
CORPORATION**

**FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019



## Western Australian Family Violence Prevention Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation

Independent auditor's report to members

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Western Australian Family Violence Prevention Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation ("WA Family Violence"), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2019, the income and expenditure statement, statement of changes in equity and cashflow statement for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the statement by Chairperson/Chief Executive Officer.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of WA Family Violence as at 30 June 2019, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the financial reporting provisions of the Funding Agreement between WA Family Violence and the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet ("DPMC").

#### Basis for Opinion

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

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

#### Material Uncertainty Related to Going Concern

We draw attention to Note 1 (c) of the financial report which identifies that the current funding agreement with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet that expires on 30 June 2020. As stated in note 1 (c), this indicates a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on WA Family Violence's ability to continue as a going concern. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

#### ACCOUNTANTS & ADVISORS

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South Perth WA 6151  
PO Box 748  
South Perth WA 6951  
Telephone: +61 8 6436 2888  
[williambuck.com](http://williambuck.com)

## Independent auditor's report to members (Cont.)

### Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist WA Family Violence to meet the requirements of the financial reporting provisions of the Funding Agreement between WA Family Violence and the DPMC. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

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

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the financial reporting requirements of the funding agreement and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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

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

### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

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

## Independent auditor's report to members (Cont.)

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of these financial statements is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at:

[https://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors\\_responsibilities/ar4.pdf](https://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf)

This description forms part of our independent auditor's report.

William Buck

William Buck Audit (WA) Pty Ltd  
ABN 67 125 012 124

CN

Conley Manifis  
Director

Dated this 7<sup>th</sup> day of October 2019



## STATEMENT BY CHAIRPERSON/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

In our opinion:

The accounts and schedules set out on pages 8 to 19 present fairly the financial position of Western Australian Family Violence Prevention Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation ('Corporation') at 30 June 2019 and the results of its operations for the year ended 30 June 2019, in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Note 1 to the accounts and are based on proper accounts and records.

The funding received from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPM&C) for the financial year 30 June 2019 has been used towards the achievement of goals for which they were provided and all conditions included in the DPM&C letter of offers have been complied with.

Dated at Perth this 7 day of October 2019

  
DIRECTOR

  
A/ CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

## } CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

### DECLARATION BY MANAGEMENT

FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2018 TO 30 JUNE 2019

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION LEGAL SERVICE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

We hereby declare that the financial acquittal report of the Western Australian Family Violence Prevention Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation is in accordance with the Safety and Wellbeing Programme General Grants Funding Agreement ('Funding Agreement'). In particular, the Statement of Grant Income and Expenditure:

- a) Gives a complete and accurate view of the Western Australian Family Violence Prevention Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation Grant Agreement Income and Expenditure and grant interest of \$9,849 ; and
- b) All funding was expended for the projects and in accordance with the Grant Agreements.

Signed for and on behalf of Western Australian Family Violence Prevention Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation.

By

  
A CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

  
DIRECTOR

In the presence of

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dated at Perth this TH day of OCTOBER 2019

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash	2	2,750,416	2,967,661
Receivables	3	81,260	27,681
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>2,831,676</b>	<b>2,995,342</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Land and Buildings	4	1,117,863	1,162,752
Property, Furniture and Equipment	5	19,926	27,120
Motor Vehicles	6	11,426	15,233
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>1,149,215</b>	<b>1,205,105</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>3,980,891</b>	<b>4,200,447</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Accounts Payable	7	438,491	498,773
Provisions	8	156,858	157,747
Unexpended Funds	9	2,329,195	2,482,495
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>2,924,544</b>	<b>3,139,015</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Long Service Leave Provision	10	78,970	84,055
<b>Total Non-Current Liabilities</b>		<b>78,970</b>	<b>84,055</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>3,003,514</b>	<b>3,223,070</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>977,377</b>	<b>977,377</b>
<b>Accumulated Funds:</b>	11		
Retained Surplus		921,487	1,035,766
Asset Replacement Reserve		55,890	0
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for year		0	(58,389)
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<b>977,377</b>	<b>977,377</b>

The accompanying notes form part of and are to be read in conjunction with these Financial Accounts.



## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>INCOME</b>			
Grants		4,405,579	4,544,307
Interest		9,849	12,546
Other income		50,894	77,259
		<u>4,466,322</u>	<u>4,634,112</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Employee Benefits Expense		2,903,885	2,996,828
Depreciation		55,890	63,734
Loss on Disposal of Assets		0	827
Other Operating Expenses		1,506,547	1,631,112
		<u>4,466,322</u>	<u>4,692,501</u>
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit) for year</b>	<b>11</b>	<u><u>0</u></u>	<u><u>(58,389)</u></u>

The accompanying notes form part of and are to be read in conjunction with these Financial Accounts.

## CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities:</b>			
Commonwealth of Australia		4,252,279	4,547,421
Interest received		9,849	12,546
Other receipts		50,894	78,086
Payments to suppliers and employees		(4,530,267)	(4,644,341)
Net cash from operating activities	A	(217,245)	(6,288)
<b>Cash flows from investing activities:</b>			
Payments for property, plant and equipment		0	0
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		0	0
Net cash used in investing activities		0	0
Cash flows from financing activities		0	0
Net increase in cash held		(217,245)	(6,288)
Opening balance of cash held		2,967,661	2,973,949
Cash balance at the end of the year	2	2,750,416	2,967,661

### A RECONCILIATION OF NET CASH PROVIDED FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES TO NET INCOME FOR THE YEAR

Net surplus/(deficit) for the year	0	(58,389)
Loss on disposal of assets	0	827
Depreciation	55,890	63,734
Increase/(decrease) in provisions	(5,974)	(11,602)
(Increase)/decrease in trade & other receivables	(53,579)	3,113
Increase/(decrease) in trade & other payables	(60,282)	50,382
Increase/(decrease) in unexpended funds	(153,300)	(54,353)
Net cash from operating activities	(217,245)	(6,288)

### B NON-CASH TRANSACTIONS

During the 2018/2019 financial year, the entity had no non-cash investing and financing activities which are not reflected in the cash flow statement.

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

	Accumulated Funds \$	Asset Replacement Reserve \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2017	1,035,766	0	1,035,766
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	(58,389)	0	(58,389)
<b>Balance as at 30 June 2018</b>	<u><u>977,377</u></u>	<u><u>0</u></u>	<u><u>977,377</u></u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	0	0	0
Transfer to Asset Replacement Reserve	(55,890)	55,890	0
<b>Balance as at 30 June 2019</b>	<u><u>921,487</u></u>	<u><u>55,890</u></u>	<u><u>977,377</u></u>



# NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

## 1. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

### A) BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

These financial statements are 'Special Purpose Financial Statements' that have been prepared in order to satisfy the terms and conditions of the Funding Agreement. The financial report has been prepared in accordance with the significant accounting policies disclosed below which the directors have determined are appropriate to meet the needs of the members.

The accounting standards that have been adopted in the preparation of this report are as follows:

AASB 101 "Presentation of Financial Statements"

AASB 107 "Statement of Cash Flows"

AASB 108 "Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors"

AASB 1048 "Interpretation of Standards"

AASB 1054 "Australian Additional Disclosures"

No other Australian Accounting Standards, Australian Accounting Interpretations or other authoritative pronouncements of the Australian Accounting Standards Board have been applied.

Western Australian Family Violence Prevention Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation received a grant from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet ('PM&C').

The accrual basis of accounting has been applied. All reports have been prepared on the historical cost basis.

### B) NON-CURRENT ASSETS

Non-Current Assets (except land and buildings) have been recorded in the financial statements at 30 June 2019 at fair value when transferred to the corporation, less accumulated depreciation or amortisation. Land and Buildings were independently valued in 2017 and adjustments were made as a result of those valuations. No further adjustments have been made to land and buildings in the current financial year. Depreciation/amortisation is calculated on a diminishing value basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets.

Useful lives for each class of depreciable asset are:	Years
Computer equipment	4
Office equipment	5
Furniture and fittings	10
Motor Vehicles	8
Buildings	40

## **NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019**

### **C) GOING CONCERN**

The financial report has been prepared on a going concern basis, which assumes continuity of normal business activities and the realisation of assets and the settlement of liabilities in the ordinary course of business.

The Western Australian Family Violence Prevention Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation has been granted a Project funding agreement under the Safety and Wellbeing Programme from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet that runs until 30 June 2020, and the ability of the organisation to continue as a going concern is dependent on receiving ongoing funding from the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet or securing alternative funding sources. As a result, there is a material uncertainty about whether the organisation will be able to continue as a going concern and whether they will be able to realise their assets and extinguish their liabilities in the normal course of business.

The financial report does not include adjustments relating to recoverability and classification of recorded asset amounts, or to the classification of liabilities that might be necessary should the organisation not continue as a going concern. Should the Corporation be wound up, or dissolved the amount that remains after dissolution and the satisfaction of all debts and liabilities shall be transferred to another organisation with similar purposes which is not carried on for profit or gain of its individual members.

### **D) ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

Accounts Payable, including accruals not yet billed, are recognised when the obligation arises to make future payments as a result of a purchase of assets or services. Accounts payable are generally settled within 30 days.

### **E) EMPLOYEE BENEFITS**

A liability is recognised for benefits accruing to employees in respect of wages and salaries, annual leave and long service leave. Long service leave is ascertained on a basis of longevity of service. Short term employee benefits are measured at their nominal value at reporting date.

### **F) UNEXPENDED FUNDS**

Unexpended grants are current liabilities which are incurred by unspent grant funds received each year or carried forward funds at reporting date. These funds are accounted for separately to ensure accuracy and meet contractual requirements.

### **G) GRANT INCOME POLICY**

Grant income is recognised as it is receivable, to the extent that the grant has been spent by the end of the financial year. Unspent grants are shown on the balance sheet as current liabilities.

## NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

Note		2019 \$	2018 \$
2	CURRENT ASSETS - CASH		
	Bank Accounts	2,749,016	466,261
	Petty Cash	1,400	1,400
	Term Deposits	0	2,500,000
		<u>2,750,416</u>	<u>2,967,661</u>
3	CURRENT ASSETS - RECEIVABLES		
	Others – General	36,215	1,885
	Bonds	45,045	25,796
		<u>81,260</u>	<u>27,681</u>
4	NON-CURRENT ASSETS - LAND & BUILDINGS		
	Land and Buildings at valuation (2017)	1,210,000	1,435,381
	Accumulated amortisation	(92,137)	(272,629)
	Leasehold improvements	155,586	155,586
	Accumulated amortisation	(155,586)	(155,586)
		<u>1,117,863</u>	<u>1,162,752</u>
5	NON-CURRENT ASSETS - PROPERTY, FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT		
	Property, Furniture & Equipment at cost	490,500	490,501
	Accumulated depreciation	(470,574)	(463,381)
		<u>19,926</u>	<u>27,120</u>
6	NON-CURRENT ASSETS - MOTOR VEHICLES		
	Motor Vehicles at cost	37,123	37,122
	Accumulated depreciation	(25,697)	(21,889)
		<u>11,426</u>	<u>15,233</u>
7	CURRENT LIABILITIES – ACCOUNTS PAYABLE		
	Trade Creditors	128,991	160,049
	Tax Liabilities	309,500	338,724
		<u>438,491</u>	<u>498,773</u>
8	CURRENT LIABILITIES - PROVISIONS		
	Annual Leave	145,749	157,747
	Long Service Leave	11,109	0
		<u>156,858</u>	<u>157,747</u>



## } NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE ACCOUNTS } FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

Note		2019 \$	2018 \$
9	CURRENT LIABILITIES – UNEXPENDED FUNDS		
	PM&C programs	2,329,195	2,477,495
	Department of Communities WA	0	5,000
		<u>2,329,195</u>	<u>2,482,495</u>
10	NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		
	Long Service Leave	78,970	84,055
		<u>78,970</u>	<u>84,055</u>
11	RETAINED SURPLUS		
	As at beginning of year	921,487	1,035,766
	Asset Replacement Reserve	55,890	0
	Net surplus/(deficit) for year	0	(58,389)
	As at end of year	<u>977,377</u>	<u>977,377</u>
12	OPERATING LEASE COMMITMENTS		
	Rental property commitments and motor vehicle leases across various sites are:		
	Less than one year	583,987	473,293
	Greater than one year but less than five years	134,003	763,862
	Total commitments	<u>717,990</u>	<u>1,237,155</u>
13	SUBSEQUENT EVENTS		
	Subsequent to the year end, the Western Australian Family Violence Prevention Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation was granted an extension to funding under the Third Action Plan with the National Indigenous Australians Agency.		
	There has been no other subsequent events up to the date of signing these statements.		

# } NOTES FOR PM&C PURPOSES } FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

## FVPLS FINANCIAL ACQUITTANCE STATEMENT 1 JULY 2018 - 30 JUNE 2019

(Activity 4-8CVNVK3)

### 1. Income and Expenditure

	Approved Budget 2019 \$	Actual 2019 \$
<b>Sources of Income</b>		
PM&C FVPLS Funding - Operational 2019	4,177,099	4,177,099
Carried Forward 2017/2018	96,056	96,053
Activity-generated income	0	50,894
Interest	0	9,849
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>4,273,155</b>	<b>4,333,895</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
<b>Expenditure items</b>		
<b>SALARIES</b>		
Salaries & On-costs	2,384,466	2,134,907
Superannuation	256,512	273,887
Workers Compensation	15,000	6,984
Allowances and Subsidy	314,074	297,361
Recruitment Costs	15,000	22,991
Training	24,000	32,631
Other Staff Costs	0	42,687
	<b>3,009,052</b>	<b>2,811,448</b>
Repairs and Maintenance	68,373	62,129
Audit & Accounting	15,000	13,683
Bank Charges	600	938
Cleaning	29,660	24,879
IT Support	89,336	155,128
Electricity & Gas	38,500	37,919
Marketing	16,000	41,022
Postage	11,200	11,412
Rents	424,667	406,345
Equipment	13,500	20,793
Telephone & Fax	41,000	42,726
Subscriptions	12,500	18,176
Office Supplies	32,650	25,732
Travel - Allowances	47,674	53,431
Travel - Fares	75,144	104,656

## } NOTES FOR PM&C PURPOSES } FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

Expenditure items (Con't)	Approved Budget 2019 \$	Actual 2019 \$
Travel - Accommodation	89,719	56,788
Insurance - PI, P Lia, Assets	32,905	11,435
MV - Fuel & Maintenance	41,800	15,083
MV - Lease	92,976	57,712
Community Legal Education	24,000	1,178
Briefings and Disbursements - (CIC Costs)	0	17,957
Rates and Charges	20,000	20,451
Board - Meeting Costs	5,000	3,990
Board Travel Costs	10,000	6,695
Meetings/Seminars	5,200	1,563
Program Specific	26,699	12,794
Consulting	0	18,406
Asset replacement reserve	0	55,890
Long Service Leave Liability	0	11,109
	<u>1,264,103</u>	<u>1,310,020</u>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<u>4,273,155</u>	<u>4,121,468</u>
 <b>1. Unexpended funds on operations</b>	 0	 212,427
 <b>2. Assets acquired with grant funds during financial year 2018-19</b>	 0	 0
 <b>Total Capital</b>	 <u>0</u>	 <u>0</u>
 <b>3. Unspent grant liability for activity</b>	 0	 212,427
Comprises:		
2018/2019 Unexpended funds	0	212,427
	<u>0</u>	<u>212,427</u>



# } NOTES FOR PM&C PURPOSES } FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

## THIRD ACTION PLAN FINANCIAL ACQUITTANCE STATEMENT 1 JULY 2018 - 30 JUNE 2019

(Activity 4-52GIAVZ)

### 1. Income and Expenditure

	Approved Budget 2019 \$	Actual 2019 \$
<b>Sources of Income</b>		
PM&C TAP Funding - Operational 2019	320,731	240,548
- Carry forward 2017/18	132,524	132,524
- 2018 / 19 early milestone Third Action Plan	0	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>453,255</b>	<b>373,072</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
<b>Expenditure items</b>		
<b>SALARIES</b>		
Salaries & On-costs	189,200	168,597
Superannuation	19,605	17,800
Workers Compensation	1,356	425
Allowances and Subsidy	17,172	3,924
Recruitment Costs	10,000	1,273
Training	4,310	3,684
	<b>241,643</b>	<b>195,703</b>
Repairs and Maintenance	2,623	2,580
Audit & Accounting	206	0
Cleaning	2,623	2,604
IT Support	10,971	10,956
Electricity & Gas	3,366	3,348
Marketing	6,180	6,168
Rents	41,091	41,076
Equipment	5,250	822
Telephone & Fax	2,808	3,817
Subscriptions	1,030	0
Office Supplies	2,388	36
Travel - Allowances	10,240	3,553
Travel - Fares	12,288	5,662
Travel - Accommodation	18,480	1,822
Insurance - PI, P Lia, Assets	2,353	0
Consulting	9,245	300
MV - Fuel & Maintenance	3,057	3,924

## } NOTES FOR PM&C PURPOSES } FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019

Expenditure items (Con't)	Approved Budget 2019 \$	Actual 2019 \$
MV - Lease	7,372	6,480
Meetings/Seminars	16,160	42
HR/Finance/Mgt OHead	53,881	55,961
	<u>211,612</u>	<u>149,151</u>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<u><u>453,255</u></u>	<u><u>344,854</u></u>
 <b>1. Unexpended funds on operations</b>	 0	 28,218
 <b>2. Assets acquired with grant funds during financial year 2018-19</b>	 0	 0
<b>Total Capital</b>	<u><u>0</u></u>	<u><u>0</u></u>
 <b>3. Unspent grant liability for activity</b>	 0	 28,218
Comprises:		
2018/2019 Unexpended funds	0	28,218
	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
	<u><u>0</u></u>	<u><u>28,218</u></u>

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIAN FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION LEGAL SERVICE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PRIME MINISTER & CABINET ("DPMC")**

### **Report on the Financial Acquittance Statement**

We have audited the accompanying Financial Acquittance Statement of Western Australian Family Violence Prevention Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation for the year ended 30 June 2019.

### *Responsibility for the Financial Acquittance Statement*

The directors of Western Australian Family Violence Prevention Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the Financial Acquittance Statement and have determined that the basis of preparation is appropriate to meet the requirements of the funding agreement with the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet. The responsibilities of the directors also include such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the Financial Acquittance Statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### *Auditor's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Financial Acquittance Statement 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 about whether the Financial Acquittance Statement is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the Financial Acquittance Statement and whether the funding was expended in accordance with the funding agreement. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the Financial Acquittance Statement, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entities preparation and fair presentation of the Financial Acquittance Statement 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 entities internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the Financial Acquittance Statement.

### **ACCOUNTANTS & ADVISORS**

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## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIAN FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION LEGAL SERVICE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PRIME MINISTER & CABINET ("DPMC") (CONT)**

The Financial Acquittance Statement has been prepared for distribution to the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet for the purpose of fulfilling the directors' financial reporting requirements under the funding agreement. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this audit report or on the Financial Acquittance Statement to which it relates to any person other than the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet, or for any other purpose for which it was prepared.

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

### *Auditor's Opinion*

In our opinion:

- the Financial Acquittance Statement is based on proper accounts and present fairly the financial transactions for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019; and
- the Financial Acquittance Statement is in accordance with the terms and conditions of the funding agreement 4-8CVNVK3 with the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet.

William Buck

William Buck Audit (WA) Pty Ltd  
ABN 67 125 012 124

CM

Conley Manifis  
Director  
Dated this 7<sup>th</sup> day of October 2019

## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIAN FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION LEGAL SERVICE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PRIME MINISTER & CABINET ("DPMC")**

### **Report on the Financial Acquittance Statement**

We have audited the accompanying Financial Acquittance Statement of Western Australian Family Violence Prevention Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation for the year ended 30 June 2019.

#### *Responsibility for the Financial Acquittance Statement*

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## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIAN FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION LEGAL SERVICE ABORIGINAL CORPORATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PRIME MINISTER & CABINET ("DPMC") (CONT)**

The Financial Acquittance Statement has been prepared for distribution to the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet for the purpose of fulfilling the directors' financial reporting requirements under the funding agreement. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this audit report or on the Financial Acquittance Statement to which it relates to any person other than the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet, or for any other purpose for which it was prepared.

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

### *Auditor's Opinion*

In our opinion:

- the Financial Acquittance Statement is based on proper accounts and present fairly the financial transactions for the period 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019; and
- the Financial Acquittance Statement is in accordance with the terms and conditions of the funding agreement 4-52GIAVZ-FVPLS Third Action Plan with the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet.

William Buck

William Buck Audit (WA) Pty Ltd  
ABN 67 125 012 124

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Conley Manifis  
Director  
Dated this 7<sup>th</sup> day of October 2019







## Significant Events 2019

12 February	Ochre Ribbon Campaigning
13 February	National Apology Day
16 March	National Close the Gap Day
15-19 May	Law Week
15-21 May	National Families Week
26 May	National Sorry Day
March - Late November	Silent Domestic Violence
2-9 July	National NAIDOC Week
4 August	National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Children's Day
9 August	International Day of the World's Indigenous People
25 November	White Ribbon Campaigning

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