



# 2021-22 ANNUAL REPORT

FIRST NATIONS WOMEN'S  
LEGAL SERVICE QLD INC



# FIRST NATIONS WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES QLD INC.

ABN: 42 109 450 961

Servicing North Queensland and Palm Island

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**For appointments:** Monday to Friday 9:00am to 4:00pm



## OUR LOGO

*The woman holding the child is the association. The flower represents the beauty of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. The vines represent the family and keeping culture alive.*

# Contents

Chairperson's Report_____	4 - 6
Treasurer's Report_____	7 - 9
Principal Solicitor's Report_____	10 - 26
Management Committee_____	27 - 28
Audited Financial Statements_____	29 - 51
Stakeholders, Staff and Volunteers_____	52 - 53
Final Acknowledgements_____	53

## TRADITIONAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First Nations Women's Legal Services Qld Inc (formerly the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ Inc) acknowledges and we pay our respects to the Wulgurakaba, Bindal and Bwgcolman peoples on whose lands we conduct our core business. We pay our respects to all Traditional Owners across whose lands we conduct our business. We pay our respects to First Nations elders past, present and emerging and acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded. It always was and always will be the lands of the traditional owners.

## WHO WE ARE

First Nations Women's Legal Services Qld Inc is a not-for-profit, community-controlled, culturally competent women's legal service, operated by and for First Nations women. Based in Townsville, we provide free legal services in Queensland in an area that extends across North Queensland from the Northern Territory border to Palm Island and from Sarina to the Torres Strait islands.

## OUR PLEDGE

- To provide an environment which is culturally competent and culturally safe
- To treat our clients with respect, courtesy and professionalism and to listen to their concerns
- To provide First Nations women with information about the law and the services we offer
- To respond to our clients' enquiries and requests for information in an accurate and timely manner
- To provide quality legal advice and legal representation to the extent of our resources
- To provide First Nations women with alternative/assisted legal referral if we are unable to assist them

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF ARTIST

The artwork in this report is the work of Minyaada Swan who is a proud Gugu-Badhun, Kamilaroi and Mitakoodi Woman. Minyaada was born in Moree, NSW and was raised in Canberra ACT. Minyaada has been drawing, painting and sculpting for many years and comes from a strong line of artistic women within her family.

# CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I acknowledge the Wulgurukaba, Bindal and Bwgcolman peoples across whose lands we conduct our core business. I pay my respects to the traditional owners past present and emerging across whose lands we conduct our business.

As the 2021-22 Chair of the First Nations Women's Legal Services Qld Inc. ("FNWLSQ"), I am pleased to present the Annual Report.

Over the last 12 months, FNWLSQ has been working hard to shape and extend our legal services to meet the needs of First Nations women in North Queensland.

At the 2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM), the Management Committee and membership of the then Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ voted unanimously to change the name of the organisation.

As the only legal service for First Nations Women in Queensland, we aim to meet the legal needs and community legal education for women and girls throughout Queensland. Changing the name to acknowledge First Nations women is an important first step to being more readily recognised by the women who need the service.

## Staff Members

Staff have been working hard to provide legal services, community engagement with First Nations women and participation in law reform activities relevant to First Nations women in Queensland.

On behalf of the Management Committee of FNWLSQ, I would like to thank the staff for their work during the year. The committee values the diligence, skill and integrity of the staff at FNWLSQ, in ensuring that services are professionally delivered to First Nations women.

Every part of the staff team has made valuable contributions to the work of the service and meeting the needs of First Nations women. I would like to thank Florence Onus and Andrea Kyle-Sailor for their cultural leadership and guidance to the service as well as their engagement in multiple community events, consultations and public enquiries throughout the year.

I thank the solicitors for their dedication and skill in legally advising and representing First Nations women, often in complex cases and in informing the law reform work of the service. I thank Jody Martin-Savage as client support officer for her direct support and encouragement to women involved in difficult and traumatic legal matters.



The administrative team led by Erica Kyle, with Minyaada Swan have been a valuable asset to the service and an important part of the service maintaining accountability and providing a culturally safe environment for women.

I thank the staff management team, Principal Solicitor, Cathy Pereira and Office Manager Cherie McLaughlin for their leadership and good management of the service.

Thank you to communications officer, Michelle Tyhuis and paralegal/researcher Aaminah Khan. Michelle has been streamlining and improving the service's communications as a culturally competent service. Aaminah has fostered an environment of enquiry through her research and analysis of important legal and social issues confronting the service and the community.

### **Management Committee Members**

I would like to acknowledge this year's Management Committee Members who have dedicated their own time to the governance tasks of FNWLSQ. The dedication from these strong and knowledgeable women, is reflected in the service's ongoing success.

Our members for the 2021-22 period have been Gail Barry, Chair; Topsy Tapim, Secretary; Bernice Hookey, Treasurer; and Nina Shibasaki, member.

### **Community and government agency engagement**

Florence Onus and Andrea Kyle-Sailor and other staff members have continued to be active in support of their communities. Some of the activities undertaken by them in the past year include:

Meeting with Deputy Director-General, Department of Child Safety, Youth Justice and Multi-cultural Affairs to discuss youth in Townsville

Workshops and legal information at the Townsville Women's Correction Centre with *Elders for Change*

- Engagement with individual women and group meetings to address domestic violence
- Supporting women on Palm Island in their dealings with police around domestic violence
- Participating in the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce enquiry
- Providing witness evidence (3 staff members) at the Commission of Inquiry into



#### Police Responses to domestic violence

- Presentations to schools and to an Indigenous Education workshop
- Cultural Awareness training to staff of community legal centres in Townsville and to students at JCU entering medicine and law
- Attendance at International Women's Day forum
- Staff information booth at NAIDOC Day celebrations

#### Law Reform

I commend staff on their contributions to work on law reform issues affecting First Nations women, including an interview and submission to the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce enquiry. Staff have contributed to research on Coercive Control and have made contributions to the review of the Anti-discrimination Act 1991 (Qld). Both of these issues are of special interest to First Nations women.

The service made a submission to the Criminal Law (Raising the Age of Responsibility) Amendment Bill 2021 and made submissions to the Commission of Inquiry into Police Responses to Domestic Violence.

FNWLSQ has also engaged in its own research to establish its position on the definition of "women". The FNWLSQ Management Committee has determined that sister girls are included in its definition of women and the service will continue to provide services accordingly.

#### Funding

I would like to thank the Commonwealth and State Government funders for their valued support for the work undertaken by FNWLSQ.

#### Department of Justice and Attorney General

I would like to thank the Department of Justice and Attorney General (QLD) for its continued support for the FNWLSQ and administering the State funding. Our organisation acknowledges with gratitude the securing of ongoing core funding and additional funding under the Vulnerable Women's Program for the period until 2025.

#### Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet

I would like to thank the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet ("DPMC") for its continued financial support under the Indigenous Women's Outreach Project ("IWOP") for the current funding period (2020-23) administered through the National Indigenous Australian Agency. I also thank the DPMC for its grant of 2021 under the Vulnerable Women's Program (distributed and administered by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (Qld)).

**GAIL BARRY**

*FNWLSQ Chairperson 2021-2022*

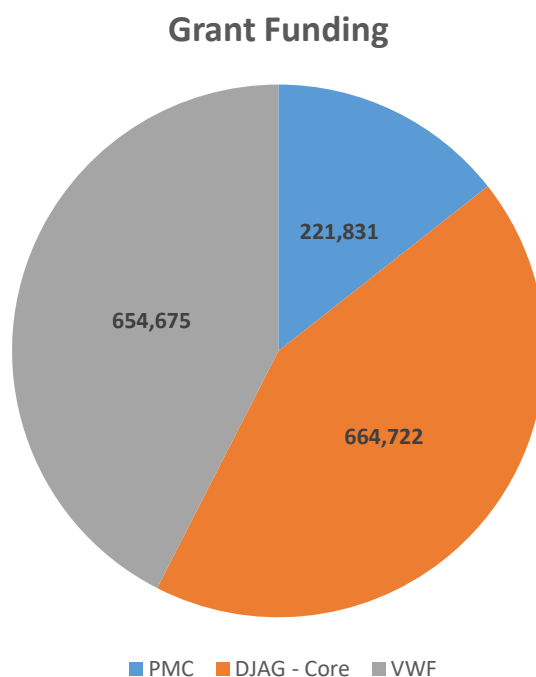
# TREASURER'S REPORT

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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## FINANCIAL YEAR SUMMARY:

This year has seen the continued support of two key funding programs, the Indigenous Women's Program Funding (IWP) as provided by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PMC), and family law and outreach services as provided by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General (DJAG). Further income has been received in the current year from DJAG for the Vulnerable Women's program. A total of **\$1,541,228** grant funding was received during the year. A breakdown of this funding received is below:



This funding has enabled the service to provide Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women with the means for early intervention, reducing the level of personal and family conflict as well as providing access to quality dispute resolution, rather than costly litigation.

Prior year unexpected funds of **\$221,894** were also injected into the service in FY22.

Expenditure totalled **\$1,202,992** which is an increase of approximately **\$300,000** compared to the prior year. The major costs included employee costs of **\$936,954**, operating costs of **\$37,642**, travel costs of **\$20,464** and client support services of

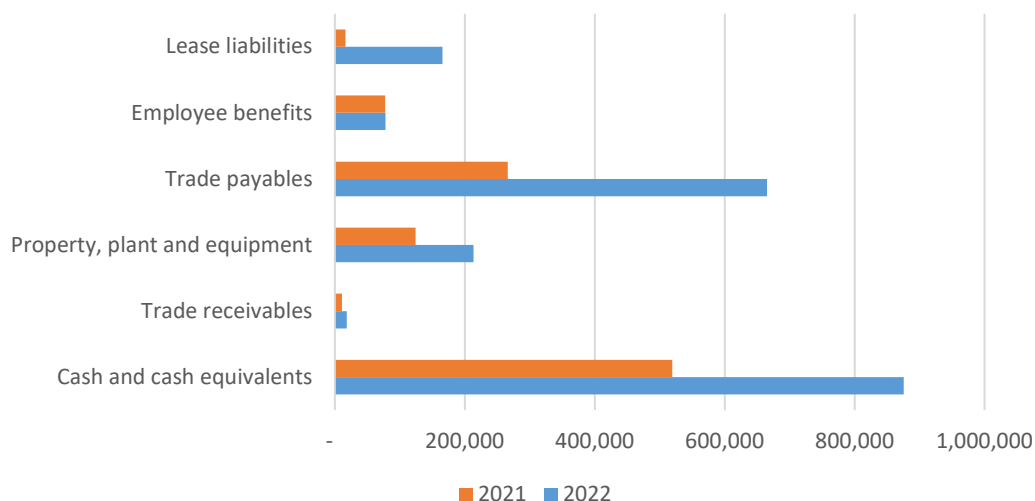
**\$18,797.** These costs are critical to the service carrying out its objectives. The Management Committee closely monitor actual to budget results on a bi-monthly basis.

Of the total funding received, a total of **\$518,106** had not been spent within FY22 and has been carried forward for use in FY23.

#### Key Financial Information:

- A total of **\$875,358** is currently held in cash and cash equivalents (including term deposits). This has increased by 40% from the prior year.
- **\$32,025** has been spend on premises and equipment purchases.
- At 30 June 2022, FNWLSQ has a current position of 1.12 (2021: 1.51), which means that the service has sufficient current assets to be able to pay current liabilities as and when they fall due. The current position has slightly decreased from 2021 due to the increase in unexpended grants.
- The total provision for employee benefits (annual leave and long service leave) has remained relatively consistent year on year.
- Extension of the current leased premises has resulted in an increased lease liability.
- The auditor, Coutts Redington Chartered Accountants, has issued an unmodified audit opinion on 3 November 2022.

#### Assets and Liabilities



#### Looking to the Future:

The service has successfully secured the following funding:

- PMC – confirmed to 30 June 2023, total of **\$221,831**
- DJAG (core funding) – confirmed to 30 June 2025, total of **\$2,078,677**



- DJAG (Vulnerable Women's Funding) – confirmed to 30 June 2025, total of **\$2,094,325**

In addition to the continued delivery of core services, management are still working to implement the new positions and other administration functions that have been introduced with the Vulnerable Women's Funding program.

The FY23 budget also includes increased investment in travel, training and professional development and client support.



# PRINCIPAL SOLICITOR'S REPORT

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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## OVERVIEW 2021-22

The 2021-22 financial year has been a dynamic year of change. At its 2021 Annual General Meeting, the members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ voted to change the organisation's name to the "First Nations Women's Legal Services Qld" ("FNWLSQ"). The name change was approved and the new Certificate of Incorporation was issued on 8 August 2022.

FNWLSQ was also fortunate to receive additional funding to meet the needs of vulnerable First Nations women during its 2021-22 funding year for a period extending to 2025. The funding was allocated by the Federal Government in the 2021 Budget for women's legal services to be distributed at the discretion of the State and Territory governments. The Women's Legal Services in Queensland were fortunate that the Queensland Attorney-General, Shannon Fentiman, distributed the funds in full to the three (3) Women's Legal Services in Queensland. First Nations Women's Legal Services Qld was a recipient of the funding and we have been working to improve and extend our services to better meet the needs of First Nations women in Queensland.

With the additional funding FNWLSQ sought to recruit more legal staff to meet the unmet demand for First Nations women in North Queensland and to employ support staff to support the legal work. Recruitment options to regional areas has always been a difficult exercise and the service gained a part-time advice solicitor but lost a full time casework solicitor who was unable to adjust to Townsville. At the end of the financial year we were fortunate to employ senior solicitor, Sunday Wedel, who has extensive experience in child protection and domestic violence. Recruitment and planning is ongoing to achieve the most beneficial and appropriate use of our funds for the service. We currently have dedicated and experienced staff including experienced solicitor, Tania Young and hard working support staff (community development / cultural advisers Florence Onus and Andrea Kyle-Sailor (on Palm Island), administration officer Erica Kyle, Client Support Officer, Jody Martin-Savage and to be joined by early career solicitor, Rachael Edwards and receptionist Minyaada Swan. We have also been fortunate to have recruited new talent, Aaminah Khan, legal researcher / paralegal. Due to the changes in staff, the service has experienced some disruption affecting its delivery of services to some extent.

In 2021-22 FNWLSQ also employed the services of First Nations project officer/communicator, Michelle Tyhuis, to assist in developing culturally appropriate resource materials to support First Nations women's access to legal information and access to legal services. Michelle has a degree in journalism in addition to an



extensive history of working to develop culturally competent materials for First Nations women and children. The development of resources is an ongoing work in progress.

COVID events continued to impact on the community and FNWLSQ staff and clients in 2021-22. In January through to early February 2022 the courts moved to remote attendance and the prison shut down to visitors, causing enormous stress on First Nations women in prison who had children in out of home care. On 4 January 2022, the Department of Child Safety Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs issued a statement to the effect that face to face visits with children in out of home care would cease, subject to weekly review, and be replaced by video and phone attendance by children where possible. Where alternative arrangements were not possible, children's visits with their family were simply suspended causing enormous distress to many First Nations children and their families. In the majority of cases that we are aware of, face to face visits were not replaced by equal or greater remote contact for children with their families.

FNWLSQ has continued to strive for a more holistic service for First Nations women. It has joined with the other Women's Legal Services in Queensland to evaluate the legal needs of women, the services provided, and to explore how we can collaborate to better meet the needs of women and in particular First Nations women, in Queensland. Since the end of the 2021-22 financial year, the service has recruited a specialist civil lawyer to provide additional legal support in areas of practice which the service has had limited capacity to assist with and which often arise as a consequence of domestic violence and the need to address multiple legal issues that arise during family law and domestic violence crises. Such matters include debt, property, rental (such as varying leases or finding housing due to domestic violence), public trustee and other matters which the service has had limited capacity to address until now.

### **SERVICES DELIVERED**

FNWLSQ provides a core service that consists of legal case work, legal advice, legal representation, community legal education and legal outreach clinics to improve accessibility for First Nations women in outlying suburban and regional and remote areas, as well as those seeking domestic violence services and women in prison. Although based in Townsville, FNWLSQ extends its services to First Nations women in Palm Island through our community development worker / cultural adviser and our DV duty lawyer service on Palm Island. It has also conducted outreach services to Charters Towers, the Women's Centre Aitkenvale, the Women's Shelters and to Ingham and the women's prison. Remote assistance is also provided to other areas of regional and remote Queensland such as Mount Isa and western Queensland,



including remote court attendance where there is no local legal service that can undertake legal representation.

FNWLSQ has met and/or exceeded most of its legal targets during the year. In spite of some of the challenges experienced during the year, most of our legal targets were exceeded (see Tables 3 and 4). In addition to core legal business, FNWLSQ has made contributions to law reform and public enquiries on behalf of and informed by First Nations women in North Queensland.

The service has engaged in substantial community engagement, community legal education and information aimed at raising awareness of the legal rights of First Nations women in Queensland and how to access legal services. We also participate in legal and community networks to share information and to work towards the improvement of services to First Nations women in Queensland.

FNWLSQ has provided cultural competence training for its own staff, together with staff of other community legal centres in Townsville, delivered by community development worker / cultural adviser, Florence Onus.

FNWLSQ's community development workers/cultural advisers, Andrea Kyle-Sailor on Palm Island and Florence Onus in Townsville, inform the community of legal services and connect women with legal services in Townsville, including the Townsville Correctional Centre's women's unit, and on Palm Island.

Since 2020 Jody Martin-Savage, client support officer, has assisted and supported our clients. Jody's contribution has been invaluable in providing non-legal support to women experiencing challenging and complex legal matters. Her work includes assisting First Nations women to attend court events, providing ongoing and up to date legal information relevant to women's legal cases, assistance to attend other court ordered events such as drug screening, medical, mediation and formal meetings; support during meetings with the Department of Child Safety and overall encouragement to First Nations women facing some of the most challenging experiences of their lives. Jody is passionate about assisting women to reunite with their children and providing support for a culturally competent response from service providers.

During the 2021-22 financial year, FNWLSQ has participated in law reform activities and enquiries, including the following:

- June-July 2021 – contribution to WLSA submission on the Federal Family Violence Act
- July 2021 – submission to the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce enquiry
- September 2021 – contribution to research work of consultant, *Clarity Consortium*, "Understanding and responding to Coercive Control"
- September 2021 – contribution to QHRC review team in relation to a Review of the *Anti-*



*discrimination Act 1991 (Qld)*

- October 2021 – contribution to a submission on the Child Protection reform and other legislation amendment Bill
- November 2021 – submission to the Criminal Law (Raising the Age of Responsibility) Amendment Bill 2021
- June 2022 – contribution to a submission on the consultation draft of the Queensland Legal Assistance Strategy
- June 2022 - Submission “Climate Change and Violence Against Women in the Torres Strait” by way of contribution to an enquiry into impacts of climate change
- June 2022 – 3 staff members were witnesses to the Commission of Inquiry into Police Responses to Domestic Violence
- June 2022 “Navigating Gender Diversity Issues as an Indigenous Women’s Legal Service” internal research paper

The community development workers/cultural advisers have provided cultural training, advocated for services for youth, participated in “Elders for Change” at the prison and elsewhere and contributed to the enquiry into the criminalisation of coercive control in Queensland. The work of the community development workers / cultural advisers has included:

- Meeting with Deputy Director-General, Department of Child Safety, Youth Justice and Multi-cultural Affairs
- Regular meetings and attendance at the Townsville Women’s Correction Centre with *Elders for Change*
- Legal information to women at the Townsville Women’s Correction Centre
- Leading the domestic violence mentoring group weekly, *Tiddas Yarning Circle*
- Cultural advice to organisations including Soroptomist International
- Presentation to Catholic Education Indigenous Education workshop
- Cultural advice to Hermit Park State School
- Meeting with Qld Corrective Services and Red Cross
- Meeting with Youth Justice – Restorative Justice Program “Proud Warriors” program
- Legal information to multiple community organisations including outreach services



- Attendance with solicitor at network meeting of DV Support Unit at Prospect and legal outreach clinic, Charters Towers
- Attend Police Cultural Unit Community Forum
- Legal Information to James Cook University students
- Informtion session to Community Education Counsellors Regional Workshop
- Cultural Awareness training to students at JCU entering medicine and law
- Participation in Pinangba research project (Pinangba delivers drug and alcohol rehabilitation services to Cape York Family Centre and Stagpole Street Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Unit)
- Presentation to Qld Education Community Education Regional Conference in September 2021
- Presentation at Qld Community Legal Education Workshop, Cairns in October 2021
- Attendance at “Changing the sentence: Overseeing Qld Youth Justice Reforms” by the Qld Family and Child Commission Forum
- Attendance at “Blurred Borders” CLE workshop, October 2021
- Participation Townsville Indigenous Network Forum, February 2022
- Attendance at Women’s Safety and Justice Taskforce Consultation forum
- Attendance at International Women’s Day forum run by Jess Hill in relation to domestic violence
- Attendance training on domestic and family violence impact on tenancy “When Violence affects your tenancy”
- Meeting with ATSILS Thru Care Team and State Manager
- Cultural advice to the Head of Policy Reform, Global Building Performance Network
- Court support for women on Palm Island
- Client and communication support to First Nations women, Palm Island and Townsville

FNWLSQ participates in a range of networks locally, state-wide and nationally, including but not exclusively, the Women’s Legal Services Australia network, Elders for Change, NQ Legal Assistance Forum (NQLAF), the Family Law Pathways Network, among others.

## **LEGAL ADVICE AND CASEWORK SERVICES**

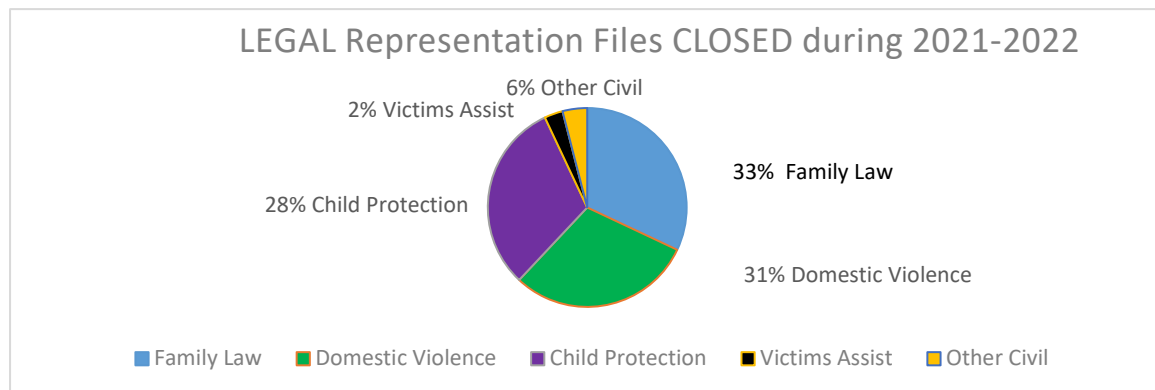
FNWLSQ has historically and during the 2021-22 financial year concentrated its legal practice in 3 core areas which have consistently been in greatest demand by First Nations women in North Queensland: Family Law (predominantly family dispute resolution, parenting and paternity), Domestic and Family Violence and Child Protection. We also provide assistance and representation in anti-discrimination / human rights law and assistance to bring claims for financial assistance



under the Victim Assist Queensland compensation scheme. We also assist women with Blue Card applications and reviews.

**Casework :** Considering the legal casework of FNWLSQ during the 2021-22 financial year, numbers in the three core areas of practice have been approximately equal (see Table 1).

**Table 1**



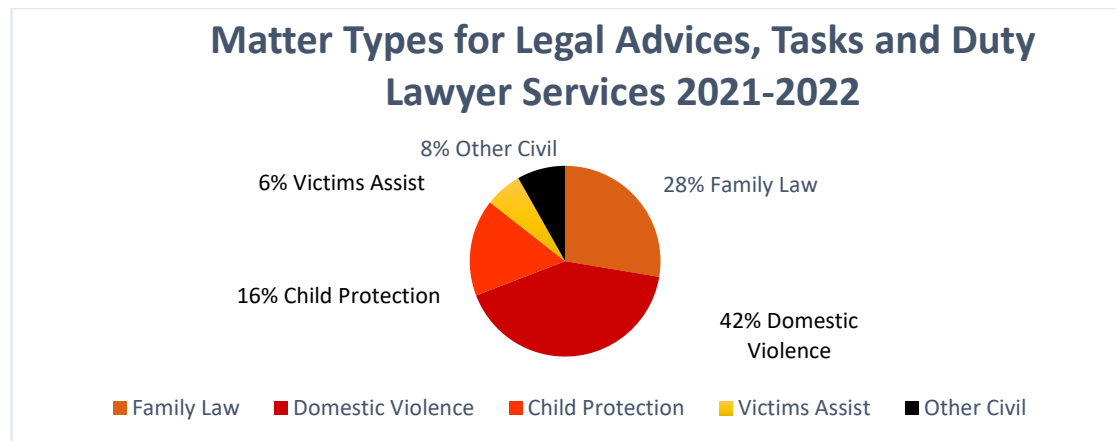
REPRESENTATION FILES (CLOSED)	NO	%
<b>FAMILY LAW</b>	38	33%
<b>DOMESTIC VIOLENCE</b>	36	31%
<b>CHILD PROTECTION</b>	32	28%
<b>VICTIMS ASSIST</b>	3	2%
<b>OTHER CIVIL</b>	7	6%

Although file numbers in the main areas are approximately equal, in practice the child protection and family law matters have often been more complex, more difficult for clients to navigate and more time consuming for clients and solicitors. Due to the complexity, these cases have often involved multiple applications, reports for court, and attendance at support services. Clients often require extensive legal and non-legal support.

### **Legal Advice, Tasks and Duty Lawyer Services**

As FNWLSQ provides a DV duty lawyer service on Palm Island, domestic / family violence represented nearly half of its discreet services, as shown in Table 2:

Table 2



LEGAL ADVICES AND TASKS	NO.	%
<b>FAMILY LAW</b>	318	28%
<b>DOMESTIC VIOLENCE</b>	478	41%
<b>CHILD PROTECTION</b>	189	17%
<b>VICTIMS ASSIST</b>	72	6%
<b>OTHER CIVIL</b>	94	8%

By contrast, as child protection matters usually require complex legal assistance and ongoing representation, they are significantly smaller proportion (16%) of the discreet services.

### *Domestic and Family Violence*

Domestic violence and domestic violence-related matters have continued to dominate the legal work of FNWLSQ. During the 2021-22 year, FNWLSQ provided 1,151 discreet tasks including legal advice, legal tasks and duty lawyer services in all areas of law. Domestic violence was indicated in at least 70% of all legal services provided.

### *Domestic violence Duty Lawyer service on Palm Island*

FNWLSQ has provided a domestic violence duty lawyer service on Palm Island since 2016. The provision of DFV duty lawyer services on Palm Island represent a significant commitment by FNWLSQ and an investment of time and resources for the service. Palm Island has a specialist DFV court which is held fortnightly. During the 2021-22 year, 72 DFV duty lawyer services were provided on Palm Island by solicitors Tania Young and Brooke Garland and principal solicitor, Cathy Pereira. Special tribute must be given to Andrea Kyle-Sailor, FNWLSQ's community development worker/cultural adviser on Palm Island. Andrea Kyle-Sailor is also a member of the Community

Justice Group and supports the duty lawyer service by informing women of court dates, assisting to get them to court, supporting clients and the solicitor by assisting in taking instructions and facilitating the solicitors' legal advice. Andrea is integral to FNWLSQ's duty lawyer service on Palm Island, which could not succeed without her.

Domestic violence applications are high in both criminal proceedings and in civil applications brought by police or by private application under the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012*. FNWLSQ is conscious of the need to work towards ending violence against women and children, consistent with the goals of the Draft National Plan 2022-32. FNWLSQ supports women on Palm Island by providing domestic and family violence information and liaising with other services including the Palm Island Community Justice Group, the Palm Island Community Company and the women's shelter. FNWLSQ attends the DFV operational working group to support women's accessibility to legal services and to build effective referral pathways for women needing family violence assistance. Andrea Kyle-Sailor also assists with DFV civil applications and related matters such as Victim Assist applications.

### ***Family law***

FNWLSQ provides assistance and legal representation to First Nations women in family dispute resolution and court representation in parenting matters and a small number of disputed paternity cases. We provide advice only in family law property matters. Family law casework during the 2021-22 financial year constituted one third (33%) of all legal cases opened during the year. Solicitor, Tania Young, has undertaken most of the casework in this area, much of which has been complex and has involved both serious criminal matters and issues of extensive domestic violence and coercive control. Tania has undertaken interim hearings and a number of matters have progressed to final hearing. In the latter part of the financial year, solicitor Rachael Edwards has undertaken a number of family law matters involving family dispute resolution and other pre-action procedures. The following is a sample of de-identified family law matters.

#### **Case 1**

FNWLSQ assisted "Amber"\* with a recovery order to have her 2 young children returned to her care. Amber's ex-partner removed the children from school and withheld them. FNWLSQ applied to the Court for an urgent recovery order. FNWLSQ were able to negotiate with Amber's ex-partner to successfully have the children returned to her care prior to the first court date. At the first court date we obtained a parenting order for Amber's ex-partner to have supervised time with the children.

\*Not her real name



**Case 2**

FNWLSQ represented “Sonya”\* with her family matter. Sonya’s time with her 4 children had been reduced to supervised time due to allegations of drug misuse. FNWLSQ assisted Sonya who was attending ATODS to increase her time with the children. After a period of time, FNWLSQ were able to negotiate a parenting order for the children to spend alternate weeks with Sonya.

*\*Not her real name*

**Case 3**

FNWLSQ assisted “Julie” with obtaining a Protection Order. Julie’s ex-partner was perpetrating coercive control on her and her child. Julie’s ex-partner was making wild allegations against Julie, which FNWLSQ assisted Julie in responding to. After 6 months of representing Julie in Court, a Protection Order with strict “no contact” conditions was made.

*\*Not her real name*

***Child Protection***

There is an ever increasing number of children throughout Australia being placed in out of home care. The fact that at least 1 in 9 First Nations children are placed in out of home care is a national tragedy and causes severe negative consequences for the children’s lives. Children who fail to cope with their out of home environments and exhibit behavioural indicators of trauma are often rejected by foster carers and end up placed in residential care, where their lives are often characterised by psychological trauma and behaviour which often progresses to criminal activities, with a predictable trajectory. FNWLSQ lawyers and non-legal staff try to assist families to retain the care of their children wherever possible to avoid the dire consequences of State custody.

Legal representation is offered by FNWLSQ at all stages from early intervention, to administrative processes, initial court applications by the Department of Child Safety Youth Justice and Multi-Cultural Affairs (“Child Safety”) and applications for Child Protection Orders by the Director of Child Protection Litigation.

In the 2021-22 year, Child Protection accounted for nearly one third of the legal casework numbers undertaken by FNWLSQ (but a significantly higher investment of time and resources). The 2021-22 year was characterised by a number of interim hearings and procedural applications assisting parties to intervene in child protection matters, opposing temporary custody of children to out of home care and supporting families to continue to care for their children where possible and to avoid out of home care.

Poverty, homelessness, mental health and domestic violence are common barriers to children remaining with their parents or being reunified with parents. Some of the issues related to the removal of children into out of home care also include drug and alcohol use. In our experience, the parents struggling with substance misuse and domestic violence issues are also often showing

signs of inter-generational trauma. We know this from clients' own accounts, provided directly or allude to it, or their family history comes to light in court material. There is a desperate need for therapeutic services to First Nations women, together with adequate social housing, therapeutic and learning support for children and practical support for families.

Both the community development workers and the client support officer are often called on outside business hours to assist families. Client support officer, Jody Martin-Savage provides support and guidance and practical solutions for parents whose children have been removed. She participates in family group meetings with the solicitors and the Department of Child Safety and assists to develop case plans outlining the child's needs, and issues for the parents to address. The client support officer assists women to access services, including housing, rehabilitation, parenting programs and medical support, among others.

#### Case 4

FNWLSQ assisted "Isabelle"\* and her family to have her newborn baby returned to the care of her and her family. FNWLSQ provided legal representation opposing the Department's application for custody of the baby, while the family and community and community support workers, reinforced pre-existing supports that Isabelle had already established to provide support for her and her baby. The baby has remained safe and well with her family and community support remains a part of Isabelle's and her baby's lives. *\*Not her real name*

#### Case 5

FNWLSQ supported "Rebecca"\* with legal advice, advocacy and attendance at meetings with the Department of Child Safety. We also provided legal representation at court. The Department of Child Safety recognised the substantial family support that Rebecca had and the work that she had done to address "risk issues" that the Department considered posed a risk to her children. Rebecca's children were returned to her full time care after a period in out of home care and kinship care. *\*Not her real name*

#### Case 6

FNWLSQ advocated for "Theresa"\* whose child was placed with kin. The department wanted to remove the very young child from his family and place him with strangers due to the temporary unavailability of the kin carer. The family were worried that this would cause the child to be scared, confused and traumatised. The family requested the help of FNWLSQ to keep the child in his own home with kin. One aspect that made this case particularly concerning was that the Department had been aware of the pending situation and had said it would arrange a kinship assessment for other family



members but failed to act on this intention until they were faced with an imminent application for placement of the child with a family member. The Department then prioritised its assessment and approved the child remaining in his own home in the care of one of his family carers. *\*Not her real name*

### ***Legal Outreach Services***

In addition to the Palm Island outreach and DFV duty lawyer service, during 2020-21, FNWLSQ solicitors provided legal outreach services in Charters Towers, Ingham, the North Qld Domestic Violence Resource Service (NQDVRS), the Women's Centre in Aitkenvale, the Women's Shelter and the Townsville Correctional Centre.

Outreach legal clinics and community engagement were provided regularly and in some cases on an "as needs" basis at the following places:

- Charters Towers (Prospect Community Centre; Warringnu Community Centre)
- The Women's Centre, Aitkenvale, Townsville (monthly)
- NQDVRS in Townsville (monthly)
- Hinchinbrook Community hub in Ingham
- Flora House and Elsie House women's shelters (initially fortnightly, transitioning to "as needs")
- Townsville Correctional Centre, Women's Unit.

### **Walk-in and on-demand services and referrals**

As part of its commitment to the principle of accessibility, FNWLSQ endeavours to provide legal advice / tasks on demand including services for walk-ins and requests by phone. Although "on demand" is not always possible, depending on availability of the solicitors, if a solicitor is not available we arrange a call back to the person as soon as possible to provide legal information, advice, tasks and/or legal representation or referrals. Call backs are prioritised according to assessed urgency. We endeavour to ensure early access to legal advice for women in crisis.

FNWLSQ receives referrals from the Qld Police Service (QPS) via the online referral system, for women who require assistance in areas of domestic violence, other civil or family law. Referrals usually arise from police attending callouts for domestic violence assistance.

### **Casework and working collaboratively and holistically**

FNWLSQ undertakes both simple advice / casework and complex casework involving multiple issues and intense support. A substantial amount of casework undertaken by FNWLSQ includes court representation. Women seeking legal representation are subject to assessment under casework guidelines. FNWLSQ case guidelines take into consideration a woman's need, her capacity, case merit, means and the service's capacity to adequately provide legal representation within the timeframe identified.



The women we assist with complex casework are often experiencing multiple disadvantage, such as domestic / family violence, intersectional discrimination, financial disadvantage, homelessness, unemployment, mental health and child protection issues. Women experiencing coercive control from a partner or recent ex-partner often feel overwhelmed and disempowered in dealing with the multiplicity of issues. It is for this reason that, under its additional funding, FNWLSQ has sought to diversify the skill base of our solicitors by employing a civil law solicitor to assist with complex matters involving multiple civil issues.

FNWLSQ also works in collaboration with a range of legal and non-legal support services to meet the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. We cross-refer to legal services such as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (“ATSILS”), Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Service (“QIFVLS”), Women’s shelters, North Queensland Women’s Legal Service, Legal Aid Qld and private law firms and other specialist community legal centres where FNWLSQ does not have the capacity to assist, or where there is a conflict of interest.

Non-legal services that we cross-refer to include the Townsville Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Service (“TAIHS”), North Qld Domestic Violence Resource Service (“NQDVRS”), the Women’s Centre, the Sexual Assault Response Team (“SART”), rehabilitation services and the Community Justice Groups in Townsville and on Palm Island.

The client support officer and the community development workers, have been particularly valuable in complex situations requiring holistic support. They are often able to assist in a culturally competent way to connect women with services quickly, such as assisting women to make housing applications and accompanying them to a police station to report domestic violence. The client support officer has often supported women to attend drug screens (failure to provide a drug screen when required in legal proceedings may be deemed a positive result although the reason for non-compliance may be transport or confusion or having other urgent commitments involving children), connecting women with other support services such as Social and Emotional Wellbeing services and negotiating early entry into rehabilitation services, among others.

### **Court Attendances and involvement with DFV specialist Court and other Courts**

In response to high numbers of domestic violence and its impact on women as the primary victims and children, in 2017 the Queensland Government established DFV specialist courts in a number of sites throughout the State including Townsville and Palm Island. FNWLSQ has been one of the stakeholders in the operational working group which has overseen the establishment and running of the DFV courts.



FNWLSQ continues to provide court representation in both the Townsville and Palm Island courts and FNWLSQ solicitors also appear in a number of courts in person and remotely where in-person appearance is not feasible and the court has granted leave for remote appearances.

During the 2021-22 financial year we provided representation in the following courts and tribunals:

- Specialist DFV courts in Townsville and Palm Island
- Magistrates Court, Children's Court and QCAT in Townsville
- Magistrates Court Beenleigh, remotely
- Ayr and Charters Towers Magistrates Courts, remotely
- The Federal Circuit and Family Court of Australia, Townsville

## CULTURAL COMPETENCY

As an identified service for First Nations women, cultural competence is critical to cultural safety and First Nations women feeling able to access legal services. FNWLSQ is managed by a committee of dedicated First Nations women and maintains identified positions within the organisation. FNWLSQ actively encourages the recruitment of First Nations women for positions within the organisation and to provide services and training for staff and management committee.

I would like to acknowledge and thank Florence Onus for her ongoing in-house cultural competency training during the 2021-22 year. FNWLSQ aims to provide comprehensive cultural competence training to all staff at least biennially. Florence Onus provided a full day of cultural competence training to staff of FNWLSQ and other community legal centres in Townsville during this financial year in November 2021.

I would like to acknowledge and thank Andrea Kyle-Sailor who provides cultural competency induction and ongoing cultural guidance for solicitors working on Palm Island, as well as cultural support for solicitors when interacting with First Nations women and community organisations on Palm Island.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

FNWLSQ staff actively participate in community events and law reform activities which promote the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

Florence Onus and Andrea Kyle-Sailor have engaged in a wide range of community events and consultations, including support for legal outreach services, engagement with the Palm Island Community Company, attendance and representation at the 2022 NAIDOC Day events, participation with groups supporting women in prison, including CREST, Sisters Inside and PICC. Florence leads the TIDDAS healing and mentoring group for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women recovering from domestic and family violence, which meets weekly. Andrea is an active member of the Palm Island Community Justice Group and an elected member of the Palm Island Council. Florence has also been involved in a collaborative project with PICC, providing support to women in prison on

their own healing journey from domestic violence and other trauma. Florence has presented at a range of events including culturally competent information exchanges and school presentations.

## ACCOUNTABILITY

During the 2021-22 FNWLSQ received funding through:

- a) the Qld Department of Justice and Attorney-General both for generalist services and also the Vulnerable Women's funding; and
- b) Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet managed through the National Indigenous Australians Agency.

FNWLSQ has met and exceeded most 2020-21 annual targets. Our combined compliance under both funding streams is contained in the following table:

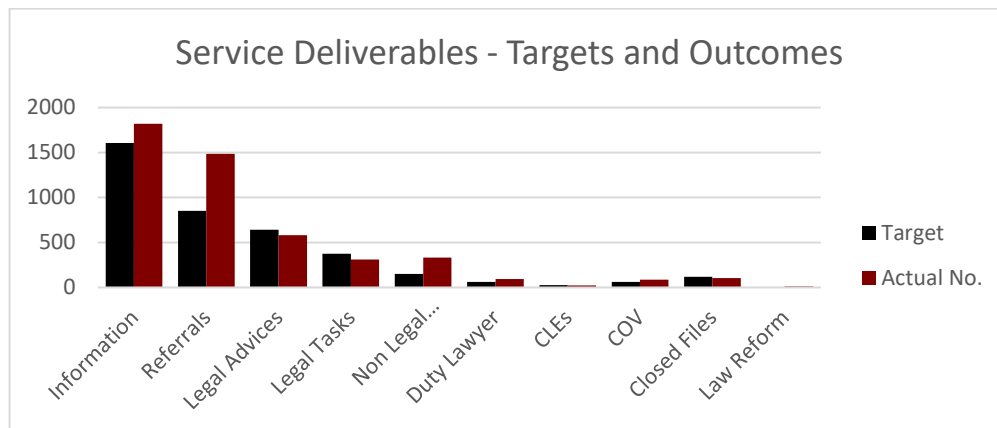
**Table 3**

### *Targets and Compliance*

Service Deliverables		Target	Actual No.
Information		1605	1821
Referrals		850	1485
Legal Advices		643	581
Legal Tasks		375	311
Non Legal Support		150	332
Duty Lawyer		60	92
CLE Resources		9	2
CLE Activities		17	22
Dispute Resolution	Opened	-	
	Closed	10	13
Court/ Other Representation	Opened	30	31
	Closed	110	103
Community Outreach Visits		60	87
Law Reform		6	10



Table 4



## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

FNWLSQ works collaboratively with the community legal sector, other legal providers and community support services. Community partnerships have helped to build strength in promoting the safety of women and their children by improving awareness among other community organisations and increasing collaborative planning and engagement. Collaboration addresses cost efficiency in the community legal sector by sharing resources and avoiding duplication of services. Where there is a specialist or complementary service, clients have the benefit of the best service available.

On behalf of FNWLSQ, I would to acknowledge and thank our community partners during the 2021-22 year, including:

- Townsville Community Justice Group
- Palm Island Community Corporation
- Palm Island Community Justice Group (referral pathways)
- The Women's Shelter, Palm Island
- North Queensland Domestic Violence Resource Service ("NQDVRS")
- Women's Centre Aitkenvale (monthly legal clinic)
- Yumba Meta Housing and Flora House and Elsie House Women's Shelters
- Victim Assist Queensland
- Townsville Aboriginal and Islander Health Service ("TAIHS")
- Qld Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak (QATSICPP)
- North Queensland Women's Legal Service (cross-referrals)
- Townsville Community Law CLC ("TCL"), Legal Aid Queensland ("LAQ"), and Qld Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service ("QIFVLS") (cross referrals and collaboration through the North Queensland Legal Aid Forum ("NQLAF"))
- James Cook University's student placement program Community Gro Community Centre
- The Operational Working Group for the specialist DV courts on Palm Island and in Townsville
- Warringnu First Nations Community Centre, Charters Towers
- Sexual Assault Response Team

- QPS Police Referral system

## **NQLAF**

FNWLSQ has consistently attended and participated in the North Queensland Legal Assistance Forum (NQLAF) meetings during the 2021-22 year.

## **CPD and Cross Check**

CPD, and Cross Check requirements were met during the year. FNWLSQ successfully completed its cross check of the 2021-22 legal files on 4 October 2022.

## **Other Acknowledgements**

FNWLSQ thanks staff at CLCQld for their dedication and proactive support for CLC's in Queensland, for providing forums for leadership and collaboration, training and support for accreditation and best practice within CLC's in Queensland.

## **Funders and Donors**

On behalf of FNWLSQ I thank our funding bodies for their ongoing support for the service. In particular I would like to thank the following.

We thank the Queensland Department of Justice and Attorney General (DJAG) for its ongoing provision of funding to our service and for funding and recognising the need for our Palm Island services.

We thank the Department of Justice and Attorney General for the core funding that has been sustaining their service for sixteen (16) years.

Special thanks to the Queensland Attorney General and her department for her commitment to supporting the rights of vulnerable women through the sustained support of women's legal services in Queensland, including the funding designated under the May 2021 Federal budget for Women's Legal Services, which first became available to FNWLSQ on 1 November 2021.

We thank the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet for its funding under the Indigenous Women's Outreach Project.

We thank the CLSP team, in particular Kate Volk and Sarah Hellen, for management of the community legal service program.



## **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

Many thanks as always to the members of the management committee who have given their time freely, their expertise and guidance to FNWLSQ during the 2021-22 year. The committee is to be commended for their consistent and active interest in the work of the service, their promotion of the service and their active engagement in issues affecting the service including name change and law reform issues. I speak for all staff in expressing our appreciation and gratitude for their dedication and guidance to the service throughout the year.

## **STAFF and VOLUNTEERS**

Thanks are due to all staff of FNWLSQ who have worked extremely hard throughout the 2020-21 year.

## **Accreditation**

FNWLSQ is an accredited community legal centre and has continued to review its policies, procedures and delegations. FNWLSQ holds a certificate of accreditation, current to 2021-2023.

**CATHY PEREIRA**

*Principal Solicitor / Co-ordinator*





## **FNWLSQ MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**



**GAIL BARRY**  
2021-2022 *Chairperson*

Gail is a First Nation's Woman and a descendant of her mother's Traditional Owner clan Kuku Nyungkal within the Eastern Kuku Yalanji Nation, Cape York, Far North Queensland. Also, she is a descendant of her father's Traditional Owners, the Waanyi Nation from North West Queensland. Also, she identifies as a proud Bwgcolman from Palm Island.

She was elected to ATSIWLSNQ (as it then was) in 2020 and is very proud to be a part of a proactive and hardworking organisation.

Currently, she is a member of the Elders for Change, a Red Cross initiative to support our most vulnerable and disadvantaged Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within Townsville region.

In 2015, Gail graduated from James Cook University with a Bachelor of Business degree, then in 2017, graduated with a Master of Business Administration. She hopes to be a role model for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to consider education as a tool to build a good life.



**TOPSY MOLA (TAPIM)**  
2021-2022, *Secretary*

Topsy is a proud Daureb and Waggadagam woman with ties to Murray Island on her father's side, and Mabuiag Island on her mother's side/ Topsy has been an active member of FNWLSQ since 2017. Topsy works as the Community Connect Worker at the Upper Ross Community Centre (Community Gro), providing assistance as a cultural advisor, mentor and facilitator.



## **BERNICE HOOKEY**

*2021-2022, Treasurer*

Bernice a proud descendent of the Waanyi People in the Lower Gulf of Carpentaria, Queensland, cycle-breaker mum, influential changemaker, an accomplished speaker, author, mentor and leader.

She has held roles in senior management directly reporting to General Managers, CEO's and successful family business operations, and founder of MZB Empowerment. Bernice serves on a number of boards in her community, and national level to provide advice to and contribute to organisational decision-making in cultural expertise.

Bernice provides a unique, culturally safe environment, accountability, tailored design and the mentorship you envision to achieve change and transform into the cross-cultural exchange as at the same time respectful boundaries. She's like the transformation scout challenging community innovation.

Bernice is a survivor of disempowerment, feeling of unworthiness, well-being depreciation and has overcome little or limited opportunity in any prevention into the culture of the right to speak up. Bernice has lived it and experienced it; that's where her learnings and experience come in.



## **NINA SHIBASAKI**

*2021-2022 Member*

Nina is a proud Dauareb woman from Murray Island, that is located in the Eastern Islands of Zenadth Kes (Torres Strait). Nina is the newest committee member of FNWLSQ, joining us in February 2020 as our Treasurer. Nina has extensive community experience, having previously worked at Townsville Aboriginal and Islander Health Services (TAIHS) for 14 years as a CPAC worker and Recognised Entity Advisor/FGM facilitator. Nina currently works as an Anti-Violence Advisor with Sisters Inside.

# **Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Womens Legal Service NQ Inc**

ABN: 42 109 450 961

## **Financial Statements**

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022



**Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Womens Legal Service NQ Inc**

ABN: 42 109 450 961

**Contents****For the Year Ended 30 June 2022**

	Page
<b>Financial Statements</b>	
Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income	1
Statement of Financial Position	2
Statement of Changes in Equity	3
Statement of Cash Flows	4
Notes to the Financial Statements	5
Responsible Person's Declaration	14
Independent Audit Report	20

## Aboriginal &amp; Torres Strait Islander Womens Legal Service NQ Inc

ABN: 42 109 450 961

**Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income**  
**For the Year Ended 30 June 2022**

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>Revenue</b>			
Grants		1,235,015	907,406
Interest - investment		424	1,227
ATO Cash Flow Boost		-	37,500
Other income		465	1,860
<b>Total revenue</b>		<b>1,235,904</b>	<b>947,993</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Employee benefits expense		(936,954)	(718,233)
Depreciation expense		(40,230)	(31,638)
Accounting fees		(20,480)	(19,680)
Auditors remuneration		(52)	(52)
Client support services		(18,797)	(12,943)
Insurance		(6,519)	(9,133)
Printing and stationery		(15,103)	(8,502)
Lease interest		(3,433)	(10,882)
Rent		(26,434)	(3,363)
Telephone and fax		(10,110)	(10,548)
Travelling expenses		(20,464)	(9,904)
Other expenses	4	(104,416)	(58,384)
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>(1,202,992)</b>	<b>(893,262)</b>
<b>Surplus/(deficit) before income tax</b>		<b>32,912</b>	<b>54,731</b>
Income tax expense		-	-
<b>Surplus/(deficit) after income tax expense</b>		<b>32,912</b>	<b>54,731</b>
Other comprehensive income		-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>32,912</b>	<b>54,731</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

1

**Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Womens Legal Service NQ Inc**

ABN: 42 109 450 961

**Statement of Financial Position****As At 30 June 2022**

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents		725,860	388,527
Trade and other receivables	5	18,104	10,804
Other financial assets	6	149,498	130,663
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>893,462</b>	<b>529,994</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	7	213,547	124,204
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>213,547</b>	<b>124,204</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>1,107,009</b>	<b>654,198</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	8	632,957	266,167
Employee benefits	9	68,741	68,363
Lease liability		62,377	15,806
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>764,075</b>	<b>350,336</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Employee benefits	9	9,377	9,116
Lease liability		103,279	97,380
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>112,656</b>	<b>106,496</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>876,731</b>	<b>456,832</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>230,278</b>	<b>197,366</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained surplus		230,278	197,366
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>230,278</b>	<b>197,366</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

2



**Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Womens Legal Service NQ Inc**

ABN: 42 109 450 961

**Statement of Changes in Equity  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2022****2022**

	Retained Surplus	Total
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2021	197,366	197,366
Deficit for the year	32,912	32,912
<b>Balance at 30 June 2022</b>	<b>230,278</b>	<b>230,278</b>

**2021**

	Retained Surplus	Total
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July 2020	142,635	142,635
Surplus for the year	54,731	54,731
<b>Balance at 30 June 2021</b>	<b>197,366</b>	<b>197,366</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

3

**Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Womens Legal Service NQ Inc**

ABN: 42 109 460 961

**Statement of Cash Flows****For the Year Ended 30 June 2022**

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Receipts from customers		1,534,392	1,102,115
Payments to suppliers and employees		(1,098,112)	(848,683)
Interest received		424	1,227
Finance costs		(3,433)	(10,882)
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	10	<u>433,271</u>	<u>243,777</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>			
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(32,025)	(17,229)
Reduction of lease liability		(45,078)	(24,122)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities		<u>(77,103)</u>	<u>(41,351)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held		356,168	202,426
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		<u>519,190</u>	<u>316,764</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year		<u>875,358</u>	<u>519,190</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

4

## Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Womens Legal Service NQ Inc

ABN: 42 109 460 961

### Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

The financial report covers Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Womens Legal Service NQ Inc as an individual entity. Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Womens Legal Service NQ Inc is a not-for-profit Association, registered and domiciled in Australia.

The principal activities of the Association for the year ended 30 June 2022 were to provide legal advice and representation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women in North Queensland.

The functional and presentation currency of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Womens Legal Service NQ Inc is Australian dollars.

Comparatives are consistent with prior years, unless otherwise stated.

#### 1 Basis of Preparation

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

Significant accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and are consistent with prior reporting periods unless otherwise stated.

#### 2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

##### (a) Revenue and other income

Revenue is recognised at an amount that reflects the consideration to which the company is expected to be entitled in exchange for transferring goods or services to a customer. For each contract with a customer, the company: identifies the contract with a customer; identifies the performance obligations in the contract; determines the transaction price which takes into account estimates of variable consideration and the time value of money; allocates the transaction price to the separate performance obligations on the basis of the relative stand-alone selling price of each distinct good or service to be delivered; and recognises revenue when or as each performance obligation is satisfied in a manner that depicts the transfer to the customer of the goods or services promised.

##### Grant revenue

Government grants are recognised at fair value where there is reasonable assurance that the grant will be received and all grant conditions will be met. Grants relating to expense items are recognised as income over the periods necessary to match the grant to the costs they are compensating. Grants relating to assets are credited to deferred income at fair value and are credited to income over the expected useful life of the asset on a straight-line basis.

##### Other income

Other income is recognised on an accruals basis when the Association is entitled to it.

##### (b) Income Tax

The Association is exempt from income tax under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.



## Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Womens Legal Service NQ Inc

ABN: 42 109 450 961

### Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

#### 2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

##### (c) Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO).

Receivables and payable are stated inclusive of GST.

Cash flows in the statement of cash flows are included on a gross basis and the GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is classified as operating cash flows.

##### (d) Property, plant and equipment

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

Items of property, plant and equipment acquired for significantly less than fair value have been recorded at the acquisition date fair value.

##### Land and buildings

Land and buildings are measured using the revaluation model.

##### Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment are measured using the cost model.

##### Depreciation

Property, plant and equipment, excluding freehold land, is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the asset's useful life to the Association, commencing when the asset is ready for use.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable asset are shown below:

Fixed asset class	Depreciation rate
Plant and Equipment	20-50%
Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings	10-25%
Motor Vehicles	25-33%

At the end of each annual reporting period, the depreciation method, useful life and residual value of each asset is reviewed. Any revisions are accounted for prospectively as a change in estimate.

##### (e) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprises cash on hand, demand deposits and short-term investments which are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

## Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Womens Legal Service NQ Inc

ABN: 42 109 450 961

### Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

#### 2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

##### (f) Leases

At inception of a contract, the Association assesses whether a lease exists.

##### Lessee accounting

The non-lease components included in the lease agreement have been separated and are recognised as an expense as incurred.

##### (i) Right-of-use asset

At the lease commencement, the Association recognises a right-of-use asset and associated lease liability for the lease term. The lease term includes extension periods where the Association believes it is reasonably certain that the option will be exercised.

The right-of-use asset is measured using the cost model where cost on initial recognition comprises of the lease liability, initial direct costs, prepaid lease payments, estimated cost of removal and restoration less any lease incentives received.

The right-of-use asset is depreciated over the lease term on a straight line basis and assessed for impairment in accordance with the impairment of assets accounting policy.

##### (ii) Lease liability

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the remaining lease payments at the commencement of the lease. The discount rate is the rate implicit in the lease, however where this cannot be readily determined then the Association's incremental borrowing rate is used.

Subsequent to initial recognition, the lease liability is measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method. The lease liability is remeasured whether there is a lease modification, change in estimate of the lease term or index upon which the lease payments are based (e.g. CPI) or a change in the Association's assessment of lease term.

Where the lease liability is remeasured, the right-of-use asset is adjusted to reflect the remeasurement or is recorded in profit or loss if the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset has been reduced to zero.

##### Exceptions to lease accounting

The Association has elected to apply the exceptions to lease accounting for both short-term leases (i.e. leases with a term of less than or equal to 12 months) and leases of low-value assets. The Association recognises the payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

## Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Womens Legal Service NQ Inc

ABN: 42 109 450 961

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

### 2 Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

#### (g) Employee benefits

Provision is made for the Association's liability for employee benefits, those benefits that are expected to be wholly settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled.

Employee benefits expected to be settled more than one year after the end of the reporting period have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits. In determining the liability, consideration is given to employee wage increases and the probability that the employee may satisfy vesting requirements. Cashflows are discounted using market yields on high quality corporate bond rates incorporating bonds rated AAA or AA by credit agencies, with terms to maturity that match the expected timing of cashflows. Changes in the measurement of the liability are recognised in profit or loss.

#### (h) Current and non-current classification

Assets and liabilities are presented in the statement of financial position based on current and non-current classification.

An asset is classified as current when: it is either expected to be realised or intended to be sold or consumed in the incorporated association's normal operating cycle; it is held primarily for the purpose of trading; it is expected to be realised within 12 months after the reporting period; or the asset is cash or cash equivalent unless restricted from being exchanged or used to settle a liability for at least 12 months after the reporting period. All other assets are classified as non-current.

A liability is classified as current when: it is either expected to be settled in the incorporated association's normal operating cycle; it is held primarily for the purpose of trading; it is due to be settled within 12 months after the reporting period; or there is no unconditional right to defer the settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the reporting period. All other liabilities are classified as non-current.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities are always classified as non-current.

### 3 Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments

Those charged with governance make estimates and judgements during the preparation of these financial statements regarding assumptions about current and future events affecting transactions and balances.

These estimates and judgements are based on the best information available at the time of preparing the financial statements, however as additional information is known then the actual results may differ from the estimates.

The significant estimates and judgements made have been described below.

#### Key estimates- estimation of useful life of assets

The Company determines the estimated useful lives and related depreciation charges for its property, plant and equipment. The useful lives could change significantly as result of technical innovations or some other event. The depreciation will increase where the useful lives are less than previously estimated lives, or technically obsolete or non-strategic assets that have been abandoned or sold will be written off or written down.



**Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Womens Legal Service NQ Inc**

ABN: 42 109 450 961

**Notes to the Financial Statements**

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

**3 Critical Accounting Estimates and Judgments**
**Key estimates - provisions**

As described in the accounting policies, provisions are measured at management's best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period. These estimates are made taking into account a range of possible outcomes and will vary as further information is obtained.

**4 Other expenses**

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Computer expenses	19,135	13,108
Fees & permits	258	94
Meeting expenses	1,763	264
Membership fees	9,884	10,415
Motor vehicle expenses	7,076	4,409
Operating expenses	37,642	14,289
Publication & infor resources	990	990
Relocation expenses	918	533
Security expenses	-	740
Training & development (staff)	8,128	3,153
Uniforms	-	880
Utilities	14,156	9,509
Consultancy fees	4,466	-
<b>Total other expenses</b>	<b>104,416</b>	<b>58,384</b>

**5 Trade and other receivables**

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Prepayments	13,075	10,634
Accrued income	175	170
Rental bond	4,854	-
<b>Total other assets</b>	<b>18,104</b>	<b>10,804</b>

**6 Other Financial Assets**

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Financial assets at amortized cost	149,498	130,663
<b>Total current other financial assets</b>	<b>149,498</b>	<b>130,663</b>

## Aboriginal &amp; Torres Strait Islander Womens Legal Service NQ Inc

ABN: 42 109 450 961

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

## 7 Property, plant and equipment

*Right-of-use asset - building*

At cost	191,017	240,076
Accumulated depreciation	(26,530)	(143,870)
Total right-of-use asset - building	164,487	96,206

*Furniture, fixtures and fittings*

At cost	13,275	9,144
Accumulated depreciation	(7,877)	(7,563)
Total furniture, fixtures and fittings	5,398	1,581

*Motor vehicles*

At cost	23,023	23,023
Accumulated depreciation	(20,339)	(19,034)
Total motor vehicles	2,684	3,989

*Plant and equipment*

At cost	79,335	51,442
Accumulated depreciation	(38,357)	(29,014)
Total plant and equipment	40,978	22,428

<b>Total property, plant and equipment</b>	<b>213,547</b>	<b>124,204</b>
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## (a) Movements in Carrying Amounts

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year:

	Right-of-Use Asset Building	Furniture, Fixtures and Fittings	Motor Vehicles	Plant and Equipment	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Year ended 30 June 2022</b>					
Balance at the beginning of the year	96,206	1,581	3,989	22,428	124,204
Additions	191,017	4,131	-	27,894	223,042
Decreases due to change of lease	(93,468)	-	-	-	(93,468)
Depreciation expense	(29,268)	(314)	(1,306)	(9,343)	(40,231)
<b>Balance at the end of the year</b>	<b>164,487</b>	<b>5,398</b>	<b>2,683</b>	<b>40,979</b>	<b>213,547</b>

# Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Womens Legal Service NQ Inc

ABN: 42 109 460 961

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

### 8 Trade and Other Payables

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
CURRENT			
Trade payables		26,600	4,727
GST payable		22,431	12,361
Superannuation payable		32,200	19,461
Unexpended grants		518,106	211,894
PAYG payable		33,620	17,724
<b>Total trade and other payables</b>		<b>632,957</b>	<b>266,167</b>

Trade and other payables are unsecured, non-interest bearing and are normally settled within 30 days. The carrying value of trade and other payables is considered a reasonable approximation of fair value due to the short-term nature of the balances.

### 9 Employee Benefits

	2022 \$	2021 \$
CURRENT		
Long service leave	6,426	24,739
Annual leave	62,315	43,624
<b>Total current employee benefits</b>	<b>68,741</b>	<b>68,363</b>
	<b>2022 \$</b>	<b>2021 \$</b>
NON-CURRENT		
Long service leave	9,377	9,116
<b>Total non-current employee benefits</b>	<b>9,377</b>	<b>9,116</b>

### 10 Cash Flow Information

#### (a) Reconciliation of cash

	2022 \$	2021 \$
Cash at the end of the financial year as shown in the statement of cash flows is reconciled to items in the statement of financial position as follows:		
Cash and cash equivalents	725,860	388,527
Other financial assets	149,498	130,663
<b>Total cash per statement of cash flows</b>	<b>875,358</b>	<b>519,190</b>



## Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Womens Legal Service NQ Inc

ABN: 42 109 450 961

### Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2022

#### 10 Cash Flow Information

##### 10 Cash Flow Information

##### (b) Reconciliation of result for the year to cashflows from operating activities

Reconciliation of net income to net cash provided by operating activities:

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	32,912	54,731
Cash flows excluded from profit attributable to operating activities		
Non-cash flows in profit:		
- depreciation	40,230	31,638
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
- (increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(7,301)	6,716
- increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	60,578	137,551
- (increase)/decrease in other liabilities	306,212	-
- increase/(decrease) in employee benefits	640	13,141
Cashflows from operations	433,271	243,777

#### 11 Key Management Personnel Disclosures

The remuneration paid to key management personnel of the Association is \$ 141,022 (2021: \$ 119,920).

#### 12 Related Parties

Key management personnel - refer to Note 11.

There were no transactions with related parties during the current and previous financial year.

#### 13 Commitments and Contingencies

In the opinion of those charged with governance, the Association did not have any commitments and contingencies at 30 June 2022 (30 June 2021: None).

#### 14 Events after the end of the Reporting Period

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

#### 15 Statutory Information

The registered office and principal place of business of the company is:

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Womens Legal Service NQ Inc  
Level 3, Suite 1, 42 Sturt Street  
TOWNSVILLE QLD 4810

**Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Womens Legal Service NQ Inc**

ABN: 42 109 450 961

**Notes to the Financial Statements****For the Year Ended 30 June 2022****16 Economic Dependency**

The Association is dependent upon grant funding from the various government funding bodies to continue its current level of activities. Grant revenue represents majority of total revenue and is received from Legal Aid Queensland and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Legal Aid Queensland have confirmed that funding will continue to the Association until 30 June 2023 and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet have confirmed that funding will continue until 30 June 2025.

**Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Womens Legal Service NQ Inc**

ABN: 42 109 450 961

**Responsible Person's Declaration**

The responsible persons declare that in the responsible persons' opinion:

- there are reasonable grounds to believe that the registered entity is able to pay all of its debts, as and when they become due and payable; and
- the financial statements and notes satisfy the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

Signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Regulation 2013*.

Responsible person .....



Responsible person .....



Dated

1/12/22



**Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ Inc**

ABN: 42 109 450 961

**Statement of Income & Expenditure**

Commonwealth - Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (4-BBOSKAV)

For the year ended 30 June 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>Income</b>		
Operating grants	221,831	221,831
Unexpended grants (B/F)	-	-
Other income	-	925
	<u>221,831</u>	<u>222,757</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Accounting Fees	3,891	5,904
Advertising & Promotion	1,521	1,210
Audit Fees	10	16
Bank charges	48	-
Bank guarantees	141	153
Cleaning	922	877
Client Support Services	3,571	3,868
Client Support Consumables	27	-
Computer expenses	3,636	3,932
Consultancy fees	848	-
Depreciation expense	2,083	-
Employee benefits expense	174,453	180,057
Equipment hire/lease	167	171
Equipment purchases <\$1000	2,216	392
Fees & Permits	49	28
Insurance	1,239	3,040
Lease Interest expense	1,472	3,264
Meeting expenses	335	79
Membership fees paid	1,878	3,124
Motor vehicle expenses	1,345	1,323
Postage, freight & courier	200	381
Printing & stationery	2,870	2,551
Publications, memberships & subscriptions	188	297
Rates - Rental Properties	7	-
Relocation expenses	174	160
Rent	6,594	1,009
Rent Outgoings	450	-
Repairs & maintenance	231	176
Security expenses	-	222
Staff amenities	700	519
Subscriptions	95	359
Sundry expenses	427	-
Telephone & fax charges	1,921	2,609
Tenancy & Property Supplies	133	-
Training & development (Staff)	1,544	946
Travel & accommodation	3,755	2,972
Uniforms	-	264
Utilities	2,690	2,853
	<u>221,831</u>	<u>222,757</u>
<b>Excess of Income over Expenditure</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

**Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ Inc**  
**ABN: 42 109 450 961**

**Statement of Income & Expenditure**  
**State - Department of Justice & Attorney-General (LASF001-2020-25)**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2022**

		2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>Income</b>			
Commonwealth Funding (AG) - Core		664,510	653,160
Grants brought forward		168,133	73,263
ATO Cash Flow Boost		-	37,500
Other income		889	2,162
		<u>833,532</u>	<u>766,084</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Accounting Fees	Finance, Audit & Accounting Fees	16,589	13,776
Advertising & Promotion	Programming & Planning	6,484	2,823
Audit Fees	Finance, Audit & Accounting Fees	42	37
Bank charges	Other	203	-
Bank guarantees	Other	601	358
Cleaning	Other premises costs	3,931	1,942
Client support services	Client Disbursements	15,225	9,129
Client support consumables	Client Disbursements	114	-
Computer expenses	Office Overheads	15,500	9,176
Consultancy fees	Programming & Planning	3,617	-
Depreciation expense	Depreciation	38,147	31,638
Equipment hire	Minor equipment	711	400
Equipment purchases <\$1000	Minor equipment	9,447	914
Fees & Permits	Other	209	66
Insurance	Insurance	5,280	6,093
Lease interest expense	Lease	1,961	7,618
Meeting expenses	Other	1,428	185
Membership fees paid	Programming & Planning	8,006	7,290
Motor vehicle expenses	Other	5,732	3,086
Postage, freight & courier	Office Overheads	852	890
Printing & stationery	Office Overheads	12,233	5,953
Program resources	Programming & Planning	-	-
Publications, memberships & subscriptions	Library, Resources & Subscriptions	802	693
Rates - Rental Properties	Other premises costs	29	-
Relocation expenses	Staff Recruitment	744	373
Rent	Rent	19,840	-
Rent Outgoings	Rent	1,919	2,354
Repairs & maintenance	Repairs & Maintenance	985	403
Employee benefits expense	Salaries	559,887	416,404
Security expenses	Other premises costs	-	518
Staff amenities	Office Overheads	2,986	1,211
Subscriptions	Library, Resources & Subscriptions	406	-
Sundry expenses	Other	1,821	840
Telephone & fax	Other premises costs	8,189	6,087
Tenancy & Property Supplies &	Rent	568	-
Training & development (Staff)	Staff Training	6,584	2,207
Travel & accommodation	Travel	16,008	6,932
Uniforms	Other	-	616
Utilities	Other	11,467	6,656
		<u>778,547</u>	<u>546,666</u>
<b>Excess of Income over Expenditure</b>		<u>54,984</u>	<u>219,418</u>
<i>Less: Cash Flow Boost Income used to offset GST and</i>			
<i>PAYG</i>			(37,500)
<i>Less: Capital expenditure</i>		(27,177)	(13,941)
<b>Unexpended grants</b>		<u>26,975</u>	<u>167,977</u>
<b>Net Program Surplus (other income)</b>		<u>833</u>	<u>-</u>

**Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ Inc**  
 ABN: 42 109 450 961

Statement of Income & Expenditure  
 State - Department of Justice & Attorney-General (RL02C2911200)  
 For the year ended 30 June 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>Income</b>		
COVID ICT Funding - Commonwealth	-	10,204
Grants brought forward	4,846	-
	<u>4,846</u>	<u>10,204</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Communications	-	1,863
Office Overheads (Capital expenditure)	4,846	3,496
	<u>4,846</u>	<u>5,359</u>
<b>Excess of Income over Expenditure</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,846</u>
<b>Unexpended grants</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,846</u>

**Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ Inc**

ABN: 42 109 450 961

**Statement of Income & Expenditure**

State - Department of Justice &amp; Attorney-General (LASF001-2020-25)

For the year ended 30 June 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>Income</b>		
COVID Service delivery funding - Commonwealth	-	160,842
Grants brought forward	39,070	-
	<u>39,070</u>	<u>160,842</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Salaries	35,518	111,305
Superannuation	3,552	10,467
	<u>39,070</u>	<u>121,772</u>
<b>Excess of Income over Expenditure</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>39,070</u>
<b>Unexpended grants</b>	<u>-</u>	<u>39,070</u>



**Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ Inc**  
 ABN: 42 109 450 961

Statement of Income & Expenditure  
 State - Department of Justice & Attorney-General (LASF001-2020-25)  
 For the year ended 30 June 2022

	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>Income</b>		
Commonwealth Funding (AG) - Vulnerable Women's Funding	654,675	-
	<u>654,675</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Salaries	148,799	-
Superannuation	14,744	-
	<u>163,544</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Excess of Income over Expenditure</b>	<u>491,131</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Unexpended grants</b>	<u>491,131</u>	<u>-</u>



## Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ Inc.

### Independent Auditor's Report to the Board of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ Inc.

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ Inc. (the association), which comprises the committee's report, statement of financial position as at 30 June 2022 and the statement of profit or loss for the period then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ Inc. presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ Inc. as at 30 June 2022 and of its financial performance for the period then ended in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981 Queensland*.

#### 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 association 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.

#### 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 Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ Inc. to meet the requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981 Queensland*. 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 the Committee for the Financial Report

The committee of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Women's Legal Services NQ Inc. is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with the financial reporting requirements of the *Associations Incorporation Act 1981 Queensland* and for such internal control as the committee determines is necessary to enable the preparation and fair presentation of a financial report that is free of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the committee is responsible for assessing the association'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 the committee either intends to liquidate the association or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Report

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.

#### CONTACT US

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Aitkenvale QLD 4814

#### Coutts Redington Pty Ltd

ABN 56 284 497 965 | Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation.

#### KIRWAN OFFICE

127 Thuringowa Drive  
Kirwan QLD 4817



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.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the committee.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the committee's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

**Coutts Redington**  
**Chartered Accountants**  
278 Ross River Road  
Aitkenvale, Qld, 4814



**Director: Greg Redington**

## STAKEHOLDERS

- Community Legal Centres Queensland
- Legal Aid Queensland
- Townsville Community Law Inc.
- North Queensland Women's Legal Service (NQWLS)
- Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service (QIFVLS)
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service (ATSILS)
- Relationships Australia
- Victim Assist
- Police Support Link
- The Women's Centre, Aitkenvale
- The Court Network
- North Queensland Domestic Violence Resource Service
- TAIHS
- Townsville Community Hub
- Garbutt Community Hub
- Upper Ross Community Centre (Community Gro)
- North of Townsville Community Hub
- Prospect Community Centre
- Palm Island Community Company
- The Women's Centre, Palm Island
- Burdekin Community Centre
- Malanbarra Community Hub
- Yumba Meta Flora House
- Red Cross
- Anglicare
- Yumba Meta Dale Parker
- Palm Island Community Council
- James Cook University
- Big Eye Theatre



## CURRENT STAFF

- Florence Onus (Community Engagement Officer/ Cultural Advisor, Townsville)
- Andrea Kyle-Sailor (Community Engagement Officer/ Cultural Advisor, Palm Island)
- Jody Martin-Savage (Client Support Officer)
- Erica Kyle (Admin Assistant)
- Minyaada Swan (Receptionist)
- Brooke Garland (Solicitor)
- Cathy Pereira (Principal Solicitor/ Co-ordinator)
- Cherie McLaughlin (Office Manager)
- Tania Young (Solicitor)
- Rachael Edwards (Solicitor)
- Bernice Anning (Solicitor)
- Michelle Tyhuis (Project Officer)
- Aaminah Kahn (Paralegal)

## FORMER STAFF

- Karen Johnson (Paralegal)
- Paige Ryan (Solicitor)

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

First Nations Women's Legal Services Qld Inc. Funding Bodies:



**Australian Government**  
**Attorney-General's Department**



**Australian Government**  
**Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet**





**FIRST NATIONS WOMEN'S LEGAL SERVICES QLD INC.**

*ABN 42 109 450 961*

