# Collaborative Planning Committee

## 12 May 2021

### Attendance

**Present:** Sam Porter (DJCS), Lynne Haultain (VLF), Louise Glanville (VLA), Moricia Vrymoet (VALS), Kai Li Zhu (Vic Bar), Fran Demetriou (Djirra), Adam Awty (LIV)

Tal Karp (VLA Board) (Agenda item 2), Rowan McRae (VLA) (Agenda items 5 and 6), Monica Ferrari (VLA) (Agenda item 6), Lara Freiden (FCLC) (Agenda item 7)

Peter Noble (VLA)

**Apologies**: Anne Lenton (Djirra), Nerita Waight (VALS), FCLC representative, Stuart Webb (LIV), Simon Moglia (Vic Bar).

**Secretariat**: Amy Schwebel (VLA)

## Meeting summary

The Committee met online due to COVID-19 restrictions. The Committee opened with an Acknowledgement of Country and acknowledged the various lands on which Committee members were joining the meeting from.

The Committee welcomed Tal Karp, VLA Board member, to the meeting for an informal Board-Committee discussion. The discussion focused on regional service delivery and the shared interest in improving provider supply in the region, engagement with the courts in response to the COVID-19 court backlog, and the opportunities to retain some digital practices where this supports access to assistance and better meets client needs.

The Committee discussed ongoing financial sustainability challenges faced by VLA and more broadly the demand for legal need that community legal centres, VALS and Djirra are unable to respond to within current funding levels. The Committee discussed the benefit of an improved understanding, through modelling, of the demand on the legal assistance sector to inform future resourcing decisions.

The Committee also discussed:

* the Public Understanding of the Law and Legal Need Survey currently being developed by the Victoria Law Foundation. The Survey will assist in improving the sector’s understanding of the capacity of people experiencing legal problems to navigate the legal system and resolve problems as well as provide updated legal need data.
* the development of VLA’s Community Legal Information Strategy and provided feedback on VLA’s proposed approach to collaboration with legal sector partners, particularly community legal centres,
* a re-design of Disaster Legal Help Victoria’s service delivery model and strategic framework to support an improved response to future disasters,
* the Federation of Community Legal Centre’s development of a Sector 10 Year Plan, and
* progress by the Department of Justice and Community Safety on the development of a Legal Assistance Strategy for Victoria, a requirement under the National Legal Assistance Partnership.

The Committee will next meet on 18 August 2021.