# Collaborative Planning Committee

## 29 January 2020

### Attendance

#### Present

Anna Faithfull and Alessandra Guadagnuolo (DJCS), Serina McDuff (FCLC), Lynne Haultain (VLF), Louise Glanville (VLA), Nerita Waight and Moricia Vrymoet (VALS), Jacqueline Simon (Vic Bar), Megan Ross (Djirra).

Peter Noble (VLA) (Observer), Amy Schwebel (VLA) (Secretariat).

Agenda item 3: Marie Baird and Samantha Watson (VLA) and Joanna Fletcher (Women’s Legal Service).

Agenda item 5: Jon Cina (VLA), Chris Povey and Brendan Lacota (Justice Connect).

#### Apologies

Stuart Webb (LIV), Justin Hannebery SC (Vic Bar).

## Meeting summary

The Committee opened with an Acknowledgement of Country. Louise Glanville, Chair of the Collaborative Planning Committee, welcomed Committee members to the fourth meeting of the Committee, and the first meeting for 2020. Louise Glanville noted apologies from the Law Institute of Victoria.

The Committee engaged in a focused discussion on regional service delivery informed by three presentations: VLA’s Family Law Program and Women’s Legal Services Victoria on the family law legal need collaborative planning project, VALS’ recent review of its legal services, and DJCS’ common clients initiative. The Committee discussed common themes across the three pieces of work.

The Committee reflected that the improving evidence base and sharing of analysis and service planning initiatives is vital to assisting the Committee to develop a whole of system picture of unmet legal need in outer metropolitan and regional Victoria, the value of place-based responses, ways to tailor strategies and initiatives to foster the role of specialist Aboriginal services, CLCs, legal aid staff and private practitioners in the mixed model, and re-orientations that may be needed to more effectively collectively respond to service gaps.

The Committee agreed that this will inform a joint statement of the Committee on Legal Need and Regional Service Provision in Victoria in the latter half of 2020.

The Committee received an update on Disaster Legal Help Victoria (DLHV) provided by VLA and Justice Connect representatives. DLHV was activated on 1 January in response to the bushfires. The Committee heard that local legal service providers are experiencing demand for assistance and the number of people seeking assistance is expected to increase in coming weeks as Recovery Centres are established. It was noted that non-legal response agencies are recognising the value and importance of legal assistance as part of the response. DLHV is proactively seeking to collaborate with legal and non-legal organisations to facilitate referral pathways for people seeking legal assistance.

The Committee discussed the status of the National Legal Assistance Partnership (NLAP) negotiations and noted the collaborative approach in Victoria to the negotiations, most recently in response to discussions on data sharing and reporting requirements proposed by the Commonwealth. The proposed approach to the Expensive Commonwealth Criminal Cases Fund remains a particular concern.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 20 May 2020.