# Collaborative Planning Committee – 28 May 2025

## Details

**Date**: Monday, 24 March 2025

**Time**: 11:00am – 1:30pm

**Location**: Federation of Community Legal Centres, 225 Bourke Street

### Attendees

Louisa Gibbs, CEO, Federation of Community Legal Centres (Federation), Meeting Chair

Marian Chapman, Deputy Secretary, Department of Justice and Community Safety (DJCS), Co-Chair

Adam Awty, CEO, Law Institute of Victoria (LIV)

Fleur Ward, Senior Education and Litigation Lead, Djirra

Kai Li Zhu, Senior Inhouse Legal Counsel, Victorian Bar

Lynne Haultain, Executive Director, Victoria Law Foundation (VLF)

Toby Hemming, CEO, Victoria Legal Aid (VLA)

### Invitees

Zione Walker-Nthenda, Director, Client Services and Sector Engagement Regions and Service Delivery, Victoria Legal Aid

### Apologies

Nerita Waight, CEO, Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service (VALS)

Anna Tucker, Executive Director, Courts and Justice System Reform, (DJCS)

Anne Lenton, CEO Djirra

### Secretariat

Nicole Burnard, Executive Assistant to the CEO and Board, Federation

## Summary

The Collaborative Planning Committee (CPC) meeting on 28 May 2025 began with an Acknowledgement of Country and recognition of National Reconciliation Week. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved, and updates on open action items were provided.

The Better Referrals Working Group (BRWG) is bringing more than 30 organisations together to improve and coordinate referral practices for legal assistance. The convenor of the group, Zione Walker-Nthenda shared about the group’s work. With relevance across all legal assistance providers, the CPC discussed how it can best support the group through participation and oversight.

Reflections on the 2025–26 Victorian Budget highlighted funding for legal assistance in the Wyndham Law Courts and continuation of funding for family violence pre-court engagement services and the Victims Legal Service, but concerns were raised about the funding for other priorities in the sector. The committee agreed to explore a formal meeting with the Treasurer and Attorney-General to discuss sector funding priorities.

Organisational updates included LIV's cost of practice survey, Djirra's cultural capability training, VLA's successful Law Week. The Co-chair provided a summary of DJCS’ current and recent legislative priorities, including bail, anti-vilification, and the women's safety package.

The next meetings are scheduled for 3 July, 10 September, and 17 December 2025.