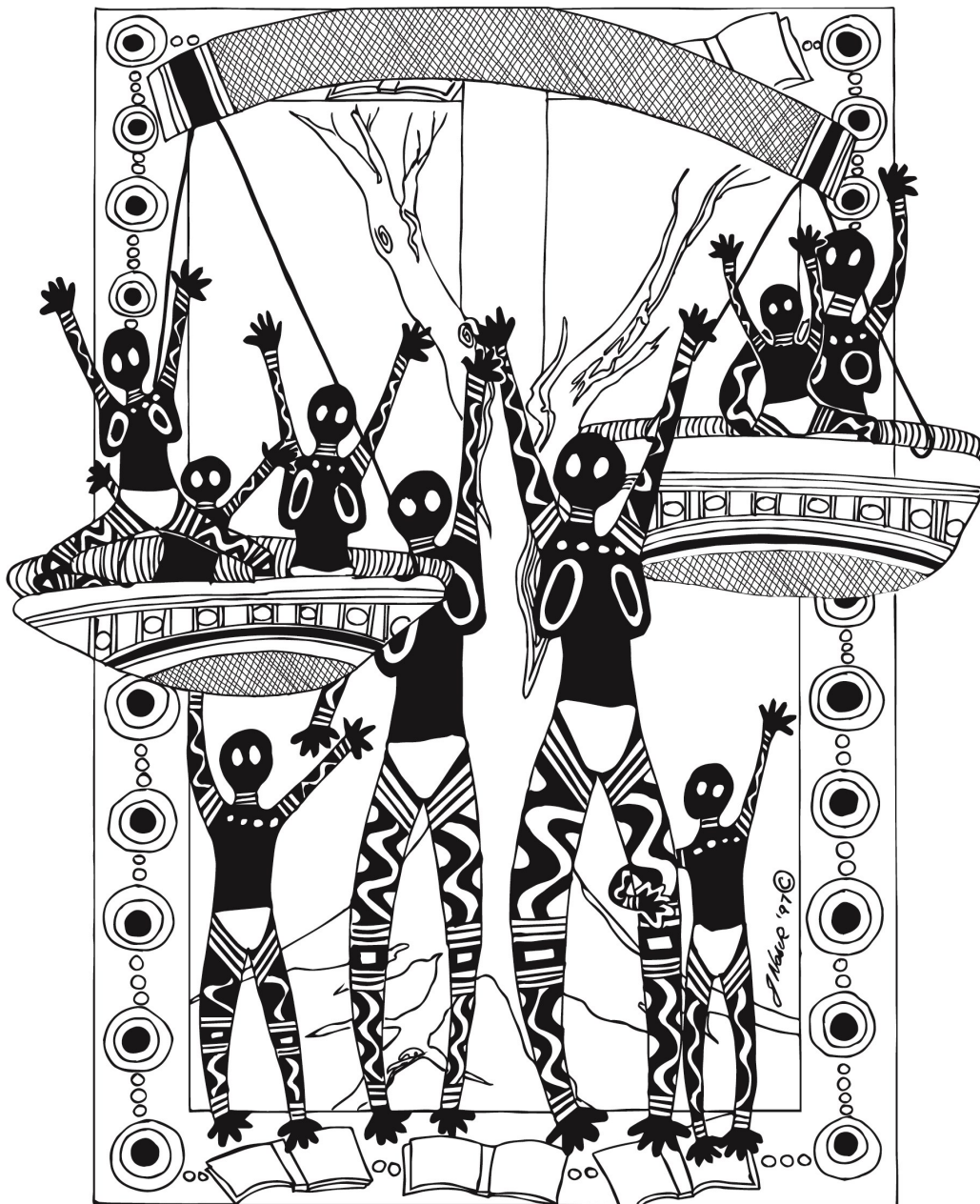


# NAAFLS ANNUAL REPORT

2019/20



## Contents

- Directors Report
- About NAAFLS—who we are and what we do
- NAAFLS 2019/2020 Activities and Performance
- Annual Financial Statements

## Directors Report

We'd like to congratulate the staff of NAAFLS for another year of excellent performance and service delivery in the critical areas of family law, child protection and family violence services and support.

2019-20 has been a particularly challenging year right across the world with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic reaching every corner of the planet, affecting the way people live and interact and the way that we deliver our services to clients in remote communities. NAAFLS took a very risk-adverse approach to managing through the early stages of the pandemic, with staff working from home from March until June 2020. It was a testament to the operations of NAAFLS that we could continue delivering legal advice and support and operate effectively through these home-based working arrangements.

The Board would like to recognise the huge contribution of Mr Tony Lane, CEO of NAAFLS from 2012, who finished with the organisation on 30 June to follow a new passion as a business owner. Tony arrived at NAAFLS during some very difficult times and successfully re-established the organisation, fixed up a lot of governance and compliance issues and got the organisation's service delivery back on track. Tony's eight years with NAAFLS has been crucial to providing family law services to residents of many on the remote Northern Territory communities.

The Board would also like to welcome Mr David Alexander who will be stepping into the CEO role from 1 July 2020 and will take responsibility for delivering on a new funding agreement recently signed with the National Indigenous Australians Agency that has ensured ongoing funding through to 2023. The Board looks forward to working closely with David to continue delivering critical services to our Aboriginal clients while also ensuring that the organisation has strong and positive leadership.



*Tony Lane, former CEO*

## About NAAFLS — Who We are and What We Do

On 15th May 2006 the North Australian Aboriginal Family Violence Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation (NAAFLS) was incorporated under the Aboriginal Councils and Associations Act 1976, Australian Government Registrar of Aboriginal Corporations, with the CATSI Act 2006 starting on 1 July 2007.

NAAFLS is a member of the National Association of Community Legal Centres.

### **Principal activities**

The principal activities of North Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation during the financial year were to:

- provide holistic support to families that are victims of family violence,
- provide legal assistance in family matters to women, men and children in specified communities,
- reduce the incidence of violence and abuse in communities through community legal education, early intervention and prevention and advocacy,
- increase the recognition of the problem of violence and abuse in communities through community legal education, early intervention and prevention advocacy,
- facilitate long-term solutions to violence and abuse in communities through community education,
- to operate and maintain a gift fund to be known as "The North Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Service – Aboriginal Corporation Gift Fund" in accordance with the requirements of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997.

No significant changes in the nature of the entity's activity occurred during the financial year.

In order to deliver our services across the top end of the Northern Territory we employ a number of solicitors, based in Darwin and Katherine, a team of Client Support Officers also in Darwin and Katherine, with a small administration team providing financial, human resource, information management and travel management services.

### *At the Barunga Festival*

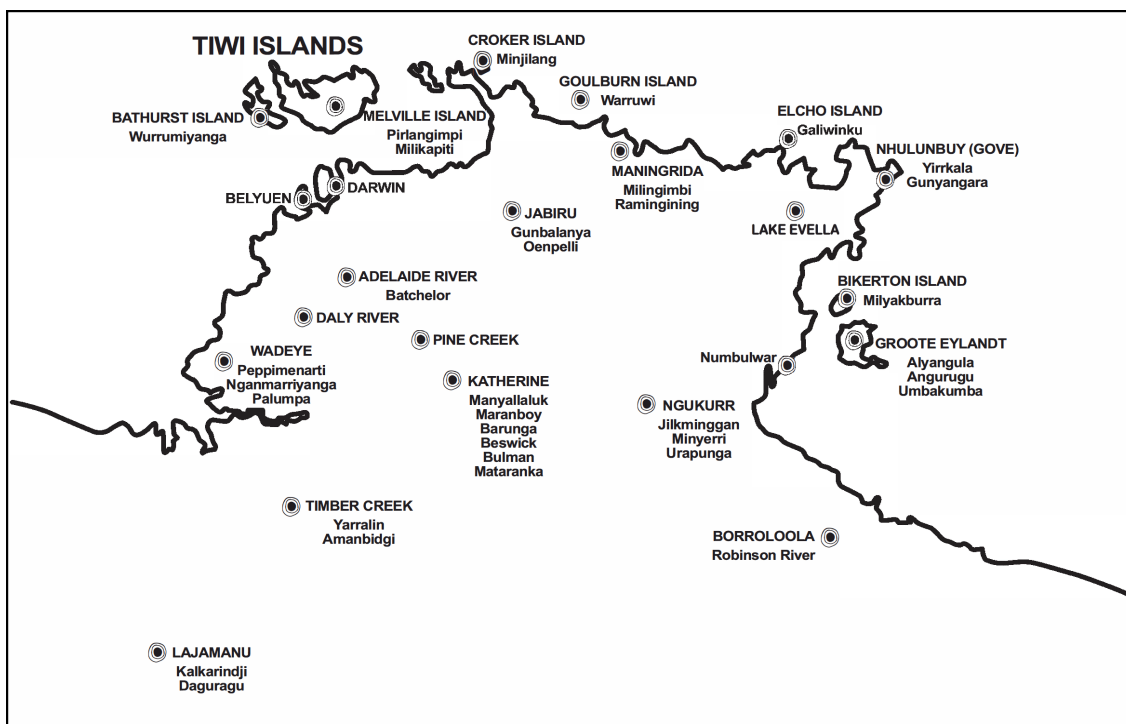


*Ian Grant, a Solicitor in our Darwin Office was admitted to the Supreme Court on 3 March 2020*

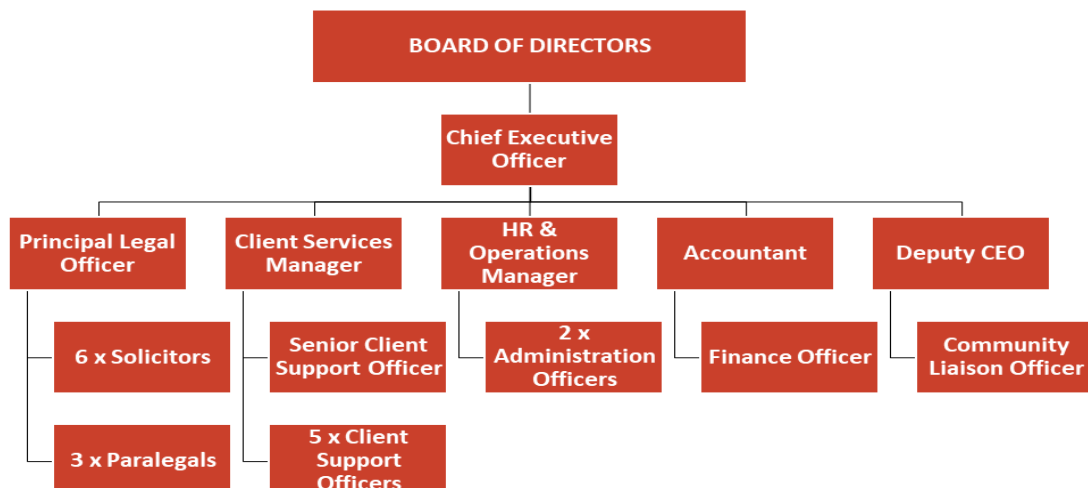
# NAAFLS ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20 cont.

Communities NAAFLS service include:

Adelaide River, Alyangula, Angurugu, Batchelor, Belyuen, Borroloola, Galiwinku, Gapuwiyak, Jabiru, Maningrida, Milikapiti, Milingimbi, Milyakburra (Bickerton Island), Minjilang, Nauiyu (Daly River), Nganmarriyanga (Palumpa), Nhulunbuy, Numbulwar, Oenpelli (Gunbalanya), Peppimenarti, Pine Creek, Pirlangimpi, Ramingining, Robinson River, Ski Beach (Gunyangara), Umbakumba, Wadeye (Port Keats), Warruwi, Wurrumiyanga, Yirrkala, Katherine, Amanbidj, Barunga, Beswick, Bulman, Daguragu, Eva Valley, Jilkminggan (Duck Creek), Kalkarindji, Lajamanu, Mataranka, Minyerri (Hodgson Downs), Ngukurr, Timber Creek, Urapunga (Rittarangu), Yarralin.



As at 30 June 2020, NAAFLS employed 25 staff across both Darwin and Katherine Offices, with 4 male staff and 21 female staff and 13 staff identifying as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.



## NAAFLS 2019/20 Achievements and Performance

### Our Operations

The 2019-20 year was challenging for the world with the COVID-19 pandemic spreading across the globe and all aspects of life affected from early 2020. In March of 2020 there was an announcement that remote communities across the Northern Territory would be closed to visitors in an effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19 into these communities where it could have proven catastrophic.

This closure of communities resulted in a significant change to the business of NAAFLS and all other legal organisations providing services to remote communities. The bush court circuit was cancelled from mid-March to the end of June and no travel to community was possible.

Despite the community closures and the reduction in travel, NAAFLS staff still travelled more than 70,000 kilometres by road to deliver services to remote communities in 2019-20, as well as huge distances travelled regularly by air on commercial flights and charter planes.

NAAFLS staff spend a lot of their time out travelling in these remote communities, from Groote Eyland in the east, to Wadeye in the west, north to the Tiwi Islands and south to Borroloola and Lajamanu. During the 2019-20 financial year there were 287 female clients using the services of NAAFLS and 54 male clients.

### Case Study—Cooking Class in Barunga

Through funding from the NT Department of Health, NAAFLS conducted 7 cooking classes in Barunga, prior to the community closures, providing an opportunity to gather groups of women in the community to join together and talk about cooking, traditional and non-traditional ways, and to participate in community legal education sessions that explored the strong link between domestic and family violence issues and alcohol and drug abuse.

The feedback has been that the women have been finding the sessions very valuable and enjoy it a lot.

There has been an increase in the number of new clients that NAAFLS has retained since the start of the project. Stakeholders, such as Roper Council, have agreed that classes are a valuable contribution to have learned onto other family members. Often extra food is made, not only to have lunch at the end of the classes, but for participants to take back to their

families. This encourages attendance and it means that they will be supported by their families to attend the cooking class. The recipes are distributed after the class, as the women really want them.

This program will be delivered in a modified way into 2020-21.



## Annual Financial Statements

### Auditor's Independence Declaration under Section 339-50 of the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 To the Directors of North Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2020, there have been:

- i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2001* in relation to the audit; and
- ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



Adam Dohnt (FCA)

*Registered Company Auditor*

Darwin

Dated: 16 November 2020

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors:

Director:  .....  
Ada Parry

Director:  .....  
Sue Wainwright

Dated this 13th ..... day of November 2020

## Directors Report

The Directors present their report on North Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation for the financial year ended 30 June 2020.

### 1. General Information

#### **Directors**

The names of the directors in office at any time during, or since the end of, the year are:

#### **Names Appointed/Resigned**

- Therese Puruntatameri, *Member for full year*
- Ada Parry, *Member for full year*
- Sue Wainwright, *Member for full year*
- Joanne Sivyver, *Resigned on 21 April 2020*

Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

### 2. Operating results and review of operations for the year

#### **Operating results**

The loss of the Corporation amounted to \$ 177,757 (2019 : \$ 169,588)

### 3. Other items

#### **Significant changes in state of affairs**

There have been no significant changes in the state of affairs of the Corporation during the year.

#### **After balance date events continued**

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

#### **Environmental issues**

The Corporation's operations are not regulated by any significant environmental regulations under a law of the Commonwealth or of a state or territory of Australia.

North Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation

Statement of Financial Position

30 June 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	812,157	2,078,506
Trade and other receivables	7	52,600	25,494
Other assets	8	68,109	56,871
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>932,866</b>	<b>2,160,871</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	9	199,747	307,887
Right-of-use assets	10	543,177	-
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>742,924</b>	<b>307,887</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>1,675,790</b>	<b>2,468,758</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	11	567,279	650,770
Lease liabilities	10	198,547	-
Employee provisions	12	68,157	79,831
Other liabilities	13	149,350	1,288,899
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>983,333</b>	<b>2,019,500</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Lease liabilities	10	360,962	-
Long-term provisions	12	39,183	16,689
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>400,145</b>	<b>16,689</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>1,383,478</b>	<b>2,036,189</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>292,312</b>	<b>432,569</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Reserves		-	342,091
Retained earnings		292,312	90,478
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>292,312</b>	<b>432,569</b>

The Corporation has initially applied AASB 15 and AASB 1058 using the cumulative effect method and has not restated comparatives. The comparatives have been prepared using AASB 111, AASB 118, AASB 1004 and related interpretations.

The Corporation has initially applied AASB 16 using the cumulative effect method and has not restated comparatives. The comparatives have been prepared using AASB 117 and related interpretations.

North Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation

**Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income**

For the Year Ended 30 June 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
Revenue		122,011	13,318
Other income	5	2,973,287	3,312,442
Employee benefits expense		(2,107,316)	(2,097,361)
Depreciation and amortisation expense		(293,136)	(120,586)
Consultancy fees		(15,473)	(18,087)
Rent		(4,515)	(173,057)
Travel		(238,215)	(483,916)
Meeting expenses		(1,399)	(46)
Other expenses		(545,513)	(602,228)
Finance costs		(29,988)	(67)
<b>Loss for the year</b>		<b>(140,257)</b>	<b>(169,588)</b>
<b>Total comprehensive loss for the year</b>		<b>(140,257)</b>	<b>(169,588)</b>

The Corporation has initially applied AASB 15 and AASB 1058 using the cumulative effect method and has not restated comparatives. The comparatives have been prepared using AASB 111, AASB 118, AASB 1004 and related interpretations.

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