



NAAFLS

**NORTH AUSTRALIAN
ABORIGINAL FAMILY
LEGAL SERVICE**

ANNUAL REPORT 2021 - 2022



CONTENTS

Directors’ report..... 2

Chief Executive Officer’s report..... 3

About NAAFLS: Who we are and what we do..... 4

2021/22 activities, performance and highlights..... 8

Annual Financial Statements.....11



DIRECTORS' REPORT

The COVID-19 pandemic continued to cause substantial challenges for NAAFLS during much of 2021/22 with the opening of interstate borders in late 2021 and the appearance of plenty of COVID cases across the NT. Travel to remote communities was suspended from Christmas until Easter, and as most of the NAAFLS's clients reside in remote communities, it was difficult for NAAFLS staff to do their jobs.

Legal advice and support, and non-legal supports, continued to be delivered to clients throughout this period, albeit remotely, and the staff are to be congratulated on their ability to provide these services in a flexible and effective way throughout this pandemic.

The board has focused plenty of our attention on strategic issues. We have identified that NAAFLS can have a strong and positive impact, including through a visit and board meeting on the Tiwi Islands, at Wurrumiyanga, in June 2022. This board meeting provided us with an opportunity to hear first hand from community members and service providers about some of the current challenges faced within that community.

The board remains committed to finding ways for the organisation to do more to support the prevention of family, domestic and community violence and has encouraged a greater focus on stakeholder relationships, where partnerships can be used to support prevention programs and activities.

Kinship care and the benefits that can be achieved through maintaining strong family ties for Aboriginal children in out-of-home care is another strong commitment from the board. The board has supported the strong advocacy

by NAAFLS for the NT Government to increase their investment in kinship care programs and to improve the timeliness and effectiveness of these programs.

Once again, the board pays tribute to the dedication of the team at NAAFLS who are supporting our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients to find effective legal responses to their difficult, and often traumatic circumstances. The board sees and appreciates how well our NAAFLS staff commit to their jobs to provide support and assistance to clients during some of their toughest times.

The NAAFLS CEO David Alexander leads the team with a determined vision of making a difference for victims of domestic and family violence. We thank him for his drive and look forward to working together in the future.

As we start another financial year, 2022/23, the board will maintain a focus on good organisational governance and supporting the staff to continue to achieve the best possible outcomes for our clients.

Board Members

Ada Parry, Therese-Marie Puruntatameri, Sue Wainwright, Peter Thomsen



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

It seems a little surreal remembering that we started 2021/22 with a COVID lockdown in Darwin following a case of COVID-19 identified at the Buff Club. And by the end of 2021/22 lockdowns and travel restrictions have just become a reminder of how the world dealt with this pandemic.

Lockdowns continued through much of the first half of the financial year, with Darwin and Katherine locked down again in August 2021 and lockdowns and lockouts throughout November and December. Then early 2022 was marked by the spread of the virus throughout the NT, with travel to remote communities cancelled for all NAAFLS staff until April 2022 when bush courts recommenced.

The challenges posed for our delivery of critical legal services by the pandemic have resulted in demonstrations by all our staff of their flexibility, ingenuity and resilience. While community visits were suspended, NAAFLS staff were maintaining communication with our remote clients, checking in on their welfare and identifying any COVID-specific risks or needs.

A significant increase in funding from the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) for the 2021/22 financial year resulted in an expansion of NAAFLS' service delivery into Darwin and Palmerston, with previous funding arrangements allowing NAAFLS to only deliver services across rural and remote Top End. NAAFLS also opened a new office in Nhulunbuy and expanded our service capability within Katherine.

The opening of the Nhulunbuy office has been a major event for both NAAFLS and Nhulunbuy, with no other legal service permanently located in East Arnhem. It took a while to find suitable office

accommodation, housing and staff, but we are currently delivering a much improved local legal service for clients in Nhulunbuy and Yirrkala in particular.

Despite the service delivery challenges experienced throughout 2021/22, there are plenty of highlights to be celebrated, including:

- Recording of six community legal education videos that will be translated into some of the most widely spoken Aboriginal languages to enable access by most of our clients;
- Participation in a large number of community events, such as NAIDOC parades and legal services breakfast, Barunga Festival, Katherine High School's Industry Forum and Share the Dignity Drive;
- Hosted community BBQs in Daly River, Katherine and Manyallaluk; and
- Hosted Ochre Ribbon week breakfast events in Darwin and Katherine.



CEO David Alexander welcoming guests to the 2022 Ochre Ribbon breakfast.



NAAFLS hosting 2022 Ochre Ribbon breakfast event.



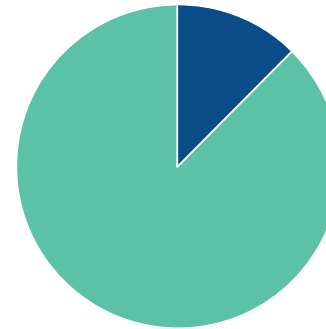
WHO WE ARE

As at 30 June 2021, NAAFLS employed 31 staff; five male and 26 female. Twenty one percent of our staff identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

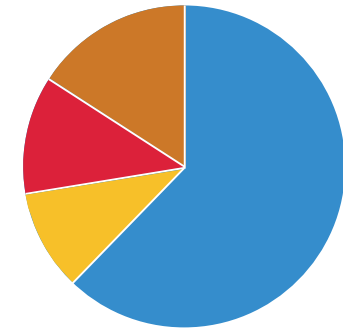
We have staff based in our three offices across the Top End of the NT, in Darwin, Katherine and Nhulunbuy, with our regions serviced from each of these offices.

NAAFLS has a strong commitment to the professional development of our staff and to their wellbeing. During 2021-22 staff were provided with counselling support through our contracted Employee Assistance Provider, as well as regular external supervision.

Professional development during the year included attendances at NAPCAN mandatory reporting training, complex trauma training, Love Bites training, an Indigenous Leadership course, Safe and Together training and various other conferences and internal training opportunities.



• Male • Female



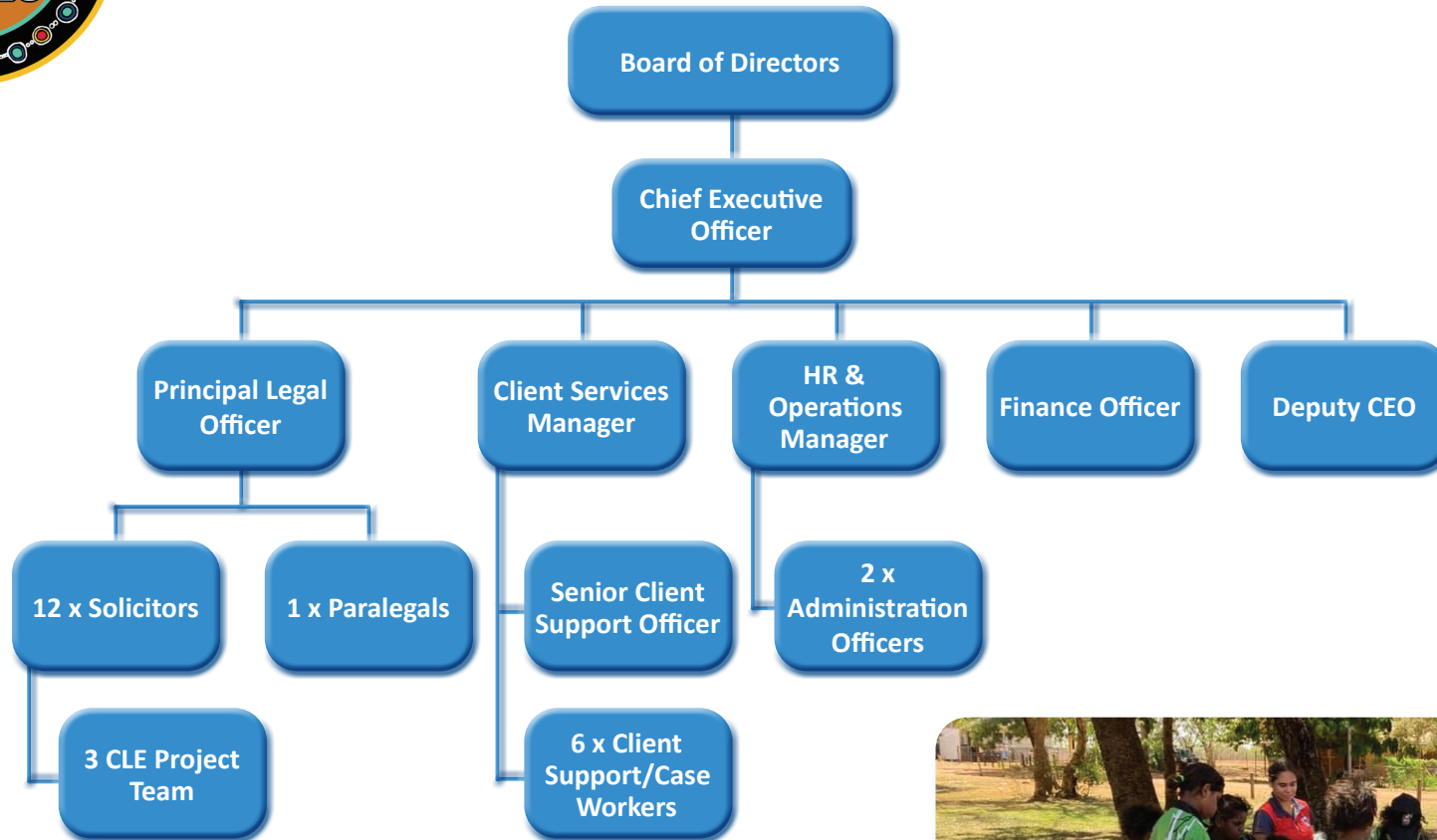
• Aged 20-30 • Aged 31-40
• Aged 41-50 • Aged 50+



Staff in our recently renovated Katherine office.



WHO WE ARE





WHAT WE DO

NAAFLS Achievements against strategic goals

1. Deliver high quality legal and support services in a culturally proficient manner

During 2021/22 NAAFLS has installed ActionStep, a legal matter management software application, aimed at improving the efficiency of our internal management of legal and non-legal case files to ensure clients are receiving our best possible service. This system has replaced a more complex file management system that resulted in considerable administrative effort from staff. A more intuitive system that is based around workflows, reminders and security of information should enable staff to spend more time with clients and less time administering their work.

As an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation, NAAFLS is committed to our Cultural Safety Policy. It's a priority that staff have the skills to implement our policy which why all staff undergo cultural awareness training during induction and are given opportunities for cultural awareness and competency training and development on an ongoing basis.

During 2021/22 six staff attended a Kriol language and culture training in Ngukurr and two staff enrolled in a six-week Yolngu Language and Culture course at Charles Darwin University.

2. Through targeted collaboration and partnership, build pathways with other service providers that deliver the best possible outcomes for our clients

Throughout the current year NAAFLS has partnered with stakeholder organisations in the delivery of events across the Territory, including community BBQs, workshops and forums.

NAAFLS has particularly built a strong relationship with the Galiwinku Women's Space to develop and present Yolngu informed community legal education, which is also assisting NAAFLS with our long term ambition to co-design more education resources.

Our stand out collaboration event, the NAAFLS Ochre Ribbon breakfast, saw more than 100 attendees hear from the Aboriginal Resource Development Service (ARDS) on their approach to the prevention of community and family violence in Yirrkala. The NAAFLS Ochre Ribbon breakfasts provides an opportunity for like-minded professionals from across the sector to gather and learn about programs designed for the prevention of family violence.



3. Advocate and influence policy and law reform to ensure best possible outcomes can be achieved for our clients

NAAFLS has been advocating strongly for changes that will improve the outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who are taken into out-of-home care, including advocating for the expansion of kinship carer models and larger investment in the organisations delivering these programs.

NAAFLS also advocates on behalf of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims of domestic, family and community violence. Victims often do not have a strong enough voice to advocate for change and NAAFLS is able to advocate on their behalf through submissions such as our call to Government to increase crisis accommodation and improve police DV training ([NAAFLS-calls-on-Government-to-increase-availability-of-crisis-accommodation.pdf](#))

4. Build a strong, sustainable, and professional organisation that empowers our staff to deliver high quality outcomes

Through a range of externally delivered professional development workshops and forums, NAAFLS staff have continued to expand their knowledge of the sectors we are working within. Training such as the “7 Steps to Safety”, “Safe and Together” and Indigenous Leadership programs ensure staff are provided with opportunities to identify new ways of working for our clients. In addition, our client support officers are currently undertaking studies towards a Certificate III in Community Services to seek promotion to the position of case worker.

As NAAFLS heads towards the end of the current funding agreement with the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA), negotiations are underway for funding to be continued, at current levels, for the future delivery of the critical NAAFLS’ services across the Top End. Any reduction in funding would be unacceptable to NAAFLS and any increase in funding and scope of service delivery would be very welcome.

5. Build a transparent, accountable and respectful organisational culture

The NAAFLS Board of Directors continues to commit time and energy to the leadership of NAAFLS, with the board attending additional meetings this year aimed at improving their strategic leadership of the organisation.

Improvements within the NAAFLS’ information technology systems, through the implementation of Employment Hero, Actionstep and the expanded use of SharePoint, have resulted in improved organisational administration and transparency. Continuous improvement through the introduction of technology will be an ongoing feature of NAAFLS administration efforts.

DIRECTOR'S AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REPORT

30 JUNE 2022

The directors present their report on North Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation for the financial year ended 30 June 2022.

1. General information

Information on directors

The names of each person who has been a director during the year and to the date of this report are:

Therese Puruntatameri	Member for full year
Ada Parry	Member for full year
Sue Wainwright	Member for full year
Peter Thomsen	Member for full year

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

2. Principal activities

The principal activity 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 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 corporations activity occurred during the financial year.

3. Operating results and review of operations for the year

Operating results

The surplus of the corporation amounted to \$ 575,958 (2021: \$ 368,431).

4. 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.

Directors' Report 30 June 2022

The directors present their report on North Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation for the financial year ended 30 June 2022.

1. General information

Information on directors

The names of each person who has been a director during the year and to the date of this report are:

Therese Puruntatameri	Member for full year
Ada Parry	Member for full year
Sue Wainwright	Member for full year
Peter Thomsen	Member for full year

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

Principal activities

The principal activity 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 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 Corporation's activity occurred during the financial year.

2. Operating results and review of operations for the year

Operating results

The surplus of the Corporation amounted to \$ 575,958 (2021: \$ 388,431).

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.

3. Other items

Events after the reporting date

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.

Auditor's independence declaration

The lead auditor's independence declaration in accordance with section 339-50 of the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006, for the year ended 30 June 2022 has been received and can be found on page 3 of the financial report.

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

Director: 

Director: 

Dated this 7th day of October 2022

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 2022, 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: 7 October 2022

ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

North Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation

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

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Revenue		7,966	43,018
Interest income	5	1,299	2,095
Other income	4	4,358,444	3,582,689
Employee benefits expense		(2,582,160)	(2,128,057)
Depreciation and amortisation expense		(302,237)	(255,842)
Consultancy fees		(47,782)	(39,278)
Travel		(323,824)	(363,616)
Meeting expenses		(1,578)	(1,257)
Other expenses		(519,211)	(449,836)
Finance expenses	5	(14,959)	(21,485)
Surplus for the year		575,958	368,431
Total comprehensive income for the year		575,958	368,431

North Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation

Statement of Financial Position As At 30 June 2022

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	923,124	660,235
Trade and other receivables	7	208,420	48,098
Other assets	8	88,412	61,809
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		1,219,956	770,142
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	9	478,161	197,613
Right-of-use assets	10	210,153	364,957
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		688,314	562,570
TOTAL ASSETS		1,908,270	1,332,712
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	11	236,818	138,660
Borrowings	12	2,004	-
Lease liabilities	10	201,692	178,427
Employee benefits	13	168,348	145,231
Other liabilities	14	10,000	6,268
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		618,862	468,586
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Lease liabilities	10	17,839	203,383
Employee benefits	13	34,868	-
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		52,707	203,383
TOTAL LIABILITIES		671,569	671,969
NET ASSETS		1,236,701	660,743
EQUITY			
Retained earnings		1,236,701	660,743
TOTAL EQUITY		1,236,701	660,743



NAAFLS

**NORTH AUSTRALIAN
ABORIGINAL FAMILY
LEGAL SERVICE**

DARWIN

Phone: (08) 8923 8200

Toll free: 1800 041 998

Fax: (08) 8927 5942

Email: admin@naafls.com.au

Address: 32 Dripstone Road, Casuarina
Darwin NT 0810

NHULUNBUY

Phone: 0477 400 116

Toll free: 1800 041 998

Email: gmaginness@naafls.com.au

Address: Suite 1, 81 Chesterfield Avenue,
Nhulunbuy NT 0881

www.naafls.com.au

KATHERINE

Phone: (08) 8972 3200

Toll free: 1800 041 998

Fax: (08) 8972 3277

Email: kadmin@naafls.com.au

Address: L1 Randazzo Ctr 16, Katherine
Terrace, Katherine NT 0850