



**NAAFLS**

**NORTH AUSTRALIAN  
ABORIGINAL FAMILY  
LEGAL SERVICE**

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022 - 2023



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# CHAIR'S REPORT

On behalf of the NAAFLS Board of Directors we are pleased to present our members with the Annual Report for the 2022-2023 year.

The board has remained focused on the strategic issues and good governance of the organisation, additionally highlighted by the appointment of Debbie Mauger to the NAAFLS board as Director. With the additional and combined diverse skillsets of all the Directors, the board remains evermore committed to supporting NAAFLS in having a strong and positive impact in achieving the best outcomes for our clients and supporting the dedicated team at NAAFLS.

This financial year has seen a year of transition at the executive level of NAAFLS which has enabled the organisation to undergo a reflective period focusing on the growth, evolution and strategic future of the organisation to ensure its longevity and sustainability for the years ahead.

The end of this financial year also marked a solemn time with the commencement in Alice Springs of the landmark Northern Territory Coronial Inquiry into the deaths of four Aboriginal women killed by their former partners. NAAFLS is grateful for the help we received from the National Justice Project, the ANU College of Law and the Aurora Foundation for their support in enabling us to undertake the necessary work to take instructions from a number of family members to advocate on their behalf.

**Mark Munnich**

Chair, NAAFLS Board of Directors



Ada Parry



Peter Thomsen



Therese Puruntatameri

**Board Members**



Sue Wainwright



Debbie Mauger

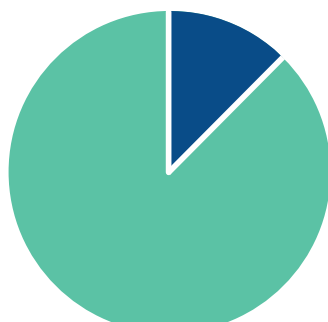
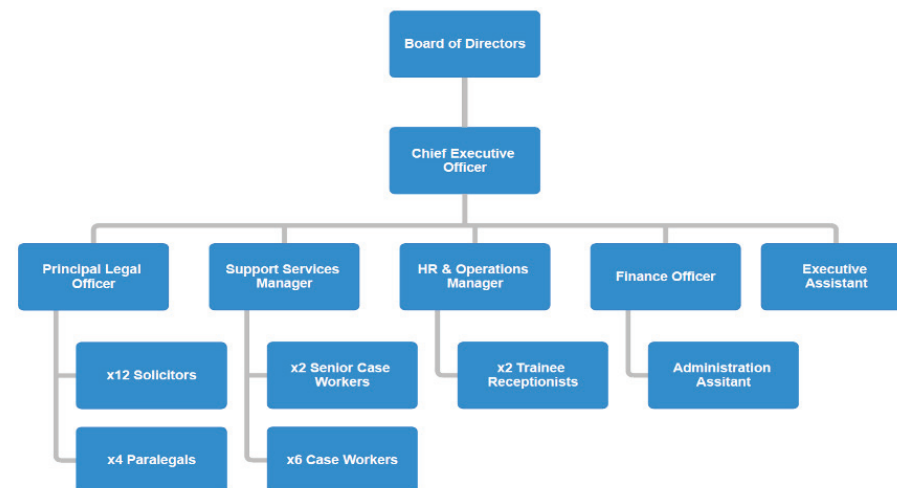


# WHO WE ARE

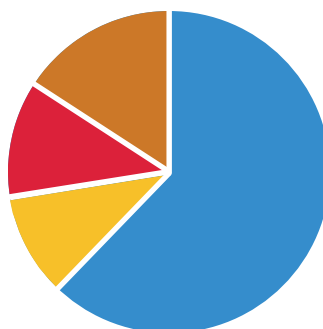
As at 30 June 2023, NAAFLS employed 26 staff; five male and 21 female. Fifty four percent of our staff identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander.

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.



• Male • Female



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



Staff in our Darwin office.





# WHAT WE DO

## NAAFLS Achievements against strategic goals

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

NAAFLS model for service delivery ensures an Aboriginal Case Worker is involved in client meetings to determine whether the client is understanding the legal information they are receiving and if the Case Worker assesses an interpreter is needed, one will be provided.

NAAFLS is aware of the issues facing clients and families within remote Aboriginal communities and continues to consider these issues when assisting clients. Whether this is legal or non-legal support, our staff work collaboratively with clients to assist with the best possible outcomes.

Data collection has recently changed through the implementation of ActionStep, which is our new documents management system. Although this program has been in place for a few months, the reporting aspect of the program has not provided the data we would have expected.

We are currently working with a consultant to tailor reports to capture the data we require for detailed reporting. This will result in better reporting in the next period.

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

NAAFLS has continued to meet with stakeholders to develop and strengthen relationships. Each community trip involves NAAFLS staff checking in with stakeholder organisations within the community which ensures we are up to date with knowledge of the services they provide to better assist our clients. Meetings with stakeholders within the Darwin and Katherine regions are also held regularly.

These engagements are discussed during our all staff meetings as a way of updating staff as to changes and options for referral pathways.

Inter-family and inter-community relationships are always considered when providing a service to our clients. For example NAAFLS works closely with all relevant family members in a child protection matter to ensure provision of the best possible opportunities for families to stay together or to have the opportunity to bring the family back together when possible.

A portion of the role of our Support Team is to provide ongoing case management for clients who have been referred to other service providers. This includes assisting clients to understand and navigate the sometimes complicated processes to access the service provider.



**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.

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

NAAFLS continues to work within our Cultural Safety Policy. We have also sourced and will provide ongoing cultural safety sessions to staff on a regular basis. These sessions are presented by an Aboriginal and a non-Aboriginal person, discussing safety awareness when travelling to communities, the differences in culture and how to work together to ensure safety is paramount.

NAAFLS is very aware of the difficult environment out staff work in and the importance of providing a trauma-informed approach to service delivery. Staff are registered to attend DV alert and signs of safety training as part of their induction and also have the opportunity to attend Aboriginal Mental Health First Aid Training.

**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 continuing to attend meetings aimed at improving their strategic leadership of the organisation.



# DIRECTOR'S AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REPORT

## 30 JUNE 2022

North Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation

### Directors' Report 30 June 2023

The directors present their report on North Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation for the financial year ended 30 June 2023.

#### 1. General information

##### Information on directors

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

Mark Munnich	Chair, appointed 18 November 2022
Peter Thomsen	Deputy Chair for full year
Ada Parry	Director for full year
Sue Wainwright	Director for full year
Therese Puruntatameri	Director for full year
Leonie Patterson	Director, appointed 18 November 2022
Debbie Mauger	Director, appointed 18 November 2022

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 \$ 473,736 (2022: \$ 575,958).

#### 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.

North Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation

### Directors' Report 30 June 2023

#### 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

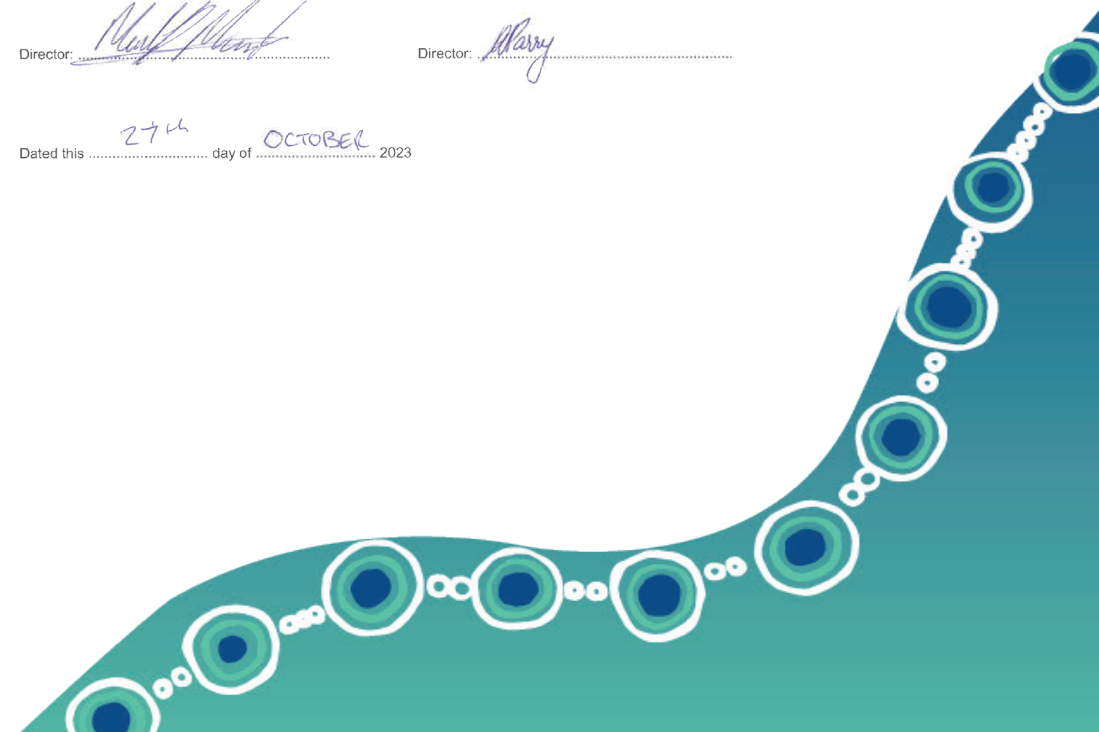
The auditor's independence declaration in accordance with section 339-50 of the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006, for the year ended 30 June 2023 has been received and can be found on page 3 of the financial report.

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

Director: 

Director: 

Dated this <sup>27<sup>th</sup></sup> day of <sup>OCTOBER</sup> 2023





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**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 2023, 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Adam Dohnt', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Adam Dohnt (FCA)

*Registered Company Auditor*

Darwin

Dated: 31 October 2023



# 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 2023

		2023	2022
Note	\$	\$	\$
Revenue		11,649	7,966
Interest income	5	15,627	1,299
Other income	4	4,284,061	4,358,444
Employee benefits expense		(2,457,630)	(2,587,508)
Depreciation and amortisation expense		(369,407)	(302,237)
Consultancy fees		(102,100)	(47,782)
Travel		(338,489)	(323,824)
Meeting expenses		(3,106)	(1,578)
Other expenses		(560,839)	(513,863)
Finance expenses	5	(6,030)	(14,959)
<b>Surplus for the year</b>		<b>473,736</b>	<b>575,958</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>473,736</b>	<b>575,958</b>

North Australian Aboriginal Family Legal Service Aboriginal Corporation

## Statement of Financial Position As At 30 June 2023

		2023	2022
Note	\$	\$	\$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	1,789,276	923,124
Trade and other receivables	7	6,871	208,420
Other assets	8	76,924	88,412
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>1,873,071</b>	<b>1,219,956</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	9	335,408	478,161
Right-of-use assets	10	138,013	210,153
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>473,421</b>	<b>688,314</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>2,346,492</b>	<b>1,908,270</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	11	177,601	236,818
Borrowings	12	2,995	2,003
Lease liabilities	10	136,514	201,692
Employee benefits	13	70,738	168,348
Grants received in advance	14	196,375	10,000
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>584,223</b>	<b>618,861</b>
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Lease liabilities	10	2,884	17,839
Employee benefits	13	45,951	34,868
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>48,835</b>	<b>52,707</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>633,058</b>	<b>671,568</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>1,713,434</b>	<b>1,236,702</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained earnings		1,713,434	1,236,702
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>1,713,434</b>	<b>1,236,702</b>



**NAAFLS**  
**NORTH AUSTRALIAN**  
**ABORIGINAL FAMILY**  
**LEGAL SERVICE**

**DARWIN**

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