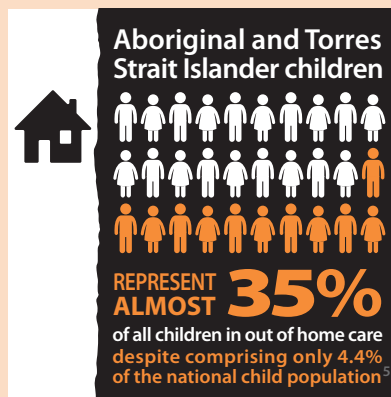
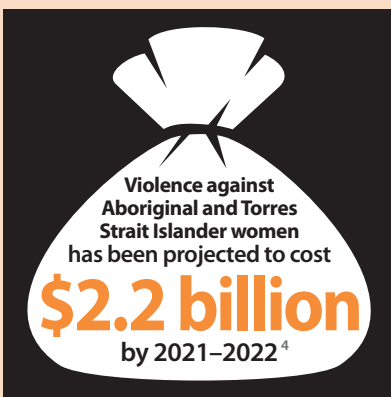


NATIONAL FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION LEGAL SERVICES

WORKING TO ACHIEVE IMPROVED JUSTICE OUTCOMES FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
VICTIMS/SURVIVORS OF FAMILY VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

FAMILY VIOLENCE AGAINST ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER WOMEN IS A NATIONAL CRISIS

Family Violence Prevention Legal Services provide specialist, culturally safe legal services and supports to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victim/survivors of family violence across Australia.





Nationwide 14 FVPLS work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victim/survivors of family violence



FVPLSs are unique, experienced and specialist service providers delivering culturally safe legal and non-legal services



FVPLSs were established in recognition of the gap in access to legal services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims/survivors of family violence and sexual assault, the high number of legal conflicts within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services, and high rates of family violence in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

SORRY WE'RE FULL

FVPLSs report that up to **30-40%** of women contacting us have to be turned away because we don't have the capacity to support them¹⁰

OVER THE LAST 5 YEARS FVPLSs HAVE DELIVERED

15,900 legal advices

48,200 non-legal advices

support to an average of **2,284** clients per year

IN 2014 - 15 FVPLSs PROVIDED OVER 3,050 LEGAL ADVICES AND OVER 11,000 NON-LEGAL ADVICES¹¹

At current funding levels, FVPLSs service an area that covers approximately half the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population. Coverage in many remote areas is extremely limited, often consisting of only one or two days per month.¹²



The National FVPLS Forum calls on the Federal Government to reinstate the National Family Violence Prevention Legal Services Program



The National FVPLS Forum calls on the Federal Government to

ensure all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have access to our specialist, culturally safe services regardless of their geographic location

provide certainty to Aboriginal victim/survivors and their communities through providing long-term, secure funding commitments to all FVPLSs



The National FVPLS Forum calls on COAG to develop justice targets to reduce family violence and incarceration rates in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities

1 The Australian Productivity Commission, *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage – Key Indicators 2014*, 2014, page 4.93, table 4A.11.22 available at <http://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/overcoming-indigenous-disadvantage/key-indicators-2014/key-indicators-2014-report.pdf>.

2 Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, *Family Violence among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people*, 2006, page 66 available at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publication-detail?id=6442467912>.

3 The Australian Productivity Commission, *Overcoming Indigenous Disadvantage – Key Indicators 2014*, 2014, page 4.91 available at: <http://www.pc.gov.au/research/recurring/overcoming-indigenous-disadvantage/key-indicators-2014/key-indicators-2014-report.pdf>; and Willis, M. 2011, Non-disclosure of violence in Australian Indigenous communities, January, Trends & issues in crime and criminal justice, No. 405, Australian Institute of Criminology, Canberra, available at <http://www.aic.gov.au/publications/current%20series/tandi/401-420/tandi405.html>.

4 The National Council to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children, *The Cost of Violence Against Women and their Children*, 2009, page 9, available at https://www.dss.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/05_2012/vawc_economic_report.pdf.

5 Productivity Commission, *Report on Government Services*, 2015, page 15.13 available <http://www.pc.gov.au/research/recurring/report-on-government-services/2015/community-services/child-protection/government-services-2015-volume-f-chapter15.pdf>.

6 Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People, Open Letter in response to *2015 Report on Government Services*, 3 February 2015, available at http://www.ccap.vic.gov.au/downloads/2015.02.03_ROGS%202015.pdf.

7 Australian Institute of Criminology, *The Relevance of Family Violence to Indigenous Women's Offending* (2010) 28, available at http://www.aic.gov.au/media_library/publications/rpp/107/rpp107.pdf.

8 Change the Record campaign sourced this statistic from Australian Bureau of Statistics (2012), *Prisoners in Australia 2014*, Cat. No. 45170, Canberra.

9 Data drawn from a 2004 study cited in Victoria Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission, *Unfinished Business – Koori women and the justice system*, 2013, page 29, available at http://www.humanrightscscommission.vic.gov.au/media/k2/attachments/Unfinished_business_-_Koori_women_and_the_justice_system.pdf.

10 Based on an internal survey.

11 Information from CLSIS reporting data

12 NOUS Group, *Family Violence Prevention Legal Services – Research and Needs Analysis Report*, 2013 (unpublished).