

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

9 February 2017 – For immediate release

Appointment of Ms June Oscar AO as Social Justice Commissioner a landmark moment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women

The appointment of highly respected Aboriginal leader Ms June Oscar AO as Social Justice Commissioner is a landmark moment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, according to the National Family Violence Prevention Legal Service Forum (National FVPLS Forum).

“Since the establishment of the position of Social Justice Commissioner in 1993, no female has held the position on a permanent basis,” said Antoinette Braybrook, Convenor of the National FVPLS Forum. “The appointment of Ms Oscar will ensure that the voices and particular experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women are amplified in national policy and debate.”

Ms Oscar’s appointment has been warmly welcomed by the National FVPLS Forum. “Ms Oscar is a respected leader with significant on-the-ground-experience of issues impacting on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, and in particular in addressing family violence,” said Ms Braybrook.

“While Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experience high rates of social and economic disadvantage, it is very often Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women who are disproportionately impacted,” said Ms Braybrook. “This is reflected in, among other issues, the unacceptably high rates of family violence and removal of children experienced by our women.”

“Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Services (FVPLSs) across the country witness the disadvantage experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women on a daily basis,” said Ms Braybrook. “It is a significant step that finally we have Social Justice Commissioner who understands the unique challenges faced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, particularly issues relating to the intersection of both race and gender.”

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Media Release