# Collaborative Planning Committee

## 13 November 2019

### In attendance

**Present**

Taryn Lee – Department of Justice and Community Safety (DJCS), Serina McDuff – Federation of Community Legal Centres, Stuart Webb – Law Institute of Victoria, Lynne Haultain – Victorian Law Foundation (VLF), Louise Glanville – Victoria Legal Aid, Moricia Vrymoet – Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service (VALS)

Nigel Balmer (VLF) for agenda item 6, Brendan Lacota – Justice Connect for agenda item 3.

Peter Noble – VLA (Observer), Amy Schwebel – VLA (Secretariat)

**Apologies**

Anna Faithfull – DJCS, Megan Ross – Djirra, Nerita Waight – VALS, Justin Hannebery SC – Vic Bar

## Meeting summary

The Committee opened with an Acknowledgement of Country. Louise Glanville, Chair of the Collaborative Planning Committee, welcomed Committee members to the third meeting of the Committee and noted apologies from the Vic Bar and Djirra.

Committee members provided an update of work since the last meeting, with a particular focus on service delivery and initiatives in regional areas. The VLF and FCLC advised the Committee of 2019 Knowledge Grant and Integrated Service funding announcements.

Justice Connect joined the meeting to discuss Disaster Legal Help Victoria (DLHV). The Committee noted the transition of governance from the Victorian Legal Assistant Forum (VLAF) to the Collaborative Planning Committee and the evolution of DLHV since it was first established in the wake of the 2009 bushfires, and the provision of assistance to a range of incidents to date in 2019. The Committee identified the need for further work to clarify the scope of DLHV going forward including the nature of incidents that will activate DLHV assistance.

The Committee discussed the status of the National Legal Assistance Partnership (NLAP) negotiations including the release of the Commonwealth’s proposal for the NLAP and recent consultations by the Commonwealth Attorney General’s Department with the Victorian legal assistance sector. The Committee remains concerned about the level of funding proposed in light of unmet demand for legal assistance in Victoria and enhanced requirements for collaborative service planning, data collection and reporting without additional funding to support this work.

The Victoria Law Foundation presented its recent research, *Law…What is it Good For?* The research investigates some of the foundational aspects of legal capability, specifically how people recognise law as relevant to everyday justiciable problems, assess the importance of legal advice in the context of such problems, and view the accessibility of lawyers and courts. The Committee noted that the research findings provide further evidence for integrated service delivery models.

The Committee settled a planner to focus the Committee’s work in 2020. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 29 January 2020.