



FVPLS Victoria is now Djirra!

After **15 years** working with and supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples experiencing family violence, we are taking a new exciting path in our journey –
We are now Djirra!

As Djirra, **our existing work will continue**, including frontline legal and non-legal services, early intervention and prevention programs, community education and policy and advocacy.

Addressing family violence will remain the core focus of the work we do. We will continue our commitment to support victims and survivors. We are expanding our services to broaden our positive and holistic approach to
Aboriginal women's wellbeing, safety and cultural identity.



Sharing stories, finding solutions

1800 105 303
www.djirra.org.au

We are resilient... We have survived..... We are a voice..... We are Djirra!

October 2002
The beginning
FVPLS Victoria is established and located at Queen Victoria Women's Centre in Melbourne CBD (only 1 office 1 staff)

July 2005
FVPLS Victoria provides outreach
In Barwon South West and Gippsland, supported by local ACCOs for client appointments

July 2007
Our very first Sisters Day Out®
Held in Morwell, attracting 32 Koori women

July 2007
Stand-alone offices established
In Warrnambool to service Barwon South West and Bairnsdale to service Gippsland

June 2009
Keeping kids with mums
Funding received for our first dedicated Child Protection lawyer

July 2008
Mildura
Stand-alone office established

July 2008
Frontline Legal Services in urban Victoria commence
Secured funding for 2 lawyer positions to provide Aboriginal women in urban areas with access to culturally safe and specialist family violence services

July 2009
Expansion of culturally safe services in urban Victoria
Secured 3 year funding from State Government for 2 paralegal support worker positions

June 2010
Strengthening Aboriginal women's voices
Launch of our first policy papers and establishment of our policy unit

February 2012
A National voice
We host the newly established National FVPLS Forum secretariat for the 14 member organisations throughout Australia

June 2015
Reaching out to younger Aboriginal women and girls
Young LUV®, our healthy relationships program begins

March 2014
Survival – The Indigenous Advancement Strategy
Fighting for funding certainty

November 2012
Advocating for systemic change
Our inaugural national conference, *Standing Firm for Change – A Journey to Justice* held

July 2015
Our place
Our vision of owning our own building is realised

February 2016
Sisters Day Out® has survived
We celebrate our 100th workshop attracting over 400 Koori women

May 2017
Aboriginal women's voices are heard
Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence recognises impact of family violence on Aboriginal women and FVPLS Victoria's leading role in response, prevention and fighting for change

March 2018
We are Djirra
Still a Force to Be Reckoned With

July 2017
Our vision of our Koori Women's Place realised with its launch taking place during NAIDOC week

June 2017
Aboriginal women's lives matter
An unprecedented funding commitment by State Government to FVPLS Victoria

We thank all our funders and supporters, including State and Commonwealth governments, philanthropic trusts, private business and individuals for the invaluable financial and pro bono support along our journey. We also acknowledge the courage and strength of all those who have been standing firm with us against family violence – thank you.



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Djirra is the Woiwurrung word for the reed used by Wurundjeri women for basket weaving. Traditionally, when women gathered to weave, important talks took place and problems were solved. *Djirra* symbolises Aboriginal women today, still coming together to share stories, support each other and find solutions.

Djirra is a place where culture is shared and celebrated, and practical support is provided. We are committed to breaking down barriers and finding better ways for Aboriginal women to be safe, access justice and claim equality.

**"As an Aboriginal
Community Controlled
Organisation (ACCO),
we walk side-by-side
with our sisters, supporting
their journey to safety
and wellbeing."**

Marion Hansen
Djirra Chairperson

**"Aboriginal women
are strong and resilient
and we have the solutions
to the problems affecting
our lives. When sisters
get together, we find
answers."**

Antoinette Braybrook
Djirra CEO



Aboriginal Community Controlled
Culturally Safe
Prevention of Family Violence
Legal Services and Holistic Support
Cultural and Wellbeing Workshops
Policy and Advocacy

1800 105 303
www.djirra.org.au

Djirra's offices are in metropolitan Melbourne and across regional Victoria.