# **RECONCILIATION ACTION PLAN** FINANCIAL RIGHTS LEGAL CENTRE

for October 2018 – October 2019





inancial Rights

Legal Centre

### Statement from our coordinator





Financial contracts are essential to existence in the modern world. From ATM cards to loans, credit cards, mortgages, insurance and superannuation, the providers of finance and financial services touch so many aspects of our daily lives. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples inhabit an exciting and challenging intersection between these modern realities and an unbroken culture lasting more than 40,000 years. While Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are many and as diverse as our continent is wide, some experiences are common to many. Experience with cash in some communities is barely a couple of generations old, and yet cash is already nearly redundant, replaced by a myriad of confusing electronic alternatives marketed as quick and easy solutions but full of costs and pitfalls for the unwary. Having a bank account is essential to pay for goods and services, but can be very difficult to set up, especially if you live in a remote community or don't have proper identification. Bank account fees and charges can also be too expensive for those living with little to no money, especially if they are in the wrong type of account.

Many important cultural traditions are based on kinship by sharing resources with family and other community members. But these practices are not recognised in the credit assessment or the hardship policies of our financial institutions. Cultural values also lead to the vulnerable being exploited or misled for example being sold poor value financial products, like funeral insurance and payday loans. The compelling need for a car to access employment, services and supplies from remote locations can mean that people could enter unreasonably expensive loans for unreliable vehicles. Even Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in urban communities with steady income need to negotiate a fast changing world of credit and payment options, which leave many struggling in a sea of unmanageable debt.

However, these cultural beliefs and practices, especially kinship, can be some of the most powerful ways to be aware of predatory financial practices and end them. Financial Rights is committed to working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across Australia to enforce their rights as consumers, expose and end exploitative practices, and empower them to look for their own solutions, through their cultural values. This Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) demonstrates our commitment to this important work and the relationships that are essential to its success. Our Aboriginal staff and Mob Strong Debt Help program are vital to achieving this objective, as are our growing connections with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and communities. Together we hope to work towards a fairer, financial future for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, built on mutual understanding and respect.

#### **Karen Cox**



Financial Rights engaged Aboriginal artist Pauline Coxon to create a painting for the Financial Rights Legal Centre to act as a brand for our Mob Strong Debt Help service. Financial Rights has also engaged Ngakkan Nyaagu to provide artwork and graphic design for consumer facing brochures and our website.

## Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) artwork

#### The story behind the painting

The use of meeting circles, natural earth ochre colours and message sticks/clap sticks are an important theme for the message of the Financial Rights Legal Centre.

Financial Rights connects with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, with a visual presentation that tells the story.

The inner circle is the logo Financial Rights Legal Centre designed in yellow ochre and red ochre dot art. It is a clear simple design that is easy to read.

A design of six meeting circles orbits the inner logo.

Each circle represents the diversity in the people/clients accessing the Financial Rights service.

From single mum and child, to a same sex couple, an average family, a single person, a small family and people with a disability.

Each meeting circle is connected to the inner circle. This represents communication and connection to Financial Rights.

The flow of the circles goes in and flows out. The message sticks surrounding the meeting circles also represent communication. The design of the waves represents sound waves, communication waves; the message and information of Financial Rights reaching out to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

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### Another six meeting circles continue out, going clockwise the first image is

- Contract: This is an important image as most people in financial difficulty are bound with a contract. Understanding a contract is very important and often difficult in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities where English is not the first language contracts are not understood.
- 2. Computer/technology: This image represents our society today even in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. We have in some capacity access to digital technology. A good online information system is crucial for cultural understanding. Financial Rights can reach everyone in the community with information, and can be utilised as one form of getting the message out.
- **3. Hand:** The symbol of the hand to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples goes back to our ancestors leaving their hand prints in ochre on our cave walls. This was our signature of who we are. The symbol of the hand is many things. Financial Rights also lends a hand to people in need of assistance.
- 4. Phone/calculator: This image represents a mobile phone and can also be interpreted as a calculator. Today we can use apps on our mobile phones to access information. The use of the calculator is an important tool as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples become familiar with using these tools to manage our money. Like learning a new language, the language of money is still a new skill that a lot of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples become familiar peoples need to know. Financial knowledge is not part of our oral or spiritual history. This is a new path for us all to learn. Financial Rights can assist by providing information about your rights when it comes to banking, dept, contracts and insurange.
- **5. Key:** Financial Rights is the key to unlocking your financial questions.
- 6. Feet: Financial Rights will help you get your feet back on the ground. Sound financial legal advice will keep you grounded.

\*The entire painting can be seen on page 4

## Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) artwork

#### **Graphic Design by NGNY**

Ngakkan Nyaagy (NGNY) is a 100% Aboriginal owned and operated Digital Agency. NGNY digitally designed all the artwork in this RAP based on Pauline's painting. Find out more about this amazing company at <u>ngny.com.au</u>

#### Artwork by Aboriginal Artist Pauline Coxon

Aboriginal Artist Pauline Coxon used to be a Tenant Advocate, and in 2016 she created this brilliant painting about consumer and financial rights issues. The Financial Rights Legal Centre commissioned her to paint the story of our services. We're so happy with the painting and the powerful messages it contains! Thanks Pauline. If you would like to learn more about Pauline, please visit her website: paulinecoxon.com.

#### Artist bio

Pauline is a Worimi woman born in 1971 at Bulahdelah, the eldest daughter of Barry and Clare Syron and the granddaughter of Robert and Eileen Syron.

Pauline's Nana is a Worimi Traditional Descendant of the Barrington Tops and her Pop a Worimi man of the Great Lakes District.

Paulines family were story tellers and this message is within all her Paintings.

Every Painting has a story. Aboriginal women were the care givers and the gathers of food and medicine. Pauline connects to the Worimi Flowers and foods of the area, and shares the stories of how these were used traditionally.

Pauline has a summer Artist Studio at Karuah and has spent her last six years in the Snowy Mountains at her Art Gallery in the township of Berridale.

To learn more please visit her website: <u>www.paulinecoxon.com</u>





The Financial Rights Legal Centre (Financial Rights) is a community legal centre that specialises in helping people understand and enforce their financial rights, especially low income and otherwise marginalised or vulnerable people. We provide free and independent financial counselling, legal advice and representation to individuals about a broad range of financial issues. Financial Rights operates the NSW answer point for the National Debt Helpline, which helps NSW residents experiencing financial difficulties. We also operate the Insurance Law Service which provides advice nationally to people about insurance claims and debts to insurance companies. Financial Rights took almost 25,000 calls for advice or assistance during the 2017/2018 financial year. Financial Rights established the Aboriginal Advice Service in 2016 which is offered nationally to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for advice about credit, debt and insurance problems. This service has now rebranded and is called Mob Strong Debt Help.

As at 1 July 2018 Financial Rights employs 29 staff.

As at 15 March 2018, Financial Rights has two full-time Aboriginal staff members, a solicitor and an Aboriginal Service Coordinator. We provide a national service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, but our office is located in Sydney, NSW. We acknowledge the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation as the traditional owners of the land we occupy.

Financial Rights has a Management Committee made up of 5 members, none of whom are Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples. We also have an Aboriginal Advisory Committee (AAC) which was set up in 2017 to give our organisation advice and guidance on providing effective services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The AAC consists of three prominent Aboriginal peoples working in the financial services space. Nathan Boyle is the head of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) Indigenous Outreach Program; Robynne Quiggin is a Professor at UTS whose focus is on legal, compliance and policy areas of relevance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, including human rights, financial inclusion, financial services, consumer issues, governance; and Joy Reid is a financial counsellor. The AAC works closely with our Aboriginal staff members to provide support and guidance as needed.

Financial Rights recognises, respects and values Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and cultures. We endeavour to carry out, in a responsible way, our role in delivering access to financial counselling and legal advice about financial services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

### **Our vision for Reconciliation**

Our vision for reconciliation is for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to understand and be able to enforce their financial rights.

We aim to be a trusted advisor and advocate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in financial stress within our areas of expertise.





#### We have developed this RAP in order:

- To ensure our service effectively engages with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in its planning and decision-making processes;
- To ensure the services we offer to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are provided in the most effective way, based on a clear understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander needs and cultural practices;
- **3.** To enhance access to, and outcomes from, our service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and
- **4.** To show our respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples – supporting the goals and values of reconciliation.

Financial Rights is committed to providing useful and effective financial counselling and legal advice services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We see the RAP as a means of strengthening our existing policies and procedures and publicly acknowledging the importance of reconciliation to our service and our commitment to progressing reconciliation in Australia. We hope the RAP will help strengthen our relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and increase our focus on identifying opportunities for collaboration with, and support of, local and national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations.

Financial Rights acknowledges the importance of developing strong, effective relationships based on mutual respect and trust. Furthermore, Financial Rights recognises that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' values, beliefs and cultures need to inform the services delivered by Financial Rights in order to maintain working relationships, and to fulfil the future goals and ambitions of Financial Rights, the community and other stakeholders.

#### **Our Reconciliation journey**

Our reconciliation journey is at a formative stage, building on the creation of our new Mob Strong Debt Help service, ongoing consumer engagement and outreach with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander financial counsellors and community legal and advocacy groups. Although Financial Rights has always provided free legal advice and financial counselling to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples through the National Debt Helpline and Insurance Law Service, we have recently become more actively involved in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander legal support through our Mob Strong, Debt Help service. In 2017, Financial Rights assisted 259 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients, which comprised some 3 per cent of its total client base. Only people who receive advice, task assistance or representation are counted as clients – thousands of others receive information & referral services only. Financial Rights opened 59 casework files for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander clients, representing 32% of clients receiving representation services.

Following the creation of this new service our Management and Policy teams began discussing the importance of formally building an organisation of culturally competent people and decided that a meaningful first step would be to partner with Reconciliation Australia to develop this Reconciliation Action Plan. We were further encouraged to take this step following publication of the Community Legal Centres NSW RAP.

## As part of this work, we created our RAP Working Group (RWG):

- Karen Cox, Coordinator
- Julia Davis, Policy & Communications Officer and RWG Chair until October 2018
- Peter Schulz, Financial Counsellor
- Amy Knox, Senior Solicitor
- Dave McMillan, Management Committee Member
- Suwana Combo, Aboriginal Service Coordinator
- Mark Holden, Aboriginal Solicitor and RWG Chair from October 2018
- Lody Stewart, Financial Counsellor

The RWG will be responsible for promoting the RAP within the organisation, identifying actions that Financial Rights can take to progress implementation of RAP goals and reporting against RAP outcomes. The group is passionate about implementing the actions identified in our plan and is proud to present our plan to the public.

Karen Cox, our Coordinator is our internal RAP champion, demonstrating Financial Rights' commitment to the RAP from the executive level

### Our partnerships / current activities

Our partnerships are informal and ongoing – we work with a range of organisations including specialist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander financial counselling groups to increase accessibility to our service, especially for people living in remote communities. We currently work together with the following organisations to improve access for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumers to our service:

- Legal Aid NSW Money Counts: Legal Aid NSW refer Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumers to us when they don't have the capacity or the specialist knowledge to represent them and we refer to them in turn.
- Northern Australian Aboriginal Justice Agency (NAAJA): We have accepted a number of referrals from NAAJA recently and have been asked to visit to provide training in our areas of expertise and further develop the relationship between our services.
- Money Workers Association of the Northern Territory (MWANT): MWANT is the professional peak body for Financial Counsellors and Financial Literacy Educators in the Northern Territory. Their financial counsellors support numerous Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. For many years we have sent a staff member (usually our Principal Solicitor) to present at and attend the annual MWANT conference.
- Financial Counsellors Association of NSW (FCAN) Aboriginal Network: We interact with network members at FCAN events and conferences. We have also used this network to get feedback on our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander publications and outreach strategies. We have also done legal training workshops for members of the FCAN Aboriginal Network.

- Financial Counselling Australia: We present at numerous state and national financialcounsellors conferences throughout the year. These events are attended by many financial counsellors who provide services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumers.
- ASIC Indigenous Outreach Program: We have met with members of the ASIC Indigenous Outreach Program to discuss the creation and promotion of our Mob Strong Debt, Help service. We have also liaised with the program staff about systemic issues we see in our casework occurring in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, such as funeral insurance mis-selling and responsible lending violations. We have also attended presentations led by the Indigenous Outreach Program.
- Muru Mittigar: Muru Mittigar is an Aboriginal-owned Social Enterprise, providing 'real time' employment and training opportunities in the workplace. We accept case referrals and give advice to case workers about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients that are suffering from financial stress or disputes with financial services.
- Indigenous Consumer Assistance Network (ICAN): We have a referral relationship with ICAN in far north Queensland.



## Relationships

Financial Rights acknowledges the importance of developing strong effective relationships based on mutual respect and trust. Furthermore, Financial Rights recognise that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' values, beliefs and cultures need to inform the services delivered by Financial Rights in order to maintain working relationships, and to fulfil the future goals and ambitions of Financial Rights, the community and other stakeholders.

| Action  | Deliverable   | Timeline  | Responsibility                    |
|---|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| 1. RAP Working Group<br>(RWG) actively monitors<br>RAP development and<br>implementation of actions,<br>tracking progress and<br>reporting. | <b>A.</b> RWG oversees the development, endorsement and launch of the RAP.  | October 2018  | Coordinator                       |
|   | <b>B.</b> Meet quarterly to monitor and report on RAP implementation.   | January 2019,<br>April 2019, July 2019,<br>October 2019 | RWG Chair                         |
|   | <b>C.</b> Ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are represented on the RWG.  | October 2018,<br>October 2019                           | RWG Chair                         |
|   | <b>D.</b> Develop a Terms of Reference between the Aboriginal Advisory Committee and the Centre and Management Committee.   | April 2019  | Coordinator                       |
|   | <b>E.</b> Draw on the Financial Rights Aboriginal Advisory<br>Committee to provide cultural advice and guidance.  | January 2019,<br>April 2019, July 2019,<br>October 2019 | Coordinator                       |
| 2. Build internal and external relationships.   | <b>A.</b> Develop a list of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, communities and organisations within our sphere of influence that we could approach to connect with on our reconciliation journey. | January 2019  | Policy Officer                    |
|   | <b>B.</b> Develop a list of RAP organisations and other like-minded organisations that we could approach to connect with on our reconciliation journey.   | March 2019  | Policy Officer                    |
|   | <b>C.</b> Track and report on engagement activities with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations in quarterly RAP Reports.  | January 2019,<br>April 2019, July 2019,<br>October 2019 | RWG Chair                         |
| <b>3.</b> Participate in and celebrate National Reconciliation Week (NRW).  | <b>A.</b> Research NRW events every March that would be of interest to our staff and promote these events internally.   | March 2019  | Aboriginal Service<br>Coordinator |
|   | <b>B.</b> Encourage our staff to attend a NRW event.  | 27 May<br>– 3 June 2019                                 | Coordinator                       |
|   | <b>C.</b> Circulate Reconciliation Australia's NRW resources and reconciliation materials to our staff.   | 27 May<br>– 3 June 2019                                 | RWG Chair                         |
|   | <b>D.</b> Ensure our RAP Working Group participates in an external event to recognise and celebrate NRW.  | 27 May<br>– 3 June 2019                                 | RWG Chair                         |

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| Action  | Deliverable   | Timeline  | Responsibility        |
|---|---|---|-----------------------|
| <b>4.</b> Raise internal and external awareness of our RAP. | <b>A.</b> Develop and implement a plan to raise awareness among all staff across the organisation about our RAP commitments.    | January 2019  | RWG Chair             |
|   | <b>B.</b> Develop and implement a plan to engage and inform key internal stakeholders of their responsibilities within our RAP. | January 2019  | RWG Chair             |
|   | <b>C.</b> Inform staff about our RAP in a staff-wide email, at Staff Meetings and on our notice board.                          | June 2019   | Operations<br>Manager |
|   | <b>D.</b> Inform new staff members about our RAP during the induction process. This process will be reviewed annually.          | January 2019  | Office Manager        |
|   | <b>E.</b> Raise external awareness of our RAP through publication on our websites, quarterly E-flyer and social media.          | January 2019,<br>April 2019, July 2019,<br>October 2019 | Policy Officer        |





Staff at Financial Rights are committed to ensuring that the perspectives, values and experiences of staff, volunteers, clients and stakeholder organisations are valued, respected and acknowledged in all levels of service delivery within the organisation. The Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander clients who call Financial Rights and Mob Strong Debt Help are more likely to be in a vulnerable position than other clients. This vulnerability might be brought on by issues including generations of poverty or trauma and leave them vulnerable to financial exploitation and prejudice. For these clients, they might find it difficult to seek help, whether because of financial literacy, access to services, mistrust of mainstream

services, or even the shame of discussing their financial issues. However, it is their culture, strengthened by kinship and their bond to their traditional lands, which empowers them to persevere and flourish that we must consider and respect.

Financial Rights is committed to understanding and respecting the culture and history of each Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholder when they engage or work with Financial Rights. This is not only to prevent further prejudice, but to build trust and help better work with those clients and communities.

| Action   | Deliverable  | Timeline       | Responsibility                    |
|--|--|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>5.</b> Investigate Aboriginal and<br>Torres Strait Islander cultural<br>learning and development. | <b>A.</b> Develop a business case for increasing awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories and achievements within our organisation.  | September 2019 | RWG Chair                         |
|  | <b>B.</b> Conduct a review of cultural awareness training needs within our organisation.   | April 2019     | Operations<br>Manager             |
|  | <b>C.</b> Capture data and measure our staff's current level of knowledge and understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, histories and achievements.   | April 2019     | Operations<br>Manager             |
| <b>6.</b> Participate in and celebrate NAIDOC Week.  | <b>A.</b> Raise awareness and share information amongst our staff<br>of the meaning of NAIDOC Week which includes information<br>about the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples<br>and communities. | July 2019      | Aboriginal Service<br>Coordinator |
|  | <b>B.</b> Introduce our staff to NAIDOC Week by promoting community events in our local area.  | July 2019      | Aboriginal Service<br>Coordinator |
|  | <b>C.</b> Ensure our RAP Working Group participates in an external NAIDOC Week event.  | July 2019      | RWG Chair                         |
|  | <b>D.</b> Encourage all staff to participate in NAIDOC Week celebrations.  | July 2019      | Operations<br>Manager             |
|  | <b>E.</b> Provide opportunities for all Aboriginal and Torres<br>Strait Islander staff to participate with their cultures and<br>communities during NAIDOC Week.   | July 2019      | Operations<br>Manager             |

| Action   | Deliverable   | Timeline       | Responsibility                    |
|--|---|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| 7. Raise internal understanding<br>of Aboriginal and Torres Strait<br>Islander cultural protocols. | <b>A.</b> Explore who the Traditional Owners are of the lands and waters in our local area.   | January 2019   | Aboriginal Service<br>Coordinator |
|  | <b>B.</b> Scope and develop a list of local Traditional Owners of the lands and waters within Financial Rights' sphere of influence.  | April 2019     | Aboriginal Service<br>Coordinator |
|  | <b>C.</b> Develop and implement a plan to raise awareness and understanding of the meaning and significance behind Welcome to Country and Acknowledgment of Country protocols (including any local cultural protocols).   | April 2019     | Coordinator                       |
|  | <b>D.</b> Invite a Traditional Owner to provide a Welcome to Country at significant events.   | October 2018   | Aboriginal Service<br>Coordinator |
|  | <b>E.</b> Include an Acknowledgement of Country at the commencement of monthly internal staff meetings and Management Committee meetings.   | March 2019     | Coordinator                       |
|  | <b>F.</b> Develop and communicate an internal protocol for<br>Welcome to Country and Acknowledgement of Country,<br>including resources or links about Traditional Owners of<br>the lands and waters in Sydney.   | April 2019     | Office Manager                    |
|  | <b>G.</b> Develop an MOU with Metro Land Council for<br>Welcome to Country ceremonies to be provided by<br>their representatives at future local events.  | January 2019   | Coordinator                       |
| 8. Improve internal policies and procedures to improve cultural safety in the workplace.           | <b>A.</b> In consultation with our Aboriginal Advisory Committee, review our office spaces and websites and make recommendations to improve internal policies and procedures to enhance cultural safety in our workplace.   | January 2019   | Policy Officer                    |
|  | <b>B.</b> Update existing policies and procedures to ensure an Acknowledgement of Country is included in all promotional and communication material.  | September 2019 | Policy Officer                    |
|  | <b>C.</b> Create and display an Acknowledgement of Country plaque outside our office under our Financial Rights sign.   | April 2019     | Office Manager                    |
|  | <b>D.</b> Implement use of the Community Legal Centre New<br>South Wales Cultural Safety Workbook as part of staff,<br>volunteer and Management Committee induction training<br>regarding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures,<br>lands and histories. | January 2019   | Office Manager                    |
|  | <b>E.</b> Review employment policies to ensure there are leave provisions for cultural and ceremonial leave.  | October 2019   | Operations<br>Manager             |

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# Opportunities

Financial Rights is committed to providing real and meaningful employment opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples at all levels of service delivery, and to progress and achieve individual and community goals. Financial Rights is committed to creating a more inclusive and culturally appropriate environment that will ultimately create increased quality and culturally appropriate legal services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

| Action   | Deliverable   | Timeline       | Responsibility        |
|--|---|----------------|-----------------------|
| 9. Investigate Aboriginal<br>and Torres Strait<br>Islander employment.                 | <b>A.</b> Develop a business case for ongoing and greater<br>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment within<br>our organisation.   | April 2019     | Operations<br>Manager |
|  | <b>B.</b> Identify current Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff to inform future employment and development opportunities.   | January 2019   | Coordinator           |
|  | <b>C.</b> Investigate how to advertise all vacancies in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander media.  | April 2019     | Office Manager        |
|  | <b>D.</b> Review recruitment procedures and policies to ensure there are no barriers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees and future applicants participating in our workplace. | April 2019     | Office Manager        |
| <b>10.</b> Investigate Aboriginal<br>and Torres Strait Islander<br>supplier diversity. | <b>A.</b> Develop an understanding of the mutual benefits of procurement from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned businesses.   | January 2019   | Office Manager        |
|  | <b>B.</b> Develop a business case for procurement from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned businesses.  | January 2019   | Office Manager        |
|  | <b>C.</b> Review procurement procedures to identify barriers and opportunities to/and for procuring goods and services from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses.                 | April 2019     | Office Manager        |
|  | <b>D.</b> Develop at least one commercial relationship with an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander business.  | September 2019 | Office Manager        |
|  | E. Investigate becoming a member of Supply Nation.  | September 2019 | Office Manager        |

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| Action   | Deliverable   | Timeline       | Responsibility                |   |
|--|---|----------------|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>11.</b> Investigate professional<br>development and support<br>options for Aboriginal and<br>Torres Strait Islander staff<br>and board members. | <b>A.</b> Investigate an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander professional mentoring network.  | January 2019   | Operations<br>Manager         |   |
|  | <b>B.</b> Ensure all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff participate in two face-to-face community legal sector or financial counselling network meetings each year, to provide professional development and networking opportunities. (Meetings may include Community Legal Centre NSW (CLC NSW) Yarn Up days, Quarterly Community Legal Centre Aboriginal Legal Access Program meetings, catch-ups with the CLC NSW Aboriginal Legal Access Program Manager or Annual Community Legal Centre Conferences) | September 2019 | Operations<br>Manager         |   |
| <b>12.</b> Ensure that our core<br>services are being delivered<br>to Aboriginal and Torres Strait<br>Islander communities.                        | <b>A.</b> Deliver at least one community legal education seminar or workshop to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities within the sector, and follow-up with advice, or warm referral.   | September 2019 | Director of<br>Legal Practice |   |
|  | <b>B.</b> Inform staff of learnings after each seminar or workshop that can be applied to future activities.  | September 2019 | Director of<br>Legal Practice |   |
|  | <b>C.</b> Add demographic information to our Client Satisfaction<br>Survey in order to track responses from Aboriginal and Torres<br>Strait Islander clients.   | April 2019     | Office Manager                |   |
|  | <b>D.</b> Monitor number and percentage of Aboriginal and Torres<br>Strait Islander clients and monitor casework retention rates<br>for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander casework clients<br>(we currently have targets of 4% Aboriginal and Torres Strait<br>Islander clients for advice and 15% for casework) Review<br>targets annually   | September 2019 | Operations<br>Manager         | - |



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# Tracking and progress

| Action  | Deliverable  | Timeline                   | Responsibility        |
|---|--|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| 13. Build support for the RAP.  | <b>A.</b> Define resource needs for RAP development and implementation.  | December 2018              | RWG Chair             |
|   | <b>B.</b> Define systems and capability needs to track, measure and report on RAP activities.                        | December 2018              | RWG Chair             |
|   | <b>C.</b> Complete the annual RAP Impact Measurement Questionnaire and submit to Reconciliation Australia.           | September 2019             | RWG Chair             |
| <b>14.</b> Report RAP achievements, challenges and learnings internally and externally. | <b>A.</b> Report progress & achievements to our funding body through our contract reporting requirements.            | January 2019,<br>July 2019 | Operations<br>Manager |
|   | <b>B.</b> Report on RAP achievements and key learnings in the Annual Report.   | October 2019               | Office Manager        |
| <b>15.</b> Review and Refresh RAP.  | <b>A.</b> Liaise with Reconciliation Australia to develop a new RAP based on learnings, challenges and achievements. | May 2019                   | RWG Chair             |
|   | B. Submit draft RAP to Reconciliation Australia for review.  | June 2019                  | RWG Chair             |
|   | <b>C.</b> Submit draft RAP to Reconciliation Australia for formal endorsement.                                       | September 2019             | Coordinator           |







Mark Holden



Amy Knox



Peter Schulz



Dave McMillan



Lody Stewart



Julia Davis



Suwana Combo



Karen Cox





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