



ABORIGINAL SERVICES

AGENCY NAME:

Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service

Brief Description:

The Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service (VALS) is an Aboriginal community controlled, not-for-profit organisation with designated gift recipient status. Our Constitution sets out the organisation's aims and objectives, which broadly are to provide legal advice and representation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Victoria, address the causes and effects of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disadvantage, and improve access to justice for, and service delivery standards to, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

VALS employs 15 Community Service Officers who access appropriate services for clients, either Koori specific or mainstream, and focus on addressing the causes of offending with the aim of reducing negative contact with the justice system and recidivism.

VALS lawyers provide services in criminal, family and civil law.

VALS undertakes law reform and advocacy, and delivers targeted community legal education (CLE) programs to communities throughout Victoria

We are a 24 hour a day, 365 days of the year Statewide service.

Role/Services available in relation to the work of the Royal Commission Into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

- Information provision
- Direct support to register with the Royal Commission
- Assistance in preparing for a private session with the Royal Commission
- Referral to counselling services as required
- Referral to legal services as required
- Referrals to other support services eg: Link Up, Connecting Home
- Advocacy with the Royal Commission

VALS can be contacted on 1800 064 865. Please let the receptionist know that you require support in relation to the Royal Commission.

AGENCY NAME:

Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency

Brief Description:

The Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency (VACCA) is the lead Aboriginal child and family welfare organisation in Victoria, protecting and promoting the rights of Aboriginal children and young people. We provide programs and services to reinforce Aboriginal culture and encourage best parenting practices, and advise government in relation to child abuse and neglect in the Aboriginal community. We are a statewide Aboriginal community controlled organisation advocating for the rights of Aboriginal children, young people and families, and providing them with services premised on human rights, self-determination, cultural respect and safety. VACCA also provides the Link Up Program, a service for the Stolen Generations

Role/Services available in relation to the work of the Royal Commission Into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

- Information provision
- Direct support to register with the Royal Commission
- Assistance in preparing for a private session with the Royal Commission
- Referral to counselling services as required
- Referral to legal services as required
- Referrals to other support services eg: Link Up, Connecting Home
- Advocacy with the Royal Commission

VACCA can be contacted on 1800687662. Please let the receptionist know that you require support in relation to the Royal Commission.

AGENCY NAME:

Victorian Aboriginal Health Service: Family Counselling Services

Brief Description:

The VAHS Family Counselling Service has several programs available to support and improve the social, emotional and well-being of the Aboriginal community and is committed to a trauma informed recovery service model.

Located in Preston the Family Counselling Services provides a unique and highly specialised family, mental health and drug & alcohol support and counselling services to the Aboriginal community for children, youth & adults.

This includes psychiatric treatment and support services as well as general counselling and therapeutic care available from Psychologists, Counsellors and Family Therapists. Demand is high for these services.

The FCS is able to provide limited outreach support to clients from all ages as well as care coordination.

Role/services available in relation to the work of the royal commission in to Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

- General counselling support services across all ages
- Provide support and referrals for substance abuse issues
- Provide counselling in response to problem gambling
- Referrals to acute mental health care hospitals or prevention and recovery centres for respite and support – including St Vincent’s as well as mental health services in the northern region
- Referrals and outreach support provided to alcohol and drug related detox facilities (including home based de-tox)
- Case management support where appropriate to ensure better coordination of Aboriginal specific and mainstream services to support the care and recovery of some clients
- Group based healing programs available at the VAHS Minajalku Healing Centre

Over the last two years VAHS has extended its range of services to include the new Minajalku Healing Service. This provides complementary wellbeing support programs to Family Counseling and other VAHS programs. Programs includes men’s and women’s support groups, narcotics anonymous, massage therapy and many others.

VAHS FCS can be contacted on (03)94033300.

Address is 238-250 Plenty Rd. Preston

VAHS Minajalku Healing Centre can be contacted on (03)8459 3800

Address is 7-11 Rossmoyne St Thornbury

AGENCY NAME:

Link Up Victoria

A Service for the Stolen Generations

Brief Description:

Link-Up Victoria is a Victoria state-wide service and has been operating as a program of the Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency since 1990. Link-Up Victoria is funded by the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH) to support the Stolen Generations – that is, any Aboriginal or

Torres Strait Islander who was removed, adopted, fostered or placed in an institution or family who are searching for loved ones that were removed, adopted, fostered or placed in an institution. Link-Up Victoria provides family tracing, reunion and counselling services to the Stolen Generations to reunite them with their families, communities, traditional country and culture. Link-Up Victoria can provide clients with:-

- Help to obtaining records i.e. adoption, fostering, birth certificates, other records
- Assistance to locate loved ones
- Counselling and support
- Reunion with family
- Referral to other services
- Participation in Link-Up Victoria and Aboriginal community events and activities

Link-Up Victoria is a member of a national network of Link-Up services operating across Australia.

Role/Services available in relation to the work of the Royal Commission Into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse:

- Information and referral to required services

Link Up can be contacted on 1800687662

AGENCY NAME:

Connecting Home Limited

A Service for the Stolen Generations

Brief Description:

Connecting Home is a service for the stolen generations which provides the following supports to survivors, their children and extended family members. The services provided include the following;
Support Services:

Provides support to recipients of this service to identify goals they wish to achieve and support with the journey in achieving these goals. This support is broad depending on the individual or family's needs that are identified at commencement and throughout the support. The support provided can include referrals to services, support with advocacy, support with information seeking whilst walking the journey.

Group Healing Services;

Provides group healing services tailored to the request of survivors. This has included inviting facilitators to run their cultural healing programs as well as provide other healing programs.

Community Engagement

This support includes the provision of cultural awareness training specific to the Stolen Generations

to Aboriginal and mainstream services as well as liaison with services and partnering to organise events that are important to the Stolen Generations.

Role/Services available in relation to the work of the Royal Commission Into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

- Information provision
- Direct support to register with the Royal Commission
- Assistance in preparing for a private session with the Royal Commission
- Referral to counselling services as required
- Referral to legal services as required
- Referrals to other support services eg: Link Up,
- Advocacy with the Royal Commission

Connecting Home can be contacted on (03)86790777

AGENCY NAME:

Victorian Aboriginal Community Services Association Limited

Brief Description:

The Victorian Aboriginal Community Services Association Limited (VACSAL) is the recognised state-wide Peak Advisory body on Aboriginal Community issues. VACSAL is a community based, community controlled organisation, comprising representatives from Koorie organisations across the State. As well as having an advisory role VACSAL also delivers and manages a range of critical community services across Victoria. VACSAL works from the following philosophical base in all of its advocacy work and service provision that of: Community and individual choices; Self-determination and managing change; Strengthening identity; Strengthening Culture; Strengthening families.

Role/Services available in relation to the work of the Royal Commission Into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Through VACSAL's service delivery programs the Aboriginal Centre for Male and the Bert Williams Aboriginal Youth Service we will be able to provide:

- Assistance in preparing for a private session with the Royal Commission
- Referral to counselling services as required
- Referral to legal services as required
- Referrals to other support services eg: Link Up, Connecting Home
- Advocacy with the Royal Commission

VACSAL can be contacted on (03)94166733

AGENCY NAME:

Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention and Legal Service Victoria

Brief Description:

The Aboriginal Family Violence Prevention & Legal Service Victoria (FVPLS Victoria) is an Aboriginal community-controlled organisation established in 2002 to provide culturally safe legal advice, referrals, casework and court representation to Aboriginal victims/survivors of family violence and sexual assault and to work with families and communities affected by violence.

Role/Services available in relation to the work of the Royal Commission Into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

We do not assist directly in legal advice and support in relation to institutional and organisational abuse but can assist in relation to family violence and family related sexual assault, including victims assistance. We can also organise counselling services for clients of FVPLS Victoria who are victims of family violence and sexual assault.

FVPLS can be contacted on 1800105303

AGENCY NAME:

Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation

Brief Description:

VACCHO is Victoria's peak representative Aboriginal health body and champions community control and health equality for Aboriginal communities

We are a centre of expertise, policy advice, training, innovation and leadership in Aboriginal health. VACCHO advocates for the health equality and optimum health of all Aboriginal people in Victoria. Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHOs) have a proud history as sustainable, democratic, grassroots organisations that assist in building community capacity for self-determination and direct provision of community services. ACCHOs are committed to assisting every Aboriginal person to realise their full potential as a human being and as a member of their community.

Role/Services available in relation to the work of the Royal Commission Into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse:

- Information and referral to required services

VACCHO can be contacted on (03) 9411 9411

AGENCY NAME:**Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care****Brief Description:**

The Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC) is the national non government peak body in Australia representing the interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families. Established in 1981, SNAICC has worked to provide a strong voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families through a national body which represents Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children's services and promotes the rights, needs and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families. SNAICC has a membership base of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-based child care agencies, Multi-functional Aboriginal Children's Services, creches, long day care child care services, pre schools, early childhood education services, early childhood support organisations, family support services, foster care agencies, link up and family reunification services, family group homes, community groups and voluntary associations, and services for young people at risk. SNAICC's work focuses on policy and advocacy, and resource development and training for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services.

Role/Services available in relation to the work of the Royal Commission Into Institutional**Responses to Child Sexual Abuse:**

- Information provision
- Policy submissions
- Advocacy with the Royal Commission, the Federal government and other key stakeholders

SNAICC can be contacted on (03) 9489 8099

MAINSTREAM SERVICES**AGENCY NAME:****Open Place****Brief Description:**

Open Place is the Victorian state wide support service for Forgotten Australians. Forgotten Australians are adults who as children were brought up in institutional, orphanage or other types of out of home care during the 1930s, 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s and in to 80s. Open Place is based in Richmond and has a drop in facility which offers daily support. It provides a Records, Find and Connect service (helps Forgotten Australians to gain their records from past providers and offers, on request, a supported process for reading one's records. A small counseling team provides a trauma based approach to counseling and support. The counseling team has a network of external counselors spread across Victoria. Open Place provides eligible service users with 20 counseling

sessions per year at no cost. A support team provides a referral, advocacy and case work service to those Forgotten Australians who are facing a range of medical issues, aged care issues, legal issues, social issues and housing issues. In addition Open Place facilitates 13 social support groups across Victoria. Open Place has received some limited funding to focus on providing assistance to Forgotten Australians who want to become involved with the Royal Commission. See below for services available.

Role/Services available in relation to the work of the Royal Commission Into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

- Information provision
- Direct support to register with the Royal Commission
- Assistance in preparing for a private session with the Royal Commission
- Referral to counselling services as required
- Referral to legal services as required
- Referrals to other support services eg: Link Up, Connecting Home
- Advocacy with the Royal Commission
- Ongoing support following a session/hearing with the Royal Commission

Contact details

Address: 1/8 Bromham Place, Richmond3121

Phone number: 18001609

AGENCY NAME:

Relationships Australia

Brief Description

Reclaim provides free comprehensive support for survivors of child sexual abuse and others who engage in or are affected by the Royal Commission process. We will provide a service if you are undecided about attending the Royal Commission or decide not to attend.

Role/Services available in relation to the work of the Royal Commission Into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

- Specialist counselling and support for individuals, couples and family members.
 - Information and advice about the Royal Commission process.
 - Support in preparing to attend Royal Commission hearings, including statement preparation.
 - Debriefing and support after attendance at Royal Commission hearings.
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- Support for you at Royal Commission hearings, when and where requested.
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Contact Details

1800 052 674. You can make an appointment or get more information about the service. We will talk with you about your situation and what support you need, then refer you to the right specialist practitioner in a location that best suits you, who will provide you with ongoing support.

AGENCY NAME

Drummond street services

Brief Description

Drummond street's community-based family support services are underpinned by our trauma informed care framework which is embedded across all of the agency programs.

This framework recognises the relationship across the range of health risks such as poor mental health, substance abuse, family violence, suicide ideation, relationship issues and histories of child sexual abuse. It also recognises the long-term impacts on survivors and their families and the need to provide services and support towards recovery for victims and their families.

Role/Services available in relation to the work of the Royal Commission Into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Our Royal Commission Community Based Service and Specialist Trauma Recovery Services incorporates three key service activities:

1. Royal Commission Engagement Support Services which enables survivors and their families to make informed decision, trauma awareness, understanding and planning for the process.
2. Brief Support for CSA survivors and their families, prior, throughout and post-Commission debriefing to assist with stress or distress
3. Longer-term intensive therapeutic recovery services including counselling, group work and peer support (for survivors and their significant others).

Support is flexible, responsive and directed by each individual at the time in which they need.

Contact Details

195-199 Drummond St Carlton VIC 3053
(03) 9663 6733

AGENCY NAME

KNOWMORE

Free legal help to navigate the Royal Commission

Brief Description

knowmore is a free service providing legal advice and assistance, information and referral via a free advice line and face-to-face services in key locations, for people considering telling their story or providing information to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. We have specialist counsellors/social workers to support people accessing our legal services.

Role/Services available in relation to the work of the Royal Commission Into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

- information about the Royal Commission, its legal powers and procedures, the roles of the Commissioners and others involved, rights of representation before it and the Commission's guidelines and statements about how it intends to proceed
- legal advice for people considering providing information to the Royal Commission about their options and what they may mean, and on a range of other legal issues including witness and informant protections, the availability of compensation or other forms of action or redress, and the effect of confidentiality agreements in past proceedings
- linking people with specialist counselling and support services and victims' support groups
- preparation of statements and assistance with preparing submissions about needed reforms.

Contact Details

1800605762