

The Victorian Aboriginal Community Services Association Ltd (VACSAL) is a community based organisation established in 1984 that supports a range of services and provides advice to Government on a range of policy issues impacting on Aboriginal People.

VACSAL works from the following philosophical base in all of its advocacy work and service provision:

**Community and individual choice –
Self-Determination and managing
change – Strengthening Identity –
Strengthening Culture –
Strengthening families**



Aboriginal Centre for Males

Program Support:

- Family Violence Drug & Alcohol
- Mental Health Health
- Financial Accommodation
- Counselling

201 Bell Street, Preston, Vic 3072

Phone: 9487 3000

Fax: 9484 8587

Fee Call: 1800 DJAMBI (352 624)

Homelessness Outreach Support Program

Program Support:

- Advocating and assist with filling out housing application forms.
- Support Clients through transitional housing.
- Assist with referrals to mainstream and other Aboriginal organisations.
- Links with open door services.
- Case Management is not limed to a specific time period.
- Referrals to Drug and Alcohol Programs.

Phone: 94164266

Email: homelessoutreach@vacsal.org.au

Bert Willams Aboriginal Youth Services (BWAYS)

Program Support:

- BWAYS Koorie Youth Justice Program
- Koorie Early School Leavers
- Youth Employment Program

21 Normanby Avenue, Thornbury, Vic 3071

Phone: 9484 5310

Fax: 9416 4147



Local Justice Worker Program

Contacts

Drucilla Morgan

Victorian Aboriginal Community Services Association Limited
Local Justice Worker

T: 03 9416 4266

M: 0409232959

E: drucillam@vacsal.org.au

Matthew Douglas

Local Justice Worker

Victorian Aboriginal Community Services Association Limited
496 High Street, Northcote VIC 3070

T: 03 9416 4266

M: 0448 206 939

E: matthew.douglas@vacsal.org.au

Email: localjusticeworkers@vacsal.org.au

Yawal Mugadjina Program

Corrections Victoria, in consultation with a number of key stakeholders has developed Yawal Mugadjina, a voluntary Cultural Mentoring Program for Aboriginal men and women in prison, supporting transition and reintegration back into their communities.

The Aboriginal Justice Agreement (AJA) highlights the first six months following release from prison are an especially high-risk time for recidivism. Therefore, it is vital that post release services for are implemented.

Yawal Mugadjina is structured in three core stages;

Stage One: Cultural Journey

Stage Two: Engaging with Elders and Respected Persons

Stage Three: Engaging with the Local Justice Worker Program

Whilst in custody Aboriginal men and women will have the opportunity to connect and strengthen their culture, identify and family and community connections.



The Victorian Aboriginal Justice Agreement

The AJA is the longest-running agreement of its kind in Australia and has enabled the establishment of significant initiatives. These include Aboriginal programs, positions, plans and business units that operate specifically to address the needs of the Victorian Aboriginal community. The AJA's wide-reaching impacts, along with its strong partnerships, are its greatest strength.

Sheriff's Aboriginal Liaison Officer

In 2010, the Infringement Management & Enforcement Services (now Fines Victoria) established a Sheriff's Aboriginal Liaison Officer (SALO) position located in Mildura. The SALO role was established to provide practical support and assistance to Aboriginal community members seeking to address their outstanding infringement obligations.

The role is also responsible for building and fostering links and to enhance communication and interaction between the Sheriff's Office and local Aboriginal communities to resolve issues and promote awareness of the role of Sheriff's Officers within local Aboriginal communities.

Vacsal's Local Justice worker Program will work together with the SALO to improve positive outcomes for our clients.

Helen Archibald

Sheriff Aboriginal Liaison Officer (SALO)

Phone: 83462212 0411650236

Email: helen.archibald@justice.vic.gov.au

Local Justice Worker role

The LJW role is to work directly with Koori clients and supporting them through their interactions with the justice system. It also provides the opportunity to make positive and lasting change across the justice system, the Local Justice will be working with a number of justice-related agencies to enhance the services received by Koori clients in the local area.

The LJW role is to Identify and establish Community Worksites that are culturally appropriate for Koori offenders and comply with Community Correctional Services (CCS) requirements - this often includes establishing Community Worksites at Aboriginal Community Organisations or at culturally significant places.

Supervise Koori offenders who are undertaking mandated community work as a condition of their court order – including complying with all CCS requirements, such as occupational health and safety and mandatory reporting responsibilities.

Supporting referrals to other relevant agencies and encouraging positive relationships with CCS;

Assist CCS to further its knowledge of local Koori service providers and of local Koori community matters (historical and current) that may support the case management of Koori offenders

Motivate and support clients to attend community work – this can include discussing consequences of non-attendance, providing reminders of upcoming community work requirements, and possibly transporting clients to and from community work.