

**NPYWC Domestic and Family Violence Service
Legal Assistance Services (LAS) Scoping Project
Request for Service**

1. Background

NPY Women's Council (NPYWC) is an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation based in Alice Springs and servicing 26 remote communities in NT, SA and WA across Central Australia. Established in 1980, NPYWC provides a range of human services to Anangu community members from this region, including its Domestic and Family Violence Service (DFVS). The DFVS was established in 1994 and works with Anangu women from the NPY region who are victim-survivors of domestic and family violence. DFVS provides:

- Short-term intensive crisis support via our freecall 1800 number, this includes risk assessment, safety planning, liaison with police and referral;
- Medium- to long-term case management, which involves outreach to remote communities;
- Primary prevention and healing groupwork activities led by Anangu facilitators; and
- Systemic advocacy and policy work to contribute to legislative and sector reform.

In the past, DFVS service delivery included legal assistance services (LAS). This was delivered using different models over time. For a period of time DFVS directly employed solicitors to work with clients based in the NT. DFVS has also previously sub-contracted legal services in SA and WA to work with clients from the NPY region. Both these models had benefits and also experienced challenges. Several years ago, the decision was made to re-direct funding from LAS to a Specialist Legal Education, Policy and Advocacy Officer position which focuses on CLE and internal capacity-building.

In July 2025 DFVS entered into a new, expanded funding agreement which means the service could provide LAS again if our Board of Directors chooses to.

2. Scope

NPYWC is seeking a suitably qualified and experienced consultant to:

- i) assess and evaluate appropriate models for the delivery of LAS that are responsive to the needs of Anangu victim-survivors of domestic and family violence from the NPY region;
- ii) consult with relevant stakeholders, including community members and existing legal service providers; and
- iii) prepare a comprehensive report (the Report) that includes:
 - a. viable LAS delivery options;
 - b. an implementation plan for each option;
 - c. a detailed cost estimate for implementation and delivery within the scope of our funding; and
 - d. a recommended option.

The deliverable is the Report, which must be completed by no later than 22nd June 2026.

3. Methodology

NPYWC is flexible regarding the methodology of the project, but at a minimum it's expected the consultancy will:

- a. Conduct a desktop review of:
 - i. DFVS service provision data

- ii. previous scoping work undertaken by DFVS in regards to LAS;
 - iii. broader service reviews of DFVS;
 - iv. DFVS policies, procedures and practice frameworks; and
 - v. relevant legislative and sector frameworks in each jurisdiction, such as the NT Risk Assessment and Management Framework.
- b. Engage with relevant stakeholders including police, courts and other legal and non-legal service providers
 - c. Conduct interviews with DFVS staff
 - d. Engage in-person with NPYWC members and clients, through several outreach visits to NPY communities as well as meetings in Alice Springs (note that NPYWC will provide staff to co-ordinate and support these outreach trips in person)
 - e. Provide a plain English summary of preliminary findings to NPYWC Board in early May 2026 to support Directors' decision-making about the establishment of LAS

4. Budget

NPYWC has an upper limit of \$90,000 for this project.

5. Nature of engagement

The successful consultant will enter into a fee for service, fixed term contract with NPYWC with no anticipated scope for extension. All Intellectual Property remains with NPY Women's Council.

6. Details sought in applications

NPYWC is seeking applications with the following information from prospective consultancies:

- a. Responses to selection criteria, as set out below
- b. Proposed timeline of activities
- c. Profiles of relevant personnel
- d. Itemised quote

7. Selection criteria

Criteria	Weight
Consultancy is a local NT business	30%
Experience working with First Nations communities and/or ACCOs	25%
Knowledge of subject matter as per scope of project	20%
Proposed methodology	15%
Value for money	10%

- 8. **Application process:** Applications to be emailed to Heather Smith, Manager of the Domestic and Family Violence Service, on heather.smith@npywc.org.au no later than 5pm Wednesday 10th December

Enquiries:

Heather Smith – Manager, Domestic and Family Violence Service, NPY Women's Council

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