

The ILNP *Victorian Report* (2013) was launched at the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service (VALS) in Melbourne on 29 November 2013. Our project partners in Victoria, VALS and Victoria Legal Aid (VLA), formally launched the report. ILNP researchers presented key research findings. The event was well attended by members of the public, including a range of stakeholder organisations and media.¹ Thank you to our Victorian ILNP project partners for their contributions to the *Victorian Report*, including their assistance with the launch. Thanks also to all other persons and organisations in Victoria who have provided valuable material for the Report.

The *Victorian Report* identifies significant civil and family law need in the Indigenous communities visited by the ILNP in 2012-2013. Priority legal issues in Victoria are broadly similar to those identified in the ILNP *NT Report* (2012).² Overall, , and in particular , has again emerged as the most prevalent legal issue in focus groups and stakeholder interviews, with of all focus group participants identifying having had a problem in this area. Other priority areas of civil/family law were (and)

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The *Victorian Report* identifies significant gaps in Indigenous access to justice with respect to civil and family law problems. Only just over one in five Indigenous focus group participants in Victoria who identified having had a housing related problem, for instance, had sought legal advice or assistance in response. Slightly over one in ten who had experienced problems in relation to discrimination and social security had sought assistance or advice. The Report sets out community and stakeholder perspectives on suggested strategies to reduce these gaps and to increase Indigenous access to justice. These include an increased focus on and resourcing of civil and family law service delivery to Indigenous communities across the whole of the State, enhanced Indigenous knowledge of civil and family law rights, including through delivery of CLE, and

¹ An ILNP opinion piece, for example, was published online at The Conversation, at: <http://theconversation.com/how-fear-and-funding-undercut-a-fair-go-for-indigenous-victorians-20644> and see further media output on our Facebook page.

²



issues, conducting CLE,

<http://www.jcu.edu.au/ilnp/>



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Thanks for reading and for your continued interest in the ILNP. If you have any comments or questions, please contact Fiona Allison at fiona.allison@jcu.edu.au or on (07) 40421886.

Stay tuned for a fourth progress report due out in

