



Culturally Proficient Legal Services for Our People

On board with QIFVLS

It's been a long time coming but ATSILS and the Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service have finally formalised their long-standing relationship into an MOU, signed last month in Cairns.



ATSILS CEO Shane Duffy (*pictured above with QIFVLS CEO Colin Ford*) said the partnership meant both were working to better meet the needs of our clients.

"This is fantastic, it's been a long time coming and we are all looking forward to strengthening the bonds between our two organisations, as well as streamlining and better coordinating the services we offer," he said.

QIFVLS CEO Colin Ford said

clients across Cape York, the Gulf Country and Central Queensland could now expect even greater levels of cooperation between the two legal services.

"We provide legal, counselling and other support services to victims of domestic and family violence across Queensland," he said.

"Effectively what we're doing is sharing travel costs, sharing training opportunities and supporting the professional development of our solicitors."

Over the past six years since I've been CEO ATSILS has grown from a staff of 30 and three offices to 173 staff and 25 offices located across the state.

Managing growth and change remains critical whilst delivering services where poverty, language, distance and a lack of services to support client need are an everyday thing.

The biggest challenge remains developing capacity externally by partnering and fostering better working relationships with key individuals, agencies and the private sector.

There are many challenges still to be understood, not only from a mainstream perspective but also from within our own communities.

How to progress these challenges and keep our focus on real solutions remains paramount to getting the job done.

All in all this will require passion and commitment from all our staff, as well as patience and understanding from our communities and clients.

If we all work together we can achieve the best possible outcome for everyone concerned, it takes time, but we will get there.

**Shane Duffy,
Chief Executive Officer**

Director Profile: Peggy Tidyman

Aunty Peggy Tidyman has been involved in ATSILS in one way or another for more than 30 years. As an Elder living in Logan City, her passion to improve the lifestyle of Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander families and communities has lead her to working in many levels of both the State and Federal Government involving, domestic and family violence, youth issues, education, leadership, cultural protocols, health, employment and child safety. A current ATSILS board member, she tells us a little of her story...

"I'm a Gunggari woman," she says. "I come from Mitchell in southwest Queensland which is Gunggari country, that's my father's country. My mother was born in Blackall, but she grew up in Charleville most of her early life before marrying and living in Mitchell.

"At an early age I became involved in the social justice area, working with the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement in Adelaide for four years from the late 1970s, and then moving to Brisbane to work with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service for a further four years.

"So I have had a long and proud association with this organisation. I worked as a Legal Secretary and then as the Company Secretary in the Brisbane service.

"Regardless of changes within the structure of ATSILS over the years, we have survived successive governments, both State and Federal, by focusing on a more culturally sensitive service delivery and greater access to legal representation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

"After I left the ATSILS I took an interest in education and worked in various schools as a Teacher Aide and then as a Community Education Counsellor.

"It was around that time the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths In Custody was happening. The over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the criminal justice system was – and still is – of major concern. It has taken considerable time by successive governments to implement the majority of the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, particularly those relating to the low educational standards of Aboriginal people.

"This year, on April 15, was the 20th anniversary of the Report in response to the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths In Custody but media reports indicate that the number of deaths in custody has increased,



not decreased.

"From working within the education system over the past 25 years I have seen the difference a good educational background can offer to our people. Without it we still face the challenges and continue to struggle to survive the injustices affecting us. I recently gained a Bachelor of Community Management at Macquarie University, Sydney and hold the view that education is a lifelong process.

"I am proud to be a Director on the Board of ATSILS (Qld) and believe our organisation is a major leader in the delivery of quality legal services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients and communities.

"Under the strong leadership of our Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer and our team of Directors, we can achieve our corporate and community goals with the support of our team of professional and dedicated and staff."



Workshopping in Cairns for better service delivery



Workshop participants from Cooktown, Cairns, Pormpuraaw & ATSILS

An opportunity to share ideas on how to tackle challenges in child safety was the main focus of a workshop held in Cairns recently.

Agencies such as RAATSIC (Remote Area Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Care), Pormpuraaw's Pormpur Paanth Aboriginal Corporation, and Cairns-based Wuchopperen Health Services came together to network and explore their options for working together with ATSILS and across the board.

"The workshop was well-attended and, I think, valuable for everyone concerned," ATSILS CEO Shane Duffy said.

"This kind of networking is exactly where we should be at in terms of maximising our efficiency and streamlining our services for our clients, as well as just generally 'think-tanking' between organisations so we're not just doing the day to day, but actively seeking solutions to our challenges and finding our way past them."

Pormpur Paanth Director of Services Kurt Noble said sharing knowledge, experiences and ideas helped everyone to do a better job.

"One of the main things with this workshop was we're able to not only share ideas about what our current challenges are, but looking at what are practical things could be improved," he said.

"This won't answer everything but it helps us to explore that.

"We're often working busily, sometimes in isolation from each other and that doesn't mean people aren't doing a good job.

"Some people are doing very good jobs

but it helps if we're all able to get together and actually share our experiences and our knowledge and our ideas."

Manager of the Child Wellbeing program at Wuchopperen Health Services, Karen Salam, said they didn't meet often enough.

"We don't meet enough so this is a fantastic opportunity of us coming together as a sector to talk," she said.

"What I'm excited about too is that ATSILS has joined the party and made the commitment to get information out there at community level.

"One of the other messages coming through from this forum is we want consistent ways of doing it, not just because you're in a remote community is actually different of how you are being treated or families are being treated compared to Cairns for example or Brisbane.

"So whatever we develop, it needs to be consistent."

Mr Duffy said he hoped to hold similar workshops in other areas of the state.

"There's no end to the value in these meetings," he said.

"Whether it means we work towards changing our own processes and ways of doing things, or lobbying collectively for changes to legislation, at least if we're working together and talking about it, we're getting somewhere.

"And we will progress from here, that's our commitment and we will stick to that."



ATSILS Qld's Role

Our organisation is at the forefront of innovative, professional and culturally proficient legal services for our people.

We have a deep respect for cultural protocols, and an inherent understanding and appreciation of the psychological and sociological problems and challenges that affect Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people, and work efficiently within the justice system advocating the legal rights of our clients.

Our role is to:

- Ensure that clients are appropriately represented when they come into contact with the justice system;
- Assist and inform Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people and enhance their understanding of the justice system;
- Ensure that clients and their families receive quality legal advice and representation; and,
- Influence positive changes within the justice system that reflect better understanding

and appreciation of the diverse cultural backgrounds, problems and challenges that impact upon Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islanders.

ATSILS works together with Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander communities, key government and non-government stakeholders to manage the delivery of services in a professional, culturally proficient and community-sensitive manner.

Our criminal, civil and family law services are delivered to Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people throughout Queensland.

We also have state-wide jurisdiction in the following areas:

- Monitoring Indigenous Australian Deaths in Custody;
- Community Legal Education;
- Law Reform; and,
- Prisoner Support & Rehabilitation

ATSILS Qld – Office Locations

HEAD OFFICE:

Level 5, 183 North Quay, Brisbane Q 4000

PO Box 13035 George Street, Brisbane Q 4003

Ph: (07) 3025 3888 (24 hrs) Fax: (07) 3025 3800

Toll Free: 1800 012 255

REGIONAL OFFICES:

Beenleigh: (07) 3804 5033

Bundaberg: (07) 4152 8044

Cairns: (07) 4046 6400

Charleville: (07) 4654 1721

Hervey Bay: (07) 4128 2488

Ipswich: (07) 3812 2772

Mackay: (07) 4953 4058

Maroochydore: (07) 5452 7633

Mount Isa: (07) 4744 0900

Murgon: (07) 4168 1944

Rockhampton: (07) 4927 5711

Southport: (07) 5532 6988

Strathpine: (07) 3205 1253

Toowoomba: (07) 4659 7822

Townsville: (07) 4722 5111



SATELLITE OFFICES:

Chinchilla: (07) 4662 8418

Cooktown: (07) 4069 6771

Cunnamulla: (07) 4655 2191

Dalby: (07) 4662 1317

Goondiwindi: (07) 4671 0766

Normanton: (07) 4745 1118

Palm Island: (07) 4770 1222

Roma: (07) 4622 5366

St George: (07) 4625 3052

Warwick: (07) 4661 7799



Roma community benefits from local commitment

ATSILS' field officer Donald Dodd was acknowledged by former Attorney-General Cameron Dick for his work's valuable contribution to the Roma community in July last year.

Mr Dick said Donald Dodd had been with ATSILS for about 12 years, providing important legal services and support for Indigenous Queenslanders.

"This assistance not only helps people with their individual legal issues but contributes to the efficiency and effectiveness of our courts and the broader justice system," Mr Dick said. "As somebody who consistently goes the extra yard to help people, Mr Dodd is regarded with utmost respect by the Roma community.

"The commitment shown by Mr Dodd is obvious through the hours he contributes to the court community, liaising with clients and even attending court on weekends for bail applications."

Mr Dick also acknowledged Mr Dodd's work ethic and diligence in providing a vital link between the courts, police and Indigenous communities.

"Mr Dodd's valuable work in the court helps magistrates apply culturally appropriate sentences that offer real outcomes and make a difference to people's lives."

Mr Dick presented Mr Dodd with a certificate of appreciation to recognise his efforts and standing in the court community.



Attorney-General Cameron Dick presents Justice Department staff and Justices of the Peace with certificates of appreciation on Tuesday. Also pictured is Donald Dodd front-right (see story below).

Dodds rewarded for life of work

Roma resident Donald Dodds was recognised for his contribution to the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service as part of Attorney-General Cameron Dick's visit.

Mr Dodds has been a field officer with the ATSILS for approximately 12 years, providing important legal services to the local Indigenous

community.

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*Top: Cameron Dick with Donald Dodd
Below: local media coverage*



Townsville staff working hard for a large and busy region



Front Row L-R

Frank Shepherd (Lawyer)
Annemarie McDonnell (Lawyer)
Helen Auliff (Lawyer)
Phillip Illin (Field Officer)
Yvonne Alley (Legal Secretary)
Maxine Alexander (Field Officer)
Kimarie Ross (Field Officer)
Kylie Lukasik (Data Officer)

Peter Coombe (Senior Lawyer)
Kerri Patterson (Lawyer)
Rebecca McQuilty (Reception)
Stan SIRRiss (Field Officer)
Zoey Olliver (Legal Secretary)
Andy Dahlsen (Lawyer)

At the Back

Chris Congoo (Senior Field Officer)
Mick Small (Social Worker)

ATSILS Qld Governance

Our Board is comprised of nine Directors elected from our Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander membership.

A specialist Director is also appointed to provide additional guidance in the areas of finance and corporate governance.

Our operational management team is comprised of the Chief Executive Officer, Principal Legal Officer and Finance Manager who look to the Board of Directors for policy decisions, advice and guidance.

Management is further assisted by a team of regional office managers.

We are a non-profit, community-based organisation contracted by the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department (AGD) to provide criminal, civil and family law services to Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Australians and their families in Queensland.

We are also funded by the AGD to provide services in the following areas:

- Law Reform, Community Legal Education and Deaths in Custody Monitoring (LJAD); and,
- Prevention, Diversion & Rehabilitation (PDRR).



Out in the field with Matthew



Matthew Mancktelow says the role of field officer is an integral part of the ATSILS service delivery as they play a vital role ensuring we provide culturally appropriate legal representation.

My great-grandfather was Barney Delaney who was a Kabi Kabi man from the Caboolture region, and my great-grandmother was Ruby Enoch who was a Nunukul woman from North Stradbroke Island.

I have lived in South-east Queensland for most of my life and have worked for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services for the past eight years.

My role as Senior Field Officer entails two major functions.

Firstly, I oversee the day to day operations of the field section in the Brisbane office.

Secondly, I travel around the State facilitating the induction, training and development of field officers.

We have 48 field officers across the State.

Due to large work demands in the Townsville and Cairns offices, we have appointed Senior Field Officers in these regions to oversee day to day operations and to assist with training needs as they arise.

They are Chris Congo and Clinton Fatnowna for the Townsville and Cairns regions respectively. Secondly, earlier this year the ATSILS Board approved a change to my position description and I now have dual roles.

As Community Engagement officer, I am now also responsible for:

- Identifying and maintaining a list of Stakeholders for each of our ATSILS service delivery regions.
- Developing a Marketing package that informs Stakeholders of the services ATSILS provides in the relevant region
- Development of Memorandum of Understanding between the ATSILS and various Stakeholders
- The establishment of a Stakeholder Group for each region to provide feedback to the CEO, PLO and the Board.

I am finding this new role very challenging but I am relishing the challenge.



– The Facts of the Matter – Police Powers Move-on Powers

The police have the power to require someone to move-on in certain situations and at certain locations. This power relates to people who are not at or near a “regulated place” if their behaviour justifies enforcing the law. They can also direct a person not to return for a period of up to 24 hours.

What then is a “regulated place” and what kind of “behaviour” allows the police to give a move-on direction?

A “regulated place” is either a public place or a “prescribed place”.

The legislation defines a “prescribed place” as including:

- A shop or mall;
- A child-care centre or school;
- A licensed premises;
- A railway station or surrounds;
- An ATM;
- A war memorial;
- A race track; or
- Southbank in Brisbane.

Given that the police can now move people on from any public place – their powers in this area is fairly wide.

Generally therefore it will be more a question of whether someone’s behaviour justifies such a direction.



The police may provide a move-on direction to a person (who is at or near a regulated place) if they reasonably suspect that the person's behaviour is or has been:

- Causing anxiety to someone;
- Interfering with trade or business by unnecessarily obstructing or hindering someone entering or leaving the place (Note: there is a requirement that the occupier of the premises has complained to the police);
- Disorderly, indecent, offensive or threatening; or
- Disrupting an event, entertainment or gathering;

If a person is only "near" a public place – then their behaviour must impact upon the public place itself in order to justify a move-on direction.

In providing a move-on direction the police officer can also order the person to leave in a stated direction.

For example, if the officer was seeking to split up two people who had been involved in an argument – he or she could require them to leave in opposite directions (in order to reduce the chances of the argument flaring up again).

Your right to be informed:

The police officer must tell the person (or group) the reason for being given a move-on direction.

Failure to comply with a move-on direction:

If a person fails to comply with a move-on direction they can be arrested and charged with Disobeying a Direction. For it to be an offence, the direction must have been lawful. Contact us if you have been charged – we can help. It is generally best to cooperate with a police direction even if you think it may not be justified. Check with us afterwards if you like.

Contacting us:

Aside from our regional office telephone numbers (which should be known to local police) ATSILS can be contacted 24 hours a day, free call on 1800 012 255.



Our Vision

Leaders in the delivery of innovative, professional and culturally proficient legal services for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people.

Our Mission

Fostering collaborative partnerships with our communities, key government and non-government stakeholders to influence positive change and deliver innovative, professional and culturally proficient legal services for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people within, or exposed to the justice system.

Our Values

The traditional values of Care, Share and Respect form the foundation for our organisation and underpin our commitment to providing quality legal services.

- We **care** for the safety and psychological well-being of our clients, their families and communities.
- We **share** a common understanding of our clients' needs and challenges and strive to diligently deliver quality legal services
- We **respect** the cultural diversity, values and beliefs of our clients and deliver confidential, professional, culturally proficient and community sensitive legal services to our clients

Our Strategic Goals

ATSILS will contribute to the achievement of outcomes across five strategic goals:

- Quality Legal Services;
- Strong Leadership & Governance
- Highly Skilled & Culturally Proficient Staff
- Strong & Productive Partnerships; and,
- Continuous Improvement & Innovative Thinking.

Our Key Areas of Service Delivery

- Criminal Law representation & advice
- Family Law representation & advice
- Civil Law representation & advice
- Prison-based advice & referral assistance in legal and sentence management areas
- Deaths in Custody monitoring and Coroner's Inquest representation
- 24-hour assistance at police stations, etc



NAIDOC 2010 Maroochydore-style



Staff from our Maroochydore office were out, about and amongst it for NAIDOC celebrations last year.

Pictured here with all the right info and support for our mob on the Sunshine Coast there are Priscilla Thorpe, Adam Chapman and Rod Morgan.

They worked hard all week making sure the range of support offered by our staff and services was well known to locals.

NAIDOC 2011 preparations are already underway in some regions and ATSILS will be looking to take the opportunity to celebrate our culture, as well as let the mob know what we do and how we do it.

To order material for your NAIDOC contribution contact head office today.

Meanwhile, keep up the good work guys!



ATSILS Queensland's Para Legal of the Year for 2010 was Mick Small, who works from our Townsville office as a Youth Social Worker (hence the fluffy toy in the pic)...

I was born in Townsville at the 'Old' Mater Hospital on Stagpole St West End, where the Rehab is now situated, in 1951.

We lived out west at Stuart, which was about thirty kilometres 'out in the sticks' in the 1950s & 60s.

I was the eldest of five children and attended St Francis Xavier Convent in Railway Estate before attending the Christian Brothers College on Stanton Hill.

All trips to town & school were done by rail motor, as there were no buses past the old

Ross River Meatworks.

The old wooden bridge was under water at every high tide and crocodiles sunned themselves on the mudflats, where we fished.

After grade 11, I completed an apprenticeship as a Fitter & Turner and worked on motorbikes for the track & road and spent about ten years working in power stations.

I became a Trade Instructor/Prison Officer at Townsville Prison in about 1978 and was assaulted and badly injured by a prisoner in 1987.



I then attended JCU and completed an Honours degree in Archaeology & Anthropology in 1992.

I spent another ten years working, as an Archaeologist, in Torres Strait, Cape York, Gulf of Carpentaria, Atherton Tablelands, Alice Springs and the Whitsundays. This included facilitating Native Title and Land Claims, while researching a PhD into Aboriginal History, with the Birri Gubba (Juru) Elders from Cape Upstart near Bowen.

Belatedly, as a 50-year-old, I decided to complete a subsequent Social Work degree.

I also worked for three years, as a Team Leader for the 'new' Department of Child Safety & the Commission for Children, but never really liked the concept of another 'Stolen Generation'.

Unfortunately, I was again seriously injured in late 2006, when I was hit by a road train on

my motorbike.

After a year spent recovering from this event, I returned to the Prison to participate as a contract Therapist, working with adult Sexual Offenders.

I later worked as the Indigenous Caseworker at the Youth Detention Centre with young Murri men for two years, before accepting my current position as a Youth Social Worker at ATSILS.

I am fortunate, in this role, to attend the Children's Court, Youth Detention Centre and Townsville Correctional Centres (Male & Female), on a weekly basis, to advocate for our people in custody & detention.

I became interested in ATSILS' Youth Recidivism, after realising that our society is becoming more concerned with what we can possess as individuals, rather than what we can do to advocate for Social Justice and equity for all people, in our society.



*Working from the Rockhampton office in March this year were:
At back: Bruce Guy, Owen MacNamara & Peter Sorensen, in
front are Robyn Tull (Left) & Tasie Sellars (Right)*



A gallery of characters

from Mt Isa...

Normanton,

Camooweal,

Julia Creek...



The Mt Isa and Normanton branch offices provide ATSILS' full range of services to clients spread over a vast geographical area.

From Mornington Island in the Gulf of Carpentaria in the north to Birdsville in the south (a distance of more than 1000kms), and from Camooweal in the west to Julia Creek in the east (a distance of about 400 kms), travelling can sometimes get a little hairy, says Regional Manager Ian Pilgrim.

"We, solicitors and field officers, travel long distances by road and in light aircraft to interview clients and appear for them in court," he said.

"The light plane trips can be extremely interesting, especially in the stormy season – coming up again soon – and when a

variety of unexpected things happen in mid-flight.

"Also, many of our clients come from the Northern Territory where English is often a second or third language, making our work at times challenging but always rewarding and interesting."

He said field officers and staff were based in both Mt Isa and Normanton.

"Normanton office staff, solicitor Mark Boreham and field officer William Santo both live in Normanton," he said.

Michael Riedel who started with us in March, David Castor who has been with us





for only a couple of weeks, Jay Bates and I are the solicitors based at Mt. Isa.

"The rest of our staff are also mostly based in Mt Isa.

"Veneita Tyrrell, with the assistance of Linda Aplin, very efficiently look after the administrative side of things.

"Christy Crossingham and Jade Mc Connachie are the Mt Isa based field officers who travel as far afield as Camooweal, Cloncurry and Boulia.

"They take initial instructions and assist the solicitors with their local knowledge and experience.

"Jay is our civil and family law solicitor.

"The rest of us look after our criminal law clients.

"Different staff members attend Magistrates courts throughout the area, District and Supreme courts in Mt Isa as well as District court in the Gulf communities for sentences.

"Ours is a team which combines experience and youthful vigour.

"I think we have a very well-balanced combination which seems to be finding favour with clients, the judiciary and the community, which we serve with a great deal of pride and enthusiasm."



**I AM A CLIENT
OF THE
ABORIGINAL &
TORRES STRAIT
ISLANDER
LEGAL SERVICE
1800 012 255
(24 HOURS)**



Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander
Legal Service (Qld) Ltd

**THESE
ARE MY
RIGHTS**

POLICE OFFICER

MY NAME IS:

ADDRESS:

.....

DOB: **PLACE:**

1. I am prepared to give you my correct name and details.
2. I might be willing to be interviewed but *I want to speak to ATSILS first.*
3. If interviewed and an independent person is required-then I want it to be someone from ATSILS (rather than eg: a JP).
4. I do not want to go with you unless you are arresting or detaining me (lawfully).
5. If you are arresting or detaining me I want to telephone ATSILS as soon as possible.
6. If appropriate I encourage you to consider a diversionary option. This can also be discussed with an ATSILS representative.

