



## VICTORIAN ABORIGINAL LEGAL SERVICE

### Media Release: 21 February 2019

The Board of Directors of the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service today announced the resignation of Wayne Muir as CEO of the organisation, effective immediately. Mr Muir was stood down by the Board after allegations of historical sexual misconduct were aired by the ABC's 7.30 program on 6 February.

Mr Muir apologised to one of the women for sexual harassment but strongly denies the other claims, rejecting them as false and defamatory.

Mr Muir has chosen to resign from the Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service to allow it to focus on promoting social justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and ensuring that they can enjoy their rights, are aware of their responsibilities under the law and have access to appropriate advice, assistance and representation.

The Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service will focus on ensuring that our clients and our people remain at the centre of who we are and what we do. Our organization is committed to ensuring that all Aboriginal people, regardless of gender or age, are provide with appropriate supports, mechanisms to have their voice heard and treated with fairness before the law. Our legal and community teams work with women, men, young people and children to try to address the impacts of trauma and violence and to create safe places, remedies and options for people who are experiencing or at risk of experiencing violence in all its forms.

VALS was established in 1973 in response to the critical need for an Aboriginal-controlled community legal service to offer our communities the kind of access to justice that is too often denied them by a system heavily weighted against them. This includes working with perpetrators of violence to accord



them fairness before the law and access to legal representation in all their dealings with the justice system.

As the Board of Directors of VALS we want to reiterate that we are a community of people devoted to creating safe and just access to the supports and legal services upon which Aboriginal people rely. We are steadfast in our commitment to that cause and to regaining the trust of the communities we serve.

We acknowledge the hurt in our communities and will work with our people to understand the full impact of the issues raised.

**For all media enquiries contact [media@vals.org.au](mailto:media@vals.org.au)**