

CEO Update.

As we approach the beginning of June, we find ourselves in the heart of **National Reconciliation Week**. This year's theme reminds us that reconciliation is more than just a word. It is an ongoing commitment to action, listening, and learning.

We take our responsibility to First Nations survivors and members of the Stolen Generations seriously. While we provide legal and social support, we know that our work is only effective if it is grounded in cultural safety. We are constantly listening to and learning from our clients and colleagues to ensure our practice is informed by their lived experience and directed toward meaningful healing.

In the spirit of this commitment, Knowmore staff were honoured to join the National Walk for Truth 2026. Led by Kerrupmara Gunditjmarra man and former Yoorrook Justice Commissioner, Travis Lovett, the walk kicked off in Melbourne on Sunday, April 19, and represents a vital step in the journey toward truth-telling in this country.

I am also incredibly proud to formally introduce you to Knowmore's **Lived Expertise Advisory Panel**. We recently held our inaugural meeting on the lands of the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation. As you will note later in this newsletter, this Panel brings



together a powerhouse of survivor leadership and expertise to guide our work across advocacy, legal assistance, and social support. It ensures that lived experience is not just a consultation, but the primary lens through which we view our service.

In April, our team took our advocacy to the National Redress Scheme public hearing at Parliament House in Canberra. As the Scheme nears its final stages, the pressure is mounting, not just on the system, but on the survivors still waiting for acknowledgement. We were there to ensure that survivor voices remain front and centre, and to advocate that the eventual "end of the Scheme" does not mean that survivors are left behind without the support they deserve.

Protecting children is a whole-of-community responsibility, but it can often feel overwhelming to know how to help. In this edition, we are providing you with a sneak peek into our planning for **National Child Protection Week** in September.

We are encouraging everyone to help break the silence surrounding childhood sexual abuse through the 'Host One Conversation' initiative. By starting simple, honest conversations about safety and wellbeing, we can help build a culture where children are heard and protected long before harm occurs.

We remain committed to ensuring that every survivor has a voice, a choice, and a path toward healing.

You can support this critical work by sharing this newsletter, following Knowmore on social media, or by making a donation.

[Donate to Knowmore](#)

Jackie Mead

Chief Executive Officer
Knowmore Legal Service



Bringing Lived Expertise to the Heart of our Work

At **Knowmore**, we have always believed that the best way to support survivors is to listen to them. We are proud to share the formation of **Knowmore's Lived Expertise Advisory Panel**, a vital step forward in our commitment to survivor-led service and advocacy.

To mark this significant milestone, we hosted our inaugural meeting on the lands of the **Gadigal people of the Eora Nation**.

By bringing together survivor leadership, expertise, and deep personal insight, the Panel ensures that lived experience informs not just what we do, but how we do it. From our trauma-informed legal assistance and financial counselling to our specialised cultural support for First Nations peoples, the Panel's guidance ensures that survivors' voices are at the heart of everything we do.

As **Chris Coombes**, our Lived Experience Lead, explains:

"The Panel exists to ensure lived experience meaningfully informs our services and systemic advocacy. Listening deeply to people's voices is an important step toward genuine, survivor-led reform."

Meet our New Advisory Panel

We are honoured to be guided by a group of extraordinary advocates, each bringing a wealth of professional expertise and personal resilience to the table.



Co-Chair
Aunty Glendra
(Gallindurra) Stubbs OAM



Co-Chair
Chris Coombes



Sandra Noble



Bronwyn Smith



Dani Villafaña



Giancarlo de Vera

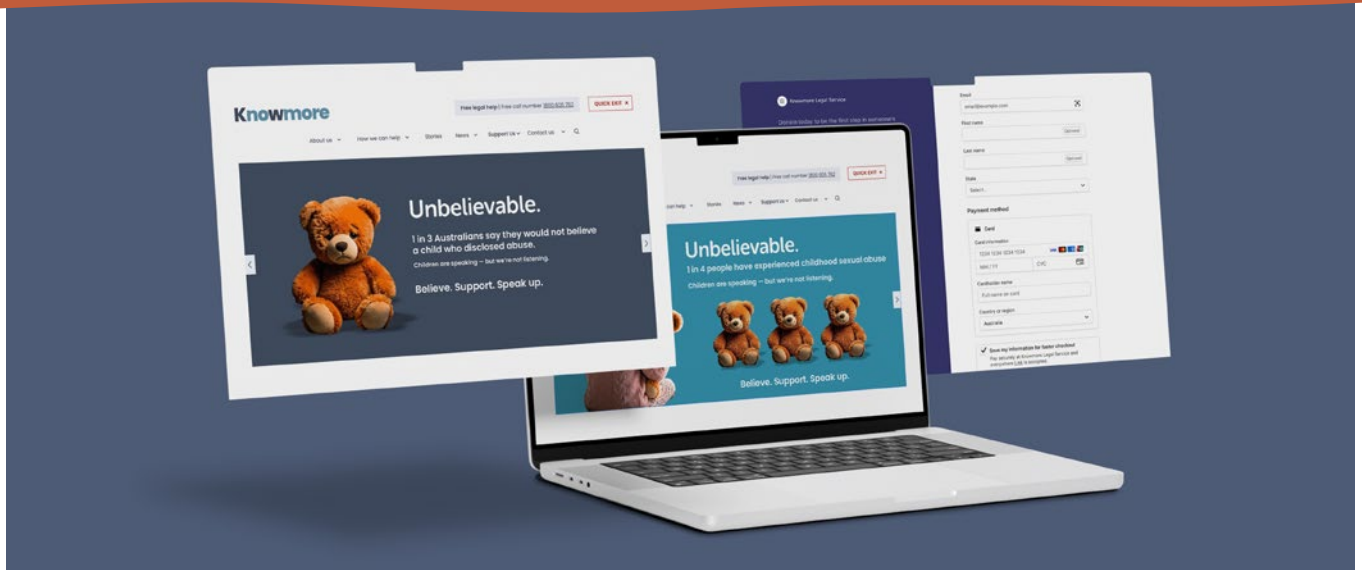


Kirsty Pratt OAM

[Read more about our panel.](#)

By integrating these diverse voices into our organisation leadership structure, Knowmore is better equipped to advocate for systemic change and provide a service that is truly survivor-centric. We look forward to the transformative impact this Panel will continue to have on our community.

A Sneak Peek...



This **National Child Protection Week**, we will be inviting our community to **Host One Conversation** to help break the silence surrounding childhood sexual abuse.

The goal is to break the silence that has surrounded childhood sexual abuse for far too long, to make it easier for survivors to come forward and seek the justice they deserve.

Child Protection Week

Held in September each year, the week aims to promote, support, and connect actions that prevent child abuse and neglect. This year's theme "Every Conversation Matters: Shifting Conversation to Action".

Why a conversation?

We know that justice and healing often start in a very quiet way. It starts when a survivor feels safe enough to speak, and when there is someone ready to listen without judgment.

By choosing to host a conversation, you are helping to create those safe spaces. It is a simple but meaningful way to acknowledge that survivors shouldn't have to carry their experiences in isolation.

Supporting Knowmore's work

If you choose to raise funds as part of your conversation, those contributions go directly toward keeping our legal and social support services free and confidential.

For many survivors, navigating the legal system is challenging. Your support helps ensure that when a survivor is ready to take that step, they have access to free and confidential legal assistance.

One simple conversation for lasting change

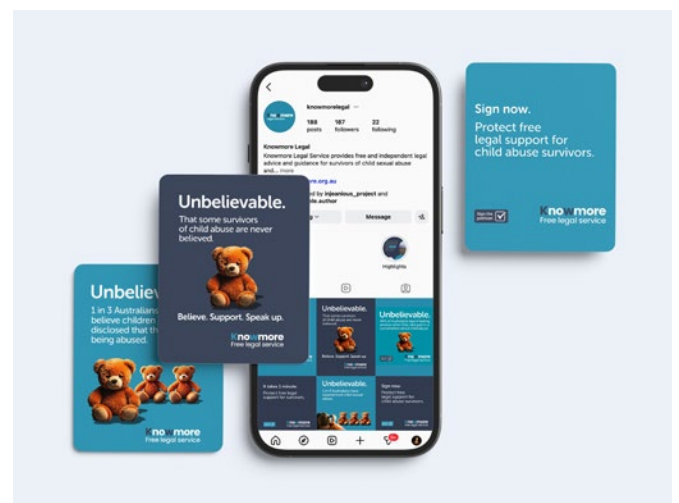
It can feel overwhelming to think about how to address child sexual abuse, and it's okay not to have all the answers. By starting honest, respectful conversations about safety and wellbeing, we can help build a culture where children are better protected and survivors feel more supported.

We will have tools available to help you get started. You could take our Child Safety Quiz yourself or share it with your team. You can help amplify survivors' voices by sharing one of our videos.

One conversation might feel like a small thing, but when we have them together, we help shift the silence.

We will share more information and resources on how to host your own conversation as we get closer to September. We look forward to doing this work alongside you.

Believe. Support. Speak up.



Yarning with Aunty 2026 Winter Edition

- Knowmore's Elder in Residence

Written by Jason Lawler (Gumbaynggirr)



Aunty Glendra (Gallindurra) Stubbs is a Wiradjuri woman. Her mob originates from the Mudgee/Dubbo and Narrandera area.



Aunty Glendra has been incredibly busy building relationships and sharing "Aunty Hugs" from the coast to the far west, though really, when is our Elder in Residence ever sitting still?

The year began with a powerful visit to **Warialda**, where Aunty spoke on the importance of community safety and witnessed the resilience of the **Friends of Myall Creek**. Closer to home, February marked the 18th Anniversary of the **National Apology**, a day close to Aunty's heart, given her role in the original National Sorry Day Committee.

Ngiyani winangay ganunga

We remember them.

We have welcomed Shaunagh Scott (Wiradjuri) as Sydney's Female Aboriginal Engagement Advisor. Aunty has already taken Shaunagh under her wing, and put her to work as a "second-in-command plant-waterer." While leading outreach across Wollongong and

Sydney, Shaunagh experienced how much area and organisations could be covered on foot when led by Aunty Glendra.

Knowledge Sharing in Broken Hill

In April, Aunty and Gary Oliver travelled to the **Maari Ma Social Emotional Wellbeing Regional Summit** in Broken Hill. This wasn't just a meeting, it was an essential exchange of knowledge on how we can better empower our communities.

Spending time on Wilyakali Country, the team participated in workshops led by giants in the field, including Professor Pat Dudgeon AM and Helen Milroy AM. The focus was on "Social Emotional Wellbeing," a holistic view of health that includes the connection to land, culture, and community. For Knowmore, these trips are vital to ensure our trauma-informed practice isn't just a theory but is rooted in the actual cultural needs of the people we support in regional and remote areas.

On 6th of May, Knowmore's Sydney Team marched from Hyde Park to State Parliament to protest changes made to the *Crown Lands Act*- a decision that will undermine and further complicate Aboriginal Communities' land rights claims. Led by NSW Aboriginal Land Council,

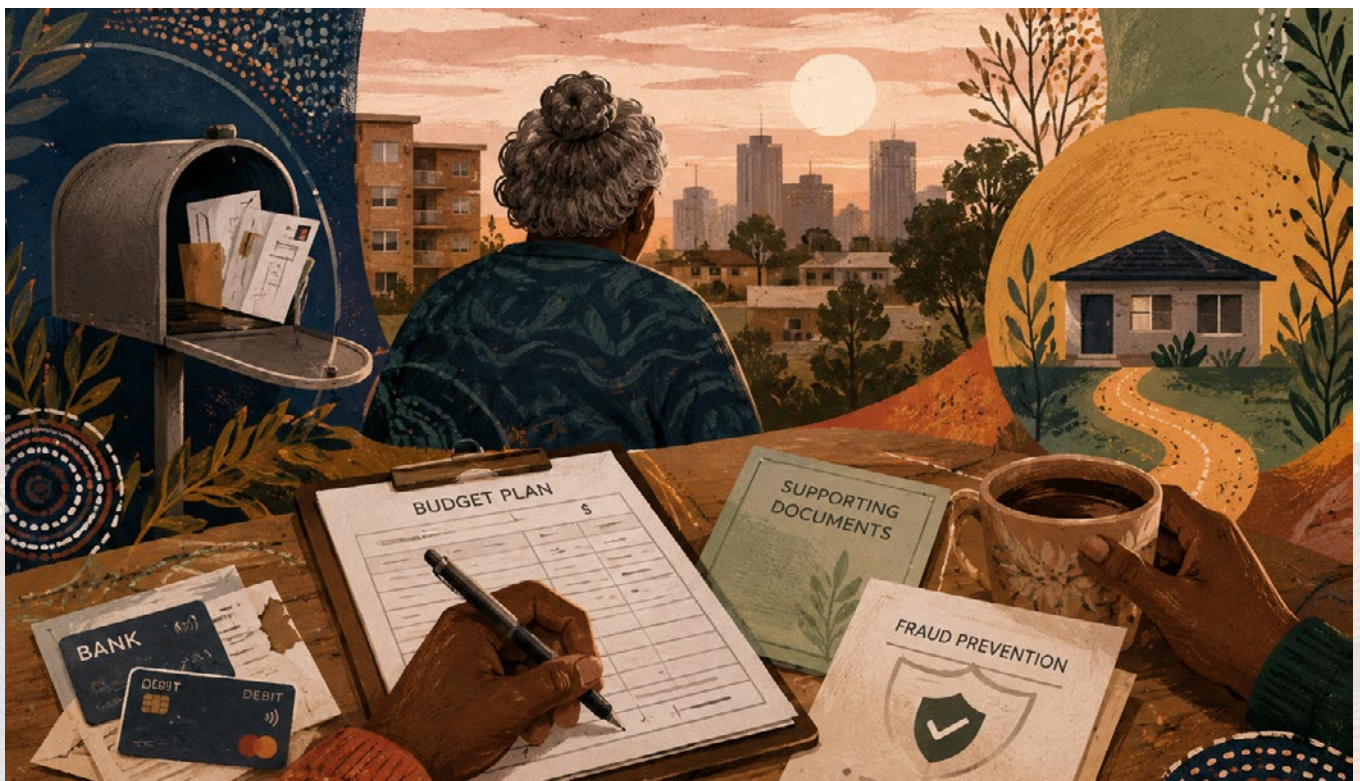
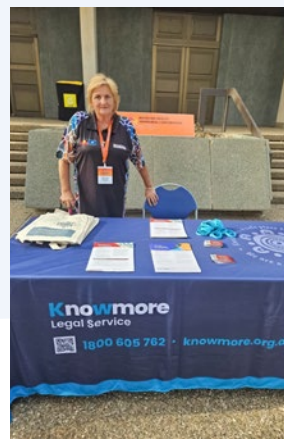
an open letter, signed on behalf of Knowmore by Gary Oliver, was sent to the state government, highlighting how these reforms are 'a serious departure from principles of transparency, accountability, and respect for established legal rights'.

Reflections on Reconciliation

As we find ourselves in the middle of National Reconciliation Week, it's important to remember that the process of Reconciliation involves everyone- it should not be led by only First Nations people.

"We didn't take the kids. We didn't destroy the land. We didn't damage the people. **This has been done to us.** Trust has been broken so it's got to be earned back" says Aunty Glendra, a powerful reminder of the requirement of truth-telling of our history, which is indispensable to move forward together in the name of Reconciliation. — **Aunty Glendra Stubbs OAM, Knowmore Elder in Residence**

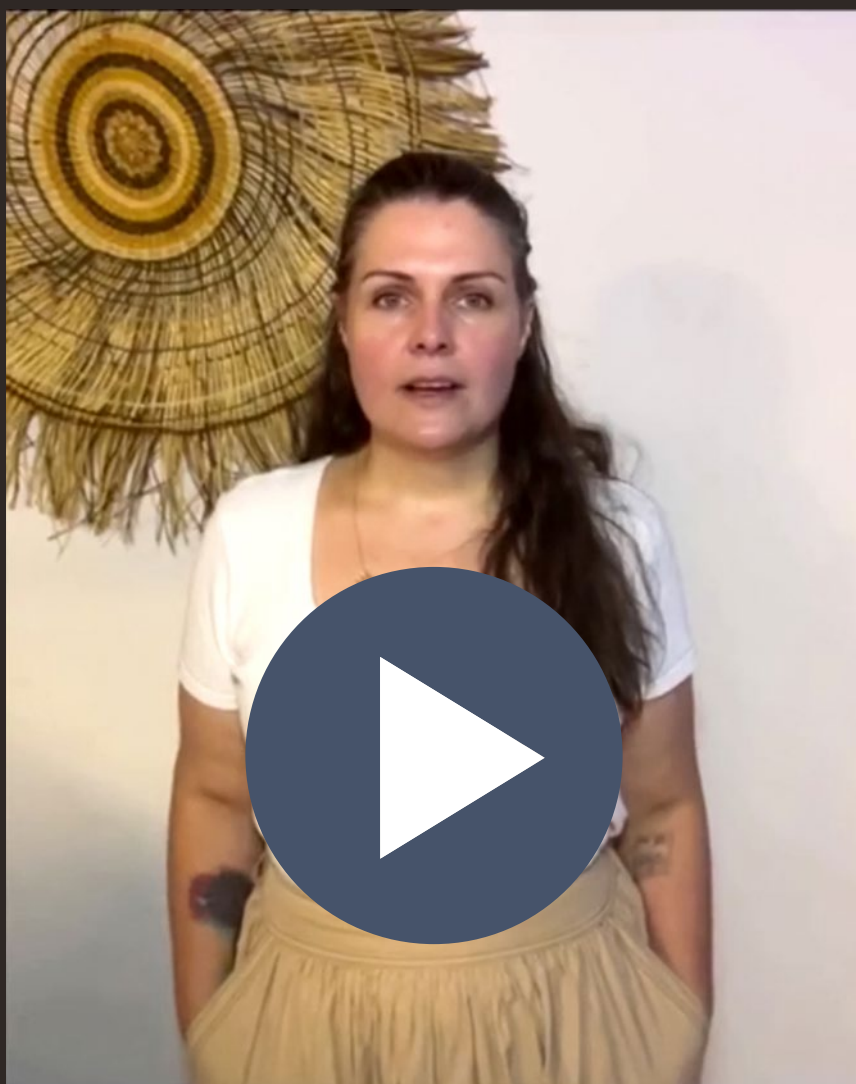
Whether it is marching in Sydney to protect Land Rights or sitting down with survivors in Broken Hill, our work at Knowmore is a part of this larger journey. Reconciliation isn't a single event, it's the daily work of earning back trust that was broken.



Learn more about Financial Counselling

Knowmore's Manager, Financial Counselling, Jenna Conway-Jones explains how financial counselling helps empower our clients, and what they can expect when they ask for help. Since filming, Knowmore has also secured funding to provide financial counselling support for recipients of the Western Australian Stolen Generations Scheme.

[Find out more about financial counselling at Knowmore.](#)



How Financial Counselling at Knowmore assists our clients

Client A, a pensioner who lives in social housing in a large city, was the victim of a break and enter. After she reported the theft to her bank, her mailbox was targeted and her replacement cards and PINs taken. Almost \$1000 was stolen before the cards were deactivated. This had a severe, negative impact on her finances.

Unfortunately, a year spent trying to deal with the bank's debt claim, combined with mental health issues from childhood trauma, saw our client unable to live in her unit. A family member took her in, but she continued to pay her rent while a social worker tried to help her find a safer place to live.

Knowmore's Financial Counsellor regularly checked in to monitor Client A's situation, to ensure she felt secure. The client was referred to a mental health service for counselling and to a community housing provider for safer long-term

housing, while the financial counsellor helped her budget and gave her resources to protect against future identity fraud. These actions assisted to support her stability and address her overall needs.

Our financial counsellor collected supporting information: the client's trauma history (with permission), medical reports, her financial position or budget, and supporting letters from her family member and DSS social support. Both letters stressed the urgent need for her to move to a quieter area for mental health reasons.

The financial counsellor also contacted the bank's liaison team and made a clear case for waiving the debt, showing our client was a vulnerable victim of identity fraud. With this support, our client felt empowered and gained peace of mind, helping her work toward more stability and control in her life.





Making change

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Through our day-to-day work with survivors, Knowmore sees how laws operate in practice, not just in theory. We identify patterns, including unfair outcomes, gaps in support and laws that place unnecessary burdens on survivors. Advocacy and law reform allow us to raise these issues at a systemic level, seeking changes that support justice and healing for many survivors.

'For many victims and survivors, change is an important part of their healing journey. Many of our clients are motivated to come forward because they do not want anyone else to experience the same harm. Advocating for change is an important part of standing with our clients and honouring their experiences.'

— Sean Bowes, Manager of Advocacy and Law Reform

Recent highlights

Recent highlights of our advocacy and law reform work include the following:

National Redress Scheme advocacy – speaking to an inquiry of the Australian Parliament, highlighting growing pressure on the National Redress Scheme, and the risk of further harm to survivors without long-term planning and reform.

- **Access to perpetrators' superannuation** – supporting a law to allow survivors to access the superannuation of perpetrators to enforce unpaid compensation orders in certain circumstances.
- **Claim farming** – contributing to laws banning claim farming to protect survivors from exploitation when seeking redress or compensation.
- **Inquiry into cults and organised fringe groups** – speaking to an inquiry of the Victorian Parliament about barriers to justice and trauma-informed support for survivors of abuse in closed institutions.
- **First Nations justice** – advocating for a holistic response to racism against First Nations peoples, including meaningful redress, treaty-making and truth-telling processes.

Advocacy and law reform require respect for survivors' experiences, expertise in solving systemic problems and persistent engagement with decision-makers.

Support Knowmore's advocacy and help us keep pushing for safer, fairer systems for survivors.

Knowmore

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Free call 1800 605 762

Hours: Mon – Fri 9am to 5pm



We recognise First Nations peoples across Australia as owners and custodians of the lands and waterways upon which we live and work. We pay our deep respects to Elders past and present and acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded.

We recognise those who paved the way for survivors of childhood abuse to find their voice and seek justice. We stand in solidarity with those who continue to speak up, and those who are no longer with us, whose voices were silenced and never heard.

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The information on this newsletter must not be relied upon as legal advice. Seek legal advice about your own particular circumstances.