



MAARI MA HEALTH ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

***Building and sustaining healthy individuals,
families and communities***

Working for Maari Ma Health

Make a difference to the health of people living in rural and remote far west NSW.
Put yourself to the test!

What we expect of you

- Commit to Maari Ma's vision: improving the health outcomes in our communities
- Apply your excellent skills in our primary health care framework
- Help us tackle the tough issues in remote health
- Excel in a multidisciplinary team environment

We offer

- Salaries and conditions equivalent to the NSW Health System awards
- Additional annual leave
- Generous salary packaging provisions
- Relocation assistance
- Access to further training and development

Who are we?

Maari Ma is an Aboriginal community controlled health service, lead and governed by an all Aboriginal Board of Directors.

We have a Primary Health Care Service in Broken Hill and work closely with mainstream providers to provide services throughout our region. In fact, we have a unique agreement with the Greater Western Area Health Service to manage the health services in our region. This covers the communities of Balranald, Dareton, Ivanhoe, Menindee, Tibooburra, Wentworth, White Cliffs and Wilcannia, a geographical area that mirrors the Far West Ward of the Murdi Paaki Region.



Why does Maari Ma manage these services?

Maari Ma is aiming to improve the health of Aboriginal people in our region. Managing services is one way of helping to make this happen. We have more say over how services are delivered to Aboriginal people.

What about non-Aboriginal people?

Maari Ma delivers services to the whole community. We do not discriminate. We believe that we can make existing services more responsive to Aboriginal people's health needs without diminishing services to non-Aboriginal people.

Who governs Maari Ma?

The Maari Ma Board is democratically elected from 7 communities around the region. Board members are from Broken Hill, Ivanhoe, Balranald, Menindee, Wilcannia and Wentworth shires and Tibooburra from the Unincorporated Area. The elections are held every three years with the last elections in 2004.

The Board has developed a strategic direction and takes seriously its corporate governance role with a strong commitment to financial accountability.

What is our purpose?

Maari Ma exists to improve the health and well being in the communities of the Maari Ma Region with a special focus on Aboriginal health.

Does Maari Ma work with other organisations?

Absolutely! We believe that we need to work with other health service providers to deliver better services. We mostly work with:

- Greater Western Area Health Service (GWAHS);
- Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS);
- University of Sydney, University Department of Rural Health (UDRH);
- Community Working Parties.

We strive to build partnerships with our communities as their participation in the planning and implementation of health programs is essential to not only quality primary health care but also to the integration of public health programs in our communities.

What do we do?

Maari Ma Health is generally organised into the following streams and programs, all inter-related in developing, implementing and supporting our purpose:

Regional Office

The Regional Office is at 443 Argent Street, Broken Hill. Richard Weston, our Regional Director, is based in Broken Hill and leads the organisation through its various streams.

General management services, corporate administrative and strategic functions, the Public Health Physician, the regional primary health care and outreach staff are located in the Regional Office.

The 'Maari Ma Agreement'

Through the Agreement between GWAHS, Maari Ma provides a management team to lead and support the health services in the outlying communities of the Remote Cluster and provides the link for the implementation of the Chronic Disease Strategy.

Chronic Disease Strategy

"While prevention is better than cure, control is better than complication"

Maari Ma, in association with its partner organisations has developed a regional Chronic Disease Strategy that describes a systematic approach to the prevention and management of chronic disease. It identifies essential elements of a health care system for improving care including:

- Reorientation of the health service to create a culture, organisation and mechanisms that promote safe, high quality organised and planned care with strong leadership and support from management;
- Reliance on high grade evidence based protocols to improve daily practice and outcomes;
- Use of clinical information systems to organise patient and population data to facilitate efficient and effective care and teamwork.

Primary Health Care Support Team

This Team is based at the Regional Office and provides leadership and support for the implementation of the Chronic Disease Strategy. The team supporting the Healthy Start Program is a coordinator, Dietitian, Dental Therapist and Assistant. The Keeping Well Program is supported by a Social & Emotional Well Being group, Annual Health Check coordination group and a vascular health management group. A Health Information Officer supports the population list and recall management.

Primary Health Care Service – Broken Hill

Located at 428 Argent Street, Broken Hill, this is a more traditional Aboriginal Health Service with a strong focus on Primary Health Care. Primary Health Care Workers and Registered Nurses work in partnership to deliver services within the clinic building and in the community. A general practitioner is available 3 weeks a month through the partnership with the RFDS. Other services include Dental, Early Childhood Clinic, Antenatal Clinics, Women's Health Clinic and Eye Clinics.

Other programs

Maari Ma Health actively leads and promotes a range of community development programs:

- Wings Youth Centre and Safety Patrol at Wilcannia;
- YEAH! At Broken Hill (Youth Excellence, Arts & Health);
- Dareton Youth Project; and
- the recent purchase of Haythorpe Station at Menindee for the development of regionally focussed programs.

Maari Ma Chronic Disease Strategy

DRIVERS	<p style="text-align: center;">The poor chronic disease profile of the Maari Ma region population</p> <p>→ Hospitalisation rates for diabetes and cardiovascular disease in Aboriginal people living in western NSW are three to four times higher than NSW rates.</p> <p>→ Approximately 1 in 3 deaths and 1 in 23 hospital separations of western NSW residents is related to diabetes and cardiovascular disease.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The directives of Maari Ma Peak Health Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Key Result Area 1: Improve health outcomes ❖ Key Result Area 2: Community capacity building
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STRATEGY		Healthy Start	Keeping Well
	Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Healthy mothers and babies program ▪ Immunisation ▪ Oral health promotion ▪ School based programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Smoking cessation and prevention programs ▪ Physical activity, weight loss and nutrition programs ▪ Brief interventions for lifestyle risk factors
	Early detection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Population list, recall system and standardised antenatal check and follow-up ▪ Population list, recall system and standardised child health check and follow-up 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Population list, recall system and standardised annual adult health check and follow-up
	Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Medical Practitioner clinics ▪ Oral health clinics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Disease register, recall system and standardised vascular health management protocol ▪ Self management program ▪ Non-government organisation sponsored community support groups ▪ Complication screening services ▪ Medical Practitioner clinics
	Health service support		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Business planning ▪ Supportive information system (FERRET, standardised medical record forms) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staff orientation and training ▪ Data collection, reporting and feedback (ABCD, SDRF, community reports) 	

The Chronic Disease Strategy may be viewed or downloaded at
www.maarima.com.au/healthinitiatives.htm

Please, visit our website for further information
www.maarima.com.au