

MAARI MA WELCOMES NEW TRAINEES



L-R: Kevin Bates, Samuel Hooker, Shannon Edwards, Dana Newman, Courtney O'Donnell, Bronwyn Johnson, Brooke O'Donnell, Tarissa Staker, Rachel Kennedy, Kerry King, Christene Polanski and Shannon Henderson. Long serving employees Kerry, Kevin and Tarissa are joining the group for the TAFE course and Kim Schellnegger from Dareton has also joined the trainees (not pictured).

Maari Ma has welcomed its third cohort of Primary Health Worker trainees. Six trainees from Broken Hill, two from Wilcannia and one from Menindee have started an 18 month program combining study

and on the job training to complete a Certificate IV Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health (Practice). Three long serving employees are also undertaking the course as is a Far West Local

Health District employee working at Dareton. The group has started its first study block at the Western Institute of TAFE, Broken Hill and have completed First Aid training.

20 YEAR CELEBRATIONS

2015 is a milestone year for Maari Ma and we're proudly celebrating 20 years of providing health care to the region's Indigenous communities. From humble beginnings and with just a handful of staff, we have grown to employ more than 100 people, achieve clinical and organisational accreditation, and provide health care from a state of the art facility. We hope you will join us on September 26th as we celebrate by hosting a ball at the Broken Hill Civic Centre. Please contact 08 80879888 for ticket enquiries.

MAARI MA HEALTH
ABORIGINAL
CORPORATION REGION OF
SERVICE



CLOSING THE DENTAL HEALTH GAP

Maari Ma is dedicated to working with communities to improve dental health in children and has a dental program comprising a dental therapist, oral health therapist and a dental assistant. Comprehensive and preventive dental care is provided to children at schools, preschools, through partnerships and by the coordination of visits of volunteer and other dentists. Maari Ma also coordinates a fluoride varnish application program for the under 5s by our Healthy Start GPs. Thorough and regular documentation of

oral health conditions in collaboration with the Australian Research Centre for Population Oral Health (ARCPOH) shows that Maari Ma has been effective in controlling dental decay in school children over several years. In addition, with two fully equipped dental clinics in the new Primary Health Care facility, Maari Ma can have child and adult dental clinics in full use at the same time – making the most of visiting dentist days.



Maari Ma is proactive in working with children in communities to help close the dental health gap.



YOUTH HEALTH PROGRAM

A Youth Health program is to be established at Maari Ma to engage Aboriginal children and young people aged nine to 15 years. A significant service gap for this age group was identified and Maari Ma will be employing a primary health worker and a primary health nurse to work in the program, which will be

piloted for an initial 12 month period. An advisory group has been established to guide the development and implementation of the program with the group including Aboriginal staff and a community paediatrician who is providing input about evidence based approaches.



WHITE RIBBON NIGHT

Maari Ma is working to becoming a White Ribbon Accredited organisation and held a White Ribbon awareness raising night on July 31st. More than 70 people enjoyed an evening with guest speaker, Rugby Union legend and White Ribbon Ambassador, Gary Ella. A signed State of Origin Guernsey was raffled and raised \$1,100 for White Ribbon to help support the organisation's work aimed at ending men's violence against women.



Gary Ella was an engaging guest speaker and spoke about his sporting career, and his work as a White Ribbon Ambassador. He said there are three things important in his life – family, work and sport – and that he's come to realise how important it is for men to take a stand on violence against women. During the evening Gary asked all men in the room to stand and take the oath. He also drew the winning raffle ticket with funds raised going to support the work of White Ribbon Australia.



Healing Foundation
Strong Spirit • Strong Culture • Strong People

MAARI MA TAKES PART IN GLOBAL DISCUSSION



Community Services and Programs Manager, Justin Files, was one of four panel members to be part of a public forum and webinar in August hosted by the Healing Foundation held at the Museum of Sydney. Justin joined Preston Campbell, Shondelle Bolt and Joan Dickson to discuss the role healing has to play in addressing mental health issues in communities. MC was Anita Heiss and the presentations were followed by a short Q&A session with questions coming from both the Sydney and online audiences.

Justin is pictured far left with the panel at the Healing Foundation hosted Healing and Mental Health Public Forum and Webinar. Photo courtesy the Healing Foundation.



NAIDOC WEEK 2015

*We all Stand on Sacred Ground:
Learn, Respect and Celebrate*

Community organisations came together in Broken Hill's Sturt Park to celebrate NAIDOC Week 2015. The threat of rain failed to deter crowds with hundreds of people turning out for the event. Maari Ma's stands were popular offering a range of education and resources as well as nutrition advice with free fruit kebabs and smoothies made on the smoothie bike.

This year the theme - We all Stand on Sacred Ground: Learn, Respect and Celebrate - highlighted Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' strong spiritual and cultural connection to land and sea. The theme was an opportunity to pay respects to country; honour those who work tirelessly on preserving land, sea and culture and share the stories of many sites of significance or sacred places with the nation. The National NAIDOC Committee specifically chose this year's theme to celebrate the anniversary of the 'Handback' of Uluru, one of these sacred sites, to its traditional owners on 26 October 30 years ago.



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