



**Community Paediatrician,
Maari Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation, Broken Hill NSW
Commencing February 2019**

**Delivering comprehensive children's primary health care that makes a real difference by
*improving Aboriginal health and closing the gap***

Maari Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation is seeking a replacement visiting part-time community paediatrician (5-6 days per month) to join a large multidisciplinary child and family health team delivering services to Aboriginal children in Broken Hill and Wilcannia, in far west NSW. Flexibility exists as to the configuration of days and frequency of visits.

The paediatrician's role entails the provision of:

- medical specialist support to the child and family health team;
- comprehensive paediatric assessment, management planning and follow up for all children and young people referred by the team's general practitioners, including those with neurodevelopmental and behavioural presentations; and
- professional development and leadership in community paediatrics to relevant staff in Maari Ma and its partner organisations.

Established in 1995, Maari Ma is a regional Aboriginal community-controlled health service. Maari Ma has an Aboriginal membership, a regional representative Aboriginal board of directors, and an Aboriginal workforce which makes up about 60% of the total workforce. In the twenty plus years since we commenced operations, Maari Ma has amassed an exemplary record of achievement in delivering health and community development programs to Aboriginal people in far western NSW. Maari Ma's staff of over 120 employees directly provide an extensive array of primary health care services to the Broken Hill, Wilcannia, Menindee and Ivanhoe communities, working within a quality GP-led multidisciplinary primary health model of care.

Over the last 10 years Maari Ma has designed and developed a Child and Family Health Service that:

- Promotes a health and well-being perspective
- Promotes a focus on enhancing protective factors and building resilience
- Promotes a population health approach, which focuses on strategies and outcomes that have wide population coverage, including those that impact on the environmental and social determinants of health and wellbeing
- Promotes equity and social justice with commitment, effort and strategies (universal and targeted) weighted to address the needs of the most disadvantaged
- Promotes age appropriate evidence based strategies
- Offers culturally safe and appropriate services of a high quality with a focus on continuous quality improvement
- Offers services that are timely, affordable and accessible and, where possible, delivered locally
- Offers services that are patient, family and community centred and supportive of health literacy and self-management
- Offers services that are, as far as possible, well integrated, coordinated and address the continuity of care, particularly for those with complex, chronic health conditions
- Maintains work environments which support the attraction and ongoing retention of Aboriginal staff and a multidisciplinary workforce.

To deliver its Child and Family Health Service, Maari Ma has assembled a multidisciplinary child and family health team that includes dedicated general practitioners, Aboriginal health practitioners, community midwives, early childhood & youth health nurses, a sexual and women's health nurse, perinatal & child & adolescent mental health workers, oral health staff, a dietitian and a speech pathologist. The large local team is supported by a number of visiting specialists including a paediatrician, multidisciplinary allied health team, a GP Obstetrician, ENT specialist, perinatal and infant psychiatrist, and child & adolescent psychiatrist.

In addition to the Child and Family Health Service, Maari Ma also runs a multifaceted Early Years Program. This is a community-based early learning and literacy program featuring supported playgroups in Broken Hill and Wilcannia, Little Kids and Books, and the Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY). This program and its activities is designed to engage parents with children aged zero to five years and assist them in teaching their children to learn through play, improve early literacy, and build school readiness. The Early Years Program makes a significant contribution to the Child and Family Health Service through its engagement of families in the community and the home setting.

Our vision for Aboriginal children in the region is articulated in a Strategic Framework Document: *Improving development and wellbeing for Aboriginal children and young people in the far west of NSW* (http://www.maarima.com.au/pdf/documents/maari_ma_green_booklet-final.pdf) and we are implementing many aspects of this framework and working with our partners to also improve outcomes for Aboriginal children.

For further information about Maari Ma's 20+ year journey to improve the health and wellbeing, and Close the Gap, of Aboriginal people living in far western NSW, please refer to a recent evaluation of the strategy: *Opening Doors: Evaluation of Maari Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation's Chronic Disease Strategy*: (<http://maarima.com.au/uploads/Resources/Aboriginal%20Health/Evaluation%20Report%20Opening%20Doors.pdf>)

We are AGPAL accredited, have electronic medical records, patient registers and well developed tracking and recall systems, and sophisticated decision support tools; we actively participate in continuous improvement and research activities, and are supported by a comprehensive range of visiting specialty services. Maari Ma's local Indigenous workforce provides our GPs and other medical specialists with access to timely support and advice regarding cultural issues.

Our new facilities are modern, culturally engaging and provide a welcoming and effective work environment.

You will join an existing team of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal staff with many years of experience working in rural general practice and Aboriginal health services in Australia.

The remuneration package is available as a contract for services or salaried employment. Travel and accommodation needs will be taken care of by our helpful administrative staff.

For information about the work please contact Dr Garth Alperstein on 0410002747 or galperstein@gmail.com or Dr Hugh Burke on 0419971027 or hugh.burke@maarima.com. For information on the employment package please email Glenis Barnes, Medical Workforce Support Glenis.Barnes@maarima.com.au

Please view our website:

www.maarima.com.au

Select 'Documents' for annual reports, strategic plan and other program related documents.