

ALL OF STAFF MEETING 2017



Maari Ma staff enjoyed a day of sharing and recognition at its annual staff meeting in December last year. Staff from all Maari Ma's communities gave presentations and in a first for the annual event they asked their clients on video how they felt Maari Ma was helping them and impacting on their lives. The responses were very positive and encouraging and while it is recognised that much still needs to be done nationally to Close the Gap, staff were heartened that in their communities there have been many successes. Maari Ma's strategic direction is holistic and the programs have a direct bearing on all of the seven Closing the Gap targets. Healthy Start, Oral Health and the Lead program are addressing child

mortality, the Early Years program, HIPPI and the Lead program are contributing to improving early education, literacy and numeracy, Youth Health and WINGS are assisting with school attendance and Year 12 attainment, and Keeping Well is tying in with life expectancy targets. The Board and management thank all staff during 2017 for their ongoing hard work and contributions to Closing the Gap and look forward to the year ahead. The meeting remembered Maari Ma Board Director, the late William Bates, and Aboriginal land rights and health activist, the late Sol Bellear AM, who both individually championed the cause of Aboriginal rights throughout their lives with determination and commitment.

VISION

Aboriginal people live longer and close the gap - families, individuals and communities achieve good health, wellbeing and self-determination supported by Maari Ma.

MAARI MA HEALTH
ABORIGINAL
CORPORATION REGION OF
SERVICE



SNAPSHOT 2017



"When measured against other Aboriginal Controlled Community Health Organisations both in New South Wales and nationally we are generally scoring above average against the national Closing the Gap Target Key Performance Indicators. However that's no reason to sit back and rest on our laurels – we need to keep improving so that we can close the gap in our own communities and contribute more to closing the gap nationally" Maari Ma CEO, Bob Davis.

121 employees

Indigenous staff 56 % (55% 2016)

Maari Ma is:

- performing above the national and state average for antenatal visits before 13 weeks.
- continuing to improve on GP checks for children aged 0 – 5 years.
- getting high blood lead level screening rates and has maintained high rates since taking on responsibility for this service in 2011.
- significantly increasing referrals to its Smokers Program and fewer mums are smoking when their babies are born.
- showing a statistically significant uptake in ATSI health checks - 76% of young Aboriginal people aged 9-18 have had a health check in the past 2 years compared to 61% in June 2016.
- making inroads with youth. 84% of young people aged 12-18 saw a GP at least once in the past 12 months while almost all of those aged 9-11 saw a GP at least once in the past 12 months.

WHAT'S PLANNED FOR 2018

Maari Ma's focus will be to :

- continue to function as a high performing practice and raise the bar higher to contribute more to Closing the Gap.
- continue to focus on community engagement to improve uptake of services.
- increase efforts around prevention – ATSI health checks in well people a priority.
- focus on smoking and alcohol in pregnancy. Engage people around their alcohol consumption and identify high risk drinkers.
- review the Chronic Disease model of care in light of the recent evaluation of the strategy.
- improve coordination of services - do more for people in fewer visits.
- implement a cultural competency framework—staff training in cultural capability is scheduled to be held in March 2018.



TRANSPORT

The Broken Hill Transport team is always kept busy. Together with Wilcannia Transport they did a total of 14,757 patient transports to the two health services and other places last financial year. Guy 'Smiley' Crawford and Ross 'Rossi' Morris (pictured left) make up the Transport team in Broken Hill while in Wilcannia, Robert Harris is the Community Transport Officer.

HIPPY GRADUATES 2017



Maari Ma celebrated a very special occasion in December last year with the graduation of children from the HIPPY program. It was Maari Ma's second graduation since starting the Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters and 20 children graduated from the two year program. The event was celebrated at the Central Football Club, Broken Hill and each child was able to have their parents, siblings and two other family members attend in support. Children and parents were presented with a certificate and photo frame, and each child was presented with two sets of books as a graduation gift. It was a formal evening with a roast dinner and a photographer, with Maari Ma Board Chair, Maureen O'Donnell, addressing the young children and presenting them with their certificates. Maari Ma thanked Terina King and Cyndal Bennett who completed their two years as HIPPY Home Tutors. This year Maari Ma welcomes two new Home Tutors - Shani Spencer and Stephanie Newman. HIPPY is a two-year home-based parenting and early childhood enrichment program that empowers parents and carers to be their child's first teacher. Home tutors play an important role scheduling regular visits with parents to work through the program activities in the family's home.

EARLY YEARS' WORK CREDITED FOR INCREASED PRE- SCHOOL ENROLMENTS

2017 was a busy year for the Early Years team and 2018 looks to be just as full and rewarding. The range of programs offered provides play experiences, learning and relationships to help improve the quality of life for children and their families. They include Intensive Supported Playgroup – Broken Hill, Little Kids and Books—Broken Hill, Wilcannia, Menindee and Ivanhoe, The Early Years Discussion Group, science and maths workshops and HIPPY. The flow-on from the Early Years' work, and in particular HIPPY, is being reflected in enrolments in preschools with 50 Aboriginal children enrolled in Rainbow Preschool's three services across Broken Hill – the largest enrolment of Indigenous children they have had. The team is looking forward to 2018 with enthusiasm.

WINGS SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM



There are always lots of fun activities for the children going to Wilcannia's WINGS school holiday program and the January holidays were no exception. Coordinator, Natika Whyman, and her team were kept busy each day and the kids enjoyed events such as cooking classes, an iron on beads activity, salt dough ornament making and science workshops. There was also a colour fun run held at the oval organised with the help of Tobacco Control /Tackling Indigenous Smoking Project Officer, Anshul Kaul, and staff who incorporated fun physical activity with a talk about the importance of healthy lungs and how smoking affects that. The event saw 35 kids aged between four and 19 proudly wearing Smokefree Families t-shirts while running five laps around the oval getting sprayed with colour.



ACTIVE KIDS BROKEN HILL

Active Kids is a small group eight week exercise program that initially started as a pilot program in 2016 but has proved so successful Maari Ma is about to recommence it for another year. It targets 8 – 14 year olds with the aim of getting kids moving more to reach a target of 60 minutes of moderate to intensive physical activity a day through fun activities. As well as being a good exercise program it's encouraging friendships,

teaching kids to work together as a team and Maari Ma staff always take the opportunity to have some healthy snacks available. The first group starts in February, is free of charge and held at the Broken Hill PCYC. The kids enjoy a range of activities including boxing, circuit training, ball skills for hand eye coordination, riding scooters and bicycles and other fun games.



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