

ADDRESSING A NATIONAL FORUM



Delegates to the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) Conference 2018 in Melbourne which was held in March heard how Maari Ma has embedded literature into the health service with improved outcomes including higher pre-school enrolments. Early Years Project Leader, **Lesley Harvey** and Early Years Support Officer, **LeeAnn Adams** delivered the presentation which centred on Maari Ma's Early Years programs such as the Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY), Little Kids and Books, Intensive Supported Playgroup and linking books with our Healthy Start clinic visits. They both said feedback after the presentation was highly positive and a few services wanted to talk with them to hear more about the outcomes Maari Ma is achieving through its Early Years programs. The 2018 National AEDC conference was the second national conference to bring together a broad range of professionals to improve the lives of children and families across Australia.

MAARI MA WELCOMES ITS SECOND WHITE RIBBON AMBASSADOR

Maari Ma has welcomed a second White Ribbon ambassador. David Doyle recently achieved the significant title after completing online modules, an hour long interview and referee checks. David joins fellow Maari Ma staff member, Jamie Billing as the 'human face' of White Ribbon Australia. It is through their leadership and advocacy of the campaign in Broken Hill and other communities that Maari Ma is able to work towards changing the attitudes and culture of men's violence towards women and children. Maari Ma gained White Ribbon accreditation in 2015 and was among the first group of Australian workplaces to achieve this outside of the pilot program. There were only 14 in that group across Australia's public and private workplaces.



L-R: David Doyle, Jamie Billing and Maari Ma CEO, Bob Davis. As ambassadors, David and Jamie dedicate their time and energy into promoting the work of White Ribbon.

CLOSING THE GAP



Close the Gap Day on March 15th this year saw Maari Ma engaging with the local community at its Primary Health Care Service. The event was aimed at providing information about different services being offered at Maari Ma, sharing stories and showcasing Maari Ma's efforts in improving health and education outcomes. All of the teams participating made a big effort to connect with community members during this very significant day.



The floor in the Primary Health Care Service has a closing the gap focus with floor stickers promoting Maari Ma's cycle of care and closing the gap. Maari Ma is always promoting the cycle of care as the back bone of its chronic disease management and chronic disease prevention programs, and it has now been placed in a very prominent position so the community can see it, become more familiar with it and identify where they are personally in their health care cycle. There is also a floor sticker of a closing the gap bridge - once a patient has completed their ATSI or GP management plan they will be able to sign a sticker brick which will then be placed on the bridge to visually help close the gap.

RECONNECTION THROUGH DRUMBEAT

Maari Ma has welcomed a new program – which is new to both clients as well as staff. ‘Drumbeat’ is an evidence-based therapeutic intervention relevant to all age groups. Maari Ma received funding to purchase the drums and deliver a ‘train the trainer’ workshop over three days to ten participants who have become program facilitators. The Drumbeat workshop was conducted by an accredited facilitator through Holyoake.



Holyoake's DRUMBEAT is the world's first structured learning program using music, psychology and neurobiology to reconnect with ourselves and others. The name DRUMBEAT is an acronym for Discovering Relationships Using Music, Beliefs, Emotions, Attitudes, and Thoughts. DRUMBEAT incorporates hand drumming, behavioural therapeutic principles and cognitive and dialectical elements to achieve positive outcomes. It is estimated that over 50,000 people around the world have participated in and experienced the benefits of the program so far.

COMMUNITY DINNER

The first Wilcannia Community Dinner of the year was held just before Easter and to coincide with Easter, fish and chips with salad and steamed veggies were served. There was also a pasta bolognese as an alternative option. For dessert, apple and raspberry hot cross bun pudding and fruit with yoghurt were offered. More than 40 community members enjoyed the meal which required plenty of preparation throughout the day. The children were also treated to an Easter egg hunt at the end of the dinner.



A lot of preparation during the day paid off with a delicious meal of home made fish and chips served to more than 40 community members.



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