

TRAINING TO BECOME GENERAL PRACTITIONERS



Pictured left: Drs Aye Han and Than Soe have passed the assessments that are required for their training and are continuing to work in the practice environment to achieve their Fellowship. Pictured right: Registrar Dr Aye Mon, who started at Maari Ma in February, has passed her first two exams.



Since Maari Ma started its GP registrar training program six years ago 13 registrars have achieved their Fellowship of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. Maari Ma extends its appreciation to the staff for their help and support of the registrars and particularly the supervising doctors who play such an important role in teaching and advising. One of Maari Ma's supervisors, Dr Stephen Gaggin, said a lot of the credit for the 100 per cent success rate goes to the registrars themselves— he said they have all been highly motivated, and have wanted to work for Maari Ma and its communities. It's also very rewarding to see that four of Maari Ma's former registrars have chosen to continue to work for the organisation since achieving their Fellowship.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE TO THE LIVES OF CHILDREN

Staff at Wilcannia's award winning Wings Drop in Centre have all started studying a Certificate III in Community Services through Broken Hill TAFE, with a teacher and support workers travelling to Wilcannia to undertake study blocks. Wings, which won a NAPCAN Play Your Part award during National Child Protection Week in 2016, provides youth development activities for children including school holiday programs, after school programs, sport and community cultural activities. The TAFE course has a youth focus and aligns with the work the youth workers do. Wings Coordinator, Tania Lawson, said the group will be able to support each other and get together for regular study sessions. They'll complete their course next year.



Pictured left to right: June Jones, Jake Whyman, Phillip Hunter, Anne Curry, Tammy King, Tania Lawson and Victor Ward. Wings staff play an important part in the lives of Wilcannia children and the Certificate III will further help them in their roles.

LAUNCHING DEADLY CHOICES PARTNERSHIP

Talented local Indigenous rugby players had the opportunity to try out for the 2024 Olympics in Paris recently thanks to a partnership between Maari Ma Health and Deadly Choices – a health promotion initiative of the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health, Queensland. The First Nations Rugby 7's tour came to the far west in March and marked the partnership launch. Talent scouts were there looking for exceptional local Indigenous players. Boys and girls / men and women aged between 14 and 24 were eligible to try out

at Broken Hill's Memorial Oval and the scouts identified a number of players they believed showed exceptional talent. The partnership with Deadly Choices is aimed at promoting the importance of improving health for individuals and their families by eating well, exercising regularly and giving up smoking. Maari Ma had the Mobile Clinic at the oval for ATSI Health Checks and those who had a health check or were up to date with their health check were eligible for an Indigenous All Stars footy shirt.



Talent scouts identified a number of promising players during the First Nations Rugby 7's tour in the far west.

Maari Ma Executive Manager Social and Community Programs, Justin Files, Lloyd Kennedy from Deadly Choices and Preston Campbell are pictured at the Memorial Oval. Preston—an NRL legend and 2001 Dally M Medalist, is an ambassador for Deadly Choices and highlighted to all participants the value of maintaining healthy, active lives.



Former Australian rugby union great, Glen Ella was representing Rugby 7's as their ambassador and is pictured with one of the participants.



Maari Ma staff were conducting ATSI Health Checks at the Mobile Clinic.

CELEBRATING NSW YOUTH WEEK



Maari Ma joined Mission Australia and other service providers in Broken Hill's Sturt Park recently to celebrate NSW Youth Week and Youth Homelessness Matters Day. The day highlighted to families the services that are available in Broken Hill to support young people. As well as Maari Ma's Dietitians, Elise Wilson and Gemma Page being on hand with the popular 'smoothie' bike and talking to the kids about healthy eating habits, information was provided on the Getting It Together program to people by Caseworker, Brooke Lance. Maari Ma took on the contract for Getting It Together for Family and Community Services late last year – it's an intensive case management program to assist vulnerable young people aged between 12 and 25 years of age with alcohol and/or drug problems.

RAISING AWARENESS OF AUTISM

April was World Autism Month and Maari Ma's Healthy Start team has participated in autism awareness raising activities since 2016. This year staff hosted an Autism Awareness Day in the courtyard at the Broken Hill Primary Health Care Centre and invited other service providers so they could also talk to families about their services and how they can assist people on the NDIS. The event included sensory play activities for children and a dress up photo booth as well as information. Maari Ma staff see a number of children confirmed with an autism diagnosis. By educating the community and continuing to create awareness they are hoping for increased community support for parents with children with autism.

Pictured left to right: Maari Ma Allied Health Assistant in Training, Mele Tuipulotu and Speech Therapist, Abana Moeti are pictured with Angela Turner (Social Futures) Manisha Kumar (Benevolent Society), and Veronika Holland (Mission Australia).



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