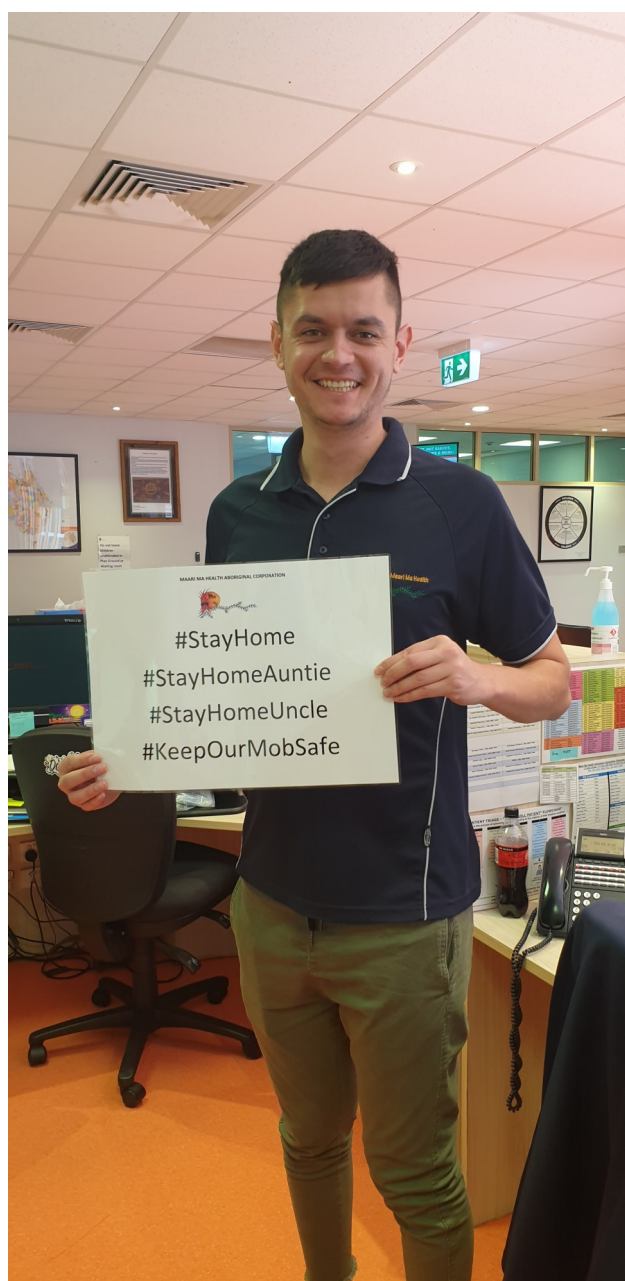


KEEPING OUR MOB SAFE DURING COVID 19



Maari Ma acted quickly to start protecting its communities from the coronavirus, completing a pandemic plan and establishing a COVID 19 Working Group well ahead of any known infections in the far west. The organisation used the region's isolation to its best advantage to put plans in place and prepare the services from the unprecedented health threat. At the Broken Hill Primary Health Care Service a COVID 19 clinic was established away from the main clinic area to include screening, on site testing and referral to the fever clinic at the Broken Hill hospital. Staff worked hard to integrate Healthy Start clinics into the main clinic area and also to establish Telehealth services. They are also ensuring areas are kept hygienically clean at all times including all transport vehicles, and teams are practicing social distancing at their work stations. A COVID 19 Working Group is also established at Wilcannia and service arrangements have been developed to ensure the delivery of a comprehensive suite of services continues there within a COVID 19 working environment. Accurate and timely information to communities through radio, on Facebook and in local papers has also been a cornerstone of effective coronavirus management at Maari Ma and staff undertake regular radio interviews, advertise in papers and post information on Maari Ma's Facebook page daily.

Callan Rogers is one of Maari Ma's important front line staff working in Practice Administration in Broken Hill's Primary Health Care Service providing a calming and cheery face for patients coming through the door.

**MAARI MA HEALTH
ABORIGINAL
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A DIFFERENT LOOK TO SERVICE DELIVERY



The COVID 19 clinic has been operating smoothly with staff and patients adapting well to changes. Maari Ma has been testing up to six patients a day at the clinic and is now encouraging asymptomatic at risk patients to come in for testing such as those with diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and patients aged 60 years and over. By doing this Maari Ma is beginning to focus on sentinel surveillance by testing asymptomatic patients which is consistent with the current NSW Health strategy of undertaking more active and random testing of vulnerable groups.

Pictured above left is Aboriginal Health Worker Trainee, Cooper Fleming, at 'reception' at Maari Ma's COVID 19 clinic. As well as welcoming patients and booking them in, Cooper makes sure their details in PracSoft are all up to date. Pictured above right are GP Registrar Dr Mon and clinic staff member, Deb Cushing who are ensuring all seating and surfaces at the clinic are kept hygienically clean.



To ensure the required infection control and distancing rules are followed Maari Ma has changed all waiting rooms at its services. Material chairs have also been removed and replaced with vinyl ones for easy cleaning. *Christene Polanski, Sam Harley and Shontae Harris are pictured above at the Wilcannia PHCS waiting area. Just four seats remain in the waiting room with further seating outside. Pictured on the right is registered nurse, Rebecca Conti, who manages Broken Hill's COVID19 clinic, wearing personal protection equipment.*

A MIX OF CONSULTATION TYPES FOR MAARI MA'S GPS



The region has had just two cases of coronavirus since the outbreak but Maari Ma is maintaining vigilance at all levels. Maari Ma's general practitioners are conducting consultations face to face, on the telephone and via video link to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID 19 and patients have coped with the changes well. The importance of maintaining routine health checks including ATSI health checks and chronic disease management plans is also recognised and part of the COVID 19 Working Group's strategy.

Dr Than (left) is pictured working hard doing patient telephone consults and Dr Marion Christie has been conducting child health clinics face to face.



A SEPARATE FLU VACCINATION CLINIC OPEN

A special flu clinic for vaccinations has been set up on a separate site in the Maari Ma precinct in Broken Hill, and flu shots began the moment the vaccinations were available. Nearly 700 were administered in the first few weeks as Maari Ma clients and staff recognised the importance of being even more cautious about the flu this year because of the COVID 19 pandemic. Maari Ma CEO, Bob Davis lead by example and became one of the first to get a vaccination. He's pictured receiving his flu shot from GP Registrar, Dr Maung.

TRANSPORT PROTOCOLS



Changed transport practices were implemented quickly to make sure strict hygiene regulations are adhered to. As well as thoroughly cleaning vehicles between transports and ensuring both patients and drivers use hand sanitizer, Maari Ma is following social distancing rules which means a maximum of two patients in the vehicle at any one time.

Community Transport Officer, Rossi Morris, is one of Maari Ma's valued drivers who is helping patients adapt to new transport practices. Rossi was snapped cleaning the car between transports.

SOCIAL DISTANCING AT ALL LEVELS



Maari Ma is fortunate to have a very long board table which means meetings can be held within social distancing rules. Maari Ma's senior management put the rules to the test and stayed an easy 1.5 metres away from each other at this recent meeting. Staff throughout the organisation have adapted to new work environments to comply with the national standards.



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