



CELEBRATING NAIDOC WEEK

Events were held in Broken Hill and the region throughout NAIDOC Week held from July 7th to 14th, and at Maari Ma staff hosted a breakfast in the courtyard at the Primary Health Care Service to mark the celebrations. There was a good turn-out of community members and it was an opportunity for staff and community to mingle, and have a yarn. Other events in Broken Hill to celebrate NAIDOC included the Broken Hill NAIDOC Ball and a free movie screening.



RECOGNITION TO MAARI MA CHAIR

Maari Ma congratulates Chair, Maureen O'Donnell, who had a plaque unveiled in her honour at the Broken Hill Aboriginal Land Council as part of NAIDOC celebrations. Mrs O'Donnell is an inspiration to many through her commitment and advocacy for all Aboriginal people in the region.

MAARI MA HEALTH
ABORIGINAL
CORPORATION REGION OF
SERVICE

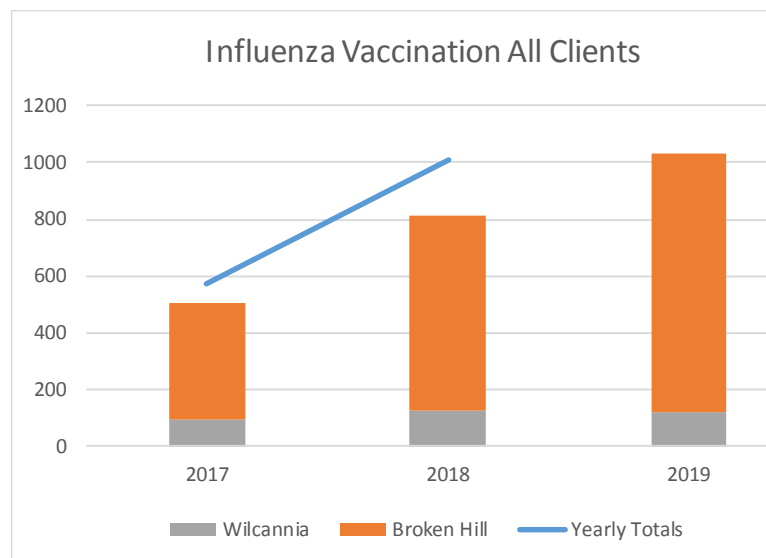


RECORD NUMBER OF INFLUENZA VACCINATIONS



Maari Ma staff ensure their own flu vaccination status is up to date to help stop the spread of the flu and protect vulnerable clients.

Maari Ma staff are committed to ensuring clients are protected from the influenza virus and this year vaccinated more clients to the beginning of July than were vaccinated last year over all. Staff know it's important for as many well people to be vaccinated as possible in order to protect the most vulnerable who can't be vaccinated, such as babies under six months of age. Staff have been encouraging clients, family and friends to get their flu shots with higher than normal rates of influenza infections in Broken Hill and increased presentations at the clinic.



DENTAL RE-ACCREDITATION

Congratulations to the Oral Health team for gaining re-accreditation for another three years with the Australian Dental Association. Practice accreditation involves a continual assessment and improvement of practice procedures, and practices must meet the first six of the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards. Once the team had completed all the required documentation, they were assessed by an independent accreditation agency which awards the accreditation. Accreditation involves a significant amount of work but is well worth the effort to ensure client safety and the quality of dental services clients receive are maintained to high standards.



DEADLY BLUES

THE WINNING STREAK



Pictured from left at the Maari Ma Deadly Blues launch are Deadly Choices Ambassador, Ian Lacey, Maari Ma Executive Manager Community Services and Programs, Justin Files, Board Chair, Maureen O'Donnell, Rugby League legend and former NSW State of Origin player, Nathan Blacklock, who is a Deadly Blues Ambassador and fellow rugby league legend Paul Langmack.

Maari Ma's partnership with Queensland based Deadly Choices late last year led to a new partnership formation for State of Origin. The Deadly Blues health campaign aligned with one of the most anticipated and exciting sporting events in Australia—rugby league's State of Origin competition. Maari Ma Deadly Blues was launched ahead of the Origin series and was one of five Aboriginal health care services in the state to be part of the campaign. With a Blues win this a year it was a memorable start to the partnership and importantly further helped Maari Ma to reach out to its communities, particularly the young people, and encouraged them to make healthy choices and live healthy lives. The Deadly Blues partnership will run for three years and is fully funded by the Federal Government. Everyone who gets an ATSI Health Check gets a free Deadly Blues Shirt which ties rugby league alongside health.

GETTING THE MESSAGE ACROSS

Colourful posters promoting Maari Ma's Tackling Indigenous Smoking messages are displayed around Wilcannia following a joint project with Central Darling Shire Council. Twenty signs based on the 'deadly' theme have been funded by Maari Ma and are being displayed on Council and community facilities. The project aligns objectives in both Maari Ma's Strategic Plan and Council's Community Strategic Plan. Local community members feature on the posters and a local photographer was engaged to take the photos. It's hoped similar signage will be rolled out to Central Darling Shire Council's other towns to further promote the Tackling Indigenous Smoking messages which aim to improve life expectancy among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by reducing tobacco use.



BRINGING MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING TO THE TABLE AT WILCANNIA

The June Wilcannia Community Dinner was a combined evening with NSW Sport and Recreation with representatives bringing the Act-Belong-Commit event to Wilcannia. There was a great turn-out of around 90 people and the evening included talks by three former NRL players who are taking their message of mental health to rural NSW. Former Balmain Tigers players Percy Knight, Kerry Hemsley and Wayne Wigham talked about depression and anxiety, and their own battles. They said being active, having a sense of belonging and having a purpose in life all contribute to happiness and good mental health. The Act-Belong-Commit guidelines for positive mental health provide a simple approach everyone can adopt to become more mentally healthy.



ENGAGING WITH SCHOOL STUDENTS



Maari Ma's Youth Health team takes every opportunity it can to engage with school students and a Youth Services Day at Broken Hill's Willyama High School was a great opportunity for the team and other local service providers to share information on healthy lifestyles and other issues relevant to young people. Students from Years 7 to 10 attended the day and rotated around the services asking questions and taking away resources and information. Maari Ma's Tarissa Staker and Latesha Adams enjoyed talking to the students and said it was a good chance to help build relationships and make connections.



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