

AN INFRASTRUCTURE BOOST FOR WILCANNIA



Services in Wilcannia will be getting a significant boost with planning well underway for a new Primary Health Care Service building and the announcement of funding for a new purpose built facility for the town's children and young people. Maari Ma was successful in gaining a capital works grant from the Federal Government towards the Primary Health Care facility which is proposed to be built adjacent to the Baarka/Darling River on land currently owned by Central Darling Shire Council. Troppo Architects from Adelaide are the project managers and in consultation with staff and community on site and remotely over a number of months have submitted a model design of the building. Meantime, the Federal Government, through its Building Better Region's Fund, has awarded Maari Ma a grant of \$1.6M towards a new Wings building that will be specifically designed to cater for the playgroup, after school and holiday activities enjoyed by Wilcannia's children and young people. The positive impact of the two new constructions will be far reaching, bringing benefits throughout the community.

Pictured top left: the Federal Member for Parkes, Mark Coulton, with Maari Ma CEO, Bob Davis in Broken Hill at the funding announcement of the new Wings building. Bottom left is the design concept of the new Primary Health Care facility on the banks of the Baarka/Darling River at Wilcannia.



**MAARI MA HEALTH
ABORIGINAL
CORPORATION REGION OF
SERVICE**

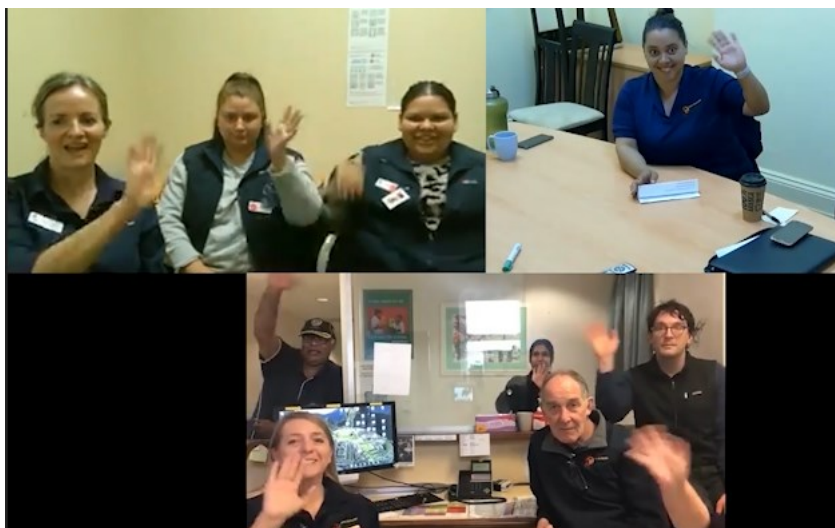


RECOGNISING VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS



Maari Ma recently paid tribute to staff who have made a significant contribution to the organisation over many years. Clockwork from top left: Executive Manager, Primary Health Care Service, Kaylene Kemp has retired after a 22 year association with Maari Ma and was one of its founding staff members. Executive Manager Community Services and Programs, Justin Files, who started working for Maari Ma in community development 15 years ago has stepped away from his position. Finance Manager, Lee-Anne Philp has celebrated her 20 year anniversary working with Maari Ma. June Jones celebrated a milestone birthday recently and is showing no signs of slowing down as she continues to give to the Wilcannia community through her work with children and young people at Wings. Maari Ma applauds Kaylene, Justin, Lee-Anne and June – who together have clocked up around 70 years at Maari Ma helping communities and working to improve the health outcomes of Aboriginal people.

RAISING AWARENESS DURING COVID 19



World No Tobacco Day, held each year on May 31st, took on a different look for Maari Ma this year due to COVID 19 and the Kiila Laana team (Maari Ma's Tackling Indigenous Smoking Team) embraced the change. The team's focus was on encouraging and supporting community members who smoke to access support via the Muuku Program in the lead up to WNTD. To mark WNTD the team used the Kiila Laana Facebook page to post staff on zoom supporting WNTD (pictured left) and posts from community members around the region taking the Muuka Smoke Free pledge.

LAUNCHING THE ATSI HEALTH CHECK



Maari Ma launched its ATSI health check clinic in July with a free sausage sizzle for the community and gave out meat vouchers to the first 20 people to receive their ATSI health check along with a Deadly Choices shirt. The clinic is located at Maari Ma's Kiila Laana Building in Argent Street, Broken Hill across the road from the Primary Health Care Service which also serves as the flu vaccination clinic. As evident by the expression on young Beaudean Bugmy's face the Deadly Choices shirts in varying sizes and NRL teams are prized possessions and are an encouragement for clients to book an appointment for an assessment. The health check supports the physical, social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island clients of all ages and helps to identify potential illnesses or chronic diseases before they occur.

COMPUTER DONATION HAS HELPED MAARI MA FAMILIES

A number of Maari Ma families have been the fortunate recipients of donated laptop computers by the NSW Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ). Early in the corona virus lockdown, DCJ said they had computers no longer required and put the call out to families in need across the state through non government organisations such as Maari Ma. With students taking their school lessons from home many families didn't have the computers to be able to keep their kids connected and supported during lockdown. DCJ said they received 6000 applications from across the state for 1000 computers and 40 Maari Ma families put forward for the repurposed devices will receive one. Thank you DCJ.

MAKING LEARNING FUN

The two-week program at Wings for the mid-year school holidays included a first-time activity for the Wilcannia children – Steam Ahead Robotics. The learning project was conducted by staff from Western Student Connections from Dubbo. The kids worked with staff to build small robotic models - learning skills along the way. STEAM Education is an approach to learning that uses Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts and Mathematics as access points for guiding student inquiry, dialogue and critical thinking. Other activities at Wings during the holiday program included sewing patchwork cushions, jewellery making, the movie “Yolngu Boy” screened at the Community Hall and organised by the local police, and always an enjoyable event – a lunchtime BBQ.



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