

ORGANISATIONAL ACCREDITATION FOR NEARLY A DECADE

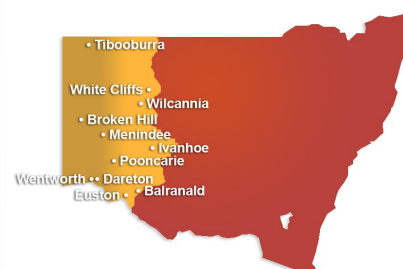


Maari Ma has been awarded full accreditation against the *QIC Health and Community Services Standards 7th Edition*, marking nearly a decade since it first attained the accolade. QIC accreditation for the organisation was first awarded in 2012 and at that time Maari Ma was one of just a handful of Aboriginal Medical Services in Australia to achieve organisational accreditation. Since then there has been a review of the standards with some enhancements which are more reflective of industry trends and easier to interpret, while being applicable to the environments that services operate within. Maari Ma will continue to proudly use the accreditation status for promotional, grant application and program development purposes. But more importantly compliance enables the organisation to plan, measure, and be publicly accountable for performance, confirming achievements and identifying gaps for improvement. The quality improvement elements also promote organisational integration, sustainable systems, and a reflective culture that uses data to drive continual improvement. Maari Ma communities can have further confidence that the organisation will be continually striving to improve services because QIC awards accreditation as part of an organisation's participation in an ongoing quality improvement program.

Maari Ma's journey towards quality improvement through accreditation began in 2011 with the preparation needed to ensure compliance with the 18 standards and accreditation was achieved the following year. Since then, there has been a review of the standards with some enhancements but the same rigorous assessment process occurs to ensure the organisation is meeting its ongoing quality improvement requirements. CEO, Bob Davis is pictured with former employee, Lowra Koraba with the organisation's first QIC certificate in 2012. Maari Ma has now achieved accreditation four times.



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



CELEBRATING A MILESTONE BIRTHDAY



Maari Ma celebrated a milestone with Board Chair, Maureen O'Donnell in May when she turned 80 years of age. Mrs O'Donnell, one of the early members of the Board, has been its chair since 2008 and in that time has been providing a guiding hand on the organisation's strategic goals and direction. Mrs O'Donnell is a Barkintji elder belonging to the Wilyakali language group and not only plays an integral part in preserving traditional knowledge, she has for decades and continues to be pivotal in helping to tackle issues of health, land rights, legal rights and equality. Maari Ma is fortunate to have her wise counsel and the knowledge that she brings to the Board, and the Boards of the Broken Hill Local Aboriginal Land Council and the Mutawintji National Parks and Wildlife Service. A very happy 80th year to Maureen O'Donnell from all at Maari Ma.

KEEPING COMMUNITIES SAFE

With new variants of COVID 19 now in Australia, vaccinations to keep communities safe are becoming critical. Maari Ma has been delivering the vaccines to clients according to government guidelines and as an added incentive to get a jab, clients who book a vaccination go into a weekly draw to win a meat tray or a fruit and vegetable box each week. Pictured right is Primary Health Worker, Ann Bennett holding up the box with the weekly names for Anthony Rigney to draw the winner, who for that draw was Richard Brown.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and people living in remote communities are at greater risk from COVID-19. This is because:

- there are often higher rates of other health issues in these communities
- it can be harder to access health care
- people in the community may be very mobile and travel often
- people often rely more on outreach services in remote places.



MAKING HEALTHY CHOICES



A deadly choice is a healthy choice and Maari Ma is proud of its continued association with the Deadly Choices and Deadly Blues campaigns. Former rugby league stars Nathan Blacklock, Willie Mason and Reni Maitua visited the region to attend Outback Rugby League games at Menindee and Wilcannia, and help promote the Deadly Blues campaign in the lead up to the State of Origin series. The trio had morning tea at Maari Ma's Kiila Laana building and staff had the chance to have photos taken with them, and help promote the Deadly Choices shirts, as pictured above. Maari Ma is also taking part in a draw for anyone who completes a 715 Health Check – they'll have a chance to win tickets to the NRL Grand Final.



WORLD NO TOBACCO DAY

The team from Maari Ma's Tackling Indigenous Smoking program, Kiila Laana was busy at Broken Hill's Plaza on World No Tobacco Day May 31st, engaging with the public and offering support around tobacco management, providing information and asking for feedback. They were also promoting the Muuku Smoke Free Pledge which encourages community members who smoke to access support via a 12 month program whereby pledgers receive rewards at certain times. For example, last year pledgers received a gardening and art pack at 3 months from joining. The reward is intended to help the transition from having a break and smoke to having a break and enjoying a smoke-free activity to help stop thinking about wanting to smoke.

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION



As part of National Reconciliation Week, Maari Ma's Broken Hill Playgroup went on an excursion to Silverton for activities in a creek bed. The reconciliation movement is about recognising and healing the past and committing to a better future – where our thoughts, hopes and concerns naturally turn to the next generation, our children. We all have a role to play when it comes to reconciliation and building relationships and communities that value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, histories, places and culture—starting from early childhood. Early Years Project Leader, Michelle Parker and the Playgroup staff gave the children a day they will remember.

A SKILLED WORKFORCE

28 Maari Ma staff recently participated in an online Accidental Counsellor training course which provided participants with the knowledge and skills to engage with those who are in crisis by learning how to: • **RECOGNISE** when a person is distressed or in crisis • **RESPOND** in an appropriate manner and • **REFER** to suitable support. Staff feedback from the training was excellent and all those who took part can keep learning by joining the Accidental Counsellor Alumni learning social forum on Facebook. Maari Ma is committed to ongoing professional development which it recognises as one of the key mechanisms by which high standards of professional practice, and the relevance and currency of qualifications and experience are maintained.



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