



## MAARI MA'S FIRST ALLIED HEALTH ASSISTANTS



*Erin Vale (left) and Mele Tuipulotu have become Maari Ma's first Allied Health Assistants. Both graduates say they have developed a passion for working with children and plan to continue expanding their careers in health and early intervention.*

Maari Ma has congratulated its first allied health graduates. Erin Vale and Mele Tuipulotu have achieved a Certificate IV in Allied Health Assistance after 18 months of on the job training and study at New South Wales TAFE. Erin and Mele work within an expanded allied health team at Maari Ma which includes a speech pathologist and an occupational therapist. Erin and Mele have not only had the support of their allied health mentors they have worked alongside all of the Healthy Start team gaining valuable skills and knowledge. There are currently 90 children receiving or waiting to receive allied health therapy at the health service. Maari Ma is grateful to the CAGES Foundation for supporting this important part of our Healthy Start program.

MAARI MA HEALTH  
ABORIGINAL  
CORPORATION REGION OF



# MAARI MA WELCOMES MINISTER



Maari Ma Board Chair, Maureen O'Donnell and senior staff had the opportunity recently to talk to Minister for Health and Medical Research, the Hon. Brad Hazzard MP, on a visit to Broken Hill. Minister Hazzard was provided with a comprehensive overview of Maari Ma's services and toured the Primary Health Care Service. He also heard how important trust is in a health service for clients to access services. Minister Hazzard was provided with information on staffing and doctors, and on Maari Ma's Healing Program as well as other programs. Concerns were also raised with the Minister on high blood lead levels in Aboriginal children as well as the poor local social and community housing.

## PREPARATION FOR SERVICES AT BALRANALD

Maari Ma is getting ready to provide some health services in Balranald and has recruited a registered nurse to work part time at the Bes Murray Community Centre (pictured right). The service will also promote and coordinate the Commonwealth's Integrated Care Program, Marrabinya, which provides medical aids and travel for Aboriginal people with a chronic disease. A Marrabinya Carelink worker/ receptionist has also been employed. Maari Ma's Board has been very keen to re-establish some services at Balranald and had been actively lobbying for Federal funding.





# WHITE RIBBON COMMUNITY BBQ

Supporting White Ribbon and promoting the White Ribbon message to the community is something Maari Ma staff take to seriously, and awareness raising community events are held frequently. A recent community BBQ in the courtyard at the Broken Hill Primary Health Care Service saw more than 100 community members and staff attend where the White Ribbon message was promoted. Last year Maari Ma gained three year White Ribbon accreditation for the second time.



## SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY FOR WINGS KIDS



The WINGS kids and the Wilcannia community enjoyed a special musical event recently when South Australian rock group, David Blumberg and the Maraby Band made a return to the town conducting music workshops and holding an outdoor concert at the oval for NAIDOC. The band came to Wilcannia in January this year for music workshops and a concert involving the kids at the community hall. This time 10 children took part in the music lessons. Six year old Jessie (pictured with a band member) stole their hearts and showed great talent as did all the kids. Maari Ma thanks David Blumberg and the Maraby Band for spending time with the Wings children and sharing their love of music with them – it will be something the kids will always remember.

# DEADLY BLUES ENCOURAGING EARLY LEARNING



Around 120 people recently came along to a Deadly Blues event with HIPPY and Playgroup at the Maari Ma Child and Family Building and what a great event it was. There were HIPPY and Playgroup families in attendance as well as elders and other community members. It was the first visit to the Child and Family Building space for some families and they were very keen to start attending Playgroup or join HIPPY. Alma Public School's Aboriginal education officer and kindergarten teacher also attended the event to encourage enrolment to Bugdlie Preschool and to start the enrolment process for the children who will be starting kindergarten at Alma next year.



## FIRST NATIONS RUGBY 7'S SELECTION

Maari Ma congratulates young local football players Ashley Wilson, Jameson Burke, Steven Newman, Casey Shillingsworth and Sinele King who were among a group of 133 players around Australia selected to attend a three day national camp. The boys tried out at the First Nations Rugby 7's talent identification tour in Broken Hill in April this year and were selected to attend the Sydney camp. 46 females and 87 males were selected from the series of talent identification days in rural and regional Australia and to get five players from Broken Hill through to the next stage was a great achievement. The process now moves to the next stage with two First Nations teams (male and female) to be selected to compete in a series of domestic and international 7's tournaments.



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