

## WINGS WINS NAPCAN AWARD



WINGS Drop In Centre at Wilcannia was one of two NSW award recipients at this year's NAPCAN Play Your Part awards which were announced at Admiralty House by Governor-General Sir Peter Cosgrove at the launch of National Child Protection Week in September. The national awards are organised by the National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect, and recognise inspiring initiatives that promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people. Congratulations to Maari Ma staff who work at WINGS, the assistance from Save the Children and the children who attend. The NAPCAN Play Your Part theme this year "Stronger Communities, Safer Children" highlights what WINGS is all about- a safe place for kids to go after school and during the holidays where they can enjoy a range of structured activities and programs that promote healthy and active lifestyles. Up to 40 kids from the ages of 5 to 15 go to WINGS every day during the school term and up to 90 a day in the holidays. During that time other Maari Ma staff such as dieticians, mental health workers and early childhood workers help out at WINGS, and services such as Save the Children's playgroup and the mobile youth van also visit the Centre.

*Pictured left: NSW Advocate for Children and Young People, Andrew Johnson, National Children's Commissioner, Megan Mitchell, WINGS Co-ordinator, Natika Whyman and Dr Shanti Raman, NAPCAN Board Director.*



## FINALIST IN NATIONAL HR AWARDS

Maari Ma was a finalist in the Australian HR Awards 2016 nominated in the category Employer of Choice (Public Sector and Not For Profit) and while not an award recipient was recognised nationally for its excellence and best practice in people management. The

Australian HR Awards are the highlight event on the human resources industry calendar bringing together industry leaders to celebrate excellence in the HR profession and recognise individuals, teams and companies for their outstanding achievements.

MAARI MA HEALTH  
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# CLINICAL EDUCATION

Ongoing professional development for front line staff is an important component of Maari Ma's best practice client and community focused service delivery. Practitioners keep their knowledge and skills up to date with regular education delivered both in-house and through external training. A recent endocrinology education session titled *Top to Toe: What to look for in an endocrinology consultation* was delivered by Maari Ma's visiting endocrinology specialists from Royal Prince Alfred

Hospital and part of the Outback Vascular Health Service (OVHS) team - Professor Stephen Twigg, Dr Albert Hsieh, RPA Manager of Diabetes Centre, Marg McGill and Podiatrist, Georgina Frank. Discussions focussed on what different organs can tell us about endocrinology and diabetes, and recent advances in the field. Maari Ma's own Diabetes Clinical Nurse Consultant, Michael Porter also presented at the session which was attended by almost 30 people.



*Professor Stephen Twigg (pictured above at the education session) is an endocrinologist and Medical Head of Endocrinology Research Laboratories, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, and Associate Professor, University of Sydney, New South Wales.*



*Maari Ma Diabetes CNC and credentialed Diabetes Educator, Michael Porter, presented a very comprehensive history of diabetes going back to Egyptian times.*

*Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are more than three times more likely than non-Indigenous Australians to have diabetes or pre-diabetes. Maari Ma's OVHS is an innovative, cross-disciplinary approach to complex vascular disease such as diabetes type II.*

## FIRST EVENING SPECIALIST CLINIC

Maari Ma has started its first evening specialist clinic and it's proving to be very successful. An Ear Nose and Throat specialist has been visiting Maari Ma monthly since August 2015 and the three hour clinic has been moved to the evening for 12 months. Attendance in the September clinic was 95% (18 patients) with a 100% attendance

rate in October (16 patients). Since the ENT clinics started, three surgeons have visited – Drs John Curotta, Rowan Valentine and Sam Boase - and have seen 133 Maari Ma patients. 18 patients have had surgery either at the Broken Hill Health Service or in a hospital in Adelaide.



# WOMEN'S HEALTH DAY



Under the coordination of Healthy Start Manager, Helen Freeman, Maari Ma for the first time conducted an off-site women's health event during the annual Jean Hailes Women's Health Week held September. The theme of the day was "Let's Talk" and the event, at Broken Hill Community Inc, provided community members with the opportunity to discuss a range of women's health issues. As well as staff on hand to talk to attendees about women's issues a guest Breast Care Nurse was also present to talk about breast care and a representative from Australian Hearing talked about hearing screening and testing. There was also information on diabetes, heart health, environmental health (lead) and smoking. Lunch and afternoon tea were provided and attendees received giveaway bags with information as well as promotional material from Jean Hailes. There are plans to hold the event again next year.

*Pictured left: Maari Ma Board Chair, Maureen O'Donnell, gave the Welcome to Country and introduced the event.*

## DENTAL RE-ACCREDITATION

Maari Ma has been successful in gaining dental re-accreditation. It's received full accreditation against the National Safety and Quality in Health Service (NSQHS) Standards for Dental Practice Accreditation. Maari Ma's dental service was first accredited two years ago and this accreditation has been awarded for three years – through to August 2019. Accreditation ensures that a dental practice has systems and processes in place to improve the safety and quality of care for patients.

## TACKLING INDIGENOUS SMOKING

Maari Ma's Tackling Indigenous Smoking (TIS) team received some very positive feedback from a presentation made at a recent workshop in Sydney specifically for NSW Aboriginal Medical Services and other organisations that received the TIS funding. Each organisation did a presentation focusing on one of the national performance indicators. Maari Ma's team chose community engagement which is a significant focus of their work. The presentation was well received by the National Best Practice Unit and other organisations.

*TIS is a national program that aims to reduce smoking as the most preventable cause of ill health for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. A redesigned program was introduced in 2015–2016 with an emphasis on flexible approaches for regional tobacco control.*



*Project Officer Tobacco Control, Anshul Kaul, and Project Officer Smoking Cessation Education, Tiffany Lynch pictured at the workshop.*

# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES



Maari Ma celebrated International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples this year which was dedicated to the right to education. Staff promoted the importance of education for Indigenous people by conducting a special lunch for clients and Maari Ma families. It was very well attended with more plates needed for the roast lunch than the 140 initially set out. The day started at 11.00am at the Child and Family Building and there were play activities for young children, Elders were in attendance and there were representatives from education agencies to talk to families. The catered roast meal was enjoyed by all and the key note speaker was 18 year old Muriel Hunter - a Year 12 student who is doing a school based traineeship at the Broken Hill Health Service.



*By resolution 49/214 on 23rd December 1994, the United Nations General Assembly decided that the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples shall be observed on 9 August every year. The date marks the day of the first meeting, in 1982, of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.*



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