

MAARI MA PAYS TRIBUTE TO RETIRED ABORIGINAL HEALTH PRACTITIONER



Maari Ma extends thanks and gratitude to the organisation's longest serving Aboriginal health practitioner - Debra King, who has retired this year. Debra has worked tirelessly for the Menindee community for more than 30 years. Her dedication and commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of the community has been exemplary and while she has stepped down from her role Debra will always remain connected and engaged in the region. Before Debra worked for Maari Ma she was employed by the then Far West Area Health Service as an Aboriginal health worker at Menindee. She started with Maari Ma in August 2006 and completed her Graduate Certificate in Health (Diabetes Management and Education) in 2006, Associate Diploma of Community Health and Development in 1998 and Diploma of Health Science (Aboriginal Health and Community Development) in 1999. Debra became one of Maari Ma's first Aboriginal health workers to gain registration with AHPRA as an Aboriginal health practitioner in February 2014. Congratulations Debra on your years of service.

"The role of our Aboriginal health workers is crucial to improving health outcomes for our communities and Debra has been outstanding in her primary and clinical care of our clients at Menindee. The Maari Ma Board and all staff congratulate her and wish her well in her retirement" Bob Davis, Maari Ma CEO.

Maari Ma has very much welcomed figures released in The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) 2018 – 2019 Annual Report which shows a significant number of people in Australia are registered as a health practitioner and the largest growth in registrants was Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners. The AHPRA's Annual Report said across the professions, the largest growth in registrants was Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners +7.6%, occupational therapy +6.9% and osteopathy +6.6%. It said they welcomed 41,696 new health practitioners into the National Scheme in 2018/19. That means one in every 17 people working in Australia is a registered health practitioner.

**MAARI MA HEALTH
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MAARI MA MOVES TOWARDS NDIS CERTIFICATION



Maari Ma has been recommended for National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) certification and now awaits the final decision from the NDIS Commission. As an NDIS provider Maari Ma needs to be registered with the NDIS Commission to deliver services. To apply for registration, providers undergo an audit against the NDIS Practice Standards which the organisation has done. The process was quite lengthy and detailed but the result was very good with no areas of concern being identified. The auditors contracted were Q-audit and their assessors, Ken Moore and Bernard McNair, who spent two days with allied health and other staff reviewing policies, procedures, a myriad of documentation and service welcome packs. Feedback from the auditors was very positive and they said Maari Ma provides an excellent service. Pictured above during the audit are Clinical Services Manager, Linda Lynott, Assessor Ken Moore, Allied Health staff—Mele Tuipulotu, Sandy Gray and Erin Vale, and Assessor, Bernard McNair.

DEADLY SISTAS



A partnership during the year between Maari Ma, the Broken Hill Regional Art Gallery and Broken Hill High School has been a great success and looks like it may continue in 2020. The Deadly Sistas Indigenous Art Class is aimed to assist the girls to make connections and explore their own perceptions about community and identity through art. There was a recent presentation of their art work at the school's assembly with very positive feedback received from all involved. It's hoped the project will continue and expand to include self-confidence development and open channels for learning to achieve improved education outcomes. Pictured left to right are Broken Hill High School Principal, Ross Mackay, Maari Ma's Tarissa Staker and Tiffany Lynch, Deadly Sistas participant, Alisi Kelly and Project Facilitator, Antoinette Deacon.

WILCANNIA PLAYGROUP CONFERENCE PRESENTATION



Early Years Coordinator, Valerie Bugmy and Early Years Support Workers, Shaylin Whyman and Shanisha Harris at the conference left to right. Playgroup is held three days a week in two locations in Wilcannia – the Safe House on Monday and Catholic Care on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The Wilcannia Playgroup team delivered a paper at the 8th national SNAICC (National Aboriginal & Islander Child Care) conference in September which saw 1200 delegates from around the country attend. Their paper was titled *Big people and little people playing together in Wilcannia, NSW*. It focused on Aboriginal community members (the Maari Ma Wilcannia Early Years team) enriching parents as children's first teachers in a pilot home visiting program to improve their success in preschool and school. The feedback the team received from the conference delegates was very positive and embraced the vision of SNAICC - An Australian society in which our communities are empowered to determine their own future; where the rights of our children, young people and families are protected; where our cultural identity and achievements are valued; and our children and families have access to culturally appropriate services.

MAARI MA CONTINUES WHITE RIBBON MESSAGES

Despite uncertainty surrounding White Ribbon's future Maari Ma, as a White Ribbon accredited organisation, is continuing with White Ribbon principles and was very pleased to conduct White Ribbon Day on November 22nd. White Ribbon Australia's focus was always primary prevention – stopping violence before it occurs – and Maari Ma's efforts to change attitudes and behaviours that result in disrespect, abuse and violence against women are aligned with this. The White Ribbon Day event at Patton Park in Broken Hill drew a good crowd with activities for children and a BBQ lunch for all.



CHILDREN'S WEEK IN THE PARK



"Children have the right to good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment so that they will stay healthy. Richer Countries should help poorer countries achieve this". That was the message at this year's Children's Week which saw families having fun at Broken Hill's Sturt Park on October 23rd. It was an opportunity for families and communities to reflect on the lives of children in other parts of the world where safety and freedom are not automatic. Every year the Early Childhood Education Sector and Child and Family Services in Broken Hill work together to provide a free and fun event at the park with Maari Ma's Early Years team taking a lead role.



Organised by the Broken Hill Early Childhood Education Sector and Child and Family Services, the event in Sturt Park to celebrate Children's Week involved a variety of leisure activities with a focus on the importance of providing a good start in life.



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