

VACCINATION DRIVE IN BROKEN HILL

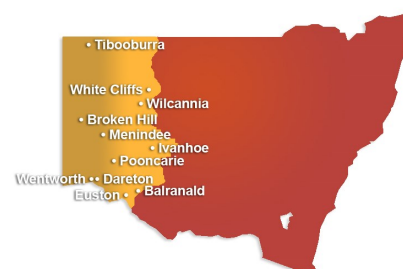


Maari Ma staff and AUSMAT are pictured above before they headed out into the Broken Hill community for the vaccination drive. A similar drive in Balranald has also been held with AUSMAT.

Maari Ma staff in Broken Hill teamed up with AUSMAT in October to undertake a COVID 19 vaccination drive in the community. Staff have found it difficult to gauge how many of the local community have been wanting to have the vaccination but for whatever reason have not come forward or have been cautious. The drive was aimed at talking to clients, answering any

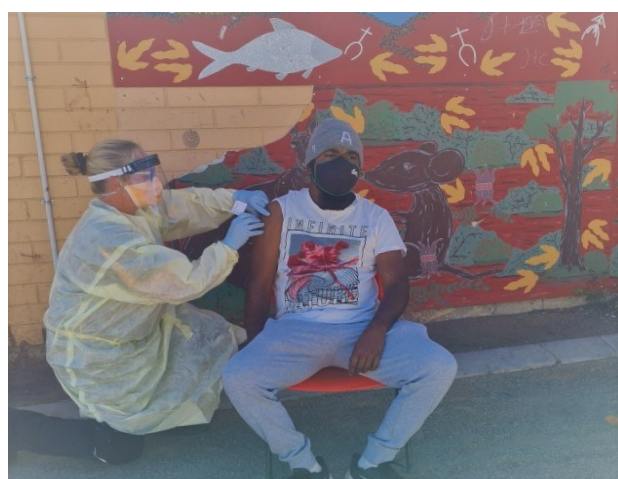
questions, addressing any concerns and offering them a Pfizer vaccination. Dozens of first doses were administered and many were given to hard to access clients. Each person who received a jab was provided with an information pack including masks and hand sanitizer, and they were given a follow-up date for the second vaccination.

MAARI MA HEALTH
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(Continued from front page). Staff and AUSMAT (Australian Medical Assistance Teams) went out and about for the day in Broken Hill in eight vehicles. There were approximately 12 Maari Ma staff led by Daniel Jackman and Tegan Hinchey-Gerard and eight from AUSMAT. There were also a number of runners who were doing the transport of vaccines and water bottles, and other necessary jobs to ensure the drive went smoothly. It was a mammoth effort and at the end of the last day of the four day event Maari Ma put on a BBQ for all involved in a show of appreciation for all the hard work.



"Just want to thank you for sending out Max Quayle, Michelle and the other lady to immunise my daughter who has been dodging immunisation for a while. They did a good job of talking to her and making her feel comfortable to have the jab. Uncle Max you're a legend. Thank you so much I really appreciated it. You are doing a wonderful job caring for our people."

"Great work everyone"

"Amazing work everyone! It's pretty awesome to see people being brave and rolling up their sleeves"

NAMED HEROES OF THE PANDEMIC



Australian medical information platform Australian Doctor has named two Maari Ma staff and their teams, “GP practice Heroes of the Pandemic”. Executive Manager Primary Health Care, Linda Lynott, and Manager General Practice, Daniel Jackman, RN, and more generally the staff at the Primary Health Care Service were nominated for a national competition by a locum GP working at Maari Ma. They were selected by Australian Doctor from hundreds of nominations for their work during the COVID 19 Delta outbreak and raising the vaccination levels.

AusDoc.

“Everyone in the organisation, from the board of directors to the cleaners, is highly focused on doing their part to support the wellbeing of these communities. To my mind, they are all heroes.....Maari Ma runs a first-rate service with people such as Linda and Daniel, who go largely unrecognised, doing their work quietly in a true spirit of selflessness and concern....As a result, I feel compelled to recommend this organisation, its teams and these individuals as practice heroes of the COVID-19 pandemic in Far West NSW”. Nominated by Dr Alice Wu, GP, Westleigh, NSW (who worked as a locum at Maari Ma).

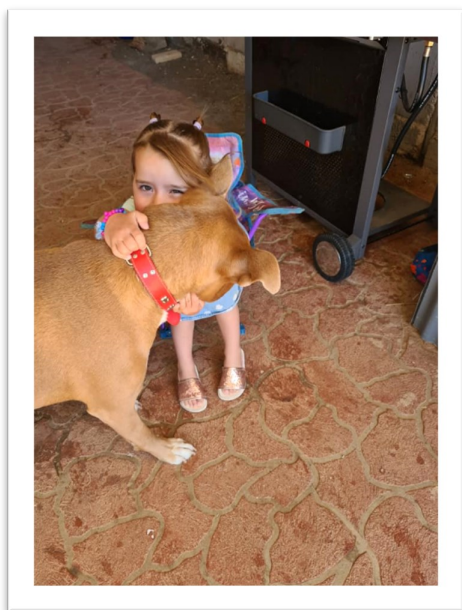


APPRECIATION FROM LOCAL BUSINESSES

There has been a huge commitment from Maari Ma staff to its communities during the pandemic and particularly so when the Delta variant came to the far west. In all corners of the organisation, staff have risen to the challenge with compassion and caring to support communities and support each other—often doing work outside their usual roles and pitching in. Local businesses have shown their appreciation. For example, the Deli, in Argent Street, Broken Hill expressed their gratitude with a delivery of trays of donuts to the Respiratory Clinic.

BEING CREATIVE FOR KIDS

Maari Ma staff have been coming up with creative ways to keep kids occupied during stay at home orders. The Early Years team held a pet challenge competition recently and asked children to post a picture of themselves and their pet on the Maari Ma Early Years Group Facebook page to go into a draw to win a \$100 voucher from Broken Hill Meat. While there could only be one prize winner, the judging team was unanimous— all entrants were winners.



The allied health workers also worked around COVID restrictions to help families during the stay at home orders. Because families were spending time at home, children were having less opportunities to socialise with peers and learn the imperative skills they get from these exposures such as social communication, language development, empathy, play and turn-taking. In an effort to compensate, the team conducted a competition for children to 'take their toy on an adventure'. Not only did it provide opportunities for children and families to get creative and use their imaginations it also provided an opportunity for children to develop an array of skills that they usually would be developing with peers outside of the home.

Pictured above are some of the photos received for the pet challenge competition.

Pictured right are Occupational Therapist, Jacquie Payne, Allied Health Assistant in Training, Telicia Briar and Speech Therapist, Charlotte Bertelsen preparing for the competition. Children were asked to send a photo, video, drawing or a story of their toy going on an adventure or engaging in an activity at home. Prizes included a \$100 voucher from Kmart.



Maari Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation Regional Office 2 Oxide Street
PO Box 339 BROKEN HILL NSW 2880 Phone: 08 8082 9888 Fax: 08 8082 9889

www.maarima.com.au