

THIRD GROUP OF TRAINEES GRADUATE



Maari Ma has congratulated its third group of Primary Health Worker trainees who have graduated after 18 months of study at the Broken Hill TAFE campus and on the job training. All 12 trainees who undertook their Certificate IV Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health (Practice) have completed the course - another group to have a 100 percent completion rate. Maari

Ma takes pride in the accomplishments of its workforce and previous graduates continue to work across the organisation to achieve positive outcomes for the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people in its communities.

"As valued health workers they will play a key role in our efforts to close the gap" Bob Davis, CEO.

MAARI MA HEALTH
ABORIGINAL
CORPORATION REGION OF
SERVICE



NEW LEAD GUIDELINES

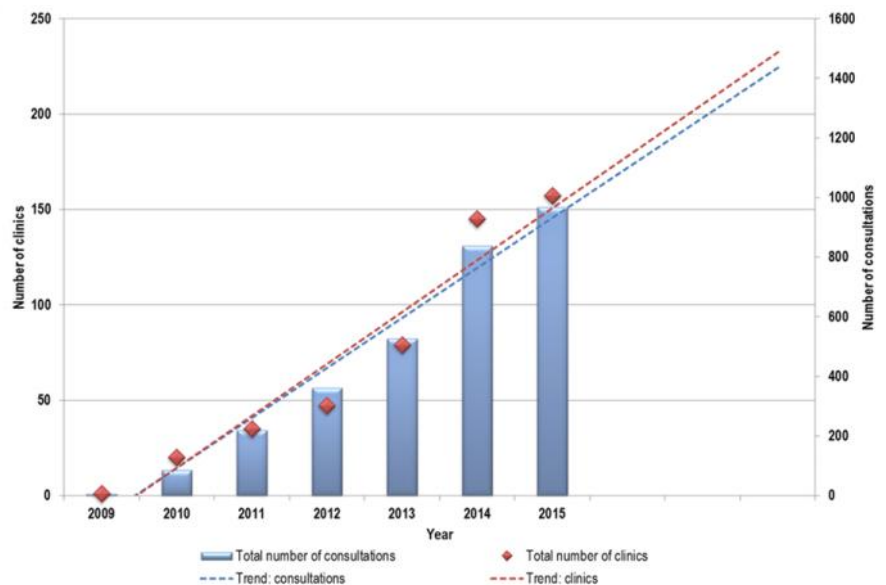


(left to right) Dr Garth Alperstein, Primary Health Worker Lead Program, Brooke O'Donnell and Senior Community Lead Worker, Lavinia Henderson. The Lead Team visited more than 70 homes this year and provided both cleaning and safe play incentives to help reduce and prevent high blood lead levels in children.

Child Public Health Advisor, Dr Garth Alperstein together with Maari Ma GP Dr Marion Christie conducted education for Broken Hill's Environmental Lead Program in December on new clinical lead guidelines. Maari Ma is part of the joint initiative aimed at reducing lead levels in Broken Hill children aged 0 – 5 years. The new guidelines now use a reference level of 5 micrograms per deciliter of blood (down from 10) to identify children with blood lead levels requiring more follow-up than the routine testing and education. Protecting children from exposure to lead is important to lifelong good health and Maari Ma has a lead team situated within its Environmental Health Unit undertaking education and home assessments to help address the issue of lead contamination and elevated blood lead levels in Aboriginal children.

EVER INCREASING SPECIALTY CLINIC DAYS

Maari Ma continues its strong internal support for visiting specialists and has 15 specialty disciplines now coming to Broken Hill with most providing outreach services to the remote towns. The individual clinic days have been increasing steadily over the past six years and this year there have been more than 200 individual specialist clinic days with more than 1,300 patient consultations.



MARRABINYA—INDIGENOUS HEALTH SUPPORT

Maari Ma has partnered with Bila Muuji Aboriginal Health Services to implement the Commonwealth's Integrated Team Care (ITC) program by Western NSW PHN. Marrabinya (Indigenous Health Support Service) commenced on 1st November and Manager, Donna Jeffries, is working with Local Chronic Care Workers across the Western and Far West regions. They are assisting Aboriginal people to access and attend the care, services or aids they require as recommended by their GP. This includes for example making specialist appointments, arranging transport, having medications packaged in Webster packs and accessing walking frames.

Why Marrabinya for the Indigenous Health Support Service ? - The team chose the name as Marra (hand) is universal to most if not all Aboriginal languages across Australia and Binya (stretch out the) is a Wiradjuri word.



Local Chronic Care Workers Back L to R: Sam (Orange), Donna Jeffries (Manager), Kym (Coonamble), Stephen (Wentworth) Front L to R: Inez (Walgett), Sandra (Condobolin), Melissa (Dubbo).

REGISTRAR TRAINING

Congratulations to Dr Aung Si Thu who is the first registrar to attain a Fellowship (Fellow of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners) while working at Maari Ma. Dr Aung has been working at Maari Ma since February 2015 and will continue as a GP next year. Dr Priscilla Htun will be continuing as a registrar at Maari Ma next year and is nearing the completion of her studies to obtain her Fellowship. A new registrar will start his term three training in February 2017. Maari Ma has had a GP Registrar training program in place for a number of years.



TRANSPORT'S VITAL ROLE

Transport plays a vital role in enabling access to health care and if not available can be a major barrier for people's ability to get the care they need. Maari Ma has two transport officers and in 2016 they conducted 17,000 transports across the Maari Ma region, more than 10,000 of those were in Broken Hill.

Pictured left to right —Stanley "Teddy" Hart and Guy "Smiley" Crawford are Maari Ma's Transport Officers. Smiley has been taking clients to their appointments for nearly 20 years and is Maari Ma's longest serving employee.

WHITE RIBBON DAY



As an accredited White Ribbon organisation, Maari Ma coordinated a domestic violence awareness raising event on 25th November – White Ribbon Day. Local service providers set up stalls in Broken Hill's Town Square providing information, and community members were provided with a BBQ lunch with face painting available for the kids. 1.6 women are killed by domestic violence each week in Australia.

(left) White Ribbon Ambassador, actor Steve Bastoni pictured with Maari Ma White Ribbon Ambassador, Peter Crossing and staff at the Maari Ma stand in the Town Square.

CHRISTMAS FUN FOR HIPPY CHILDREN

With 52 families enrolled in the HIPPY program, this year's Christmas party was a big event. Maari Ma was awarded the contract for the Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY) three years ago and since its inception it has grown significantly. This year's Christmas Party was held at Broken Hill's Sturt Park for both the 4 and 5 year age groups. Santa arrived with the support from the NSW Fire and Rescue Brigade to deliver the presents, and everyone was treated to a delicious healthy dinner. A new group of 4 year olds will be starting the HIPPY program next year to prepare for school.



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