

HIPPY GRADUATES 2018



26 children graduated from the Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters (HIPPY) in 2018 making it Maari Ma's largest group of children to graduate in the four years since it started the program. The event was celebrated at Broken Hill's Central Football Club with proud parents and siblings attending, and each child received a framed certificate and a gift of books. HIPPY is a two-year home-based parenting and early childhood enrichment program that empowers parents and carers to be their child's first teacher. Maari Ma is achieving in all four of the HIPPY outcome areas required by HIPPY Australia. There has also been significant success in developing parent education and training this year with a number of HIPPY parents enrolling in short courses available at the local college.

MAARI MA HEALTH
ABORIGINAL
CORPORATION REGION OF
SERVICE



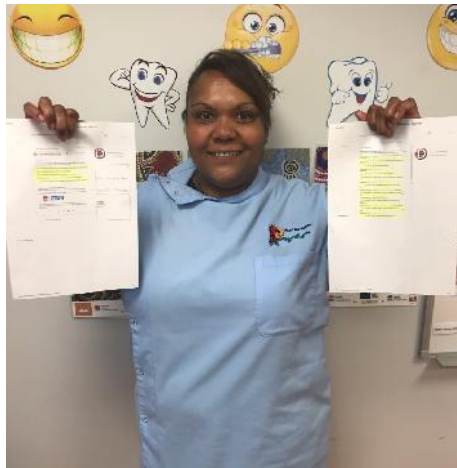
HIPPY TUTORS



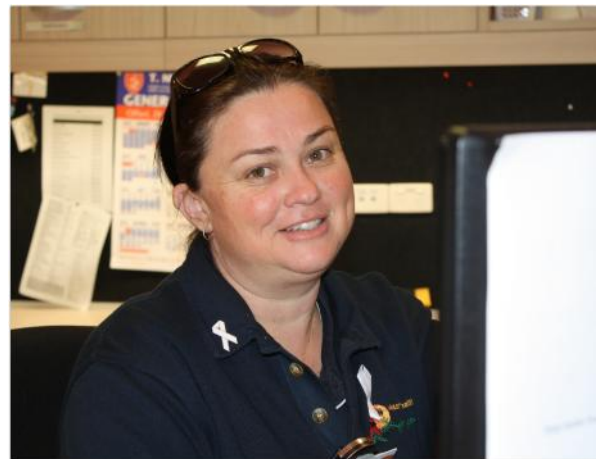
There are four HIPPY tutors who are employed for a two year period to work with children and parents as children progress through the first year of the program as four-year-olds and the second year as five year olds. The tutors stay with the same cohort of children during the program. Elizabeth Bennett and Renay Bates left the program at the HIPPY graduation having completed their two years and next year Maari Ma will employ two new tutors. Maari Ma has been using a new assessment tool developed by HIPPY Australia to ensure that each tutor is ready and confident to pursue work, further education or undertake other pathways once their two year employment is completed. Maari Ma wishes Elizabeth and Renay the best in their futures.

PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Maari Ma is committed to having a trained, skilled and well supported workforce that works with professionalism and care, and is also focused on Aboriginal leadership growth and succession planning. Seven staff completed Leadership and Management qualifications this year and two staff completed other qualifications.



Christene Polanski completed a Certificate III in Dental Assisting this year and Lisa Kelly completed a Diploma of Practice Management.



GETTING IT TOGETHER

Maari Ma has employed a case worker and is recruiting for a second to work on the Family and Community Services program Getting it Together. Maari Ma been contracted by FACS to undertake Getting it Together which is an intensive case management program to assist vulnerable young people aged between 12 and 25 years of age with alcohol and/or drug problems. The program provides services and support for young people to transition to, or resume self-sufficient living, free of dependence on alcohol and/or drugs.



FINALIST IN NATIONAL DREAMTIME AWARDS



It was a very proud occasion for Maari Ma and the Marrabinya team to be present at the recent National Dreamtime Awards for the announcement of the winner in the Community Organisation of the Year category. Maari Ma was one of four finalists in that category and while not

winning, the night reflected what the awards represent – an opportunity for First Nation people to come together to recognise excellence. Congratulations to all involved and congratulations to Redfern Aboriginal Medical Service for taking out the award.

Marrabinya provides a range of brokerage services to help eligible clients to better manage their chronic illnesses and operates throughout the Western NSW Primary Health Network region.

NATIONAL DIABETES DAY

National Diabetes Day on November 14 was marked with positive news from Maari Ma's visiting endocrinology specialist team. They said there have been improvements to the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the region with diabetes since Maari Ma started its integrated care approach to the treatment and management of diabetes. Maari Ma has been partnering for seven years with the Outback Vascular Health Service with specialists visiting from the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. Professor Stephen Twigg, Dr Albert Hsieh, Associate Professor Margaret McGill, who is the Manager of the Diabetes Centre at RPA Hospital, and Podiatrist Georgina Frank visit quarterly, supported by Maari Ma staff. There are approximately 175 Maari Ma clients with diabetes. The specialist team said there are excellent retention rates of clients, and control of blood-glucose levels, hypertension and lipid profiles, all of which contribute to the risk of cardiovascular disease in those with diabetes. Professor Twigg and Associate Professor McGill are pictured with Tony Rigney at Maari Ma's Primary Health Care Service.



MAKING DEADLY CHOICES

Maari Ma has signed an agreement with Deadly Choices – a well known Indigenous created brand encouraging Indigenous people to make healthy choices and be healthy role models for family, friends and the wider community. Deadly Choices is an initiative of the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health in South East Queensland and Ambassadors, Kieron Lander and Clare Butterfield, came to Maari Ma to talk to staff about the program. Kieron said Deadly Choices is very excited to be partnering with Maari Ma and bringing the program to remote NSW. There will be a launch next year of the Deadly Choices brand in the far west and to link the merchandise to Maari Ma's Health Checks program.



MAARI MA'S FIRST PHARMACY INTERN COMPLETES TRAINING



Maari Ma's first pharmacy intern has completed his training to become a qualified pharmacist. Simon Wark spent four years studying at University and one year as an intern working at Maari Ma one day a week, complementing the work of pharmacist, Alex Page. Simon has been an integral part of the service and recently workshopped ideas with staff around improving the delivery of Webster packs to Maari Ma clients. Other areas he has worked on include medication reconciliation and staff education. His work has improved patient safety and increased awareness of medication management issues. Maari Ma looks forward to welcoming a new pharmacy intern in 2019.

Simon is pictured with Maari Ma staff Kate Gooden, Lavinia Henderson and Claire Williams.



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