

2020 GRADUATION



Congratulations to Maari Ma's 2020 HIPPY graduates. The two year Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters at Maari Ma saw 25 children complete the second year of the program and a total of 52 children enrolled in HIPPY this year. All staff worked very hard during COVID19 to ensure the families weren't disadvantaged – they delivered packaged workbooks to homes, stayed within COVID rules and provided support over the phone. The feedback from families was very positive and they were pleased to receive such high quality education resources to work through during lockdown. The one to one delivery of the HIPPY curriculum encourages families to work closely with their children. Parents are supported by tutors to extend their child's learning and understanding across the developmental areas that children progress through. Photos courtesy Kieren Nash Photography.



MAARI MA HEALTH
ABORIGINAL
CORPORATION REGION OF
SERVICE



DREAMTIME AWARD FOR DEDICATION TO INDIGENOUS HEALTH

Maari Ma Executive Manager of Marrabinya and Western Region Services, Donna Jeffries has taken out the Excellence in Health Award at the national Dreamtime Awards 2020. The national Awards ceremony was held in Sydney and Donna was one of four finalists in that category. Donna left school in Year 9 to care for her family after an unexpected accident but later forged ahead to take up a job in 1982 at the Brewarrina District Hospital caring for Aboriginal twin girls with severe renal failure. It was to be the start of a long and rewarding career in health. Donna undertook several trade certificates and obtained two University Degrees as a mature age student - a Bachelor degree in Nursing through Charles Sturt University and an Executive Masters Degree in Public Administration through Monash University Melbourne. In 2016, Donna joined Maari Ma to head the new Marrabinya program under a new model as part of the Commonwealth's Integrated Team Care program funded by the Western NSW Primary Health Network. Donna has managed the program and her remote team sited across the region to great success, helping almost 4000 people since it started and about 1400 people every quarter. This year her role expanded to include management of some Maari Ma community programs in Broken Hill and Wilcannia.



Donna Jeffries is pictured above second from the left with Merina Rose, Lucy Quartey and Chair of the ABS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Round Table on Statistics (award category sponsors), Jason Oakley.

"The award is national recognition of Donna's substantial contribution to the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people across western NSW and we are very proud of her achievement," Bob Davis, Maari Ma CEO.

OTHER LOCAL END OF YEAR AWARD WINS

While the year has been a difficult one for most, Maari Ma staff forged ahead with their work and community members continued their dedication to keep communities in the far west working together. Maari Ma congratulates Wilcannia Central School music teacher Sarah Donnelley who was crowned the 2020 Telstra ARIA Music Teacher of the Year. Sarah brings joy to the children of Wilcannia each day through music and her love of teaching, and made a video during the pandemic called 'From Little Things Big Things Grow' showing the children connecting during the shutdown through song.

In another win for Wilcannia - Wilcannia community member, Monica Kerwin won the Community Member of the Year award at this year's NSW Aboriginal Child and Family Awards for her contributions to the welfare and wellbeing of Aboriginal families and her local community. Monica is a passionate Barkindji women who stands strong for her community. She works tirelessly with agencies and others whether that be on the Working Party, with the Shire, the police, the Community Dinners, the Baaka River, or helping during the pandemic to name but just a few of her efforts at many levels. She is also a fierce advocate for Indigenous self determination. Well done to Monica and to Sarah.

MAARI MA'S END OF YEAR STAFF MEETING



Maari Ma's annual end of year meeting was held COVID19 style at the Silver City Cinema with presentations made on screen and recorded for staff outside of Broken Hill to hear.

Maari Ma's annual Whole of Staff meeting occurred this year COVID19 style with zoom, as much social distancing as possible and a venue to accommodate both. To keep numbers smaller this year to manage the social distancing only the Broken Hill staff attended with other staff outside of Broken Hill able to access the presentations via technology. The special guest speaker this year was former Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Robert Tickner OA, who appeared via zoom. Mr Tickner spoke about his deep commitment to Aboriginal issues over most of his professional career – from his Aboriginal legal service days through to his political career, and then to the Australian Red Cross and the International Red Cross. He said he was no longer involved in party political politics but rather he was focused on trying to bring people together across the political divide about social justice. Mr Tickner congratulated Maari Ma on its management during COVID19, talked about the very good reputation Maari Ma has beyond the far west and wished all staff well. Maari Ma's Human Resource team - Renae Roach and Karena Crampton presented the

year's highlights in workforce development at the meeting. From Maari Ma's latest cohort of trainees, three new Aboriginal health practitioners are now registered. Congratulations to Hannah Morris, Lavinia Henderson and Kalinda Morrison. The remaining trainees are expected to be completed soon also. Congratulations to Shannon Henderson who will complete her registered nurse training in six months and congratulations to Dr Aye and Dr Maung for achieving College Fellowship. Maari Ma's long serving staff were acknowledged with awards. They are Linda Lynott, Shannon Henderson, Tamara Brache and Rachel Kennedy for five years of service, David Winter for 10 years, Cath Kennedy, Dr Hugh Burke and Lisa Kelly for 15 years and Lee-Anne Philp who has been serving Maari Ma for 20 years in finance. Maari Ma congratulates them, and congratulates and thanks all staff who have gone above and beyond this year during COVID19 to ensure clients and communities were kept safe while continuing to receive health care.

WILCANNIA'S PLANNED HEALTH FACILITY



Staff at the end of year meeting were treated to computer generated graphics of the planned new Wilcannia Wellbeing Centre. The graphics presented by Cary Duffield from Troppo Architects, were set to music from the Wilcannia Mob by Desert Pea Media. They provided a walk through and aerial presentation of the primary health care facility to be situated near the Baaka River (the Darling River). All agreed that the presentation provided a very real sense of the building and its surroundings, and even the graphics engendered a feeling of wellbeing and calm.

"Since its inception Maari Ma has been known for embracing an holistic approach to healing and medicine and the building epitomises this while including everything you'd expect in a health centre. I'm confident that the new health facility, which we hope to complete by the end of next year, will be another example from Maari Ma of Aboriginal ingenuity leading the way in how health services should be delivered" Bob Davis Maari Ma CEO.



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