



AHCWA

NEWS

PROUDLY PRODUCED BY THE ABORIGINAL HEALTH COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

JUNE 2016



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**Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Suicide Prevention Conference**

Out & About with SWAMS

**Member Services Site Visits
and so much more**

ABORIGINAL HEALTH COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
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This newsletter may contain images of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that have passed away.



Coffee Break with: DES MARTIN



Kaya and Greetings,

AHCWA continues to see our policy and advocacy team operate in overdrive in 2016, working meticulously with our Member Services in responding to the multiple and diverse changes in health policy permeating through both Commonwealth and state government departments.

Of particular interest, the Commonwealth Department of Health recently released for consultation a draft of the Integrated Team Care (ITC) Implementation Guidelines 2016. The ITC Activity is a combination of the previous 'Care Coordination and Supplementary Services' and 'Improving Indigenous Access to Mainstream Primary Care' activities. The ITC Activity essentially continues to embed the incorrect assertion by policy makers that Aboriginal people can have their health and wellbeing effectively managed by tweaking the delivery of mainstream primary health care services.

Through consultation with our Member Services, AHCWA provided feedback to the Department with regards to our substantial and significant concerns relating to the ITC Activity's intent. Our recommendations expressed broadly how the Department must enhance Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHSs) access to activities (and importantly, funding) of this nature, and more pertinently for these programs to recognise the value of ACCHSs in improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people. Despite our reasonable and justified amendments and recommendations, none of these were implemented in the final guidelines.

Many of the objectives and functions listed under the Activity are already performed by ACCHSs on a daily basis, and we perceive this program to actively seek to undermine the operation of our Services and move the management of Aboriginal health to mainstream primary health care providers. The persistent lack of recognition and understanding coming from both Commonwealth and state governments, reaffirms our belief that mainstream primary health care services will be further empowered to undertake the role and functions of ACCHSs under new funding arrangements, despite the significant failures resulting from such strategies in the past.

There is little doubt that this concerning trend will continue, as we witness the growth of the mainstream primary health care sector across the country. However, it is imperative that the failures of the past are not repeated by governments. The health of Aboriginal people cannot further deteriorate at the hands of those in high places. We must be supported in expanding upon our own successes in the immediate future, and AHCWA will continue to be vigilant in ensuring that this occurs for our Member Services.

Staff Changes

Since our last edition, AHCWA have had the pleasure of welcoming several new staff members.

AHCWA would like to welcome on board the following staff members:

- Sarah Calder: Recruitment Officer
- Bhumi Senghani: Finance Assistant
- Rickesha Burdett: Tobacco Action Worker

AHCWA would also like to welcome back Leah Bregazzi to the position of Tobacco Action Worker (part-time) from maternity leave and Rekisha Eades has also returned to AHCWA in the position of Tobacco Action Worker (part-time).

AHCWA wish all new employees a long and enjoyable journey with AHCWA.

Staff Profile: Gwen Rakabula



My role at AHCWA consists in assisting in keeping ACCHSs participating, supporting, and information delivery with the TTANGO2 project.

Participating in continuous quality improvement activities, and applying and performing the project's responsibilities and development. The TTANGO2 project is the point of care testing program for sexually transmitted infections which has been designed for our Aboriginal Health Services in WA.

I am a Wadjirri Yamatji woman from Mullewa.

I have worked and lived in Geraldton the past 12 years, 7 of those years were working at Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service (GRAMS) in different roles throughout the years. These roles included Workforce Training and Development Officer, Social Support Coordinator, Mental Health Team Leader and included Aboriginal Health Worker in the clinic.

I have worked in many different areas around WA (including Meekatharra, Port Hedland, Wiluna, and Broome) in the following positions; Community Development Officer, Training officer, Aboriginal Health Worker, Women's Refuge, Administration assistant and my favourite was a Lecturer/trainer for the Certificate in Aboriginal Primary Health Course. I have also been on many reference committees for research. I really enjoyed this role, especially when I visited the clients and sat and listened to their stories. The pain and heartache, and not forgetting the happiness and laughter that in that person's life is why they carry on. It's the family connections that keep them going.

I am passionate about Health – especially being able to help someone going through difficulties and issues, someone who is otherwise not coping at the time and needs that extra support is very rewarding.

I love working in communities and Aboriginal organisations as you get out and about in the community, to feel content when you are working with your own people, knowing that we are aiding and assisting people to better health.

QIP Excellence Awards



AHCWA's Karol Resuggan (far left) and Ronda Clarke (far right) with staff from ATSICHS Brisbane

AHCWA was recently named as a finalist in the Quality Innovation Performance (QIP) Excellence Awards.

Across Australia there are community organisations making a daily commitment to providing high quality care and/or services to members of their local communities. Quality Innovation Performance (QIP) acknowledges and appreciates the dedication and continuing effort of these organisations toward quality improvement. In early May 2016, QIP announced the finalists of the QIP Excellence Awards, and AHCWA was one.

To be selected as a finalist, the Aboriginal Health Council of WA had to submit a nomination form self-assessing against key criteria. The judging process was vigorous with a large number of nominations received resulting in the creation of two sub-categories to recognise Innovative service delivery within the Community Services Sector and Excellence in partnerships, with an emphasis on diversity and inclusive practice, within the Community Services Sector.

The Excellence Recipients under each sub-category for the QIP Community Organisation of the Year Award were announced at the AGPAL and QIP 2016 Conference in Brisbane on Friday the 27th May.

Although AHCWA was not successful in bringing home the award this time, AHCWA will still continue on with their dedication and effort towards quality improvement.





Welcome to the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia.

We are committed to assist and train Aboriginal Health Workers to provide optimal ear health care within their communities.

We offer comprehensive 2 week ear health training programme at various regional centres throughout W.A.

Our training includes:

- Provide information about ear infections
- Help manage ear infections
- Ear syringing
- Otoscopy
- Tympanometry
- Audiometry
- Screening / Risk factors
- Ear Health Promotion & Strategies

“Very professional! Love everything and learnt at a level where I understood. Would do training anytime with AHCWA”

“This training was fun!”



For more information about this course, please contact:

Lorraine Taii

Phone: (08) 9227 1631

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AHCWA

Designed by Harby Richards

SWAMS Women's Wellness Week

Almost 50 women reduced their chances of getting cervical cancer by having a Pap smear, as part of SWAMS' Women's Wellness events held in May.

A team of SWAMS staff, including nurses and health promotion staff, hosted 10 events throughout the South West of WA, educating and pampering women in local communities about the importance of good health and regular Pap smears.

Each event varied in participation, with most places attracting an average of 15-20 women, while some towns boasted up to 50 attendees.

SWAMS Health Promotion Manager Nicole Bowser said the positive response from women attending the events indicated that there was a need for the events.

"Women really enjoyed the activities and often stayed for the whole day having their nails done, and participating in some colour therapy," Ms Bowser said.

"What was really great was some women came along without the intention of having a Pap smear, however once they felt comfortable and had a tour of our Clinic on Wheels, they decided to have their checkup."

Ms Bowser said SWAMS would look at hosting the events again next year.

"Our Health Promotion Unit already have ideas flowing on how we can make them better," Ms Bowser said.

"It was great meeting women from all walks of life who shared stories and had an opportunity to talk about women's business. It was also great to see friends supporting each other to have a Pap smear."

Image below: SWAMS employee Talicia Jetta (right) pampers Kaeann Hill (24), with her daughter Mya (10 months) at one of the recent Women's Wellness events held throughout May.





AHCWA

Aboriginal Health Council of
Western Australia

The Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia in conjunction with Communicable Disease Control Directorate Department of Health are looking at expressions of interest for the delivery of the Aboriginal Health Worker Immunisation Course.

This Department of Health approved immunisation course provides the Aboriginal Health Worker the knowledge and skills to safely immunise clients across all ages.

Course Delivery

The course will be delivered in 2 one week block intensive teaching. There will be a 2 week break between the 1st and 2nd Block.

Assessment is carried out using a combination of the following:

- Attendance and participation in group discussions and activities
- Role plays
- Quizzes
- On the job assessment
- Completion of activity workbooks

Course Content

A number of topics will be covered throughout the two weeks.

- How the immune system works
- Vaccine preventable diseases
- What is a vaccine made from?
- Cold Chain
- Administering vaccines

And much more!

For further information about this course and dates of delivery please contact

James Harris

Immunisation Coordinator
James.harris@ahcwa.org



Government of Western Australia
Department of Health
Public Health and Clinical Services

AHCWA 2016



National ATSI Suicide Prevention Conference

AHCWA CEO Des Martin and Policy Officer Shaun Wyn-Jones attended the inaugural National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Conference in Alice Springs on May 5-6.

The conference aimed to gather together experts and members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities (and the wider community) from across the country, to exchange learning, share lived experiences, build knowledge and inspire one another as to how we can best strengthen communities to tackle this entrenched tragedy.



The themes for the conference centred on community-based solutions, social determinants of health, partnerships, clinical factors, and sharing knowledge. Throughout the course of the two days, many conversations were had about the impact of suicide in communities. There were opportunities for healing, learning and sharing stories.

Two key note speakers in particular stood out. First, Auntie Rosalie Kunoth-Monks spoke inspirationally of the importance of keeping culture within communities to address suicide, and called for Aboriginal people to fight for it on their own terms. The other key note speaker, Stan Grant, concluded that Aboriginal suicide is an Australian problem, not an Aboriginal problem. The common theme that prevailed throughout was that Aboriginal people need to be in control of the issues that impact them.

The workshops format ensured that there were no less than three being run at the same time. They included issues such as the development of a culturally appropriate Aboriginal suicide prevention skills program; restoring culture; the impact of domestic violence, suicide and Aboriginal LGBTQI people; Aboriginal suicide and incarceration; Stolen generations; and, international experiences from New Zealand, amongst many others.

The common theme that prevailed throughout was that Aboriginal people need to be in control of the issues that impact them. And overall, despite the challenging and traumatic topic, the conference provided participants to look at solutions and gave hope through shared knowledge leading into the future.





Tackling Indigenous Smoking Team: World No Tobacco Day

On the 31st May AHCWA, in partnership with the King Edward Memorial Hospital's Senior Aboriginal Health Promotion Officer, Janinne Gliddon and North Metropolitan Health Service – Yarning it Up Program Project Officer, Jody Hansen, held a health promotion booth at King Edward Memorial Hospital to celebrate 'World NO Tobacco Day'.

The booth provided patients, visitors and staff at the hospital with information, resources and the opportunity to partake in fun activities in support of the annual event.

AHCWA staff also came on board to show their support on the day.





Tackling Indigenous Smoking Team: Sorry Day

On the 26th May 2016 AHCWA's Tackling Indigenous Smoking team attended the Annual Sorry day event at Wellington Square in East Perth. The event was held by the Bringing Them Home Committee in conjunction with Reconciliation WA with over 2,000 people attending.

Similar to last year, the Annual Sorry Day commemoration was well attended by all members of the community with a strong presence from schools around the metropolitan area, with some even travelling from nearby county towns to be a part of this commemorative event.

There were so many fun, engaging and healing activities to take part in with a sand mural performance and smoking ceremony as a big highlight from the day.

The Tackling Indigenous Smoking Team had their hands full at their health promotion stall, the team provided the community with information on smoke free environments, quitting support and were yarning with the community about how smoking effects our bodies. It was a fantastic day, the team thoroughly enjoyed themselves and are looking forward to next year's event.



HSIU: Yura Yunggi Site Visit

The HSIU visited Yura Yunggi Medical Service in Halls Creek to do our annual service support visit. The team met with all the staff including the CEO, clinic team, administration team, and the SEWB team.

Yura Yunggi services the local community and the surrounding remote communities which include Ringer Soak, Billiluna and Mulan. While there the team assisted the service with Medicare claims, Medicare resources, CQI Work plan, and new staff development opportunities.



SWAMS: Sorry Day

As part of National Sorry Day and Reconciliation Week, SWAMS staff visited the Bunbury Regional Prison on May 27 to connect with members of the Noongar community.

SWAMS CEO Lesley Nelson said the important day was about acknowledging the emotional healing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who were forcibly removed from their families, communities and cultures.

“Days like National Sorry Day are an opportunity for Aboriginal people to be acknowledged nationally and to be publicly supported through the healing process,” Ms Nelson said.

“SWAMS has a passion for our Noongar community to help with their health, social and emotional wellbeing and we do that through many tailored programs and services.

“About 20% of the prisoners are engaged with SWAMS and we are working with them through our clinics and programs.”

Superintendent Kerri Bishop said the prison acknowledged the national day each year with a ceremony including traditional Aboriginal music and dance.

“It’s important to acknowledge what National Sorry Day is all about, the meaning behind it and how it helps with the healing process for Aboriginal people,” Superintendent Bishop said.

“We respect what the day means to our prisoners and we don’t want them to miss out, so the ceremony is a way of acknowledging the impact of not only the physical but the emotional damage.

“It’s a day to acknowledge the work being done by Aboriginal people in our community to help reduce the rate of Aboriginal people in custody.”



Photo (SWAMS Sorry Day): At the commemorative Sorry Day event at the Bunbury Regional Prison are (from left) SWAMS Health Worker Terry Garlett, Superintendent Kerri Bishop, and SWAMS CEO Lesley Nelson

60 Secs: Travis Thomas

This issue we catch up with former student Travis Thomas (25) and find out what he has been up to since completing his studies.

Position: Aboriginal Health Worker at Nidjalla-Waangan Mia

1. What is Nidjalla-Waangan Mia and how long have you been working there?

Nidjalla is an Aboriginal Health & Wellbeing Centre located in Mandurah. I have been working there for nearly 3 and a half years.

2. What year did you complete your studies at AHCWA?

I completed my Cert III in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Work in 2011 and then my Cert IV in 2012.

3. Where are you from?

I am originally from Kalgoorlie but now live in Perth

4. What do you like most about your job?

I like to see the improvement in the health of the Aboriginal clients.

5. What do you dislike about your job?

I dislike the lack of parking available.

6. Where have you worked before?

Prior to studying for my Health Worker certificates, I had been working in labour jobs.

7. What do you like to do when you are not at work?

I just like to sit back and relax.

8. What are your favourite foods and TV Shows?

I love eating pizza and watching Wentworth.



FASD: Wirraka Maya

Wirraka Maya Health Service is leading the fight against Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) in the Pilbara, Western Australia (WA), through a two-month project.

A leading FASD consultant, Carolyn Hartness, is working closely with Pilbara Aboriginal medical services, a Telethon Kids research team and remote communities.

Ms Hartness said increasing awareness of the vast spectrum of disorders associated with FASD was crucial to better prevention, diagnosis and treatment of the disorders.

Wirraka Maya Chief Executive, June Councillor, said although there was a long road ahead in the fight against FASD, Wirraka Maya's programs were making a difference in the Pilbara community

'We have established the FASD network, that is a forum or a vehicle to bring people together across the services, across the community, to talk about FASD and some of the strategies that we need to put in place to address and prevent it,' said Ms Councillor.

As a primary health care provider, Ms Councillor believes Wirraka Maya is well placed within the community to lead the Fetal alcohol spectrum disorder strategy.



Sexual Health Training: Broome

AHCWA, in partnership with SHQ, MHC (Mental Health Commission) and SHBBVP delivered Sexual Health Training at the Broome Regional Aboriginal Medical Service (BRAMS) in May.

Eleven participants from Broome, Fitzroy Crossing, Halls Creek and Lombardina Aboriginal Community participated in the training.

This newly developed training called “The Birds and the BBVs” increases skills knowledge and confidence to offer STI, HIV and BBV testing. Feedback from participants was very positive with many stating they really enjoyed the activities and all felt more confident to offer testing as part of a routine health check for patients who are at risk.

For more information on the training please email Veronica Walshe veronica.walshe@ahcwa.org



HSIU: OVAHS Site Visit

The Health Systems Improvement Unit (HSIU) members, Karol Resuggan and Brett Walley visited the Ord Valley Aboriginal Health Service (OVAHS) by request of the CEO, Graham Cooper to assist them in reviewing their Clinical policies and procedures, in order for them to be ready for their impending AGPAL Accreditation next year.

The team spent 2 days reviewing all clinical General Practices with the Clinical Team and senior management which included Doctors, Nurses and the Quality and Risk Manager at OVAHS.

With this review, the team identified a few areas that needed to be addressed and amended certain policies in order to satisfy the AGPAL Standards for General Practices. The HSIU hope with this assistance provided by the team to OVAHS will result in them passing accreditation without concern.



Indigenous Round: Women's AFL

The 29th May saw a first ever AFL curtain raiser between two all Indigenous female teams during the AFL Indigenous round match against West Coast Eagles v Gold Coast Suns at Domain Stadium.

The two teams named Yirra Beeliar (up river) and Kardup Beeliar (down river) consisted of players from the West Australian Women's Football League (WAWFL), and also women that currently do not play competition football, but wanted to have a go.

The jumpers worn on the day, designed by Tim and Ingrid Cumming from Kart Koort Wiern, had artwork that represented the North and the South. Ingrid was also in attendance to bless each team before the game.

Prior to the match the two teams were invited to a tour of the West Coast Eagles training facilities. The tour included an opening speech from former legend Phil Narkle, a keynote speech from former Eagle, Ashley Sampi and words of encouragement by current Eagles players Josh Hill, Jamie Bennell and newly recruited Eagle, Lewis Jetta.

The match was a hard fought four quarters of brilliant footy, with exceptional skills from all involved. Yirra Beeliar proved too strong on the day winning the match 70-63. At the conclusion of the match, a team of 25 players were chosen to represent the Indigenous Allstars who will take on the WAWFL Allstars in the Koodjal Kadajiny (Two Way Learning) match during NAIDOC Week in July.

AHCWA's very own Youth Coordinator, Hayley, and our trainee Heidi participated in the match, with Heidi being selected for the Koodjal Kadajiny match.





Indigenous Round: Netball

On Friday 3rd June the West Coast Fever netball team were presented with their Indigenous round playing dresses in an early morning ceremony held at the Kaarla Garu-up Sacred Site at Kings Park.

The dresses to be worn during National Reconciliation Week were designed by the very talented Peter Farmer and Kylie Graham had beautiful artwork throughout the design with twelve symbols representing the 12 players and twelve symbols representing significant waterholes in Whadjuk country, all designed in beautiful shades of green to represent the West Coast Fever's colour theme.

Following the official dress blessing ceremony conducted by Kerri Anne Winmar, a Whadjuk Yorga Elder of the Noongar Nation, children from Netball WA's Grassroots program in Noranda were invited to present the players, one by one, with their dresses.

AHCWA's, Tobacco Action Worker, Rekisha Eades, who also coordinates the newly formed grassroots program at the Noranda Netball Association was on hand to assist the young girls, including her daughters, Jesselle and Paityn Heasman to present the dresses.



Paityn and Jesselle Heasman with Josie Janz-Dawson



(L-R): Kylie Graham, Tierrah Miller, Josie Janz-Dawson, Miranda Farmer and Peter Farmer



TKeia Dearden and Jesselle Heasman present Josie Janz-Dawson with her dress

PROVIDE FIRST AID:HLTAID003

Who should have a Senior First Aid certificate?

If you work in health or a clinical setting it's extremely important to keep your first aid skills up to date. In fact, many employers require you to have a first aid certificate.

Even if you don't work in a health setting, having first aid skills is so important when it comes to helping your family, friends or someone else in your community when they need it most.

About the Senior First Aid course

Our Senior First Aid course runs for two days and you will graduate with a certificate that will remain current for 3 years and gives valuable life-saving skills in the following areas:

- Applying basic first aid principles
- Basic physiology and anatomy, heart conditions
- Managing emergency situations, unconscious casualties, burns, bleeding and diabetes
- Life threatening breathing problems, such as Asthma and Anaphylaxis
- Adult, child and infant CPR and using an Automated External Defibrillator (AED)
- Spinal, head, ear and eye injuries
- Fractures, bites, stings and poisons



Duration:

Two consecutive days

Location:

Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia
Training and Development Centre
450 Beaufort Street, Highgate
Perth, Western Australia

* The Senior First Aid course is free to AHCWA Member Services. All Member Services need to pay for is trainers' travel cost if outside of Perth Metropolitan area

Cost: \$100* Non - Member Services



For more information and course bookings please contact Michelle de La Haye via e-mail or phone:

Phone: (08) 9227 1631

E-mail: Michelle.delahaye@ahcwa.org



SWAMS Training: Bunbury

Students from the South West Aboriginal Medical Service in Bunbury are near completion of their Cert IV Aboriginal Torres Strait Islander Health Care Program.

AHCWA facilitators James Harris, Lorraine Tauai, Veronica Walshe and Jennifer Needham conducted training and delivered Administering Medications and Support the safe use of medications to four students.

The Four students Elizabeth Narkle, Tammy McGrath, Natalie Jetta and Talicia Jetta produced a well presented Bush Medicine power point presentation and all four are preparing to complete their final units prior to graduating within the next couple of months.



AHCWA Contacts

AHCWA staff can be contacted on our main reception line:

(08) 9227 1631 or email: reception@ahcwa.org

If you wish to email a staff member directly, all email addresses are firstname.lastname@ahcwa.org

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Want more information about the courses we offer in primary health care?

Certificate II, Certificate III and Certificate IV in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care

We also offer Senior First Aid and Cultural Safety Training

Call us: **(08) 9227 1631** or email: reception@ahcwa.org

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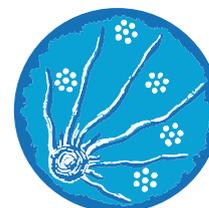
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Want to work at AHCWA?

EMAIL YOUR CV TO: applications@ahcwa.org

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Please feel free to give your feedback by requesting a 'Compliments, Suggestions & Complaint Form':
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