



differing roles depending on the AMS's and this isn't consistent within the program, report recommended for a coordinating role to be developed. Brian said it is stated in the report what AMS's and mainstream Health are doing. The performance indicators were not outcome based they were process based.

Resource Distribution Formula. Census data from 2001 has been used until recent numbers can be factored in. A dispersion factor to account for increasing costs delivered to rural and remote areas.

Jenny Hunt asked if the 'Grievance Review' has been made public. Brian reported no. Christine asked what guarantee does BM have that AMS's won't have \$\$ removed. Brian said the Treasury asked for an audit from everyone across the state to include how Area Health services were implementing \$\$ into Aboriginal Health. Intention for a funding clause to be guaranteed, dispute resolution to go to the dispute resolution.

Written reports were tabled by the Bila Muuji members on their service update to each other. Coonamble were an apology as the CEO has only been in the position for one week. Wellington will email report tomorrow.

Dubbo have report at WAMS which was not collected, to be tabled to the meeting, but will email report on return to Dubbo.

In general business Beth Wright mentioned that the Medicare Office has contacted Thubbo on the new Medicare cards. They want the Aboriginal flag on the Medicare cards and were wondering what Bila Muuji members thought. General discussion if this was being offered at a state or national level.

## Evaluation

Members had the opportunity to share their own information with other, and also listen to updates on agencies who fund them or who can offer supportive services to clients, families, and community members within the Bila Muuji region.

## Recommendations

That the relevant actions be followed up by the nominated Officers for the next Bila Muuji meeting on 11 and 12 August 2008 at Dubbo, to be hosted co-jointly by Orana Haven and Bourke Aboriginal Health Service.

# BILA MUUJI MEETING



**On the 16 and 17 June 2008 the Regional Bila Muuji meeting was hosted by WAMS for members services to attend, funding agencies to report, and other organisations to present on their businesses. The meeting was held at Euragai Goondi, Walgett.**

**The goal of the meeting was to share health and social information for members of Bila Muuji Aboriginal Health Service Incorporated.**

**Christine Corby, WAMS CEO and Chairperson of Bila Muuji, was in attendance as well as Jessie Richardson, Clinic Manager and minute taker for the meeting.**

**Other Officers in attendance were:**

**16th June 2008**

**Kylie Gilmore, WAMS; Hellen Mannix, BAHSL; Joe Meini, Heather Meini, BAHSL; Peter Smith, Ian Smith, WACHS; John Lane, Beth Wright, THUBBO; Tim Horan, Jan Arrowsmith, Coonamble; Liz Simpson; Orana Haven; John Hendry, AHMRC; Jennifer Perino, SEWB; Tracee Bradshaw, Garry Bradshaw, Link Up.**

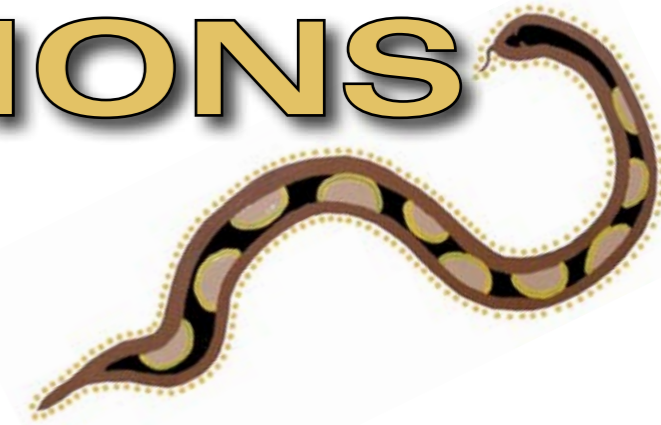
**17 June 2008**

**Kylie Gilmore, Peter Fernando, WAMS; Hellen Mannix, BAHSL; Joe Meini, Heather Meini, BAHSL; Darren AhSee, Peter Smith, Ian Smith, WACHS; John Lane, Beth Wright, THUBBO; Tim Horan, Jan Arrowsmith, Coonamble; Liz Simpson, Orana Haven; Jenny Hunt, AHMRC; Linda Williams, Katreena Forsythe, Wendy Moore, GWAHS; Brian Wood, NSW Health; Adam Stuart, OATSIH; Professor Ward Massey, Charles Sturt University; Sandra Meihubers, WAMS Dental Consultant.**

**WAMS provided morning Tea, Lunch and afternoon tea. Powerpoint machine, electronic whiteboard, the offer of copying any paperwork to be distributed to the members, was made available.**



# VISITORS' PRESENTATIONS



**18th June, 2008**

## **LINK UP**

**Tracee Bradshaw**

Tracee spoke on the services conducted by Link Up and the claim for 'Stolen Wages'. She advised the members that Link Up have a book that can be purchased "in the best interest of the child" for \$25.00. She also notified members that the Queensland Redress Scheme is similar to the Stolen Wages claims, and offered information on how to make application, should the members know of anyone who was removed to Queensland.

## **SEWB**

**Jennifer Perino**

Jennifer reported on the SEWB program covering the towns of Brewarrina, Bourke, Walgett and Orana Haven. Cobar has recently commenced a service. The Programs support workers in the Bila Muuji sector including the Bringing them Home Workers, Drug and Alcohol, Family Health, Sexual Health Workers. Medical Records Policy and increasing need to release medical information. Clear policies have been completed and have been sent out to AMS – training for staff is in the planning to include victims compensation, court reports.

## **AHMRC**

**John Hendry**

John gave an overview of the Bila Muuji meeting held on 12 May at which was discussed Constitutional change, the development of a Business Plan and a formal Terms of Reference. He also advised that there are four Executive (Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer) of the Bila Muuji Directors and three Directors to the Executive.

**17th June, 2008**

## **AHMRC**

**Jenny Hunt**

Jenny referred to the AHMRC Bulletin. A copy was tabled for each member.

AHMRC are in the process of developing a strategic plan. She advised that the Aboriginal Health College is on track to open in February 2009. Courses are being offered off-site until such time construction is completed.

Jenny spoke about the many health promotion campaigns, 'Use condoms and enjoy your freedom', 'Dr BBV – snakes and ladders' game, facilitated game by someone who knows about sexual health, 'Chopped Liver', a play by the Illjera Dance company about living with Hepatitis C, Projects involving smoking cessation and gambling. A variety of training is being offered over the coming months on Drug and Alcohol, Diabetes, Chronic Diseases and Medicare entitlements. Jenny identified the many forums and groups that she attends as a representative of the AHMRC, e.g. Cancer Council, GPNSW and Chronic Diseases Forums.

## **OATSIH**

**Adam Stuart**

Adam offered information on the recent Commonwealth Government's budget announcement and funding that can be accessed by members of Bila Muuji. He inquired how the members of Bila Muuji would expend the I.T. funding for this financial year and next financial year. Adam was advised that a plan is designed to ensure that all members access I.T. support for the short and long term. Discussion of the increase in fuel costs and how it will impact on overall service delivery, in particular for patient transport.

It was suggested to approach AHMRC as the lobby group to approach funding agencies and also other NGO's who may be able to assist in advocacy. Adam was given an update on the Bila Muuji governance regarding Constitutional change, development of the Business Plan, and planning for staffing. Questions were raised regarding the level of support that Divisions of General Practices should offer and it was suggested that the AHMRC make representation on behalf of the members to investigate how the Divisions can enhance their work.

## **GWAHS**

**Linda Williams,**

**Katreena Forsythe, Wendy Moore**

Katreena spoke about the Aboriginal Maternal and Infant Health Strategy (AMIHS) and the roll-out of staffing across the region. AMIHS shares information regarding policies e.g.: Ante natal policies, give advice relating to child and maternal, brochures. She spoke about the 'All you need to know about a Healthy pregnancy for a healthy baby' book that identifies relevant concerns regarding pregnancies. It was noted access to accommodation was a big factor. Katreena responded that the Commonwealth has put it on the agenda and are looking at Dubbo.

Linda Williams offered a handout - GWAHS AREA ABORIGINAL HEALTH PROGRAM PROJECT, and elaborated on the individual items identified within the report.. She introduced Wendy Moore who is the Senior Management Partnership Aboriginal Health Worker.

Linda spoke on the GWAHS Staff Smoking Cessation program which is being trialled for twelve weeks. She mentioned the existing Workforce / RPL and Aboriginal Workforce Planning and that GWAHS are working with policy guidelines re: medications. Endorsed Enrolled Nurse's can give medications this is not expanded for AHW's. This new qualification will allow the AHW to do this process; supervision will be required to assess their skills. Directive from the State that this course is to be offered to all staff, all existing AHW's will be offered this. A GWAHS AHW conference is being held in July at Dubbo. All are welcome to attend. Linda suggested a meeting to be held between some Bila Muuji members to develop a regional partnership plan with Communication strategy, to discuss monitoring of existing partnerships – establish and renewal.

## **CHARLES STURT UNIVERSITY**

**Professor Ward Massey**

Ward described the new Dental Program and Oral Health Therapy. New programs to start in 2009. Optimal primary prevention and urgent dental treatment needs. Tabled report on 'CSU and Dental Workforce Planning in Regional NSW – Opportunities for Collaboration with members of Bila Muuji'. Oral Health Therapy training program – there is a discussion with TAFE re non-year 12 entry: Tertiary preparation course/Koori admissions

program, bridging courses offered over the summer for non-year 12 students. CSU are very interested in collaborating with Bila Muuji. Discussion about Bila Muuji sponsoring a scholarship for a Dentist to work in our regional communities. Darren asked if a forum can be coordinated along the lines of the current GP Forum being held this week, so Dental students can come out and see what can be offered in outback rural areas.

## **WAMS DENTAL CONSULTANT**

**Sandra Meihubers**

Three reports were tabled:

- Bila Muuji Oral Health Promotion Plan June 2008
- Oral Health Program Update 17 June 2008
- Report on the Bila Muuji Oral Health Promotion Workshop 29/30 May

At the end of this year is the end of the four year funding for Oral Health promotion. A Regional Oral Health Coordinator will be employed to work across the regions and implement the plan once it is endorsed during the new financial year. Discussion where the person can be located in the region and what is expected of them. This will be an ongoing agenda item for the next Bila Muuji to be held in August.

## **NSW HEALTH**

**Brian Wood**

Brian would like people to discuss issues that are concerning oral health strategies and anything else that can be taken back to NSW Health.

Directors position for Centre of Aboriginal Health closes 20 June 2008.

Staffing structure – Employment of a Statistical trainee who will do the statistics, an Epidemiologist will coordinate the Bio stats, trainee and public health trainee.

Otitis Media screening program review. Reports are completed and will be released to AHMRC and AMS's as the major stake holders. The report recommends what the prevention program, integrating existing PHC services, focus in the report of community controlled sectors – abandon the 85% target as not enough resources was available. Brian reported those OM workers have

