

# GWAHS & BILA MUUJI PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Thursday, 12 March 2009

It was an historic and momentous occasion for the Greater Western Area Health Service (GWAHS) and members of the Bila Muuji Health Service Incorporated. The signing of the Partnership document will confirm the commitment of both GWAHS and Bila Muuji personnel in their delivery of health services to Aboriginal people.

Mrs Judy Johnson, Chief Executive Officer of Bourke Aboriginal Health Service was the MC for the occasion, and gave recognition to GWAHS for honouring their promise to sign the Partnership which will assist both parties in consolidating their resources to maximise all aspects of health care delivery.

The Chief Executive, Ms Claire Blizzard, of GWAHS gave thanks to her staff in actively supporting the Partnership and was extremely pleased that this milestone could be achieved prior to her departure from GWAHS. Ms Blizzard made mention of the staff working in Aboriginal Medical Service who have made the work much easier for GWAHS personnel by working together in a collegiate and professional manner.

The Chairperson of Bila Muuji, Christine Corby, said that this Partnership is unique in the country and sets a fine precedent for other governments now moving towards working in Partnership with Aboriginal health services and communities.

Bila Muuji has a current membership of AMS's located at Balranald, Bourke, Brewarrina, Coonamble, Cobar, Dareton, Dubbo, Orange, Wellington, Walgett and the Orana Haven Rehabilitation Centre.

This Partnership provides an important forum for working together to 'Close the Gap' in life expectancy between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people and to achieve many other important health targets.



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*The Greater Western Bila Muuji Aboriginal Health Partnership seeks to improve better health outcomes for Aboriginal people within the Greater Western Area Health Service Area through:*

- Formalised systems of consultation between the parties and at the instigation of either party in relation to the planning of Area, Regional and Local strategies for Aboriginal health.*
- Developing agreed positions relating to Aboriginal health policy, strategic planning, services and equity in the allocation of resources.*
- Ensuring that Aboriginal health retains a high priority in the health system overall; that it is integrated as a core element in all NSW Health policies and their implementation; and that effort is sustained.*
- Promoting a partnership approach at all levels within the area.*
- Keeping Aboriginal health stakeholders and community informed about the outcomes of the Greater Western Bila Muuji Aboriginal Health Partnership.*
- The parties to this agreement acknowledge the impact of other key stakeholders on better health outcomes for Aboriginal people. The parties will work proactively to establish appropriate additional partnership arrangements with these stakeholders.*

*To achieve the purpose the following processes will occur:*

- The Greater Western Bila Muuji Partnership Committee will meet twice a year.*
- Terms of Reference will be developed that outline the processes for meetings.*
- The GWAHS Aboriginal Management Team will provide secretariat support.*
- Agenda items will be forwarded to the Chief Executive of GWAHS and the Chairperson of BMAHS Inc no later than 14 working days prior to the scheduled meetings.*

*The official signing was held at the Yarradamarra Centre, TAFE, in Dubbo. and Signatories to the Greater Western Bila Muuji Aboriginal Health Partnership were GWAHS Chief Executive Dr Claire Blizard, and Bila Muuji Chairperson, Christine Corby.*

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