

Bila Muuji - River Friends



**Success Through Networking of
Aboriginal Community Controlled Health,
Medical & Health Related Services
(ACCHS & ACCHRS)**

**An Innovative Approach
to
Networking**

Billa Muuji & the AH&MRC



Billa Muuji, is the Western Network of ACCHS & ACCHRS member organisations of the AH&MRC within NSW, one of 5 such regional networks throughout the state.

Who are the members

→ **Aboriginal Community Controlled Health & Medical Services & Aboriginal Controlled Health Related Services (ACCHS & ACCHRS) from;**

➤ Balranald, Brewarrina, Bourke, Cobar, Coonamble, Gongolgong, Dareton, Dubbo, Menindee, Orange, Walgett and Wellington

→ Together we have achieved many benefits and successes as highlighted in this report.

→ As a body with a unified voice, we have carried more weight than one voice in the wilderness.

What is Bila Muuji



Bila -Muuji means 'River Friends' and is a grouping of ACCHS & ACCHRS covering communities in western NSW.

⌘ Our vision is to support each service through the establishment of a broad network of ACCHS & ACCHRS in rural and remote NSW, and to identify and address shared issues impacting on our communities.

Map of the region



Why was Bila Muuji formed



- ⌘ Chief Executive Officers in the region felt a need for support in their daily operations
- ⌘ There was a need for a innovative approach to accommodate the diversity of ACCHS & ACCHRS's.

How Bila Muuji achieves its aims



- Rotating venues to promote inclusion
- Close liaison between meetings
- Coordinated approach to share the work
- Joint work to save time and money
- Joint projects, building on combined numbers of ACCHS & ACCHRS, to arrange matters & resources e.g.; staff training & workshops, accreditation, governance training, resource purchases

Bila Muuji's Achievements

- ↓ Development of resources to meet community needs
- ↓ Development of best practice methods
- ↓ Organisational development
- ↓ Support to Aboriginal communities
- ↓ Links with service providers and agencies
- ↓ Involvement in government policy
- ↓ Skilling of Directors and ACCHS & ACCHRS staff

Development of resources to meet community need



Health Promotion Programs

- Combining to demonstrate the need for culturally sensitive resources to inform the community about the effects of drinking methylated spirits.**

Development of Best Practice Methods



Health Service Delivery

- Combining to improve the Social & Emotional Wellbeing of Aboriginal Communities through a culturally sensitive integrated, coordination approach, at a regional level.

Development of best practice methods



Beginning the processes of accreditation;

- ◆ Researching what is happening in other states.
- ◆ Reviewed existing models including QMS and AGPAL
- ◆ Began the process nearly three years ago, by training internal QMS reviewers.

Development of best practice



Progress to date

- ◆ **Walgett AMS achieved QMS and AGPAL accreditation.**
- ◆ **Bourke & Wellington AMS achieved AGPAL accreditation, both are in the process of QMS accreditation**
- ◆ **Dubbo, Wellington & Orange AMS's, in partnership with their Division of General Practice, are in the process of AGPAL accreditation**
- ◆ **Bourke & Walgett AMS achieved GP Registrar Training Accreditation**
- ◆ **Other members are undertaking 'Best Practice' processes.**

Organisational development



Submitting for funding to engage a consultant to assist the ACCHS & ACCHRS:

- Develop Policy and Procedure Manuals and sharing the skills and the load of drafting between the ACCHS & ACCHRS
- Develop Strategic Plans and Work Plans

Support to Aboriginal Communities



- **Responding to requests for help to develop proposals and establishing AMS services & outposts, including:**
 - **Balranald (Established)**
 - **Coonamble (Established)**
 - **Condobolin (Established)**
 - **Cobar**
 - **Gilgandra**
 - **Menindee (Established)**
 - **Orange (Established)**
 - **Pilliga**
 - **Weilmoringle**

Links Service Providers and Agencies



- ⌘ Involvement in planning
- ⌘ Liaison to share resources - for example disposal of contaminated waste
- ⌘ Development of Partnerships with Division of General Practitioners, Area Health Service and other strategic organisations
- ⌘ Collaboration with ICEE
- ⌘ Membership on Interagency Forums

Involvement in Government policy



- ⌘ Involvement in Partnership meetings
- ⌘ Critiquing government policy which impacts on our communities
- ⌘ Briefing visiting public servants and politicians on Aboriginal Health issues and community dynamics of cultural diversity

Skilling Directors and ACCHS & ACCHRS Staff



- ⌘ Training for staff with a common need in a central venue - infection control, Hands on Health
- ⌘ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ABS Darwin provided on site trainings for demographic data and its uses
- ⌘ Support in the preparation of submissions and reports

Bila Muuji Into Future



- As a incorporated body lobby for funds and services for Bila Muuji, ACCHS & ACCHRS
- Provision & Coordination of regional Primary Health Service delivery
- Active involvement in state and federal issues
- Enhancing the recognition of ACCHS & ACCHRS as the holistic approach to Primary Health Care

Bila Muuji into the Future



- Sharing the role of involvement in planning
- Enhancing information flow from Aboriginal Organisations and Government Departments
- Develop effective strategies for recruitment, retention and training
- Executive Officer based at AH&MRC
- Partnership Agreement with the ICEE

Bila Muuji into the Future



Cost Effectiveness

- Provision of joint training programs
- Savings from bulk ordering of resources
- Shared data base of capital works and trades people
- Shared personnel resources & positions

Bila Muuji & NSW Health Partnership - into the Future



- ⌘ Each constituted member or Bila Muuji is eligible for a partnership agreement with their respective Area Health Service.
- ⌘ Therefore Billa Muuji, as a network of regional ACCHS's & ACCHRC's, is eligible for a regional partnership agreement with the Greater Western area Health Service.

Bila Muuji into the Future



Summary

The strength of our member services has enabled Directors, management and staff to combine their knowledge and skills in the philosophy of;

“Practicing Primary Health Care at a Community Level”.