



WAMMS

Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Co-Operative Ltd

"for the community – by the community"

37 Pitt Street
(PO Box 396)
Walgett NSW 2832

Ph: (02) 6828 1611
Fax: (02) 6828 1201

email: walgettams@bigpond.com
website: www.walgettams.com.au

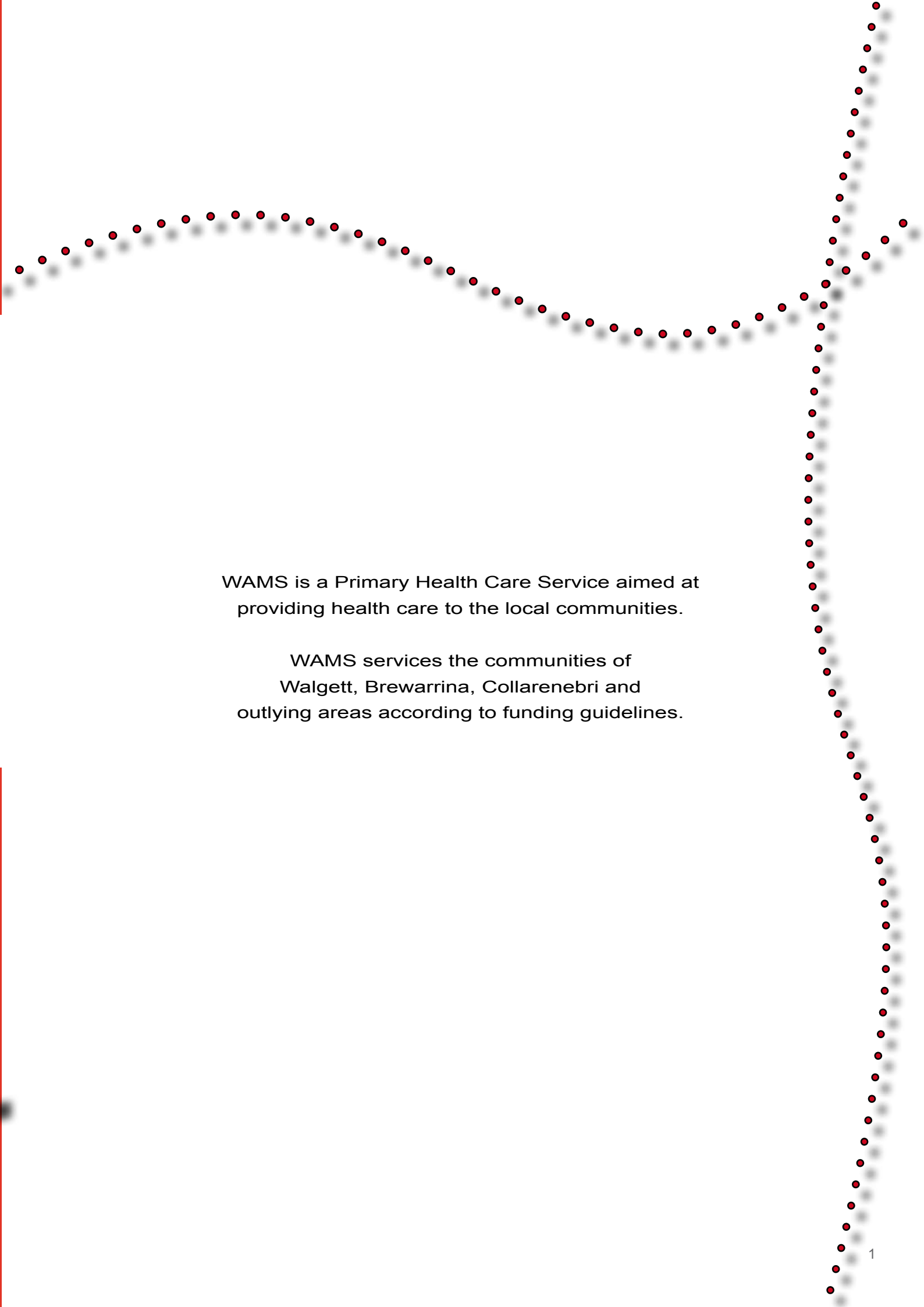
ABN 780 149 904 51

August 2009 Revised Version

Profile of:

- Services
- Programs
- Staff



A decorative graphic consisting of a series of small red dots arranged in a wavy pattern across the top of the page, transitioning into a vertical line on the right side.

WAMS is a Primary Health Care Service aimed at providing health care to the local communities.

WAMS services the communities of Walgett, Brewarrina, Collarenebri and outlying areas according to funding guidelines.

WHAT IS HEALTH?

The National Aboriginal Health Strategy Working Party, (1989), defined health as:

“Not just the physical well-being of the individual but the social, emotional, and cultural well-being of the whole community. This is a whole-of-life view and it also includes the cyclical concept of life-death-life.”

WHAT IS HEALTH TO WAMS?

WAMS opened its doors in 1986 with a pledge to serve all members of the community. This philosophy has been practised ever since and is indicative of the community events they constantly support over the years.

WAMS firmly believes that by its involvement at all levels of the community – eg schools, SAAP service, family programs, attending the police cells, gives the opportunity for the general public to observe staff outside of the workplace.

WAMS IN THE COMMUNITY

WAMS regularly conducts Open Days to exhibit the services and programs to the community. The local schools and community members are invited to “walk through” the premises or to attend any health promotion functions to receive a sample bag of goodies of WAMS products.

Staff participate in events conducted by other local agencies, and arrange health promotion activities which are promoted nationally, eg Heart Health, Cancer Awareness, International Women’s Day, Men’s Health.

ACCREDITATION

WAMS is the first Aboriginal Medical Service in NSW to be accredited (April 2001) with the (National) Quality Improvement Council (QIC) / (State) Quality Management Service (QMS).

WAMS are also accredited for the General Practice facilities with General Practice Accreditation Plus.

This is a major achievement for us, and we recognise the ongoing commitment required to ensure these Accreditations continue.

In 2007 WAMS is re-accredited for another three years (to 2010) with the Quality Improvement Council (for the health and community programs) and GPA Accreditation Plus (for the GP service).

OUR SERVICES

PUBLIC HEALTH

Ms Ann Megalokonomos has been seconded to this position from 1 April to 30 September 2009.

The Public Health Worker conducts regular visits to the homes of clients to ensure basic health services are provided. This includes: dressings, blood pressure checks, monitoring Blood sugar levels and other general health checks given the medical condition of the client.

This position will also assist other WAMS staff in the delivery of their programs and will integrate the Public Health aspect to their clients - i.e. Hearing Health, Eye Health, Drug and Alcohol, Sexual Health, Dental Health and Midwifery.

The Public Health Worker is the primary contact at WAMS for health promotion events that are celebrated at an International, National and State level.

FAMILY HEALTH

The Family Health Worker (position vacant). WAMS staff will link their programs to each other to consolidate services to individuals, families and the communities. With other WAMS staff, is invited to schools, community events, workplaces to give personal development lessons on health and social matters. The Worker conducts regular visits to the communities of Brewarrina and Collarenebri, and will also travel to other locations for urgent support.

SEXUAL HEALTH

The Sexual Health Registered Nurse (position vacant) provides outreach services to Collarenebri, Brewarrina and other communities as required. This Service is confidential, FREE and no Medicare Card is required.

WAMS links its programs to consolidate services to individuals, families and the communities. Staff are invited to schools, community events, workplaces to give personal development lessons on health and social matters.

DOCTOR AND COMMUNITY NURSE

WAMS welcomes our regular locums who provide GP Clinical Services, Antenatal Clinics, Education Sessions and overall client care.

WAMS has two full time vacancies for Doctor's to work in the clinic and also to assist in Outreach Clinics in surrounding areas.

DOCTOR AND COMMUNITY NURSE (cont.)

WAMS has a vacancy for a Registered Nurse to work in the clinic with the Doctors and Health Workers. WAMS employs Locum Registered Nurses whilst recruiting for a full time Nurse.

CLINIC TEAM

Practice Manager, Jessie Richardson RN, manages the overall staff within the clinic in the planning, implementing and monitoring of programs they conduct. She assists in the clinic and arranges professional development/refresher courses as required for the staff. Jessie's role also entails liaising with Medicare Australia and working with Locum Medical Agencies to recruit GP's and other clinical staff to WAMS.

Phillip Dowse is the Senior Aboriginal Health Worker. He is qualified as a Level IV Dispensary Assistant with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia. He is also qualified to provide venipuncture services (taking blood). Phillip works with the Clinic team to ensure that referrals are made, medication dispensed and the Doctor and other staff members are supported in the delivery of health care.

Aboriginal Health Worker, David Kennedy, has completed his certificate 3 as Dispensary Assistant through the Pharmacy Guild of Australia. David is also certified to collect pathology, he assists with collecting patient information for adult health checks and obtains vital signs. He can perform simple diagnostic tests along with basic dressings.

Suzann Kennedy is the senior Receptionist. Her daily tasks include managing the patient load for our GP's, rescheduling appointments and making new specialist appointments for our clients in regional centres. Suzann liaises with visiting specialists to WAMS and makes arrangements for them to see clients. She works closely with WAMS AHW's and assists with coordinating patients time from the waiting room, to the clinic to the GP.

Bianca Jacky is the second Receptionist. Bianca is competent with the daily running of our clinic, reception area and dealing one to one with patients, submitting Medicare and making patient appointments as required.

Karen Rutterman and Sarah Robinson are responsible for updating Medicare on a daily basis, ensuring patient's medical reports and results are scanned and filed. They also assist other Managers with daily filing as required.

Cheryl Amidy is the supervisor for the domestic team who ensures WAMS buildings and residences are kept in a safe and hygienic manner.

WAMS offer a transportation service to our clients thus enabling them to keep specialist appointments in larger regional centres. Transporting our clients are drivers Bill Peacock, Peter Plazina and Greg Mason.

CHRONIC DISEASE TEAM

Skye Duncan is the Health Service Co-ordinator. Her main role is Chronic Disease management with a focus on Diabetes, chronic heart disease and asthma. Skye is actively involved in coordinating health care plans, both child and adult health checks and case conferencing. health assessments, adult health checks and Case conferencing. Skye also assists the Doctors and Aboriginal Health Workers with enhanced primary care. Her role takes in work within the community, assisting with the Men's program and promoting general health and wellbeing.

Healthy for Life program

Exercise Physiologist, Sarah Brown, and Dietician (position vacant) are based at WAMS and conduct clinics and educational programs across the Bila Muuji Upper Sector Consortium for clients fitting the Healthy for Life criteria. The WAMS exercise therapy room is also available for Healthy for Life clients to use once an initial consultation and under the supervision of Sarah Brown. Please contact WAMS reception for appointments or further information.

WAMS engage the service of a locum Child and Family Health RN to support this program, and other programs of WAMS

Rosalyn Fernando is the Aboriginal Health Worker . She works closely with the Diabetic Educator making appointments and recalling clients, attending adult health assessments and assists the Child and Family Health Nurse with child health checks and liaising with the community.

Rosalyn also supports the Doctors, Community Nurse and the clinic team to ensure that clients are seen by the appropriate WAMS personnel.

Family Centred Primary Health Care program

WAMS received funding to provide a comprehensive primary health care outreach program to towns in the Walgett Shire and surrounding shires in April 2008.

Registered Nurse and Team Leader, Margaret Reeves, and Aboriginal Health Worker, Trevor Simpson, who is on a 6 month secondment for his role as Bringing Them Home Worker, work with this program with Locum GP's. We currently have a vacancy for a female Aboriginal Health Worker.

This team currently provide weekly clinics at Goodooga, Piliga, Gingie and Namoi Village, working closely with area health staff in these towns. Planning is underway to commence clinics in other townships.

A caravan that has been converted into a mobile clinic has been purchased and will be taken out to these communities when further modifications have been made.

Contracted hours are also available to provide the following services:

- Cardiologist
- Diabetic Educator
- Drug and Alcohol Physician
- Ear Health
- Oral Health
- Respiratory Specialist
- Speech Therapist
- Counsellor
- Dietician
- General Practitioner
- Eye Health
- Podiatrist
- Sexual Health

DENTAL HEALTH

Graeme Commins is a Dental Prosthetist (licensed to see patients for dentures, and to perform the necessary laboratory procedures). He will see some denture patients and will then arrange suitable times for future visits to help with the long list of people needing dentures. Graeme's service will supplement the dental care provided by visiting locum dentists which will greatly help the people of the region.

Dental Assistants Sonya Dennis, Kayla Thurston and Melanie Orcher assist all Dental professionals who work in the Dental Clinic.

WAMS negotiate Locum Dentists whilst they continue to recruit for a permanent position.

Dr Sandra Meihubers, WAMS Dentist Consultant, is the primary contact for this service. Dr Meihubers can be contacted on sm495@ozemail.com.au.

Dental Therapist - Lynne Turner continues to conduct her visits in the care and management of children's oral health.

PROGRAM TEAM

Practice Manager, Kylie Gilmore, manages the Program staff in the planning, implementing and monitoring of programs they conduct. She is actively involved in representing members of the team at program-specific meetings, delivering health promotion activities and community events.

The WAMS Program Team provide Primary Health Care and opportunistic health screening to towns within the Walgett Shire and other remote locations.

One of the main focuses of the Program Team is to provide health promotion activities which are implemented into the community to increase awareness on various health issues.

MIDWIFERY

Health Worker, Karnie Walford, provides antenatal and postnatal care through the Alternative Birthing Program. Karnie's previous role as Family Health Worker at WAMS offers her the prior experience in working with clients and their families to deliver holistic primary health care.

WAMS have an arrangement with a consortia of Locum Midwives from Canberra to provide a rotational service throughout the year who work in closely with Karnie, as well as WAMS Locum GP's.

Midwifery services are provided in a clinic setting and also conduct home visits.

WOMEN'S HEALTH

WAMS provides pap smears, self breast awareness and contraception advice to all women. Please contact WAMS reception for appointments or for further information.

MEN'S HEALTH

WAMS will be conducting Men's health activities during the year. Please contact the Managers who can provide an update on what is being planned.

MENTAL HEALTH

The Mental Health Worker has been seconded for a period of 1 April to 30 September 2009.

Current staff will link their programs to each other to consolidate services to individuals, families and the communities. Arrangements are made for visiting Counsellor and Psychologist to utilise one of the WAMS offices to consult with clients.

EAR HEALTH

The Ear Health Worker (Position Vacant), and other WAMS staff link their programs to each other to consolidate services to individuals, families and communities. The program conducts Ear Health Screening in Collarenebri, Walgett, Goodooga.

The local Shire and Police Service has commenced referring staff for mandatory hearing tests for workplace safety. The local preschool is also offering Hearing Tests for its students to catch any possible problems.

PODIATRY SERVICES

WAMS have negotiated for a Podiatrist to provide care and management of the feet.

COLLARENEBRI Health Service 6756 4845	WALGETT WAMS Office 6828 1611	GRAWIN Leslie Baker 0427 723 961	GOODOOGA Contact 6829 6311
---	-------------------------------------	--	----------------------------------

BREWARRINA ABORIGINAL HEALTH SERVICE
Hellen Mannix
6839 2150

EYE HEALTH

Phyllis Dennis-Tighe, Eye Health Worker, and other WAMS staff link their programs to each other to consolidate services to individuals, families and the communities.

Jenny Hunt is the Eye Health Assistant and enters all relevant data, delivers glasses and offers a supporting role to Phyllis in all aspects of the Program.

This Eye Clinics are held in the following communities:

Collarenebri	Walgett	Inverell	Walhollow	Narrabri
Toomelah	Coonamble	Wee Waa	Goodooga	Quirindi
Brewarrina	Pilliga	Tingha	Tamworth	Ashford
Boggabilla	Gunnedah	Moree	Lightning Lidge	

The Eye Health Worker organises meetings with Health Service staff in the communities they cover and arrange School screenings with the Royal Institute of Deaf and Blind. They also liaise with several optometrists to hold clinics in the local communities. She is also qualified to provide venipuncture services (taking blood).

DRUG & ALCOHOL

Kelly Rowe is the Drug and Alcohol Worker. Previously a Clinic Health Worker, she brings a variety of skills and experience to this position.

The Drug and Alcohol Worker, and other WAMS staff link their programs to each other to consolidate services to individuals, families and communities. The Drug and Alcohol Worker provides assistance to individuals in finding ways of dealing with their addiction, be it by way of counselling or being admitted into a rehabilitation centre, or simply by just having someone there to support them whilst they have a go at kicking their habit by themselves. They also provide emotional support to the families and lend a helping hand when needed.

Michael Thompson is a drug and alcohol counsellor who works for Lyndon Community based in Orange. Michael visits WAMS for 2 days every month to see clients who have alcohol and/or other drug problems. Michael works closely with Kelly Rowe and is happy to see clients individually or in a group setting.

There are two rehabilitation centres that the Drug and Alcohol worker liaises with on a regular basis; Orana Haven, located south of Brewarrina, and Roy Thorne Rehabilitation Centre at Moree.

As part of the role in the community, counselling and educational sessions are available to individuals, groups and agencies, for example, the Drug and Alcohol Worker has spoken to schools. Pamphlets and video materials are available to lend. Home visits are provided, individual consultants (eg the police cells, local domestic violence service and proclaimed place) and patient follow up.

COLLARENEBRI HEALTH WORKER

The Aboriginal Health Worker (position vacant) based in Collarenebri, 75km from Walgett, located at the local Health Service and supported by WAMS staff who deliver programs to the community.

This position will support other staff in delivery of their programs at Collarenebri eg Ear Health, Eye Health, Drug & Alcohol, Podiatry, Family Health, Midwifery and Sexual Health.

GOONIMOO

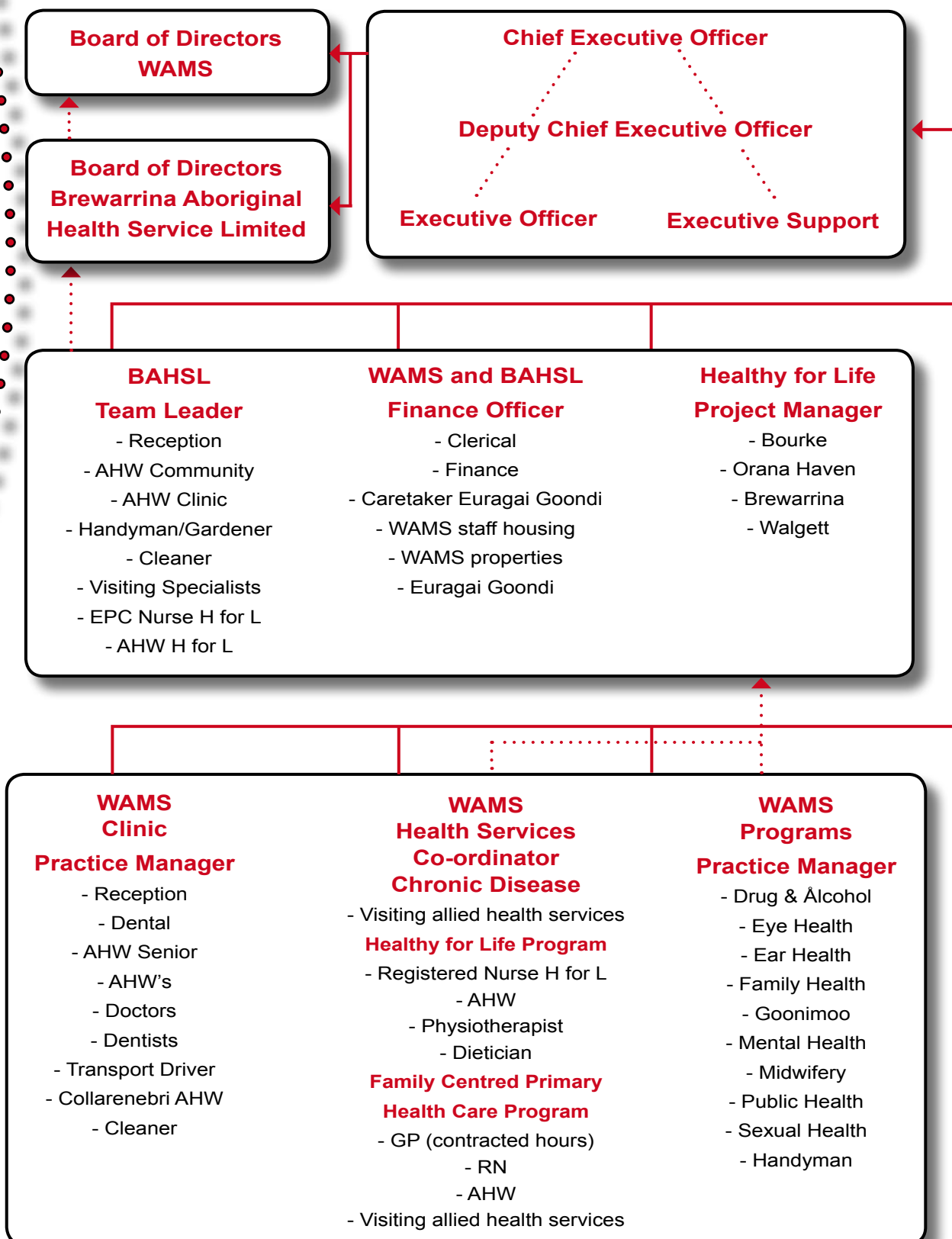
The Co-Ordinator of Goonimoo (position vacant) is assisted by Donna Thurston and Roslyn Peters. Donna is acting in the Co-ordinators position until such time as the vacancy is filled.

Goonimoo is a Mobile Children's Resource Unit visiting the towns and communities of Angledool, Coonamble, Collarenebri, Carinda, Goodooga, Lightning Ridge, Mercadool Group and the properties of Walma, Eurie Eurie, Rose Hill, Dreamlands, Llanillo and Strathmore.

Goonimoo undertake licensing reviews by Department of Community Services to ensure their program meets their licensing standard to continue operating as a licensed Children's Services. Goonimoo also participates in many community events and works closely with WAMS to promote health events.

ORGANISATIONAL CHART

WALGETT ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICE CO-OPERATIVE LIMITED (WAMS)



VISITING PRACTITIONERS TO WAMS

DENTIST

WAMS has a full-time vacancy for a Dentist to work at the Dental Clinic. Advertisements for the position run continually. WAMS provides dental services on occasion when locums are engaged.

Please call WAMS Dental Reception for an appointment on 6828 2249.

COUNSELLOR AND PSYCHOLOGIST

A Counsellor and Psychologist visits WAMS on a regular basis. Please call WAMS Office for an appointment.

CARDIOLOGIST

A Cardiologist, Dr Richard Cranswick, visits WAMS on a regular basis. Please call WAMS Office for an appointment.

PODIATRIST

WAMS have negotiated for a Podiatrist to provide care and management of feet.

DIABETIC EDUCATOR

WAMS have a visiting Diabetic Educator. Please call WAMS Office for an appointment.

OBSTETRICIAN

WAMS have a visiting Obstetrician, Dr Tony Geraghty. Please call WAMS office for an appointment.

DERMATOLOGIST

WAMS is pleased to announce that Dr Ian McCrossin will commence dermatology clinics at WAMS second monthly beginning in October. Please contact WAMS for further information.

RESPIRATORY PHYSICIAN

WAMS have a visiting Respiratory Physician. Please call WAMS office for an appointment.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL GENERAL PRACTITIONER

WAMS have a visiting Drug and Alcohol and Other Addictions General Practitioner. Please call WAMS office for an appointment.

SLEEP STUDY TECHNICIAN

WAMS are pleased to announce a monthly Sleep Study Technician Paul-Andre Thierry has commenced visits to WAMS. Please contact WAMS reception for further information.

'HEALTHY FOR LIFE' PROJECT

BILA MUUJI UPPER SECTOR CONSORTIUM (BMUSC)

BACKGROUND

Walgett AMS (WAMS), Brewarrina AHSL (BAHSL), Bourke AHS (BAHS) and Orana Haven Rehabilitation Centre (Orana Haven) have formed a consortium in this project.

A Memorandum of Understanding for the Project was negotiated and signed between WAMS, BAHSL, BAHS and Orana Haven.

A Coordinator is recruited to Manager this program, Ms Diana Dalley.

Positions are:

BMUSC

- * Co-ordinator
- * Dietician/Nutritionist
- * Physiotherapist/Exercise Physiologist
- * Menzies School of Health Research to assist with Client File Audits

WAMS

- * Registered Nurse
- * Aboriginal Health Worker

BAHSL

- * Registered Nurse Enhanced Primary Care
- * Aboriginal Health Worker

BAHS

- * Registered Nurse Enhanced Primary Care
- * Aboriginal Health Worker

ORANA HAVEN

- * Orana Haven receives a full complement of services on an Outreach basis from BAHSL and/or WAMS

The Work plans and Job Descriptions are designed according to the funding guidelines and to complement the programs within the individual organisations.

BREWARRINA ABORIGINAL HEALTH SERVICE (BAHSL)

BAHSL has opened its doors to provide Primary Health care services to members of the Brewarrina community and surrounding areas. This has been made possible through WAMS accepting an invitation from OATSIH within the Department of Health and Ageing, to auspice the Health Service, and to commence the training and management program that will transfer administrative skills to the organisation.

The Board of BAHSL acknowledges the commitment from WAMS in assuming this demanding task and is pleased with the response from the Community with daily increases in the number of patients using the Health Service.

WAMS is working with the local Board of Directors to ensure that the needs of the local community are met.

Ochre Health at Bourke have contracted a General Practitioner two Wednesdays per month.

Visiting services are a counsellor, Podiatrist and Diabetic Educator. WAMS staff are supporting personnel at BAHSL in the delivery of Primary Health Care Services and Health Promotion activities within the community.

Brewarrina Aboriginal Health Service Limited (BAHSL) have their own website – www.bahsl.com.au.

BAHSL Reception and Gardens – the well maintained gardens are a result of the hard work and dedication of Mr Chris Boney. Chris has ensured that the lawns and gardens are watered and free of weeds.

BAHSL Community Nurse – Hellen Mannix is the Community Nurse. Hellen has spent many years at the local Health Service and brings to BAHSL her skills and expertise working in the local community.

BAHSL Aboriginal Health Worker for Healthy for Life Program – Retta Ferguson is the Primary contact for the Chronic Disease programs for the Bila Muuji Upper Sector Healthy for Life program. She works with visiting health specialists to conduct health preventative programs, arrange clinics and ensure client attendance.

BAHSL Aboriginal Health Worker – Cherie Brown and Fred Gibson are Aboriginal Health Workers who work in the Clinic, advocate for patients and are involved in the health and social events in the community,

BAHSL Receptionist - Retta Ferguson (second Receptionist is vacant) are the smiling faces who greet clients, visitors and community members. They are the first point of contact for staff to ensure BAHSL runs smoothly.

BAHSL Cleaner – Brenda Hardy is the Cleaner who ensure that the facilities are sparkling and clean according to legislative requirements.

WAMS PEOPLE

Chief Executive Officer	Christine Corby email: walgettams@bigpond.com
Deputy CEO	(position vacant)
Executive Officer	John Piccles email: john.piccles@walgettams.com.au
Executive Support	Sarah Robinson email: sarah.robinson@walgettams.com.au
	Sharon Silversides email: sharon.silversides@walgettams.com.au

Clinic Team	Jessie Richardson, RN/Clinic Team Manager email: jessie.richardson@walgettams.com.au
	Phillip Dowse, Senior Aboriginal Health Worker email: phillip.dowse@walgettams.com.au
	David Kennedy, Aboriginal Health Worker email: david.kennedy@walgettams.com.au
	Dental
	Sonya Dennis, Dental Assistant email: sonya.dennis@walgettams.com.au
	Kayla Thurston, Dental Assistant email: kayla.thurston@walgettams.com.au
	Melanie Orcher, Dental Assistant email: melanie.orcher@walgettams.com.au
	Reception
	Suzann Kennedy email: suzann.kennedy@walgettams.com.au
	Bianca Jacky email: bianca.jacky@walgettams.com.au
	Transport
	Greg Mason, Bill Peacock and Peter Plazina
	Administration
	Karen Rutterman email: karen.rutterman@walgettams.com.au
	Cleaners
	Cheryl Amidy Casual Staff

Chronic Disease Team

Skye Duncan, RN/Health Service Co-ordinator
email: skye.duncan@walgettams.com.au

Healthy for Life

Rosalyn Fernando, Aboriginal Health Worker
email: rosaly.fernando@walgettams.com.au

Child & Family Health Nurse - Locum Services

Sarah Brown - Exercise Physiologist
email: sarah.brown@walgettams.com.au

Dietician

Position vacant

Family Centred Primary Health Care

Margaret Reeves – Registered Nurse
email: margaret.reeves@walgettams.com.au

Aboriginal Health Worker - male (secondment)

Trevor Simpson - Aboriginal Health Worker
email: trevor.simpson@walgettams.com.au

Aboriginal Health Worker - female

Position vacant

Contracted Health Personnel Services

Brewarrina AHSL

Hellen Mannix, RN/Practice Manager
email: hellen.mannix@walgettams.com.au

Cherie Brown, Aboriginal Health Worker
email: cherie.brown@walgettams.com.au

Fred Gibson, Aboriginal Health Worker
email: fred.gibson@walgettams.com.au

Reception

Nicole Bennett
email: nicole.bennett@walgettams.com.au

Maintenance

Chris Boney

Cleaner

Brenda Hardy

Healthy for Life

Retta Ferguson, Aboriginal Health Worker
email: retta.ferguson@walgettams.com.au

EPC Nurse - Locum services offered



Program Team

Kylie Gilmore, RN/RM Program Team Manager
email: kylie.gilmore@walgettams.com.au

Midwifery - Health Worker

Karnie Walford
email: karnie.walford@walgettams.com.au

Ear Health
(position vacant)

Eye Health
Phyllis Dennis-Tighe
email: phyllis.tighe@walgettams.com.au

Jenny Hunt
email: jenny.hunt@walgettams.com.au

Family Health
Position Vacant

Sexual Health
Position Vacant

Goonimoo
Co-ordinator (position vacant)

Donna Thurston, Assistant
email: donna.thurston@walgettams.com.au

Roslyn Peters, Assistant
email: roslyn.peters@walgettams.com.au

Mental Health
Locum Staff

Drug & Alcohol
Kelly Rowe
email: kelly.rowe@walgettams.com.au

Public Health (secondment)
Ann Megalokonomos
email: ann.megalokonomos@walgettams.com.au

Maintenance
Rodney Thorne
Victor Murray

Finance

Andrew Denison
email: andrewdenison@bigpond.com.au

Bill Lorimer
email: wamsfinance@bigpond.com.au

Gloria Mack
email: gloria.mack@walgettams.com.au

Naomi Barrett
email: naomi.barrett@walgettams.com.au

Bila Muuji

Covering AMS Member Services
– Social & Emotional Wellbeing
– Smoking Cessation
– Information Technology
– Oral Health

OH&S Chairperson
(position vacant)





WAMS

Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Co-Operative Ltd

Health is Life is Health

37 Pitt Street, (PO Box 396), Walgett NSW 2832

Ph: (02) 6828 1611 – Fax: (02) 6828 1201 – email: walgettams@bigpond.com

website: www.walgettams.com.au