



**Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Co-operative Ltd**

**ABN: 78 014 990 451**

37 Pitt St (P.O Box 396), Walgett NSW 2832

Phone: (02) 6828 1611, 6828 1798 Fax: (02) 6828 1201

Email: walgettams@bigpond.com

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING  
BETWEEN**

**WALGETT ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICE CO-OPERATIVE LTD  
AS FUNDS HOLDER FOR BILA MUUJI UPPER CONSORTIUM 'HEALTHY FOR LIFE'**

**WHICH INCLUDES**

**BOURKE ABORIGINAL HEALTH SERVICE  
BREWARRINA ABORIGINAL HEALTH SERVICE  
ORANA HAVEN DRUG AND ALOCHOL REHABILITATION SERVICE  
THE OUTBACK DIVISION OF GENERAL PRACTICE**

**FOR THE 'HEALTHY FOR LIFE' MEN'S PIT STOP PROGRAM**

---

**Overview**

The Bila Muuji Upper Consortium(BMUSC) Healthy for Life Program has been successful in gaining funding from the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health (OATSIH) to run two Men's Pit Stop Programs for Aboriginal men per year across the towns serviced by this consortium namely Walgett (WAMS), Brewarrina (BAHSL)and Bourke (BAHS).

In the past this program has been run by these services in conjunction with the Outback Division of General Practitioners. In moving forward it is desirable for these groups to continue to work together to provide an improved range of health services to Aboriginal men living within this catchment area, particularly those men aged between 15-44 years of age who do not appear to be seeking health services until they either have or are on the way to developing a chronic disease.

The Men's Pit Stop Program has demonstrated success in providing Primary Health Care assessments to Aboriginal men in this age group.

**Purpose**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding between Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service as the funds holder for the BMUSC Healthy for Life Program and the Outback Division of General Practitioners is to clarify the roles and responsibilities of each organization whilst they are working on the BMUSC Healthy for Life Men's Pit Stop program.

It is anticipated that through working in this 'partnership' each organization will be in a better position to achieve their overall organizational objectives and ensure that Aboriginal men living in Walgett Bourke and Brewarrina have access to the type of primary health care services that they need and that those services are provided in a culturally appropriate manner.

**FUNDED BY THE FEDERAL DEPT OF HEALTH & AGEING & THE NSW DEPT OF STATE HEALTH**

This Memorandum of Understanding outlines the objectives of the BMUSC Men's Pit Stop Program as well as the responsibilities of each organization to ensure effective communication, including decision-making processes.

### **Underlying Principles of the Memorandum of Understanding**

The underlying principles are essentially the key values the four participating agencies will need to respect to ensure that the BMUSC Men's Pit Stop Program remains viable. These include:

- A recognition of the functional requirements of the Men's Pit Stop Program
- A recognition of the operational responsibilities of each organization as well as their limitations
- A recognition of the principles and ideas that underpin the operation of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health organizations in a Primary Health Care setting
- Willingness to work together in a spirit of co-operation to improve the health of Aboriginal men living in this catchment area

### **Objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding**

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to clearly articulate the key objectives for the BMUSC Healthy for Life Men's Pit Stop Program and outline what each participating agency will endeavour to achieve. These include the following:

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

- The employer of each staff member who works on the Men's Pit Stop Program maintains responsibility at all times for all aspects of employee support and remuneration for these staff
- The BMUSC Member who is hosting the Men's Pit Stop will be responsible for the day to day management of that particular service working at that site.
- All data and revenue accrued from the Men's Pit Stop Service will remain the property of the host service
- Each service will work to ensure strong forward planning occurs to meet the primary health care needs of the Aboriginal men living within this catchment area and who are clients of WAMS, BAHS, BAHSL and OH

### **Communication Protocols**

It is expected that all staff involved in the BMUSC Healthy for Life Men's Pit Stop will at all times maintain confidentiality regarding client information and all matters relating to the operation of this program.

It is important that ODGP staff acknowledge the requirements placed on all staff who works in an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation to behave in a culturally appropriate and respectful manner toward Aboriginal people.

To ensure effective communication is maintained between WAMS, BAHS, BAHSL, OH and ODGP a formal quarterly meetings will take place between the Chief Executive Officer's of Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service, Bourke Aboriginal Health Service and ODGP in order to deal with issues as they arise and pursue best practice concepts in Aboriginal primary health care. It is also expected that this forum will enable more effective planning of future service provision and prevent duplication of service provision.

---

**Terms and Conditions of this Memorandum of Understanding**

- This memorandum is effective for twelve months from the date of signing subject to change, renewal and/or termination by mutual consent

**Legal Effect of the Memorandum of Understanding**

This Memorandum is only to express the intention of the participating organisations. The expressed intentions are not binding and no legally binding obligations are intended, or do arise as a consequence of the signing of this document. Actions taken by any institution in reliance of this document will be at that institutions sole risk

**SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF WALGETT ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICE  
CO-OPERATIVE LTD**

.....  
**Name of Signatory**

.....  
**Title of Signatory** **Date**

**SIGNED FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE OUTBACK DIVISION OF GENERAL PRACTICE**

.....  
**Name of Signatory**

.....  
**Title of Signatory** **Date**