



# Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited

## Gulbiyaay Welcome

Yaama Dhiiyaan-gal bula Birralii-gal  
Hello Families and Children

Gamilaraayga guru-mayuu-ga  
To Gamilaraay country

Gamilaraay mari-galgaa gayaa-nha  
Gamilaraay people are happy that  
Nginaay-nya-ga nhalay gaa-gi yanaay  
You all to here have come



# **ANNUAL REPORT** **2020 – 2021**

**35 Years of Operation**  
**1986 – 2021**



*Health is Life is Health*



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*Celebrating over 35 years of Service since 1986*

Funded by: Federal Dept of Social Services – National Indigenous Australians Agency  
NSW Health – Rural Doctors Network – Western NSW Primary Health Network



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT – CHAIRPERSON KENNEDY JULY 2020 TO MARCH 2021

### Introduction

WAMS has had two exciting milestones to celebrate in the second half of this reporting period. Firstly, one celebration has been to recognise the organisations thirty-five years of services. The second celebration was to officially open the expansions which are situated on the corners of Pitt and Wee Waa Streets.

I am privileged to confirm that the expansions were officially opened on 14 April 2021 by the Honourable Mark Coulton, MP (Minister for Regional Health, Regional Communications and Local Government). Both the Chief Executive Officer and I jointly supported the Minister in the opening of the facility. My sincere thanks are extended to the Board of Directors (appointed March 2021) for approving me to lead the event as well as being a co-signature to the plaque.

Coronavirus continues to affect every nation around the world. I formally acknowledge the excellent work of our staff, at the forefront of client care. The virus itself did not reach our town as at this reporting period, and I hope it remains this way. With vigilance and undertaking protective measures, one can only live in hope. During these times, the Chief Executive Officer was approved to work from home from March until a period of time in the next financial year. In lieu of her absence, the Manager of BAMS, Katrina Ward, competently managed the operations of both BAMS and WAMS. I give thanks to Katrina offering to work in a dual role.

### Quality

The pandemic during the financial year has resulted in on-site review for accreditation being deferred.

A form of a desk top review was conducted, with the review team phoning relevant personnel to garner feedback on the service delivery of WAMS. Considering it was not possible to have an on-site review, we are pleased to be certified for a twelve month period.

### Quality in Governance

MJSP were successful in the WAMS expression of interest to tender to review WAMS Strategic Plan. Phone communications had occurred with both myself and the CEO in preparation to plan the themes of the face to face meetings. Due to COVID restrictions, the planning of workshops was deferred until such constraints are removed.

As part of the annual Australia day celebrations held by the Walgett Shire Council, WAMS was awarded “Business of the Year”. A delegation of Directors and staff attended the event. The awards were presented by Mr John Moriarty, famously known for his business of “Balarinji” designs, having his art work painted on one of the commercial airlines planed. Mr Moriarty took the time on the following day to meet with both Directors and staff, as well as view of businesses. We were very pleased to have been recognised for our business. I see this as a way of paying tribute to the many people who have made it become what it is today.



To continue WAMS initiative in designing a local-training program for Nurses, Directors and executive staff members travelled to Newcastle in September and spoke with personnel who would be leading the educational training for the students. From these conversations a delegation from both WAMS and the University of Newcastle travelled to Canberra in May and met with both Minister Coulton (Minister for Regional Health, Regional Communications and Local Government) and Minister Wyatt (Minister for Indigenous Affairs), as well as Opposition Minister Plibersek – (Shadow Minister for Education, Shadow Minister for Women, and the Federal Member for Sydney)

### Growing the Garden - In partnership

With COVID restrictions, we had hosted few guests to our town. However, WAMS were pleased to receive several visits from Roy Butler MP, our Member for Barwon in NSW Parliament. He has always expressed his interest in improving access to fresh fruits and vegetables and affordable grocery supplies in our rural communities. With the Dharriwaa Elders Group (DEG) and collaborators from the University of New South Wales, WAMS has installed water efficient wicking beds and a seed raising shed to increase and secure the output of fresh local produce. The initial plan is to offer this food to clients with a chronic diseases and then to expand the program to other community food programs once there is sufficient produce in supply. In December, the community garden was officially launched in the company of Mr John Clements (on behalf of Mr Butler), members of the local Council, University of NSW's Yuwaya Ngarrali team and Global Water Institute, supporting local gardeners, with DEG Elders and staff and WAMS personnel.

### Brewarrina Aboriginal Medical Service

BAMS has grown from strength to strength. I extended sincere appreciation to the Manager, Katrina Ward, and her industrious team. The expansion of service delivery continues, without opportunity to accommodate private individual rooms. The Board have prioritised sourcing monies for the construction of a purpose built facility at Brewarrina.

### Conclusion

At the AGM held in March of 2021, I, along with three other Directors have chosen not to stand for re-election. For my colleagues, a variety of both professional and personal reasons resulted in their decisions. I am aware some of them shall be departing the north-west for another adventure in their lives. For myself, my family and I have made a similar decision. My time with WAMS has spanned twenty four years in total. I wish to congratulate Mrs Mary Purse who was appointed as Chairperson, and believe her leadership and local knowledge will ensure WAMS expands their businesses over the coming years.

**BILL KENNEDY, CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT – CHAIRPERSON PURSE MARCH TO JUNE 2021

Firstly, I wish to give thanks and recognition to Mr Bill Kennedy, former Chairperson of WAMS. Given that I have been a member of the Board during his tenure, I believe that I have gained experience and knowledge on the roles and responsibilities within the governance realm. I am looking forward to further development in the role of Chairperson.

Additionally, I extended my appreciation to the Board members who did not stand for nomination – Messers Cran, Fernando and Gordon. Their commitment over the years, have stood WAMS in good stead, as the company moves into its next cycle of growth.

Plans are underway for governance training to occur, refresher courses on specific matters that are relevant to ACCHO's and to a charitable business. Such training shall occur once face-to face contact has been deemed official and legal in NSW.

As COVID numbers have increased around the nation, the state lockdowns in both NSW and QLD have prevented on site meetings for Governance Workshops to occur in the remainder of the financial year. It is anticipated that these workshops shall convene at WAMS towards the end of 2021 and/or when restrictions are lifted.

The Board agreed to accept funding to establish both a static clinic at BAMS and WAMS as well as a mobile clinic at WAMS. These services were accommodated at the new expansions, thereby meeting the Government requirements for using such a facility.

It was with extreme pleasure and honour to be part of two significant events for WAMS and for our town. The opening of the new development, was then followed on the next day when we celebrated thirty-five years of service. Representatives from both government and non-government health agencies attended, along with many friends colleagues of WAMS were present at the opening. A welcome in language by one of WAMS Managers, plus local dancers from the PCYC, were part of the proceedings.

The community celebrations were held at the local football oval. Several amusement rides were available at no cost to the children. Local food stalls were alongside of agencies who promoted the services they offer. Dancers from the local PCYC entertained, as well as local musicians, some of whom have performed for some thirty years plus, in Walgett.

In my role as Chairperson, I am committed to carry on the work that has been maintained by previous incumbents, as well as planning for the future of WAMS according to the aims and objectives within the Strategic Plan.

**MARY PURSE, CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



# Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited

ABN: 78 014 990 451

## Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021





## Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited

ABN: 78 014 990 451

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For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

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## Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited

ABN: 78 014 990 451

## Directors' Report

30 June 2021

The directors present their report on Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited (the Corporation) for the financial year ended 30 June 2021.

### 1. General information

#### Directors

The names of the directors in office at any time during, or since the end of, the year are:

Names	Position	Appointed/Resigned
Mary Purse	Chairperson	
Carol Janissen	Secretary	Appointed 15 March 2021
Elizabeth Kennedy	Vice-Chairperson	
Iris Hall		
Doreen Peters		Appointed 17 May 2021
William Kennedy		Resigned 15 March 2021
Bert Gordon		Resigned 15 March 2021
Donald Cran		Resigned 15 March 2021
George Fernando		Resigned 15 March 2021

Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

#### Principal activities

The principal activity of Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited during the financial year were to:

- foster and strengthen the development of Aboriginal culture and identity;
- provide an accessible medical service to Aboriginal people;
- provide health promotion programs that meet the needs of Aboriginal people;
- assist Aboriginal people to use existing health services effectively; and
- promote understanding among the members of the health system (at all levels), the general community and politicians so that adequate provision is made for the needs of Aboriginal people.

No significant changes in the nature of the Corporation's activity occurred during the financial year.

### 2. Operating results and review of operations for the year

#### Operating results

The Surplus/ (deficit) of the Corporation after providing for income tax amounted to \$ 1,509,633 (2020: \$(719,497)).

#### Dividends paid or recommended

No dividends were paid or declared since the start of the financial year. No recommendation for payment of dividends has been made.



## Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited

ABN: 78 014 990 451

## Directors' Report

30 June 2021

### 2. Operating results and review of operations for the year (continued)

#### Review of operations

A review of the operations of the Corporation during the financial year and the results of those operations show grant revenue has increase \$1.97 million compared to 2020.

### 3. Other items

#### Significant changes in state of affairs

There have been no significant changes in the state of affairs of the Corporation during the year.

#### Events after the reporting date

No matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or may significantly affect the operations of the Corporation, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Corporation in future financial years.

#### Future developments and results

The directors are not aware of any likely developments that will materially affect the results of the Corporation's operations in future financial years.

#### Environmental issues

The Corporation's operations are not regulated by any significant environmental regulations under a law of the Commonwealth or of a state or territory of Australia.

The directors believe the Corporation has adequate systems in place for the management of its environmental requirements and are not aware of any breach of those environmental requirements as they apply to the Corporation.

#### Information on directors

William Kennedy

Occupation Retired

Bert Gordon

Occupation Local Land Services Field Officer

Mary Purse

Occupation Chairperson

Retired

Donald Cran

Occupation Aboriginal Liaison Officer - NSW Police

George Fernando

Occupation Retired

Iris Hall

Occupation Retired



## Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited

ABN: 78 014 990 451

## Directors' Report

30 June 2021

### Information on directors (continued)

Elizabeth Kennedy Occupation	Vice-Chairperson Enrolled Nurse - Community Liaison Walgett Health Services
Carol Janissen Occupation	Secretary Australian Unity
Doreen Peters Occupation	TAFE services coordinator

### Meetings of directors

During the financial year, 11 meetings of directors (including committees of directors) were held. Attendances by each director during the year were as follows:

Directors' Meetings		
	Number eligible to attend	Number attended
William Kennedy	8	8
Bert Gordon	8	4
Mary Purse	11	11
Donald Cran	8	5
George Fernando	8	4
Iris Hall	11	10
Elizabeth Kennedy	11	10
Carol Janissen	3	2
Doreen Peters	1	-

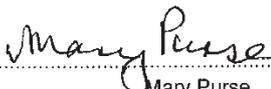
### Indemnification and insurance of officers and auditors

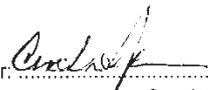
No indemnities have been given or insurance premiums paid, during or since the end of the financial year, for any person who is or has been an officer or auditor of Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited.

### Auditor's independence declaration

The auditor's independence declaration in accordance with Section 60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Act 2012*, for the year ended 30 June 2021 has been received and can be found on page 4 of the financial report.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors:

Director:   
Mary Purse

Director:   
Carol Janissen

Dated 15 December 2021



**PRINCIPALS**  
**Kevin Rankmore** B.Bus. CA, ACIS, ACSA, DipFP  
**Roger Estens** B.Fin. Admin. CA, DipFP

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## Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited

ABN: 78 014 990 451

### Auditor's Independence Declaration

#### under Section 60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Act 2012

#### to the Directors of Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2021, there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

**Ryan and Rankmore**  
**Chartered Accountants**

**Kevin Rankmore**  
**RCA 1656**

**113-115 Darling Street**  
**DUBBO NSW 2830**

Dated 15 December 2021

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**Chartered Accountants**

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**Registered Company Auditors**

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**T 02 6847 2177**  
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**Business Advisors**



Liability limited by a scheme approved  
under the Professional Standards Legislation



## Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited

ABN: 78 014 990 451

### Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
Revenue	4(a)	10,575,943	9,840,500
Other income	4(b)	150,362	234,324
Accounting and audit fees	19	(43,210)	(67,711)
Accommodation, meals and travel		(254,987)	(363,062)
Board expenses		(22,745)	(27,253)
Consulting and professional fees		(116,889)	(161,026)
Contractors		(2,379,091)	(2,387,142)
Depreciation and amortisation expense	5	(553,349)	(633,290)
Employee expense	5	(4,449,996)	(5,486,272)
Loss on disposal of assets		(100,115)	-
Medical and dental supplies		(120,233)	(113,212)
Occupancy costs		(299,465)	(297,057)
Other operating expenses		(449,123)	(481,147)
Program costs		(114,097)	(105,418)
Repairs and maintenance		(171,944)	(233,885)
Telephone, internet and technology		(141,428)	(437,846)
<b>Surplus/ (deficit) before income tax</b>		<b>1,509,633</b>	<b>(719,497)</b>
Income tax expense		-	-
<b>Surplus/ (deficit) for the year</b>		<b>1,509,633</b>	<b>(719,497)</b>
Other comprehensive income, net of income tax		-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>1,509,633</b>	<b>(719,497)</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



## Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited

ABN: 78 014 990 451

### Statement of Financial Position As At 30 June 2021

	Note	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	5,325,051	6,896,338
Trade and other receivables	7	510,907	249,295
Other assets	8	162,288	-
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>5,998,246</b>	<b>7,145,633</b>
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	9	13,476,503	10,858,779
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>13,476,503</b>	<b>10,858,779</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>19,474,749</b>	<b>18,004,412</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	10	378,595	924,254
Borrowings	11	-	100,619
Employee benefits	12	403,150	579,014
Other liabilities	13	1,408,182	382,180
Lease liabilities	14	263,538	173,301
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>2,453,465</b>	<b>2,159,368</b>
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee benefits	12	64,066	96,235
Lease liabilities	14	87,077	388,301
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>151,143</b>	<b>484,536</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>2,604,608</b>	<b>2,643,904</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>16,870,141</b>	<b>15,360,508</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			
Retained earnings		16,870,141	15,360,508
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>		<b>16,870,141</b>	<b>15,360,508</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



## Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited

ABN: 78 014 990 451

### Statement of Changes in Equity

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

#### 2021

	Retained Earnings	Total
	\$	\$
<b>Balance at 1 July 2020</b>	<b>15,360,508</b>	<b>15,360,508</b>
Surplus/ (deficit) attributable to members of the Corporation	<b>1,509,633</b>	<b>1,509,633</b>
<b>Balance at 30 June 2021</b>	<b>16,870,141</b>	<b>16,870,141</b>

#### 2020

	Retained Earnings	Total
	\$	\$
<b>Balance at 1 July 2019</b>	16,080,005	16,080,005
Surplus/ (deficit) attributable to members of the Corporation	(719,497)	(719,497)
<b>Balance at 30 June 2020</b>	<b>15,360,508</b>	<b>15,360,508</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



## Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited

ABN: 78 014 990 451

### Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

	2021	2020
Note	\$	\$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Receipts from customers	832,536	1,328,618
Receipts from government grants	10,462,209	8,704,858
Donations received	57,329	-
Payments to suppliers and employees	(8,708,658)	(10,180,852)
Interest received	6,182	100,728
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	20 <u>2,649,598</u>	<u>(46,648)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	-	58,000
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	(3,909,279)	(2,887,046)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	<u>(3,909,279)</u>	<u>(2,829,046)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES:</b>		
Proceeds from borrowings	-	171,346
Lease payments	(210,987)	(190,550)
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	<u>(210,987)</u>	<u>(19,204)</u>
Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents held	(1,470,668)	(2,894,898)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	6,795,719	9,690,617
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	6 <u>5,325,051</u>	<u>6,795,719</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.



## Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited

ABN: 78 014 990 451

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

The financial report covers Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited as an individual entity. Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited is a not-for-profit Corporation, registered under the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

The functional and presentation currency of Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited is Australian dollars.

The financial report was authorised for issue by the Directors on 15 December 2021.

Comparatives are consistent with prior years, unless otherwise stated.

### 1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with the Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosure Standard and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Act 2012. The Corporation is a not-for-profit entity for financial reporting purposes under Australian Accounting Standards.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs. The amounts presented in the financial report have been rounded to the nearest dollar.

Australian Accounting Standards set out accounting policies that the AASB has concluded would result in financial statements containing relevant and reliable information about transactions, events and conditions. Material accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are presented below and have been consistently applied unless otherwise stated.

### 2 Summary of significant accounting policies

#### (a) Revenue recognition

The core principle of AASB 15 is that revenue is recognised on a basis that reflects the transfer of promised goods or services to customers at an amount that reflects the consideration the Corporation expects to receive in exchange for those goods or services. Revenue is recognised by applying a five-step model as follows:

1. Identify the contract with the customer
2. Identify the performance obligations
3. Determine the transaction price
4. Allocate the transaction price to the performance obligations
5. Recognise revenue as and when control of the performance obligations is transferred

Generally the timing of the payment for sale of goods and rendering of services corresponds closely to the timing of satisfaction of the performance obligations, however where there is a difference, it will result in the recognition of a receivable, contract asset or contract liability.

None of the revenue streams of the Corporation have any significant financing terms as there is less than 12 months between receipt of funds and satisfaction of performance obligations.



## Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited

ABN: 78 014 990 451

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

### 2 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

#### (a) Revenue recognition (continued)

##### Specific revenue streams

The revenue recognition policies for the principal revenue streams of the Corporation are:

##### Rendering of services

Revenue in relation to rendering of services is recognised depending on whether the outcome of the service can be estimated reliably. If the outcome can be estimated reliably then the stage of completion of the service is used to determine the appropriate level of revenue to be recognised in the period. If the outcome cannot be reliably estimated then revenue is recognised to the extent of expenses recognised that are recoverable.

Revenue from training services is generally recognised once the training has been delivered.

##### Grant income

Where grant income arises from an agreement which is enforceable and contains sufficiently specific performance obligations then the revenue is recognised when control of each performance obligations is satisfied.

The performance obligations are varied based on the agreement. Each performance obligation is considered to ensure that the revenue recognition reflects the transfer of control. Within grant agreements there may be some performance obligations where control transfers at a point in time and others which have continuous transfer of control over the life of the contract.

Where control is transferred over time, generally the input methods being either costs or time incurred are deemed to be the most appropriate methods to reflect the transfer of benefit.

Where contracts are either not enforceable or do not have sufficiently specific performance obligations the income is recorded in accordance with AASB 1058.

Amounts arising from the scope of AASB 1058 are recognised at the assets fair value when the asset is received. The Corporation considers whether there are any related liability or equity items associated with the asset which are recognised in accordance with the relevant accounting standard.

Once the assets and liabilities have been recognised then income is recognised for any remaining asset value at the time that the asset is received.

##### Capital grants

Capital grants received to enable the Corporation to acquire or construct an item of property, plant and equipment to identified specifications which will be under the Corporation's control and which is enforceable are recognised as revenue as and when the obligation to construct or purchase is completed.

For construction projects, this is generally as the construction progresses in accordance with costs incurred since this is deemed to be the most appropriate measure of the completeness of the construction project as there is no profit margin.

For acquisitions of assets, the revenue is recognised when the asset is acquired and controlled by the Corporation.



## Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited

ABN: 78 014 990 451

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

### 2 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

#### (a) Revenue recognition (continued)

##### Donations

Donations collected, including cash and goods for resale, are recognised as revenue when the Corporation gains control of the asset.

##### Rental income

Revenue from rental receipts is recognised in the period the rental relates to and is recorded in accordance with the rental agreement.

##### Interest revenue

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method.

##### Other income

Other income is recognised on an accruals basis when the Corporation is entitled to it.

#### (b) Income tax

The Corporation has been granted an exemption from income tax under section 50-20 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*. The exempt status of the Corporation applies indefinitely or until such time as a change in circumstances warrants a review of the exempt status.

#### (c) Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenue, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST), except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). In these circumstances the GST is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of the asset or as part of an item of the expense.

Receivables and payable are stated inclusive of GST. The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included with other receivables or payables in the statement of financial position.

Cash flows in the statement of cash flows are included on a gross basis and the GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is classified as operating cash flows.



## Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited

ABN: 78 014 990 451

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

### 2 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

#### (d) Property, plant and equipment

Each class of property, plant and equipment is carried at cost less, where applicable, any accumulated depreciation and impairment.

In the event the carrying amount of plant and equipment is greater than its estimated recoverable amount, the carrying amount is written down immediately to its estimated recoverable amount and impairment losses are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income. A formal assessment of recoverable amount is made when impairment indicators are present.

Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the Corporation and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All other repairs and maintenance are charged to the statement of comprehensive income during the financial period in which they are incurred.

#### Land and buildings

Land and buildings are measured using the cost model.

#### Plant and equipment

Plant and equipment are measured using the cost model.

#### Depreciation

Buildings are depreciated on a straight-line basis over the assets useful life to the Corporation, commencing when the asset is ready for use.

Plant, equipment and motor vehicles is depreciated on a reducing balance basis over the assets useful life to the Corporation, commencing when the asset is ready for use.

The depreciation rates used for each class of depreciable asset are shown below:

Fixed asset class	Depreciation rate
Buildings	2.5% - 10%
Plant and Equipment	4.5% - 40%
Motor vehicles	20% - 25%

At the end of each annual reporting period, the depreciation method, useful life and residual value of each asset is reviewed. Any revisions are accounted for prospectively as a change in estimate.



## Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited

ABN: 78 014 990 451

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

### 2 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

#### (e) Financial instruments

Financial instruments are recognised initially on the date that the Corporation becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. For financial assets, this is equivalent to the date the Corporation commits itself to either the purchase or sale of the asset.

Financial instruments (except for trade receivables) are initially measured at fair value plus transaction costs, except where the instrument is classified at "fair value through profit or loss" in which case transaction costs are expensed to profit or loss immediately.

Trade receivables are initially measured at the transaction price.

#### Financial assets

Financial assets are subsequently measured at:

- amortised cost; or
- fair value through other comprehensive income.

Financial assets comprising cash and cash equivalents, trade and other receivables and interest bearing deposits are subsequently measured at amortised cost as they meet the following conditions:

- the financial assets are managed solely to collect contractual cash flows; and
- the contractual terms within the financial assets give rise to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding on specified dates.

#### *Derecognition of financial assets*

A financial asset is derecognised when the Corporation's contractual rights to its cash flows expires, or the asset is transferred in such a way that all the risks and rewards of ownership are substantially transferred.

All of the following criteria need to be satisfied for derecognition of a financial asset:

- the right to receive cash flows from the asset has expired or been transferred;
- all the risks and rewards of ownership of the asset have been substantially transferred; and
- the Corporation no longer controls the asset.

On derecognition of a financial asset measured at amortised cost, the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the sum of the consideration received and receivable is recognised in profit or loss.

On derecognition of a financial asset classified under fair value through other comprehensive income, the cumulative gain or loss previously accumulated in the financial asset reserve is not reclassified to profit or loss, but is transferred to retained earnings.



## Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited

ABN: 78 014 990 451

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

### 2 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

#### (e) Financial instruments (continued)

##### Financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised costs using the effective interest method.

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a debt instrument and of allocating interest expense in profit or loss over the relevant period.

The effective interest rate is the internal rate of return of the financial asset or financial liability, that is, it is the rate that exactly discounts the estimated future cash flows through the expected life of the instrument to the net carrying amount at initial recognition.

##### *Derecognition of financial liabilities*

A liability is derecognised when it is extinguished (i.e. when the obligation in the contract is discharged, cancelled or expires). An exchange of an existing financial liability for a new one with substantially modified terms, or a substantial modification to the terms of a financial liability, is treated as an extinguishment of the existing liability and recognition of a new financial liability.

The difference between the carrying amount of the financial liability derecognised and the consideration paid and payable, including any non-cash assets transferred or liabilities assumed, is recognised in profit or loss.

##### Impairment

The Corporation recognises a loss allowance for expected credit losses on financial assets that are measured at amortised cost.

A loss allowance is not recognised for investments measured at fair value through other comprehensive income.

##### *Recognition of expected credit losses in financial statements*

At each reporting date, the Corporation recognises the movement in the loss allowance as an impairment gain or loss in the statement of comprehensive income.

The carrying amount of financial assets measured at amortised cost includes the loss allowance relating to that asset.

Financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income are recognised at fair value with changes in fair value recognised in other comprehensive income. The amount in relation to change in credit risk is transferred from other comprehensive income to profit or loss at the end of the reporting period.

#### (f) Impairment of assets

At the end of each reporting period the Corporation determines whether there is an evidence of an impairment indicator for tangible and intangible assets. If such an indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset, being the higher of the asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use, is compared to the asset's carrying value. Any excess of the asset's carrying value over its recoverable amount is expensed to the statement of comprehensive income.



## Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited

ABN: 78 014 990 451

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

### 2 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

#### (f) Impairment of assets (continued)

Where it is not possible to estimate the recoverable amount of an individual asset, the Corporation estimates the recoverable amount of the cash-generating unit to which the asset belongs.

Impairment testing is performed annually for intangible assets with indefinite useful lives.

#### (g) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, deposits held at call with banks and other financial institutions, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of twelve months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within short-term borrowings in current liabilities on the statement of financial position.

#### (h) Leases

At inception of a contract, the Corporation assesses whether a lease exists - i.e. does the contract convey the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

This involves an assessment of whether:

- The contract involves the use of an identified asset - this may be explicitly or implicitly identified within the agreement. If the supplier has a substantive substitution right then there is no identified asset.
- The Corporation has the right to obtain substantially all of the economic benefits from the use of the asset throughout the period of use.
- The Corporation has the right to direct the use of the asset i.e. decision making rights in relation to changing how and for what purpose the asset is used.

#### Lessee accounting

The non-lease components included in the lease agreement have been separated and are recognised as an expense as incurred.

At the lease commencement, the Corporation recognises a right-of-use asset and associated lease liability for the lease term. The lease term includes extension periods where the Corporation believes it is reasonably certain that the option will be exercised.

The right-of-use asset is measured using the cost model where cost on initial recognition comprises of the lease liability, initial direct costs, prepaid lease payments, estimated cost of removal and restoration less any lease incentives received.

The right-of-use asset is depreciated over the lease term on a straight line basis and assessed for impairment in accordance with the impairment of assets accounting policy.

The lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the remaining lease payments at the commencement of the lease. The discount rate is the rate implicit in the lease, however where this cannot be readily determined then the Corporation's incremental borrowing rate is used.



## Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited

ABN: 78 014 990 451

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

### 2 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

#### (h) Leases (continued)

Subsequent to initial recognition, the lease liability is measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method. The lease liability is remeasured whether there is a lease modification, change in estimate of the lease term or index upon which the lease payments are based (e.g. CPI) or a change in the Corporation's assessment of lease term.

Where the lease liability is remeasured, the right-of-use asset is adjusted to reflect the remeasurement or is recorded in profit or loss if the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset has been reduced to zero.

#### *Exceptions to lease accounting*

The Corporation has elected to apply the exceptions to lease accounting for both short-term leases (i.e. leases with a term of less than or equal to 12 months) and leases of low-value assets. The Corporation recognises the payments associated with these leases as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

#### (i) Employee benefits

Provision is made for The Corporation's liability for employee benefits arising from services rendered by employees to the end of the reporting period. Employee benefits that are expected to be wholly settled within one year have been measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liability is settled. Employee benefits payable later than one year have been measured at the present value of the estimated future cash outflows to be made for those benefits. In determining the liability, consideration is given to employee wage increases and the probability that the employee may not satisfy vesting requirements.

#### (j) Adoption of new and revised accounting standards

The Corporation has adopted all standards which became effective for the first time at 30 June 2021. The adoption of these standards has not caused any material adjustments to the reported financial position, performance or cash flow of the Corporation.

#### **COVID-19 Related Rent Concessions**

The AASB issued Covid-19-Related Rent Concessions that provides practical relief to lessees in accounting for rent concessions occurring as a direct consequence of COVID-19, by introducing a practical expedient to AASB 16 and AASB 1060. The practical expedient permits a lessee to elect not to assess whether a COVID-19-related rent concession is a lease modification. A lessee that makes this election shall account for any change in lease payments resulting from the COVID-19-related rent concession the same way it would account for the change applying AASB 16 if the change were not a lease modification.

The practical expedient applies only to rent concessions occurring as a direct consequence of COVID-19 and only if all of the following conditions are met:

- The change in lease payments results in revised consideration for the lease that is substantially the same as, or less than, the consideration for the lease immediately preceding the change;
- Any reduction in lease payments affects only payments originally due on or before 30 June 2021 (a rent concession meets this condition if it results in reduced lease payments on or before 30 June 2021 and increased lease payments that extend beyond 30 June 2021); and
- There is no substantive change to other terms and conditions of the lease.



## Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited

ABN: 78 014 990 451

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

### 2 Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)

#### (j) Adoption of new and revised accounting standards (continued)

In the current financial year, the Corporation has applied the amendment to AASB 16 in advance of its effective date.

#### General Purpose Financial Statements – Simplified Disclosures

AASB issued an amending standard (AASB 1060) that will require both for-profit and not-for-profit entities to transition from the reduced disclosure requirements (RDR) framework to the simplified disclosure standard (SDS) effective for financial years commencing on or after 1 July 2021.

The Corporation has early adopted AASB 1060 for the financial year ended 30 June 2021 and applied the following special transitional relief:

- Restatement of comparative information is not required for any changes as a result of applying full recognition and measurement for the first time.
- Comparatives for those note disclosures that were not previously required are not required.

#### New but not yet effective standards

At the date of authorisation of these financial statements, several new, but not yet effective, Standards and amendments to existing Standards, and Interpretations have been published by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB). None of these Standards or amendments to existing Standards have been adopted early by the Corporation.

The Directors anticipates that all relevant pronouncements will be adopted for the first period beginning on or after the effective date of the pronouncement. New Standards, amendments and Interpretations not adopted in the current year have not been disclosed as they are not expected to have a material impact on the Corporation's financial statements.

### 3 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

The directors make estimates and judgements during the preparation of these financial statements regarding assumptions about current and future events affecting transactions and balances.

These estimates and judgements are based on the best information available at the time of preparing the financial statements, however as additional information is known then the actual results may differ from the estimates.

The significant estimates and judgements made have been described below.

#### Key estimates - impairment property, plant and equipment

The Corporation assesses impairment at the end of each reporting period by evaluating conditions specific to the Corporation that may be indicative of impairment triggers. Recoverable amounts of relevant assets are reassessed using value-in-use calculations which incorporate various key assumptions.



## Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited

ABN: 78 014 990 451

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

### 3 Critical accounting estimates and judgements (continued)

#### Key estimates - employee benefits

For the purpose of measurement, AASB 119: *Employee Benefits* defines obligations for short-term employee benefits as obligations expected to be settled wholly before 12 months after the end of the annual reporting period in which the employees render the related services. As the Corporation expects that most employees will not use all their annual leave entitlements in the same year in which they are earned or during the 12-month period that follows, the directors believe that obligations for annual leave entitlements satisfy the definition of other long-term employee benefits and, therefore, are required to be measured at the present value of the expected future payments to be made to employees.

#### Key judgements - COVID-19 impact on the financial statements

On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organisation declared a global pandemic in relation to the COVID-19 virus.

Compliance with Government Regulations designed to reduce the spread of COVID-19 have had a detrimental impact on the industry the Corporation operates in. However, due to government grants received during the financial year the COVID-19 virus has had very little impact on the operating result of the Corporation.

As of 30 June 2021, the Corporation had net working capital of \$3,544,781 and no long term debt.

The directors have prepared projected cash flow information for the twelve months from the date of approval of these financial statements taking into consideration the estimation of the continued business impacts of COVID-19. These forecasts indicate that, taking account of reasonably possible downsides, the Corporation is expected to continue to operate, with headroom, within available cash levels.

Based on these forecasts, the directors believe that it remains appropriate to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis and the Directors have a reasonable expectation that the Corporation will remain a going concern for at least the next twelve months.



## Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited

ABN: 78 014 990 451

### Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

#### 4 Revenue and other income

##### (a) Revenue from continuing operations

	2021	2020
Note	\$	\$
Dental revenue	16,807	12,297
Doctor's fees	1,122,929	1,117,952
Government grants	9,436,207	8,710,251
	<u>10,575,943</u>	<u>9,840,500</u>

##### (b) Other income

Donations	57,329	-
Rent received	53,277	82,935
Recovered expenses	26,541	15,126
Interest	6,182	100,728
Net gain on disposal of property, plant and equipment	-	32,665
Sundry income	7,033	2,870
	<u>150,362</u>	<u>234,324</u>

#### 5 Result for the year

The result for the year includes the following specific expenses:

##### Depreciation and amortisation expense

- buildings	9(a) 280,025	277,995
- plant and equipment	9(a) 113,922	118,562
- motor vehicles	9(a) 159,402	236,733
	<u>553,349</u>	<u>633,290</u>

##### Employee benefit expense

- employee wages	3,953,433	4,675,511
- movement in provision for employee benefits	-	213,080
- recruitment costs	65,308	46,058
- salary reimbursements	(4,802)	(44,719)
- staff training	16,151	83,673
- subsidies	(18,182)	-
- superannuation contributions	359,334	400,224
- workers compensation	78,754	112,445
	<u>4,449,996</u>	<u>5,486,272</u>



## Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited

ABN: 78 014 990 451

### Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

#### 6 Cash and cash equivalents

	2021	2020
Note	\$	\$
Cash on hand	453	359
Bank balances	4,703,894	6,280,507
Short-term deposits	620,704	615,472
	<u>5,325,051</u>	<u>6,896,338</u>

#### (a) Reconciliation of cash

Cash and Cash equivalents reported in the statement of cash flows are reconciled to the equivalent items in the statement of financial position as follows:

Cash and cash equivalents		5,325,051	6,896,338
Bank overdraft	11	-	(100,619)
		<u>5,325,051</u>	<u>6,795,719</u>

#### 7 Trade and other receivables

CURRENT			
Trade receivables		510,907	116,856
GST receivable		-	132,439
		<u>510,907</u>	<u>249,295</u>

A receivable represents the Corporation's right to an amount of consideration that is unconditional (i.e., only the passage of time is required before payment of the consideration is due). They are generally due for settlement within 30 days and therefore are all classified as current. Trade receivables are recognised initially at the amount of consideration that is unconditional unless they contain significant financing components when they are recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

#### 8 Other assets

CURRENT			
Prepayments		162,288	-
		<u>162,288</u>	<u>-</u>



## Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited

ABN: 78 014 990 451

### Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

#### 9 Property, plant and equipment

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Freehold land		
At cost	31,057	31,057
Total Land	<u>31,057</u>	<u>31,057</u>
Buildings		
At cost	10,299,851	10,265,263
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(3,960,661)</u>	<u>(3,680,636)</u>
Total buildings	<u>6,339,190</u>	<u>6,584,627</u>
Capital works in progress		
At cost	<u>5,876,710</u>	3,113,370
Total capital works in progress	<u>5,876,710</u>	<u>3,113,370</u>
Plant and equipment		
At cost	2,369,718	2,571,125
Accumulated depreciation	<u>(1,618,522)</u>	<u>(2,079,152)</u>
Total plant and equipment	<u>751,196</u>	491,973
Motor vehicles		
At cost	1,041,563	1,041,563
Motor Vehicles	<u>(563,213)</u>	<u>(403,811)</u>
Total motor vehicles	<u>478,350</u>	637,752
<b>Total property, plant and equipment</b>	<u><b>13,476,503</b></u>	<u><b>10,858,779</b></u>



**Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited**

ABN: 78 014 990 461

**Notes to the Financial Statements  
For the Year Ended 30 June 2021**

**9 Property, plant and equipment (continued)**

**(a) Movements in carrying amounts**

Movement in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and the end of the current financial year:

	Capital works in progress	Land	Buildings	Plant and equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Year ended 30 June 2021</b>						
Balance at the beginning of year	3,113,370	31,057	6,584,627	491,973	637,752	10,858,779
Additions	2,763,340	-	34,588	473,260	-	3,271,188
Disposals	-	-	-	(100,115)	-	(100,115)
Depreciation expense	-	-	(280,025)	(113,922)	(159,402)	(553,349)
<b>Balance at the end of the year</b>	<b>5,876,710</b>	<b>31,057</b>	<b>6,339,190</b>	<b>751,196</b>	<b>478,350</b>	<b>13,476,503</b>



## Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited

ABN: 78 014 990 451

### Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

#### 10 Trade and other payables

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Trade payables	274,031	653,012
Accrued expenses	-	134,362
Credit cards	322	5,304
GST payable	22,770	-
Other payables	8,503	-
PAYG withholding payable	47,401	100,103
Superannuation payable	25,568	31,473
	<b>378,595</b>	<b>924,254</b>

Trade and other payables are carried at amortised cost and represent the liabilities for goods and services received by the Corporation during the reporting period that remain unpaid at the end of the reporting period. The balance is recognised as a current liability with the amounts normally paid within 30 days of recognition of the liability. Trade and other payables are initially measured at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

#### 11 Borrowings

CURRENT		
Bank overdraft	-	100,619
	<b>-</b>	<b>100,619</b>

#### 12 Employee benefits

CURRENT		
Provision for employee benefits	403,150	579,014
	<b>403,150</b>	<b>579,014</b>
NON-CURRENT		
Provision for employee benefits	64,066	96,235
	<b>64,066</b>	<b>96,235</b>

#### 13 Other liabilities

CURRENT		
Unexpended government grants	1,408,182	382,180
	<b>1,408,182</b>	<b>382,180</b>



## Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited

ABN: 78 014 990 451

### Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

#### 14 Leases

##### Corporation as a lessee

The Corporation has leases over a range of motor vehicles.

The Corporation has chosen not to apply AASB 16 to leases of intangible assets.

Information relating to the leases in place and associated balances and transactions are provided below.

##### Terms and conditions of leases

The Corporation leases motor vehicles with lease terms varying from 2 - 3 years, the lease payments are fixed during the lease term.

##### (a) Lease liabilities

	2021 \$	2020 \$
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Motor vehicle leases	<b>263,538</b>	173,301
	<b>263,538</b>	173,301
<b>NON-CURRENT</b>		
Motor vehicle leases	<b>87,077</b>	388,301
	<b>87,077</b>	388,301

##### (b) Maturity analysis

##### Minimum lease payments:

- not later than one year	<b>282,474</b>	195,895
- between one year and five years	<b>87,612</b>	411,287
- later than 5 years	-	-
	<b>370,086</b>	607,182

#### 15 Capital commitments

Contracted commitments for:

##### Exercise therapy room

Contract sum	-	4,010,291
Less payments made	-	(3,070,162)
	-	940,129

##### Shopfront buildings

Contract sum	-	1,249,546
Less payments made	-	-
	-	1,249,546
	-	2,189,675



## Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited

ABN: 78 014 990 451

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

### 15 Capital commitments (continued)

The new development is under construction which will house existing programs. The new development will include consolidating existing children's programs, offering private spaces for client services, a boardroom, meeting areas and expansion of a health and fitness area. At 30 June 2021, the building has been completed but is not yet ready for its intended purpose.

### 16 Key management personnel remuneration

Key management personnel are those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Corporation, directly or indirectly, including any director (whether executive or otherwise) of that Corporation.

The total remuneration paid to key management personnel of the Corporation is \$ 714,062 (2020: \$460,203).

### 17 Contingencies

In the opinion of the Directors, the Corporation did not have any contingencies at 30 June 2021 (30 June 2020: None).

### 18 Related parties

#### (a) The Corporation's main related parties are as follows:

Key management personnel - refer to Note 16.

Other related parties include close family members of key management personnel and entities that are controlled or significantly influenced by those key management personnel or their close family members.

#### (b) Transactions with related parties

Transactions between related parties are on normal commercial terms and conditions no more favourable than those available to other parties unless otherwise stated.

Amounts paid to employees whom are close family members of Directors total \$228,975 for the financial year ended 30 June 2021.

Close members of the Directors family include:

- a) The Directors children and spouse or domestic partner;
- b) Children of the Director's partner; and
- c) Dependants of the Director or the Director's spouse or domestic partner.

There have been no other transactions with related parties during the financial year.



## Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited

ABN: 78 014 990 451

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

### 19 Auditors' remuneration

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Remuneration of the auditor Ryan and Rankmore Chartered Accountants, for:		
- auditing the financial statements	24,750	29,500
	<u>24,750</u>	<u>29,500</u>

### 20 Cash flow information

#### (a) Reconciliation of result for the year to cash flows from operating activities

Reconciliation of net income to net cash provided by operating activities:

Surplus/ (deficit) for the year	1,509,633	(719,497)
Cash flows excluded from profit attributable to operating activities		
Non-cash flows in profit:		
- depreciation	553,349	633,290
- net (gain)/loss on disposal of investments	100,115	(32,665)
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
- (increase)/decrease in trade and other receivables	(261,612)	844
- (increase)/decrease in prepayments	(162,288)	2,311
- increase/(decrease) in income in advance	1,026,002	(5,393)
- increase/(decrease) in trade and other payables	92,431	(138,618)
- increase/(decrease) in employee benefits	(208,032)	213,080
Cash flows from operations	<u>2,649,598</u>	<u>(46,648)</u>

### 21 Events occurring after the reporting date

The financial report was authorised for issue on 15 December 2021 by the board of directors.

On 11 March 2020, the World Health Organisation declared a global pandemic in relation to the COVID-19 virus.

Compliance with Government Regulations designed to reduce the spread of COVID-19 are expected to have a continuing detrimental impact on the operations of the Corporation during the 2022 financial year. However, due to the uncertainty in relation to the extent of containment of the virus, it is not possible to reliably estimate the effect of this matter on the results of the operations of the Corporation in future financial years.

Except for the above, no other matters or circumstances have arisen since the end of the financial year which significantly affected or could significantly affect the operations of the Corporation, the results of those operations or the state of affairs of the Corporation in future financial years.



## Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited

ABN: 78 014 990 451

## Notes to the Financial Statements For the Year Ended 30 June 2021

### 22 Statutory information

The registered office and principal place of business of the Corporation is:

Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited  
37 Pitt Street  
Walgett NSW 2832



## Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited

ABN: 78 014 990 451

### Directors' Declaration

The directors of the Corporation declare that:

1. The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 5 to 27, are in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and:
  - a. comply with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosure Standard; and
  - b. give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2021 and of the performance for the year ended on that date.
2. In the directors' opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Corporation will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.

Director .....  
*Mary Purse*  
Mary Purse

Director .....  
*Carol Janissen*  
Carol Janissen

Dated 15 December 2021



## PRINCIPALS

**Kevin Rankmore** B.Bus. CA, ACIS, ACSA, DipFP  
**Roger Estens** B.Fin. Admin. CA, DipFP

[administrator@ryanrank.com](mailto:administrator@ryanrank.com)  
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## Independent Audit Report to the members of Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

#### Qualified Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited (the Corporation), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2021, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in equity and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, except for the effects of the matter described in the *Basis for Qualified Opinion* section of our report, the accompanying financial report of the Corporation is in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the Corporation's financial position as at 30 June 2021 and of its financial performance for the year ended; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosure Standard and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

#### Basis for Qualified Opinion

In accordance with AASB 116 Property, Plant and Equipment the balance of capital work in progress of \$5,876,710 as recorded in note 9 to the financial statements at 30 June 2021 has been measured at cost. Our audit procedures included sighting the buildings along with vouching the expenditure to supplier tax invoices and contracts. We found no material misstatement in the initial measurement of the account. Our audit procedure also included requesting a valuation of the capital work in progress buildings to determine if any impairment should be recognised, however, management were unable to provide such a report. As a result, we were not able to satisfy ourselves whether there is any indication that the capital work in progress balance of \$5,876,710 was impaired

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Corporation in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission Act 2012*, which has been given to the directors of the Corporation, would be in the same terms if given to the directors as at the time of this auditor's report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified opinion.

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Business Advisors



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## FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION REPORT JULY 2020 TO JUNE 2021

### Introduction

The Finance and Administration Department has two main functions;

- 1) Maintain the Financial records of the organisation. This includes payroll, prepare the accounts for audit and provide financial reporting to the funding bodies.
- 2) Provide Administrative support to WAMS. This includes but is not limited to; handling accommodation and travel bookings for visiting specialists and staff, coordinating external trades, purchases, insurance schedules, Asset registers and other files.

Thanks to WAMS's Auditing firm, Ryan and Rankmore, Kevin Rankmore, Jason Brown and their audit team for all their hard work in getting the audit completed.

I would like to acknowledge the following organisations for their ongoing funding;

- The Australian Government Department of Social Services
- The National Indigenous Australians Agency (formerly The Australian Government Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet)
- The NSW Ministry of Health
- The Western Local Health District
- NSW Rural Doctors Network
- Western NSW Primary Health Network

### Staffing

Current Personnel:

- |                    |                            |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| • Mathew Baker     | Manager Finance            |
| • Sally Barton     | Team Leader Administration |
| • Mellisa Timmins  | Finance Assistant          |
| • Melissa Beacroft | Administration Assistant   |

As of April 2021 with the departure of the HR Manager Gavin Tye, the Cleaning team is now under the Administration Department

### Cleaning Team

Current Personnel

- |                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| • Caran Doolan     | Team Leader |
| • Kerry Kennedy    |             |
| • Deborah Fernando |             |
| • Anne Peacock     |             |
| • Robyn Cran       |             |
| • Jennina Doolan   |             |



## Overview

WAMS finished the year with a total funding and other revenues of \$13.5 million including \$1.11 million in Medicare, on par with the previous year despite COVID restrictions. WAMS has spent over \$3 million in completing the new development and on new capital equipment, dental equipment, renovations of WAMS facilities and accommodations.

## Walgett

It has been another challenging and busy year in Walgett. Work on the new Development was completed in April 2021. With the opening of the New Development also in April 2021 all buildings are on site, fully furnished with ground works, verandas and paths completed. Total cost of the project came in close to the project funds allocated.

WAMS celebrated 35 years of serving the community, The New Development was opened with the Mark Coulton, federal Representative for Parkes officiating and there was a day of celebrations held at the Walgett Sporting grounds. Many thanks to the sponsors, vendors and of course WAMS staff who helps make the day a lot fun.

With thanks to the Australian Government Department of Social Services and NSW Ministry of Health we saw increases to our funding for COVID response measures and vaccinations via our Respiratory Clinic and Point of Care COVID 19 testing based in Walgett. We also received supplementary financial support from NACCHO and the AHMRC for our COVID testing and vaccination programs.

WAMS made application to the Australian Government Department of Social Services for family planning services. Towards the end of the reporting period we were advised that our submission was successful and contracts were signed to commence the activities in the new financial year. We were also successful in our application for supplementary funding for an additional Registered Nurse and Aboriginal Health Worker for the Clinic.

We also lodged a successful application to the NSW Ministry of Health Capital grants for funding of additional renovations and building repairs for the Chronic Disease building.

We also rolled out a comprehensive upgrade to the computer terminals with further upgrades to the Network server and telephone systems planned for implementation in the new financial year.

## Brewarrina

Brewarrina also faced a challenging year. We were successful in lobbying the Australian Government Department of Social Services for an additional \$480,000 over the next three years to meet the growth in health care services.

The Brewarrina computer terminals were also replaced and this server is also due for upgrades with plans for this to occur in the new financial year.

Brewarrina also received additional funds for both drought relief activities and COVID response strategies from The Australian Government Department of Social Services and The NSW Ministry of Health.



## Conclusion

Overall 2020/21 has been a difficult year with the region facing prolonged COVID19 lockdowns and other disruptions to supply chains and services. As such, for most of the year our repairs and maintenance activity was delayed due to the lockdowns and economic disruptions affecting both tradesperson and the supply of materials. Walgett and Brewarrina are continuing to face these challenges with remarkable solidarity and level headedness.

The last AGM saw the departure of Bill Kennedy as Chairperson and I would like to extend my thanks to Bill for his many years of service to WAMS and on a personal note, I am very grateful to Bill for the advice and welcome he extended to me when I first started here mid-2018. I would also like to welcome Chairperson Mary Purse, a long-time Director at WAMS and I look forward to working with her going forward.

In closing I would also like to acknowledge the continuing support and advice of the CEO (and that of Katrina Ward as acting CEO) along with my team Mrs. Sally Barton, Mrs. Mellisa Timmins and Mrs Melissa Beacroft in our administration office. Thank you.

## **MATHEW BAKER** **FINANCE MANAGER**





## CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS REPORT JULY 2020 TO JUNE 2021

### Introduction

COVID continues to influence our living – e.g. social distancing, hand sanitising and PPE regulations remain in force. When we thought the rules had been relaxed at the end of the financial year (Monday 28 June 2021), the State government deemed for all persons to carry on with these practises when the outbreak in Sydney deepened.

Applications were made at the beginning of 2021 for BAMS and WAMS to establish and operate vaccine clinics. Both ACCHO's were successful to gain funding for static clinics, as well as a mobile respiratory clinic for WAMS. Doors were opened to conduct businesses in March. Staff received training to operate the diagnostic tools. Locum staff were sourced to support our local people due to the increase in screening and vaccinations.

The menacing mice did not move and settled in the north-west areas and were consistent in leaving their "messages" behind. Purchases were acquired for items totally destroyed by the vermin, small appliances and large units across all sections of WAMS. Hopefully, with the cooler weather, they may not be so active.

In January, the Walgett Shire Council awarded the organisation a Business Award certificate as well as a certificate for my work in the community. Such local recognition has offered the validation we are grateful to receive. Without the community, we would not be here.

The official opening of the long-awaited expansions occurred in April. Both Chairperson, Bill Kennedy, and I were given the privilege to have our names depicted on the opening plaque alongside the Honourable Mark Coulton, MP (Minister for Regional Health, Regional Communications and Local Government). Thank you to our visitors, who made the time to travel and share in this moment.

The winner of WAMS art completion was Frank Wright's work of "My Home, My Country". He had his works displayed on promotional materials including the gazebos, tablecloths, mouse pads and bunting. He also painted six animals on six circles of timber which shall be framed and hung in each of the buildings of the expansions. In addition to this, corporate clothing will be ordered.

Having a traditional welcome spoken in our local language, Gamilaraay, gave cultural strength and meaning for the event. Mrs Amy Townsend, Manager of the Children's Services, took particular care in ensuring our culture was recognised. The local PCYC dance group thrilled the audience with several dance performances about animals and stories. A very memorable day was had by all who attended.

Community celebrations were held the very next day at the local oval in recognition of WAMS's milestone, 35 years of service to our community. Amusement rides for the young, family entertainment. Musicians who had local connections to Walgett performed into the end of the evening. We are grateful that one of Walgett's local band members, Trevor Simpson, returned "home" to be the host and emcee for the day.



## Winds of Change (once more)

COVID 19 continues to influence the way we live. It was pleasing to see how staff responded to offer care for their clients and community members. Handwashing workshops were conducted at the school with a machine that scanned their hands after they had washed them. It was surprising to see the “germs” that remained.

Training of staff also happened in preparation for screening and pathology to the COVID clinics. We were also grateful to receive several donations of PPE products from generous agencies and individuals to supplement our diminishing supplies.

Staff resumed their “COVID Care” program by arranging the delivery of care packages, food cartons, conducting social welfare checks, and conveying medications. Such arrangements were motivated by staff who were concerned that some clients were not attending WAMS to manage and care for their chronic conditions.

Additionally, WAMS were grateful for funding received from the Public Health Unit for a program to expand the delivery of fresh fruit and vegetables for clients with a chronic disease or having a large family. The initial decision of the selection of the foods occurred after consultation with potential clients regarding their dietary requirements. On the odd occasion when clients were not in town, the produce was delivered to the men’s and women refuge centres.

## Quality

The original date for the review to be held in December was deferred due to COVID restrictions on travel. The review was then extended to occur in April 2021, at which time only one team member was able to visit WAMS.

They have scheduled an additional meeting on site later in the 2021 calendar year, for discussions with the Directors and staff. Tewana attempted to meet online via Zoom which came with problems due to connectivity issues, however, was able to complete the review. The next review for WAMS is March 2022.

## Quality in Operation

At the beginning of 2021, workshops were planned for the next stage of review for the Strategic Plan which expires at the end of this financial year. However, due to the Consultant residing across the border, we could not plan the workshops. Subject to the restrictions, the Directors have agreed to schedule the sessions before the end of the 2021 calendar year.

Community and staff safety is our priority when delivering programs and services. Anything that we conduct are aligned with funding requirements, WH&S rules and also legislative regulations. Feedback and evaluation of activities provide directive and guidance for future planning as well as valuable critique at that time.

## *Representing WAMS*

Having memberships on regional and state agencies enabled me to advocate for rural communities for their health and social issues.

Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council of NSW	NSW Rural Doctors Network	Western Primary Health Network - member of Aboriginal Advisory Committee
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## *Visiting WAMS*

Aside from personnel from Roy Butler's office for the opening of the garden, we were also privileged to receive visitors at the time of the expansions opening and the thirty five years celebrations. This included the Honourable Mark Coulton, MP (Minister for Regional Health, Regional Communications and Local Government) and many more.

The workforce initiative that has designed collaboratively with the University of Newcastle for our rural towns, provided an opportunity meet and lobby with several ministerial personnel in Canberra in May.

We are hopeful they shall see the value of a strategic and planned approach to "grow" our own. Creating a training centre at a local level, thereby reducing the personal stressors afforded students who must travel some distances away from their community to undertake professional development.

## Quality in Culture

The NAIDOC theme of 2020 of "Always Was, Always Will Be" was postponed due to COVID 19. Events shall be held at a time when these restrictions are eased.

The acknowledgement in Gamilaraay language was customised for WAMS and placed across our buildings, as well as signs for welcome, identifying teeth, ears and eyes. Goonimoo staff have commenced expanding their teaching resources to become culturally appropriate according to local cultures and language.

The progress of creating a local resource which focuses on the cultural and corporate society of WAMS and Walgett has been delayed at this time due to staff departures and COVID restrictions. Further meetings will be scheduled which involve cultural mentors, who originate from the region, to lead the discussions.

Our resource of the snake puzzle continues to be available for use by local agencies, government and non-government entities.

WAMS are having discussions with personnel who can recall their involvement in the Freedom ride, and have asked them if they would like to record such information. From these conversations, plans are underway to source monies for the design of local art/signage that captures local history. Locations for such a display are being considered.

## Collegiate Working Arrangements

Agreements operate on various levels – i.e. a formal Memorandum of Understanding, Service Level Agreements as well as based on monies we receive from respective grant agencies. Such formalities give direction and leadership to ensure that services are delivered in the highest quality of care.

At a local level, WAMS continues to progress their work with the Dharriwaa Elders Group (DEG) both at the garden with the wicking beds and also their advocacy for solar power and food security. Rural Aid offered their labour to construct a propagation shed for staff to create a bulk supply of seedlings for clients wishing to create their own home gardens.

The next stages of development includes additional wicking beds, food planning with the local supermarket and "Plants to Plate" cooking programs. Having the official launch of the community garden offered an opportunity for people to attend from across agencies as well as interested parties.



The members of the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) has been invaluable in order to manage COVID as well as flooding that occurred in March. Having such clear lines of communication at a local level has given reassurance to each other that we are a formidable team for the town.

### (NSW) Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council (AHMRC)

The advocacy of the AHMRC has been essential in networking with the many and varied agencies who are working in the COVID sphere. Such leadership demonstrates the positive influence of local operations to deliver advocacy, promotional and screening at these trying times.

Board members held meetings via virtual arrangements, to maintain open lines of communications across the sector, for an opportunity to share any concerns they may have. Members of AHMRC arranged webinars for conferences, meetings, training, in lieu of staff travelling across the state to lead them, and also members travelling to Sydney and other towns.

### Bila Muuji Aboriginal Health Service Incorporated (Bila Muuji)

Both BAMS and WAMS resigned their memberships from Bila Muuji in November 2020. I have had the privilege as one of the CEO's who "founded" this regional entity over twenty years ago.

We continue to maintain contact with staff, as they are a regional "hub and spoke" health provider, similar to NGO's, Western Local Health Districts and the Primary Health Network.

### National Aboriginal Community Controlled health Organisation (NACCHO)

Our national membership were equally involved at a federal level to raise issues of concern for our sector as well. Their advocacy to the federal health government, Drs and Nursing consortias greatly assisted in service delivery at a local level. Identifying the need for additional workforce, PPE, housing concerns, isolation measures and other such logistical ideals, have been part and parcel of operations during this financial year.

### Community Events/Health Promotion Programs

Despite COVID restrictions, staff availed themselves to be present at meetings and represent the organisation where possible. Listed are the meetings and events attended;

AECG	SRG	School Awards	Local Interagency
St Joseph's Primary School	Local High and Primary Schools	Christmas Photos practicing social distancing	LEMC (commencing March 2020 re COVID)
Walgett Shire Council Harmony Day	Walgett Shire Council Reconciliation	Walgett Shire Council Australia Day	Walgett Shire Council Sorry Day

Our Facebook sites offer up to date information on activities we conduct, workforce and community events that we attend. Additionally, announcements are made on the phone messaging services and local broadcast emails to disseminate announcements about operations. With the recent installation of the electronic notice board situated on the corners of Pitt and Wee Waa Streets, announcements shall be made in regards to "what's on at WAMS" each week.



Visitors receive “WAMS Packages” that include the Annual report, Strategic Plan, Profile of Service, Pictorials of report to demonstrate all aspects of works that were undertaken.

Listed are the following events and activities we attended, where possible, within the COVID 19 restrictions

Children’s Day	Youth Week	Meals on Wheels	Walgett Show	ANZAC Day	Breakfast Club
Children’s Health Checks (Primary schools)	Health Checks (High School)	Women’s Health Checks	Men’s Health Checks	Bro speak	Sista speak
CDAT	Two Rivers Suicide Prevention	Dharriwaa Elders Group	Remembrance Day	Fruit & vegie deliveries	International Women’s Day
“Beat the Heat”	Domestic Violence event	COVID daily client calls	Xmas Raffle	“Peace” program	NAIDOC celebrations

## Staff – Recognition

Regulations of social distancing prevented recognition of Phillips Dowse twenty years of services being held until we can gather to celebrate such an event. Additionally, both Tara Smith and Christine Corby shall have their recognition delayed.

<b>Five years</b> Tara Smith	<b>Ten years</b> Ernie Sands Reg Rutene	<b>Thirty five years</b> Christine Corby
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During Christmas festivities staff each received a lunch box in lieu of an Employee of the Year recognition. Such a decision was made by the Directors due to the upheaval of the year, staff stepping above and beyond their call of duties and that no one person should, nor could, be recognised. With the trials and tribulations around our community this year, and the way in which our staff stepped up, such recognition was well deserved.

## Staff – students

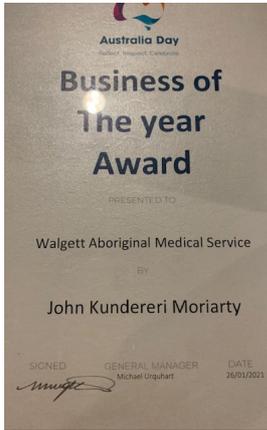
Having students on site provides with a first-hand experience of living a country life. From medical students, nursing and allied health this year – we give our thanks to those who endured the mice, the water, limited supplies of grocers. This is our resilience and our creativity as well living outside of the city limits.

## Closing Comments

Such an amazing moment this year, as we have shared thirty five years of operations. From a rented, dilapidated surgery-cum-residence to the massive footprint we now have, is an achievement in itself.

WAMS have been given a gift – to grow from strength to strength – with the community first and foremost as well as its partners, properties, assets, staffing over the years. Former Directors and staff are part of the legacy. The longevity in the design of an entity that has been a core foundation of health and social care.

**CHRISTINE CORBY, OAM**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**







## HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGERS REPORT JULY 2020 TO JUNE 2021

### Introduction

COVID 19 continues to affect our daily way of life across every corner of the world. For Walgett and WAMS, living in a country area, there are several issues that we have encountered.

The ability to recruit and retain staff has been seriously affected. Several members of the workforce returned to their respective homes and families across the borders. Our “pool” of employees was limited to those who were willing to travel within NSW and reside in our town. This resulted in few wanting to take up the offer to work both at Brewarrina and Walgett.

Limited access to PPE has resulted in staff being restricted in conducting their duties. As COVID numbers increased around the nation, the opportunity to source such items became very scarce. It was very timely to receive a flow of donations which both staff and community members could access, therefore allowing our diligent support and service to continue.

Along with the pandemic, our rural communities were infested for several months with mice. Little did we know of their ability to dwell in the wall cavities, live amongst bedding, chew wires and destroy electronic appliances? The vermin created additional workload for the cleaning and maintenance teams; to review the cleanliness and review pending repairs of our many offices and dwellings. The purchase of plastic bins was deemed as the “norm” to secure food, papers, linen and cutlery during this time.

### Garden and cleaning teams

I recognise the additional time worked by the members of these teams for ensuring the hygiene, safety and cleanliness was achieved in preparation for the opening of the new building.

Furthermore, the pandemic and mouse infestation created additional scheduling of their time. My appreciation is extended to each of the team members for maintaining our assets and our properties.

### Human Resources

As previously mentioned, the COVID border restrictions have resulted in a decline of staff applying for work, who are residents outside of NSW. Doctors and nursing staff are the disciplines that are very difficult to fill at this moment.

Filling vacant positions, sourcing potential candidates, promoting and sourcing appropriate training and professional development for staff is the primary role of human resources.



Local vacancies are posted with the two Job Service Agencies based in Walgett. Specific disciplines – such as Doctors, Nurses and specialist personnel are advertised with such like-minded agencies.

We have been fortunate to recruit three local people who are being orientated across several departments of WAMS as Aboriginal Health Workers, e.g. hearing, eyes, dental, and reception, during their probationary period. Once their probation ceases, further discussions shall occur to determine their permanent location of work.

## Staff under HR management up to March 2021

After the departure of the HR Manager at this time, the Clinic Manager and Finance Manager apportioned staff under their supervision. The Clinic Manager is managing the maintenance team. The Finance Manager is managing the cleaning team and also staff working at Gilbert Lodge.

## Staff – Recruitment and Retention

Goodbye and best wishes to;

Dr Keith Gleeson	Sharnie Saunders	Selene Dennis	Cody Hatch
Katherine Thurston	Jacqui Burke	Ernie Sands	Gavin Tye
Reg Rutene	Beau Williams	Kira McKay	Deb Ricardi
Melissa White	Martika Walford	Cody Hatch	Claire Williams (BAMS)

The welcome mat was extended to;

Beau Williams Healthy for Life Coordinator	Bruce Moore Suicide Prevention Officer	Melissa Beacroft, Admin/Finance
Kiara Smith	Justin Green Maintenance Team Leader	Kelly Rowe
Robyn Cran	Selene Dennis	Jennina Doolan
Ann Peacock Cleaner	William West Maintenance	Martika Walford Receptionist
Shannon Kennedy Maintenance	Darlene Mason AHW	Keenan Middleton Maintenance

Thank you to Phil and Whitney in their Acting management at the Clinic and Chronic Diseases teams respectively. Their commitment and dedication to ensure the ongoing flow of staff operations, client care is a credit to the services to WAMS. Whitney also undertook maternity leave in June as she welcomed another addition to her family.

## Staff – training and development

Overall, we have managed to the best of our ability to ensure our staff are receiving essential professional updates on their individual roles. Local in-services were offered for vehicle maintenance (using an “ezi-jak), first aid and financial management by Westpac, appropriate updates on Medicare.

Travelling off-site for training and development was reduced. Zoom meetings and webinars were the alternate option for staff to upskill where necessary during this financial period. Plans are underway for some staff to enrol in tertiary studies via this technology.



## Closing comments

Despite several barriers outside of our control, the work of human resources was conducted pertaining to the needs of operations. The HR Manager ceased work at WAMS in April 2021. The ongoing human resources role was shared across WAMS personnel as well as a contracted HR agency.

## GAVIN TYE

### HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER (ceased at WAMS 16 April 2021)

*Author Christine Corby. OAM. Chief Executive Officer*





*Health is Life is Health*

**ALLIED HEALTH**

Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service

# Allied Health Services 2020-2021

Raymond Terrace Therapy | Outback Therapy

## **Overview:**

Outback therapy is a branch of Raymond Terrace Therapy, and provides Allied Health services to Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service. These services include Physiotherapy, Speech Pathology and Occupational Therapy.

After an eventful year in 2019-2020, 2020-2021 continues to provide challenges for outreach services with the resurgence of the Covid-19 pandemic. Outback Therapy are proud to partner with Walgett Aboriginal Medical Services and have continued to provide services to the community during these challenging times, through an adaptive service delivery model

## **Coronavirus**

After an eventful year in 2020 due to coronavirus and weather events, the resurgence of coronavirus and restrictions proved challenging for WAMS and the wider Walgett community. Travel restrictions limited the opportunities for external providers to visit WAMS and multiple virus outbreaks caused concern for the health of members of the community.

Throughout the year, Outback Therapy continued to provide a modified service approach to ensure that those who required services were still able to receive them. This included remotely delivered service model, telehealth, resource packs and information handouts on a variety of topics and strategies.



## Speech Pathology

### Allied Health Professional:

- Vanessa Purcell (Jan 2020 to Jan 2021)
- Bethany Eden (March 2021 to current)

### Services provided:

- ❖ Telehealth
- ❖ Paediatric services clinic, in school, home programs and in home
- ❖ Speech, language and literacy; assessment and recommendations
- ❖ Palliative care
- ❖ Clinic, community and home consultation
- ❖ Outpatient chronic disease services
- ❖ Mealtime management
- ❖ Referrals to other services
- ❖ Increasing use of Aboriginal Health Workers
- ❖ Resource development: Culturally sensitive Activity Packs, assessments, resources
- ❖ Liaising with and supporting local services; such as schools, preschools, LHD
- ❖ Liaison with project officer of Dharriwaa Elders Group

Outback Therapy were extremely lucky to have the very passionate Speech Pathologist Bethany Eden join our services to continue to provide outreach to WAMS. Bethany has continued on the previously established speech therapy program and has continued to evolve it to allow for the highest quality of service to be provided.

Bethany is passionate about all areas of paediatrics and has completed additional training in a variety of areas. We are very lucky to have her high levels of expertise to ensure the paediatric caseload is well looked after.

Bethany enjoys working with clients of all ages and abilities and ensures that individuals capacities, both developmentally and academically are met. Bethany will continue to develop a more streamlined approach to Speech Pathology to assist with the management of the waitlist to ensure more clients are being seen. We are excited for the future of Speech Pathology at WAMS.





## **Occupational Therapy**

**Allied Health Professional:** Samara Unwin (Occupational Therapist)

### **Services Provided:**

- ❖ Telehealth
- ❖ Chronic disease management
- ❖ Palliative care
- ❖ Working with various stakeholders internal and external
- ❖ Liaising with and supporting local services; schools, preschools, LHD
- ❖ Increasing use of Aboriginal Health Workers
- ❖ Paediatric – in school, home programs and in home
- ❖ Equipment prescription
- ❖ Home modifications and environmental reviews
- ❖ Clinic, community and home consultation
- ❖ Outpatient chronic disease
- ❖ Functional assessments and recommendations
- ❖ Upper limb management
- ❖ Fatigue management
- ❖ Funding applications

The need for Occupational Therapy continues to develop across the Walgett region and again this year we have seen Samara expand the services we are able to offer. Samara has been working hard, even throughout the resurgence of Covid-19, to ensure that more clients are being seen and that the services offered are diversifying. The future of Occupational Therapy will continue to develop and Samara hopes that the role of Occupational Therapy becomes more known amongst the community.

## **Physiotherapy:**

**Allied Health Professional:** Robert Martinez (Physiotherapist)

### **Services Provided:**

- ❖ Walking program
- ❖ Telehealth
- ❖ Cardiorespiratory rehabilitation “ Heart Matters”
- ❖ Chronic and complex disease management
- ❖ Musculoskeletal conditions assessment and intervention
- ❖ Acute conditions
- ❖ Outpatient chronic disease
- ❖ Palliative care
- ❖ Complex and chronic pain management
- ❖ Team leader for Allied health care team
- ❖ Increasing use of Aboriginal Health Workers

This was an exciting year for Physiotherapy at WAMS with the opening of the new Gym space allowing for services to expand into a state of the art facility! Robert continued to attract more referrals into the cardiac rehab programs as well complex needs and paediatric scope. Physiotherapy is the most established service that Outback Therapy offers to WAMS and Robert is excited to continue to expand these services. The future of Physiotherapy at WAMS will hopefully see more programs being offered & continuation of the above mentioned services.



*Health is Life is Health*

**BREWARRINA**



## BREWARRINA REPORT JULY 2020 TO JUNE 2021

### Introduction

WAMS continues to maintain the arrangement with DoH to enable the community of Brewarrina to access quality health care by continuing to manage the operations of the Brewarrina Aboriginal Medical Service (BAMS). The BAMS team includes not only qualified and professional staff but also many visiting specialists, allied health professionals and contractors who all work together with a shared goal to improve the overall primary care health outcomes of the local and surrounding communities.

The diligent staff at BAMS continuously work toward improving excellence in the quality of services provided by the team and visiting allied health providers. These achievements are recognised through being successfully accredited with AGPAL Quality in Practice, which will be under review in late 2021 following delays due to interruptions to normal procedures from the Covid 19 pandemic. The BAMS team continued to strive toward improving their skills and qualifications to provide professional health care services that are welcoming and culturally appropriate for our clientele.

This reporting period presented with unprecedented challenges with the impacts from the Covid 19 Pandemic becoming paramount in 2020 and continues into this reporting year. The way business operated dramatically changed with the introduction of Covid screening, social distancing and deep cleaning becoming standard practice. Unfortunately health outcomes were negatively affected for our community through visiting services being cancelled or reliant on teleconferencing. However, attending welfare checks to boost community spirit, the distribution of food parcels and activity packs assisted in boosting morale. BAMS staff were very adaptive and complying to assisting in supporting community members whilst operating within the NSW Health restrictions and guidelines.

### Visiting services include:

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| ○ General Practitioner medical clinic locum service   | 5 days a week      |
| ○ Psychologist – Social Emotional Well Being program, | 2 days a week      |
| ○ Drug and Alcohol counsellor                         | fortnightly        |
| ○ Sexual Health clinic                                | quarterly          |
| ○ Women’s Health Clinic                               | 6 weekly           |
| ○ Podiatry  | fortnightly        |
| ○ Ear Nose & Throat Specialist                        | every 3 - 4 months |
| ○ Brien Holden Vision Institute and Outback Eye Team  | quarterly          |
| ○ Dietician and Physio/exercise program               | 3 days a week      |

### Services Offered:

Triage, assess and refer clients to appropriate health providers		
Wound care	Clinical services as they present	Chronic Disease Management
Follow up referred clients	Medications review & monitoring	Local Medical Transport
School Health Clinics	General medical duties	Outreach clinic Orana Haven
Visiting Health Clinics	Health Assessments	Home visits



SEWB Support	Immunisation clinics	GP Consultations
Health education and awareness promotions	Advocate and coordinate health care & referrals	Case management and review with service providers

### Healthy for Life Program

- Health Check Clinics

Weilmoringle Primary School	Orana Haven Clients	Community members
Gainmarra-Birralee Pre School	Clontarf Boys Academy	St Patrick's Primary School
	Bre Central School	

- Influenza and COVID 19 vaccination clinics

Brewarrina Central School	Community members	BAMS Staff
Orana Haven	Weilmoringle	

### Regional Meetings:

Regional Eye Health Partnership	Suicide Prevention Advisory Group	Bila Muuji Aboriginal Health Service Inc.
Ear Health Advisory Committee	NIAA	RN on Country -UoN
Aboriginal Health Council	WLHD Partnership Planning	

### Local Representation:

Interagency Health Meetings	Ngemba Community Working Party	Suicide Prevention Network Initiative
Integrated Care Program	DV Youth Project	NAIDOC Week Celebrations
Tenant Support Family Fun Day	ANZAC March	Remembrance Day
	Local Emergency Management Meetings	

### WAMS

Board of Directors Meetings and AGM	CQI Meetings	Healthy 4 Life Regional Meetings
Managers Meeting	WHS Meetings	Transport meetings
Respiratory Clinic	RN on Country	Local Emergency Management Meetings

### Conferences / Forums Attended

AHMRC AGM	NACCHO AGM	RDN Forum
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### Health Promotion

Health Checks	Covid 19 Awareness	Wellness Packs delivery
School Flu Vaccine Clinic	Food parcel delivery	Child Wellbeing Packs
Mental Health Day	Community Wellbeing Event	RUOK Day
White Ribbon Day	Women's Health Awareness	Diabetes Week





**Aboriginal Outreach Program** provides an avenue to promote better health and to advocate on clients behalf to access healthcare assistance.

- Nekaya Anderson Aboriginal Outreach Worker / Admin support

**General Practitioner Clinic** provides a Locum GP service 5 days a week to enabled people to access a doctor in a timely manner and receive referrals to specialists, medical or surgical treatment and allied health care as required. The visiting GP's also assist with monitoring managing the Primary Health Care and Chronic Disease needs of clients.

- Bernadette Hertslet Endorsed Enrolled Nurse
- Joseph Gordon Aboriginal Health Worker

**Healthy for Life Program** provides primary health care services to the Brewarrina and surrounding communities including Weilmoringle and Orana Haven Drug & Alcohol Rehabilitation Centre. This team provides the planning and implementation of Health Assessments for individuals and assist clients to access the Chronic Disease Programs such as 'Too deadly for diabetes' and exercise / nutrition programs. Health promotion education and awareness events are also coordinated by the healthy for life team.

- Dee Anna Nixon Endorsed Enrolled Nurse
- Annie Deane Exercise Therapist
- Gemma Roper Dietitian

**SEWB / Suicide Prevention Program** provides visiting Psychologists who offers culturally appropriate approaches and therapeutic intervention to healing that are strength-based and empowering. A SEWB support worker and Community Development worker also provided ongoing support and education for community members.

- Megan Kelly Community Development Worker – Suicide Prevention
- Will Grech Psychologist
- Fran Read Psychologist

**Drug & Alcohol Counsellor** visits from WAMS and provides services to Brewarrina, which includes individual assessment, counselling, education sessions and health promotion activities.

- Reg Rutene Murdi Paaki Drug and Alcohol Network Coordinator

**Auxiliary Staff** ensure the BAMS grounds and premises are well maintained and presented in an inviting and clean manner.

- Chris Boney Gardener/Maintenance
- Rebekkah Gordon Cleaner
- Noelene Murphy Cleaner

### **Staff Personal Development:**

- Katrina Ward – CPR
- Bernadette Hertslet – CPR
- Dee Anna Nixon – First Aid / CPR
- Joseph Gordon – First Aid / CPR
- Ingrid Beetson – First Aid / CPR
- Megan Kelly – CPR
- Chris Boney – CPR



### Summary:

The BAMS team provides culturally appropriate health services for the Brewarrina community and work in partnership with the local VMO Doctors surgery, Local Health Service, Primary Health Network and other health related organisations. Many of the visiting Allied Health services were interrupted due to NSW Health guidelines relating to reducing the spread of the Covid 19 virus that had the potential to be devastating to the health of the local community. Fortunately no cases of the deadly virus were evident during the reporting period and BAMS staff continue to provide the screening process which assists in monitoring the development of potential cases. Coordination of several immunisation clinics were implemented to increase the uptake of the influenza and Covid 19 vaccinations from March 2021. The Covid 19 pandemic also saw the need to adapt practice standards to abide by NSW Health restrictions and guidelines. Staff were flexible in adopting pre-screening measures, promoting social distancing, deep cleaning and frequent use of hand washing and/or the use of hand sanitizer, all of which are becoming accepted as common practice.

The GP clinic located within BAMS continues to provide quality medical service and primary health care management through engagement of Locum GP's 5 days a week. The ongoing effects of the Covid 19 virus impacted the ability to source locum GP's as border closures reduced the availability of the 'regular locum pool' which has previously supplied GP services to BAMS. BAMS staff and the community members became innovative and adapted to utilising technology via telehealth services when practical. Through being flexible in providing a complete and professional service, clients not only continued to receive comprehensive medical intervention and monitoring managed and improve overall health outcomes. The visiting GP's work closely with the Healthy for Life team who consciously coordinate adult and child health checks, which continues to be a beneficial tool in identifying and monitoring chronic disease throughout the Brewarrina and Outreach communities. Despite interruptions contributed from the Covid 19 pandemic BAMS staff were able to increase Medicare revenue through ensuring clients were consciously followed up to received GP Management Plans and be recalled for 3 monthly medical reviews.

The team from Brien Holden Vision Institute continues to support BAMS in providing expert Optometry services, where access to substantial equipment allows for the Optometry teams to deliver a high standard of care to individual clients, as well as providing follow up treatments and procedures, including fitting of spectacles and retinal photography to monitor degenerative changes of an individual's vision. Other visiting Allied Health Services who frequent BAMS include Psychology intervention, Ear Nose and Throat Specialist, Drug and Alcohol Counselling, Podiatry, Women's Health and Sexual Health clinics. Unfortunately, the latter half of the reporting period saw visiting and Allied Health services disrupted and impacted through Covid 19 restrictions and precautions, forcing many of scheduled clinics to be cancelled or provided via telehealth where possible.

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The inability for clinicians and health professionals to travel and community LEMC plans restricting access to remote communities saw many clinics cancelled for several months. Where possible telehealth services were substituted to provide a service and BAMS staff maintained physical contact with community members where able. Community spirit and wellbeing was improved through the distribution of welfare packs, children's activity packs and food parcels during the heightened period of restrictions and lockdown.

I would like to wholeheartedly thank and congratulate the dedicated staff at BAMS for their ongoing diligence and commitment to ensuring the best possible health care was maintained during very challenging times. The BAMS team often provided ongoing services outside their job descriptions and whilst extremely short staffed. Sincere thanks is also extended to the WAMS CEO, WAMS Staff and the WAMS Directors for their continued support offered in my position as BAMS Manager and at times as the Acting CEO. I look forward continuing to guide quality primary health care services to members of the Brewarrina and surrounding communities as well as consolidating ongoing professional support and mentoring to the WAMS / BAMS teams.

**KATRINA WARD**

**BAMS MANAGER / WAMS Acting CEO**



*Celebrating over 35 years of Service since 1986*

Funded by: Federal Dept of Social Services – National Indigenous Australians Agency  
NSW Health – Rural Doctors Network – Western NSW Primary Health Network



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**CHILDREN'S  
SERVICES**



## GOONIMOO MOBILE CHILDRENS SERVICE REPORT JULY 2020 TO JUNE 2021

### Introduction

Goonimoo Mobile Children's service provides a Playgroup visiting small rural towns and isolated communities within the Walgett Shire. The program provides an Early Childhood Educational program in areas where access to other services is limited. Playgroup sessions foster a play-based learning approach to build on Early Childhood Education and learning as well as role-modelling positive play techniques for children 0-5 years.

Staff at Goonimoo also deliver a Child Injury Prevention Program that continued to be a part of Goonimoo's services throughout the reporting period. The project involved a community-led child injury prevention program in partnership between the Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Ltd (WAMS), the Dharriwaa Elders Group, Walgett (DEG), the University of New South Wales (UNSW), Kidsafe NSW and the University of Wollongong. The CHIPP program offered families with access and support to a variety of home safety resources, Water Safety Awareness activities and road safety information that included approved Car Restraints that were professionally fitted for playgroup participants.

During the commencement of this reporting period all Goonimoo's face-to-face services were impacted by the COVID 19 Pandemic that resulted in closure for the months of July – August 2020, with a partial return of services from September to December 2020 as school entry for Playgroup continued to be closed for the remaining of 2020 that included Walgett and Collarenebri Schools.

In absence of face-to-face services Goonimoo developed 'At Home Learning packs' for families that were enrolled in Playgroup. These activities were delivered to families via postal and contactless home visits.

These activities were designed to meet Goonimoo's Funding KPIs and outcomes of assisting families with activities to role model Play, focusing on School readiness as well as promoting activities for parents/carers and children to engage together to promote positive nurturing relationships.

During 2021 Goonimoo re-commenced all playgroups with ongoing visits to Collarenebri, Carinda and Walgett groups and also moved into the new development at WAMS with a purpose built Centre for the delivery of Playgroup that officially celebrated it's open day on May 31<sup>st</sup> 2021 with a successful outcome with participation from the local community and schools and ongoing attendance at weekly Playgroup sessions.

### Funding for the programs is received from two (2) sources:

- NIAA - Locational Supported Playgroup
- UNSW - The Australian Prevention Partnership Centre

### Play sessions conducted at the following venues

- Collarenebri Preschool
- Collarenebri Central School
- Carinda Hall
- Euragai Goondi/ Goonimoo Centre

### WAMS Referral Services accessed

- Midwifery supporting Mums with antenatal appointments during play sessions
- Social and Emotional Wellbeing Program team for family support and positive behaviour techniques



- New Directions Mums and Bubs Nurse Children's Immunisation and check ups
- Healthy for Life team, Children's Health Checks
- Eye Health Referrals
- Oral Health – Dental team, Dental therapist – Information and check ups
- COVID Vaccination Clinic
- Allied Health Professionals Speech and Occupational Therapy.

## Referrals

- Goonimoo continues to receive referrals through its links to programs within WAMS as well as referred to playgroup from other organisations within the community.

## Staffing

### **Children's Services Manager**

Amy Townsend

### **Early Childhood Educators**

Tara Smith

Cloe Dowell

## Community Development Activities

35 Years WAMS celebrations	Goonimoo Open Day
New Expansion Open Day	<u>Dental staff visit – Dental Health</u>
Language introduction to WAMS buildings	Christmas activities (Including Christmas Art and Craft, and Christmas photo sessions with Top Wire Photography)
Walgett Show Art & Craft Entries	Educators Day
Grandparents recognition day	Child Injury Prevention Awareness activities and resources via social Media
Reconciliation Week	Sorry Day
National Aboriginal Islander Children's Day	At home learning activities
Assisting community with drought relief activities	Assistance supporting COVID-19 Care packs
Child Injury Prevention Car Restraint checking Day	Indigenous Literacy Day
Painting of the Dhinawan Family Mural	

## Professional Development

- First Aid for Early Childhood Education and Care and CPR update
- Early Childhood Oral health e training
- 123 Magic Training Emotional Coaching
- Child Restraint Fitter training
- WH&S Manual Handling In Service
- Gamilaraay Language Cert 1
- Ongoing AMSED training
- Manager completing training in Leadership and Management



## Conclusion

Goonimoo has successfully delivered play sessions across the communities visited with additional services being offered to support families to give children a good start in life through improved early childhood development, care, education and school readiness that support children with successful transitions to school.

Given the operational circumstances during COVID-19 Goonimoo staff continued to reach out and support families during the trying times of despair where families were in isolation and battling with the changes and the lack of community connectedness.

Goonimoo were also fortunate that this provided opportunities for new families that connected with the Playgroup service and received additional support.

The feedback from children and families has been very positive therefore this has led Goonimoo to continue in building up its relationships with families and welcoming more and more families each year.

The team look forward to continuing to build strong community relationships with children, families and community members in promoting the importance of Early Childhood Education through a play-based approach and providing many resources and services that support families with Child Injury Prevention.

## **AMY TOWNSEND CHILDREN'S SERVICES MANAGER**





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**CHRONIC  
DISEASE**



## CHRONIC DISEASE TEAM REPORT JULY 2020 TO JUNE 2021

### Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic has once again affected our overall operations of WAMS. Visiting personnel were limited in attending our town due to restrictions. Consequently the health care of our clients has been severely hampered. We have concerns about their lack of ongoing treatment in these times. During this reporting period, there was considerable absence of services both acute and secondary levels of care.

On a lighter note, I was pleased to assist with the emceeding of the opening of our expansions on the corners of Pitt and Wee Waa Streets with a long standing employee of WAMS, Philip Dowse. Such growth in WAMS, allows our clients and community member to receive additional primary health care.

### Doctors

Where possible, locums offered care and treatment of patients. Alternatively, during restrictions, telehealth was supplemented. Although not ideal, using such technology, assisted in ensuring clients received regular and frequent check-ups.

### Transport

Local transport was offered to clients, adhering to the social distancing rules in vehicles. Some out-of-town appointments were re-scheduled on various occasions, due to specialist care being reduced.

### Programs

**HEALTHY FOR LIFE PROGRAM** delivers customised personal care for clients covering nutrition, exercise and social support. Regular program at the Dharriwaa Elders Group also offered a range of activities pertaining to the needs of the members both clinically and in a communal setting.

**FAMILY CENTERED PRIMARY HEALTH CARE PROGRAM** delivers a GP and Chronic Disease Outreach service to the Goodooga and Pilliga communities. This service is supported by Visiting General Practitioners, nurses and health workers and is able to treat acute illnesses, assist in the management chronic illness, perform health assessments, and provides individual care planning for patients.

**DRUG AND ALCOHOL PROGRAM** Coordinator provides individual assessment, counselling, education sessions and health promotion activities.

**SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL WELLBEING PROGRAM (SEWB)** offers a Psychologist who culturally appropriate approaches to healing that are strength-based and empowering.

**DIETETIC AND EXERCISE PROGRAM** continues with twice weekly exercise groups for the community. They provide assessment and supervision for individuals with, or at risk of chronic disease and are available via GP referral. The team run a School Program, offering the use of the Exercise Therapy Room to School students with special needs requiring additional support to improve their exercise and wellbeing. The team also delivers an exercise program every fortnight at Orana Haven.



A regular Walking Group has been established and is open to anyone who would like to participate. Weekly yoga sessions are also conducted for health and well-being and these are currently held in the New Development's Exercise Therapy Room. Over the warmer months the Community was able to participate in a Water Exercise Program, conducted at the local Pool. The Cardiac Rehabilitation Program continues to grow. This is an important program within the Chronic Disease team, now comprising two classes due to growth of numbers. A falls prevention program encompassing balance and strength based exercises for at risk individuals was introduced this reporting period.

Cooking programs are also run in six week blocks, linking in with MacKillop Community Services. The program centres around fresh, seasonal and affordable healthy family meals taught to individuals to give them greater confidence in cooking within the family home.

Community Gardens offers fresh seasonal vegetables and fruit to the most at need members of the community. Boxed deliveries were made on a weekly basis to twenty family homes and were supplemented by the Community Gardens produce. Community groups and members are also encouraged to visit and spend time in the gardens.

**ABORIGINAL FAMILY HEALTH** Worker works collaboratively with local organisations to promote awareness of the impact of family violence on individuals, families and the community. The role also offers support and advocacy for those affected in addressing their health and legal needs.

**ABORIGINAL OUTREACH WORKER (AOW)** works independently in the community working alongside other WAMS services. The role includes encouraging and assisting clients to access WAMS and other Health Services and supporting the work of these services by providing home visits and transport. Client and family education is an integral part of the AOW role in regards to reasons for appointments.

**MEDICAL STUDENTS** Students are given a broad range of experiences as they are rotated through the numerous services at WAMS however, the visits were impacted by COVID-19 and were limited.

### Visiting Specialists

Delivered when COVID restrictions were eased;

Dermatologist	Pediatrician	Podiatrist	Diabetes Educator
Optometrist	Physiotherapist	Occupational Therapist	Cardiologist
Speech Therapist	Ultrasound	Dietitian	

### Telehealth Clinics

Endocrinology Clinic      Cardiology – conducted by telehealth (due to COVID-19)

### Other Clinics

Sleep Apnoea Clinic      Chronic Disease GP

### Community Participation and Health Promotion Events

RU OK Day	ANZAC	NAIDOC	Australia Day
Child Care Restraint Information and Inspection Day	FPNSW Cervical Screening	International Children's Day	International Women's Day

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Breakfast Club	Beat the Heat	Food safety for vulnerable people	Council events
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## **Health Check Programs**

School- St Josephs	School – Primary campus	School – Secondary campus	Women's and Men's
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## **Meetings – Internal**

CD staff/daily (COVID 19)	Managers/fortnightly (COVID 19)
All Staff/monthly	WH&S/bi-monthly

## **Meetings – external**

Suicide Prevention	Family Planning NSW	Interagency	LEMC
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## **Staffing – current**

Annie Deane	Exercise Therapist
Danielle Fletcher	Dual Qualified Dietitian/Exercise Scientist/Acting CDM (on leave)
Will Grech	Psychologist
Jenny Hunt	Aboriginal Health Worker Eye Health
Nichole Kennedy	Aboriginal Outreach Worker
Carl Mason	Public Health Worker
Whitney Skuthorpe	Aboriginal Family Health worker (acting CDM)
Marissa Walford	transferred from FCPHC AHW to AHW D & A
Loretta Weatherall	AHW Healthy for Life

## **Staffing - departures**

Wayne Beddall as Healthy for Life Regional Coordinator /Acting CDM. Beau Williams was appointed in the Healthy for Life Regional Coordinator role, with his home base at Brewarrina.

## **Conclusion**

With the unpredictable restrictions due to the pandemic, we have attempted to offer a comprehensive level of care to our clients. There was an increase in personal contact, either by phone, or by conversing from a social distance at people's residences. Staff demonstrated care and concern for clients and community members to ensure they had PPE as well as understanding the government regulations.

Finally, the opening of the new expansions as well as celebrating thirty five years of operations is a memorable occasion for all. I thank the Directors and staff who have contributed to the development of WAMS as they reach these milestones. I am also very grateful to have received the challenge and experience as Acting Chronic Disease Manager for a lengthy period of this financial year.

## **WHITNEY SKUTHORPE** **ACTING CHRONIC DISEASE MANAGER**



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**CLINIC**



## CLINIC REPORT JULY 2020 TO JUNE 2021

### Introduction

The Clinic provides primary health, chronic disease management, dental, antenatal and postnatal care and ongoing care for mothers and babies via a multidisciplinary team, contractors and locums.

### Doctors

Dr Keith Gleeson was recruited as Senior Medical Officer. He resigned in August, 2020 and Dr Deborah Hough then accepted the role. The permanent GP's have also been supported by a pool of regular locum GP's.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent travel restrictions has resulted in some of these regular locum GP's being unable to attend WAMS from interstate or known hotspots which has put pressure on the remaining GP's and the locum recruitment agencies to find suitable replacements. Many community members commenced teleconsultations with GP's as a way of reducing the risk of contracting COVID-19 if they were to come into the clinic.

### Pharmacy

The Unit is managed by the Senior Aboriginal Health Worker (SAHW). Any staff member who assists in the dispensing of medications must have achieved their Dispensary Assistant Certificate III through the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

Plans are being made to ensure more staff become qualified to assist with dispensary, however finding a somewhere for staff to undertake this training is proving difficult as the Walgett Pharmacy has not provided this service for some time. We are sourcing options.

### Transport

The team assists clients to attend out-of-town specialist appointments as far as Orange or Tamworth when clients are unable to transport themselves. Local transport ensures clients can attend appointments with any of WAMS services. By providing this service, WAMS is able to increase the accessibility of medical care for its clients.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, out-of-town transport was ceased in an endeavour to keep our staff and community safe. Emergency local transport has been maintained throughout the pandemic with risk assessments completed by the Senior Medical Officer.

The transport team teamed up with Walgett Pharmacy to deliver their blister packs to the community to reduce the amount of people having to leave their homes and therefore reducing the risk of exposure to COVID-19.

### Clinic

The SAHW works with the Clinic Nurse to provide pathology collection, wound care, triage and physical observations for clients before they see the doctor. Our long-term Clinic



Registered nurse left WAMS October, 2020 due to border closures. However, WAMS was able to recruit Registered nurses via RAHC for the COVID workforce.

WAMS clinic underwent its three yearly accreditation in October 2019 through Quality Practice Accreditation (QPA) to which it passed with no non-conformities and will undergo its next accreditation in October, 2022.

Clinic processes were changed significantly from March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and continued throughout this financial year. This included screening patients over the phone when they were booking appointments, screening patients at the front door prior to entering the building, and setting up increased infection control procedures to deal with potentially infectious patients. The clinic commenced closing its doors at 4.00pm to allow time for extra and thorough cleaning to be completed at the end of each day.

WAMS ran a GENEX Respiratory COVID-19 testing clinic at 55 Fox Street until the end of March 2021 as a walk in clinic for anyone that had symptoms of COVID-19 and enabled a quick result. This proved very successful for early detection and for people travelling through our Community to prevent the spread of COVID-19. From March 2021 this clinic was moved to our Pitt Street clinic after the New Development allowed the required area in the Clinic.

## New Development

In March 2021 the roll out of the COVID-19 vaccinations and the Flu vaccinations all took place in the Consult rooms in the New Development. This continued into the next financial year.

## Midwifery – Aboriginal Maternal Infant Health Services (AMIHS)

The Community Midwife and Aboriginal Health Worker provide antenatal and postnatal care at home and at the clinic. The team consult with the Dubbo Obstetric Department or chosen place of birth, as well as work with GP's in a shared care arrangement.

This service was also severely affected due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and was reduced to only providing emergency transport. The AMIHS team moved to the New Development in March 2021 which has provided pregnant women and their babies reduced risk of COVID-19 and more privacy.

## Collarenebri

The Aboriginal Health Worker (AHW) works in Collarenebri four days a week, and in Walgett the other day. The AHW assists with healthcare within the MPS and Doctors Surgery in Collarenebri in a partnership arrangement. They also coordinate multiple visiting services and liaises with the schools to ensure appropriate screening and treatment is carried out at the preschool, primary and high schools.

The AHW is also very involved with many community events within Collarenebri promoting WAMS services. During the pandemic, the AHW did not come to Walgett for their one day a week to ensure that the Collarenebri team had adequate staffing to assist in keeping the community as safe as possible.



## Mothers & Babies

WAMS recruited a Child Family Health Nurse in August 2019 on a permanent part-time basis providing developmental milestone assessments, education, breastfeeding support, and immunisations to children aged 5 and under, and support to mothers/carers. They also coordinated the 2021 influenza vaccination program.

The CFHN provides outreach to Collarenebri, Goodooga and the Walgett MPS. Along with all of this the CFHN together with available GP's, provided the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccinations from March 2021 including all the outreach areas.

## Students

2020-2021 placements were put on hold due to COVID-19.

## Meetings – internal

Staff meetings	Clinic meetings	Quality Meetings
Dental Meetings	Supervision	WH&S
Case Conferencing	Planning meetings for local events at WAMS	Senior Personnel meetings
Medical student presentations		Transport Team meetings

## Meetings – external

Ministers	Walgett MPS	Community Care Collarenebri
Local leadership group	PHN	AHMRC
Out of Home Care	Funding Bodies	Cancer Council
Integrated Care Strategy	Child Protection/case conferencing	RDN
LEMC		

## Activities conducted

The activities that we normally would have conducted throughout the year were all cancelled due to COVID-19.

## Issues that have impacted on service delivery

The COVID-19 pandemic has been the most significant challenge that WAMS and any health service has ever faced. Staff and services have had to pull together to get through such a challenging time.

Due to travel restrictions, social distancing measures and community safety, contractors have been unable to visit, transport has been unable to be provided, and services have been unable to operate.

Telehealth and phone/video conferencing became the new norm, and we have become very reliant of this technology which does pose its own challenges for clients and staff.



Despite having emergency supplies of PPE as part of WAMS' pandemic kit, this continued and was not adequate to deal with the demand required given the frequency of use and national shortage of PPE. This all proved a challenge to ensure that we were providing safe and effective care, whilst still being mindful that PPE was in short supply. We did receive numerous donations of PPE when it was in such short supply nationwide together with being able to source extra supplies which ensured WAMS had sufficient supplies.

Some of the clients are regularly being serviced by locums, which is not ideal for the continuity of care. However we have been fortunate to have had one permanent GP for the whole year and 2 GP's in the first quarter of the year. This has made a significant difference.

## Professional Development

An internal in-service calendar is an opportunity for staff to be updated with information on the latest medical, health and social related issues pertaining to their work roles.

Nursing and AHW staff obtained more support and training in the chronic disease management field to assist GP's with management plans.

Staff undertaking their Cert IV in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care which is required to keep up their clinical skills by rotating through the clinic and mentored by nurses.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us how important it is to maintain infection control standards and therefore all staff need to be vigilant in ensuring they keep up to date with infection control training. Due to the demand for GENEX and COVID-19 testing all AHW's and various other staff were trained online to obtain these skills which was overseen by the Senior Medical Officer. This enabled continuity of the service.

## Staffing during the reporting period

- Dr Keith Gleeson Senior Medical Officer (ceased August, 2020)
- Dr Deborah Hough General Practitioner then Senior Medical Officer
- Jacqui Burke Clinic Practice Manager (ceased March, 2021)
- Phillip Dowse Senior Aboriginal Health Worker/Acting CPM
- Sonia Blair Registered Nurse – Clinic (ceased October, 2020)
- Kayla Thurston Team Leader – Dental Team Leader
- Sarah Dowse Dental Assistant
- Gail Kennedy Casual Dental Assistant
- Lynne Turner Dental Therapist
- Ashraf Nesirwan Oral Health Therapist
- Sue Jenkins Collarenebri Aboriginal Health Worker
- Arthur Murray Transport driver
- Richard Sharpley Transport Team Leader
- Deborah Russell Transport Driver (ceased October, 2020) - Casual
- Kylee Tuhura Administration



- Emily Pitt Casual Receptionist (ceased October, 2020)
- Elisabeth Ineke Midwife AMIHS
- Selene Dennis AHW
- Cody Hatch NDMB Health Worker (ceased November, 2020)
- Belinda Woodham NDMB Register Nurse

## Meetings

There have been many opportunities to work with local, regional and state-wide stakeholders during the year resulting in great relationships, additions to funding and an understanding of the complexities of the Aboriginal health sector. However, a lot of which had to be held via Zoom.

The COVID-19 pandemic required numerous local meetings of the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) to develop a Local Pandemic Plan and ensure that all local services were providing services in a consistent and safe manner to protect our community.

## Acknowledgement

I would like to acknowledge the staff in the Clinic who have been a pleasure to work with. I have received multiple compliments from clients and health professionals alike regarding the care/service they receive. This comes down to the dedication of the staff to perform their duties in a professional manner.

Everyone is willing to step in and help each other out as necessary. Without the staff, we would not be able to provide the quality and quantity of services required to meet the local need and the staff should be acknowledged for this.

**PHILIP DOWSE**  
**ACTING CLINIC PRACTICE MANAGER**



*Health is Life is Health*

# **ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM**



## REPORT ON ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM JULY 2020 TO JUNE 2021

### Aims of WAMS Dental Program

- To provide a culturally appropriate mix of dental health services to Aboriginal people who live in Walgett and surrounding areas
- To improve access to dental services for clients of WAMS
- To build an effective Dental workforce at WAMS
- To Work effectively with local partners in the provision of dental care

### Activities

#### Impact of COVID-19

WAMS has continued to provide oral health services to the people of Walgett and surrounding areas. It provides dental care to Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

The situation since March 2020 has been very challenging due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The dental clinic has been closed for several weeks at time, with dental staff redeployed in other programs at WAMS where necessary.

WAMS Dental Consultant provided regular updates for dental management during COVID times including patient and clinic management, and relevant infection control practices. WAMS Dental Consultant attended regular Community of Practice meetings established by NSW Health, and accessed pertinent webinars and information provided by the Australian Dental Association (ADA), as well as researching published literature.

As restrictions eased, the dental clinic was open again in July, practising with necessary risk management and enhanced protocols according to NSW Health and ADA Guidelines.

During this financial year, WAMS engaged the following dentists for a total of 14 weeks:

Dr Michael Prochazka	6-17 July, 2-3 Nov, 30 Nov-11 Dec, 18-20 Jan, 8-12 March, 17-21 May,
Dr Mark Sturman	3-14 August, 31 Aug-4 September
Dr Luciano Mink	19-23 April, 3-7 May, 31 May-11 June

WAMS employs an Oral Health Therapist on a part time basis to provide ongoing care and preventive advice to children and their families. Mr Ashraf Nesirwan works at WAMS 3 days per month, however this schedule was also disrupted due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the fact that he is based in Queensland, where border closures have disrupted many visiting services.

Mr Ashraf Nesirwan 27-29 July, 23-25 Nov, 14-16 Dec, 22-24 March

WAMS engages the services of Mr Alex de Matos a Dental Prosthetist on a sessional basis to provide dentures to people on the waiting list. In total Alex provided 3 days per week for 5 weeks.

Mr Alex de Matos 22-24 March, 26-28 April, 24-26 May

WAMS is very appreciative to these dental professionals for their commitment to our dental program, particularly during these trying times, and their enthusiasm for the organisation and



the community. We now have a combined dental team that can provide the best care for the various groups, i.e for children, denture needs, and general dentistry.

We are most grateful to Ms Jenni Floyd, Area Program Manager for Oral Health, Western NSW Local Health District, and to the staff at the Dubbo Community Dental Clinic, who have supported WAMS through funding and staff support.

Recruitment of Dental professionals in rural and remote areas is a national problem, and WAMS continues to be supported by a group of interested Dental professionals who are willing to commit to regular visits to Walgett. WAMS also utilises other avenues of recruitment support such as linking in to professional networks to expand the pool of available and appropriate dental practitioners.

## Performance Measures

The following services were provided by Dentists

Service type	No. provided	No. patients	Service type	No. provided	No. patients
Examinations / Diagnostics incl Radiographs	219	141	Preventive	159	145
Periodontal Treatments	60	59	Tooth Extractions	150	109
Restorations	229	176	Endodontic	8	8
Dentures	11	8	Medications	72	64

The following services by the Oral Health Therapist

Service type	No. provided	No. patients	Service type	No. provided	No. patients
Examinations / Diagnostics incl radiographs	184	163	Preventive	289	172
Restorations	63	38	Tooth Extractions	19	13
Endodontic	1	1			

Dental practitioners endeavour to practise preventive care and try to restore teeth rather than extracting them. However, the history of dental care seeking behaviour is weighted heavily towards relief of pain and associated tooth extraction/s.

The following services by the Dental Prosthetist

Service type	No. provided	No. patients
Examinations / Diagnostics incl radiographs	2	2
Preventive --mouthguard	5	5
Prosthetic services		
- Complete upper denture	4	2
- Complete upper and lower denture	1	1
- Partial upper cast metal denture 2 teeth	1	1
- Partial upper cast metal denture 5-9 teeth	2	2



- Partial lower cast metal denture 4 teeth	1	1
- Partial lower cast metal denture 5-9 teeth	2	2
- Relining complete denture processed	4	3
- Replacing tooth on denture - per tooth	1	1

The preventive approach adopted for the child dental program is resulting in fewer extraction cases, with a greater emphasis on restoring and preserving teeth.

The Centre for Oral Health Strategy provides funding to WAMS, with the performance targets being 263 Dental Weighted Activity Units (DWAUs) for the 2020/21 financial year. The WAMS dental team achieved 237 DWAUs, in a year with reduced capacity to provide dental services due to the COVID pandemic.

### Dental Practice Accreditation

WAMS continues to comply with regulatory guidelines and quality improvement processes, and in line with enhanced practices during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### WAMS Child Dental Program

With the regular visits by WAMS Oral Health Therapists, WAMS can focus more on preventive programs for preschool and school aged children. WAMS dental team utilises the mobile dental drills to do simple techniques such as fluoride applications and decay treatments at the schools.

The activities include regular screening and prioritising for dental care, implementing a Fluoride varnish application program for under 5's at high risk of dental decay, and supporting school based toothbrushing programs, as well as working with young mothers and carers.

### School Tooth brushing Program

The school based tooth brushing program continues to run at the Koolyangarra and Birraleegal preschools, and at Walgett Community College Primary School. The school tooth brushing program is enthusiastically supported by the staff of the schools.

The Dental Team visits the schools regularly to monitor the program and provide ongoing support. Staff also visit preschools to work with staff and parents on improvement of oral health.

Some of these visits were disrupted due to school closures, and community transmission risks during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Oral Health Promotion Activities

Dental staff provided information about dental care and services at WAMS and distributed oral health care kits during NAIDOC week, at the Walgett Show, and at Grawin. They provided oral health sessions to mothers and babies groups, antenatal groups and playgroups, and Elders groups where they provided advice on oral hygiene and diet. The team is proactive with community education and acknowledge the importance of good oral hygiene messages 'getting out to the public'

### Medicare Child Dental Benefits Schedule (CDBS)

WAMS Dental continues to receive funding from the CDBS for eligible children - under the age of 18 and on Family Tax Benefit A, with an allocation of \$1000 per 2 calendar years for service item numbers.



## **Staff training and Support**

WAMS dental staff Kayla Thurston and Sarah Dowse are planning to enrol in the Certificate 4 in Dental Radiography at OTEN. In February the training team from the Dental Assistant Professional Association travelled from Sydney to provide the annual infection control update for the WAMS dental team.

WAMS dental staff continue to receive updated advice during the COVID-19 pandemic and have attended relevant in-service training programs.

## **Consultation and Co-operation**

The Dental Consultant continues to support the program in offering best practice dental care to the community serviced by WAMS. The Consultant works actively to recruit and support Dentists, support local staff, and ensure adherence to adequate practice management and reporting procedures. The Directors and staff are extremely grateful for the support the Consultant has provided to promote and recruit resources for the Dental Clinic.

The Western NSW Local Health District provides ongoing support for the WAMS dental program, and there are good referral procedures between WAMS and the Western NSW Local Health District dental clinics, for oral surgery and orthodontic cases.

## **Conclusion**

WAMS has provided dental care to Walgett and nearby communities, with an increasing emphasis on preventative dental care, and adherence to best practice clinical management, despite the challenges posed by the COVID pandemic.

Acknowledgment must be given to the local dental team in Walgett who continue to demonstrate professionalism and a commitment to best practice dental care.

**Dr SANDRA MEIHUBERS AM**  
**DENTAL CONSULTANT**



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**DHARRIWAA  
ELDERS GROUP**



Above: October 2020 DEG was joined by WAMS CEO to workshop with DEG's Yuwaya Ngarrali Research & Evaluation team and the Australian Bureau of Statistics how Walgett ACCOs can receive from the ABS the data we need to properly understand community needs and design new services.

## WAMS and DEG



Left: WAMS CEO Christine Corby OAM & Wendy Spencer DEG signed an MoU in October 2020. It formalises the close relationship between Walgett's 2 ACCOs.

Dharriwaa Elders Group began as a project of the Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service, drive by WAMS' founding Elders. In 2005 DEG incorporated. The 2 organisations work closely to advocate for services to meet the needs of Walgett's Aboriginal community.



Above right: In April and May 2021 DEG helped WAMS celebrate the opening of its new development hosting its gym, Goonimoo Early Childhood Centre, a large community Hall, consultation rooms and vaccination hub. DEG made a video of the occasion to celebrate this new achievement.

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Above: Dharriwaa Elders Group's Virginia Robinson and Lewis Beale were honoured to open the new Walgett IGA November 2020 with Di Kelly and manager Paresh Patel after joining WAMS to ensure IGA rebuilt after the fire. In the process DEG & Wams began planning with Paresh the "Healthy Supermarket" program for improved nutrition.

Right: 6 July 2020 DEG Speaker Clem Dodd with WAMS Chair Bill Kennedy met with Roy Butler MP and Mark Banasiak MLC to discuss Phase One WAMS Community Garden project – planned by DEG's Yuwaya Ngarrali partners at UNSW to rapidly expand water resilience & productivity of Walgett's Community Garden so that Walgett will no longer suffer the food insecurity of 2018, 2019. The expanded garden – achieved with funds from donors and the NSW Govt was launched Dec. 2020.



Walgett's Dharriwaa Elders Group with Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service and partners from The George Institute and Global Water Institute for Global Health successfully applied for a NH&MRC grant to "Co-create and evaluate sustainable community-led innovations to strengthen food & water security". This 5 year project began in 2021.



## Food & Water 4 Life

Right & below: scenes from December 2020 launch of Stage One water-efficient Community Garden.



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