

Memorandum of Understanding

ROYAL FAR WEST

and

WALGETT ABORIGINAL

MEDICAL SERVICE

The Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service (WAMS) and the Royal Far West (RFW) have entered into a Partnership to strengthen the capacity and resilience of the local community through the delivery of health and wellbeing services supporting the prevention, detection and treatment of children and families from the Walgett and surrounding Aboriginal communities.



Royal Far West's services are provided for children, 0 – 12 years of age, from rural, regional and remote NSW who cannot otherwise access these services.



A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), outlining the objectives of the Partnership, was signed on Monday, 10 November, 2014 at WAMS on the front lawn of 37 Pitt St.

The CEO of RFW, Ms Lindsay Cane, came to Walgett for the occasion, accompanied by Teresa Howarth, Stakeholder and Engagement Manager. Also from RFW were Gabby Phillips, Government Relations and Advocacy Coordinator and Ali White, Social Enterprises Project Coordinator. Member of the Board of Directors for RFW, Mrs Joan Treweek and her husband, Rory also attended.

During their visit, they developed a first hand understanding of the service WAMS provides and the needs of the local community and the benefits the MoU and Service Agreement will bring to the area.



A Significant Occasion

Local dignitaries included the Mayor of Walgett, Mr David Lane, Mr David Ralph from the Walgett Police Service, Mrs Helen Cooney, Principal of St Joseph's Catholic School, Mrs Jennifer Bird from the Walgett Community College, Mrs Anne Dennis, Mr Clem Dodd, Aunty Gladys and Wendy Spencer from the Dharriwah Elders Group, Mr Kevin Behm and three others from the Walgett Health Service and Mr Bill Kennedy, Chairperson of WAMS.

WAMS closed for the duration of the proceedings so all staff could attend the event.



Mr Dodd was asked to give the 'Welcome to Country' and students from St Joseph's Catholic School performed two traditional dances.

Mrs Christine Corby, OAM, CEO of WAMS officially began proceedings, thanking the visitors from the RFW, the local dignitaries and community members for coming along. Mrs Corby spoke of her delight in this partnership and her pride in the knowledge that WAMS had helped to bring this service to the children of Walgett before inviting Mrs Cane to say a few words. Mrs Cane, also spoke of her pleasure in the partnership and that she welcomed the relationship that would develop through the signing of the MoU. Mrs Cane thanked WAMS for the warmth that was shown to all the visitors from RFW by WAMS personnel before inviting all those present to take a walk through the RFW bus that was driven up for the day.

Morning tea of fresh scones, jam and cream, cakes and slices was provided by John McGovern with Café 64 making chicken and lamb salad wraps.

WAMS should be congratulated on bringing this partnership about, as it will benefit the children of Walgett in accessing care that was previously unavailable to them.