



WAMS

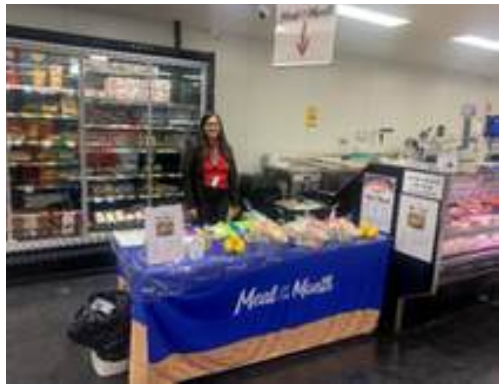
ANNUAL REPORT

2023 - 2024



*For the community,
By the community, since 1986*







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BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT JULY 2023 TO JUNE 2024

Introduction

For the WAMS Directors, local history has been the focus of business operations this year. The formal launch of the Freedom Ride Park in July, set the scene for this work. Three members of the 1965 students travelled to Walgett for the event and it was a memorable occasion for our community with the students sharing their recall of travelling across the country towns, speaking of unpleasant encounters and fielding lies told to their parents. Some of the students have continued to share with us their history as we develop our Freedom Ride website.

Living history is integral to the genetics of an individual and is immeasurable. Along with the introduction of the Freedom Ride website, Walgett's history is available at a "Walgett" site. The increase in the ability to showcase our Aboriginal identity on a social platform has allowed for culture and history to be made available for staff, for clients and for visitors.

In November, WAMS responded to invitations from local residents of Bowraville, Coffs Harbour, Moree and Kempsey to provide an overview of the work undertaken to design the Walgett Freedom Ride Memorial Park, disclosing how they obtained the historical content for both the ground display as well as the website. Having such support for Aboriginal history is worlds apart from the events of 1965 and those that predate, changing culture by sharing culture to preserve our history for emerging generations to be supported in knowing their identity, to honour their ancestors and continue traditions is invaluable.

The Walkway entered its second stage of installation with the roof and lighting being installed during May and June of this reporting period. There have been many delays experienced due to supply, weather and operations, it is difficult for companies outside of the township to maintain an appropriate timeline and commitment to the area. The aesthetic of the structure is harmonious to the surrounds with a lot of natural elements with the lighting creating an ethereal atmosphere at night, it is a very architectural installation reminiscent of larger city infrastructure housed in our rural setting.

Visitors to WAMS

We believe that by visiting our towns (short visits such as they are), experiencing our lifestyles and viewing the good work by local people, creates a visual understanding into a "window" of our "world" to Ministers, various dignitaries, people from other towns and countries, as well as funding agencies to better understand the needs of our communities.

Both the CEO and I had the pleasure of attending Government House to meet with the Governor, the Hon. Margaret Beazley and her husband Mr Dennis Wilson. As it was nearing Christmas, they offered a replica ornament of Government House as a memento of our visit. The Governor was also kind to arrange cuttings of her shrubs and plants for myself. We both have a love for gardening, and appreciate growing natives, that are original to our country and our climate.

The Premier of NSW, the Hon. Chris Minns and the Hon. Tara Moriarty, Minister for Agriculture, Minister for Regional New South Wales, and Minister for Western New South Wales visited Walgett on their travels across the region. During the extreme heat of December, the local PCYC was the venue for photo opportunities, and for agencies to introduce their businesses to them. Knowing that the next town on the agenda was Brewarrina, WAMS took the initiative and asked that they stop at the Freedom Ride Memorial Park to view local culture and living history. WAMS were appreciative of both the Premier and the Minister taking time to ask questions about Walgett's local association with the 1965 SAFA bus journey.



A regular visitor to Walgett and to WAMS is the Hon. Mark Coulton, MP and with his announcement of retirement, we wish to formally give appreciation for his advocacy on behalf of our businesses. His advocacy on behalf of our towns beyond Dubbo, has brought economic and social growth to many of our communities. WAMS appreciate the advocacy and support provided by him. Upon our visit to Parliament House to make representation for an innovative local-based training facility, to target people residing within close proximity to Walgett, to attend a local tertiary campus offering accredited vocational training in allied health and nursing – “opt in, opt out”.

Brad Wotton, Director of The Department of Community and Justice (DCJ), visited WAMS to discuss the DCJ Housing NSW Mobile Outreach Team attending the Walgett, Collarenebri and Lightning Ridge communities to deliver assistance with housing, supporting children and families and addressing domestic and family violence.

The Interim First Nations Aged Care Commissioner visited the WAMS team on 27th February 2024 to meet and consult regarding services, carers and older people about the newly established role and gain insight on First Nations aged care needs, challenges in the community and areas of support.

Partners of WAMS

Living and working in towns with limited services and resources can be challenging, having partners and networks are integral to sustaining businesses, families and individuals. Maintaining collaborative arrangements with local Police, Hospitals, Councils, schools, non-government agencies etc., provide collegiate connections both during work time as well as after-hours social acquaintances. Attending meetings pertinent to our health sector, i.e. AHMRC and NACCHO bear several purposes for the business, - e.g. being a participant of the audience, network with peers, staying updated on technology, health products and remain connected. Isolation in rural communities poses a risk and with the ability to connect across vast distances with technology allows our organisation and our staff to remain knowledgeable, create and maintain relationships, improve programs and service delivery.

Medical students from Western Sydney University (WSU) were once again welcomed for their annual placement. Whilst their tenure is to be in the company of doctors undertaking patient consultation, they are introduced to Aboriginal culture and social affairs while experiencing working with other staff in their program delivery and community interactions.

WAMS financed the teams of Walgett Junior Rugby League for their sports season. Recognising our younger generation, instilling that physical activity, sportsmanship and teamwork, is the core ingredient for their mental health and social growth. To experience playing at another town with players they mostly meet prior to running on the field is an “education” in sportsmanship, collaboration and the possibility of forging long term friendships outside of the levee. In this way they foster the ability to work with diverse people, break down borders, work as a team and learn to encourage each other, to strive for success and be gracious in defeat. These are lifelong skills.

WAMS membership to the Walgett Community Working Party (WCWP) has offered a platform for conversations with a variety of agencies wanting to work with local people at regional, state and national levels. A collective conversation has consolidated group concepts and objectives. To develop strategies that have positive results for our residents and for our future.

The connection of both Dharriwaa Elders Group committee and our Directors for governance relationship, community planning and advocacy has resulted in profiling Walgett's commitment to enhancing social development. The opportunity to have regular meetings and debrief over an informal setting has also allowed for social gathering creating deeper connections and inter-organisational relations which enhance program delivery to the Community.



In recognition of the Annual celebration of NAIDOC, WAMS sponsored entertainment for the local Ball led by the Walgett Local Aboriginal Lands Council. Roger Knox and his band have family connections and local friendships.

Quality

Accreditations involves aspects of governance, operations, service delivery and client care. In the fields of clinical care, oral health, children's services and the overall operations of governance, clients, workforce and stakeholder relations. For an Aboriginal organisation, cultural recognition and understanding is equal to such regulations. Gamilaraay cultural branding continues to expand. We have additional signage in language and English translations. Our ongoing task of naming people and positions within the walkway signage along with Braille wording will identify, as well as giving directions for people to enter the correct buildings for care.

Towards the end of the reporting period, WAMS were pleased to receive formal notification that they are registered as a service provider with the National Insurance Disability Scheme (NDIS). This will mean opportunities for clients to improve their access to the levels of health care for their medical conditions.

For the Australia Day event held in Walgett, WAMS made the decision to nominate people and events of significance for our town. For the nomination of Annie Deane (category – "Citizen of the Year") for her commitment and dedication in expanding the garden beds for not only clients, but also for future participation of local agencies and individuals. Secondly, the nomination of the Freedom Ride Park (category – "Community Event of the Year") for cultural significance and history. Lastly, the nomination of Rebecca Trindall for her participation with the local SES team during Walgett's floods. WAMS were proud to hear Rebecca's name called for "Volunteer of the Year".

Both Annie and Rebecca are committed in their work and dedicated to our community. Opals may dominate our Shire, but we also have our own "gems", should you look to the people. At the end of the proceedings, both the CEO and myself spoke in length to the newly-appointed General Manager of the Walgett Shire about our aspirations for working relationships with Council and also the future plans of WAMS services

We were also proud to nominate a staff member who has excelled in community development, client care and social awareness for such recognition. An additional highlight for the reporting period was Lou Brown's nomination at the AHMRC CQI Conference AHW for Emerging Talent Award. It is a point of pride to be a part of an organisation where the individual and the team are proud, not only of themselves but their work, and strive to improve to provide better service to the Community in which they work and live.

Quality in Culture

At the end of this reporting period, Directors and staff were welcomed by an urban AMS - Tharawal located at Campbelltown – to observe their overall operations, discover how they achieve a primary cultural focus in their program delivery to the community. Their hospitality and generosity added to the quality experience, which will remain a positive corporate historical recall that we will impart unto others. We have framed mementoes taking pride of place in the premises as a reminder of our time with our "city" colleagues. WAMS are exploring the design of the very unique Memorandum of Understanding that they have with their local Health District.

John Lane and Beth Wright returned to WAMS to provide a Cultural Inservice to our staff, as always, they delivered a memorable and interactive experience much enjoyed by new team members and existing team members alike. The raptured silences, the moments of laughter and interactions were poignant, there was plenty of positive feedback with staff eager for their return. Cultural immersion and education enable our staff to understand the identity of our town, our history, our culture and mannerisms, this understanding builds upon the ability to create connections with Community and improve quality interactions.

Staff and students from Narrabri High school visited in March. The Culture and History Coordinator and I hosted their visit. The design of the facility allowed students to view the 1965 history, learn of local connections and their



leadership for human rights and social equality. The visit of Year 12 Students was an opportunity to see the many career choices that are possible in Health and specifically at WAMS. The tour and information session gave the students to view different health career pathways that are possible in their own and surrounding communities.

In May, students from the local secondary school participated in a program which involved understanding the use of traditional plants and herbs for medicinal treatment and human consumption. The plants were purchased from the Linwood Nursery, Burren Junction. Thank you to Luke Farr for his expertise and willingness to share his knowledge, ensuring current and future generations continue to benefit from his knowledge. The Culture and History Coordinator, myself and Doreen Peters from WCC was our WAMS and WCC lead for the endeavour.

The Australian Historical Association (AHA) celebrated its 50th anniversary with a conference held in Melbourne from July 3 to July 6, 2023, hosted at the Australian Catholic University Melbourne Campus where myself, the CEO, Johanna Perheentupa, lecturer in Indigenous Studies at UNSW, Ngemba Dr Laurence Crawford, and Amy Townsend then the Project Officer University of NSW, were invited to UNSW to present on the research works around the cultural and social significance of the 1965 Freedom Ride.

The AHA conference theme, "Milestones," provided a platform to reflect on past achievements, evaluate the role of historical knowledge and education in modern society, and speculate on future directions in the field of history. WAMS presented a paper on the Freedom Ride, aiming to raise awareness about the project and potentially generate additional insights from the academic community. Updates were provided on progress regarding the design of a local Memorial Park in Walgett and the development of a website. During the Conference WAMS representatives had the opportunity to connect with Gamilaraay women, Professor Heidi Norman, who delivered a keynote speech, and met with Heather Goodall, who has been actively involved in Walgett since the 1970s and known for her significant work such as "Invasion to Embassy," focusing on Aboriginal and environmental history as well as inter-colonial networks in the Brewarrina, Collarenebri and Walgett regions.

Further research was conducted at the State Archives. We reminisced reading "the Dawn" and the "New Dawn" magazine. The publications also contained articles about the conditions and events on reserves, stations, homes and schools throughout New South Wales, as well as highlights from the work of the Aboriginal Welfare Board.

Whilst visiting museums, archives and libraries for research of the Freedom Ride project, there was an opportunity to view a part of Walgett's history at the State Library of NSW. The NSW Annual Rugby League Knockout has been running for over 50 years. Walgett people as well as people in our service area have been players, committee members and committed supporters. Walking through the exhibition, recalling the games and viewing the names of those who believed in the concept, a "modern day" corroboree was another memory of local culture, living history. As part of the "comments" box, we asked for the exhibition to visit Walgett. An opportunity for our communities to share in the memories of an era of country people dominating the NRL scene to this day.

WAMS are working with Michael Bennett for the archival recordings of both the Freedom Ride website as well as the forty (40) year's celebrations of 2026. Interviews are being conducted for the two events which we will upload to each respective website upon culmination.

Quality in Governance

At the Annual General meeting, Mrs. Mary Purse was re-appointed as Chairperson. Directors Mrs. Jenny Trindall, Ms. Carol Janissen and Ms. Doreen Peters were re-appointed. Ms Rhonda Ashby was welcomed as a first-time Director. It is with gratitude and appreciation that we recognize the long service of Director, Ms. Iris Hall. Her wisdom, humor and generosity will be fondly remembered.

Auditing firm, Crowe, have expanded their work by introducing KPMG for additional financial support as well as workforce recruitment. Both organisations collaborate to assist WAMS to continuously improve processes.



The WAMS Strategic Plan is completed for publication. Copies were forwarded to funding agencies and relevant parties. A copy is available for public viewing on our website. The key indicators identified are;

- Lead with culture and strengthen partnerships
- Promote health outcomes in our community
- Empower and engage the workforce
- Continue to improve our organisational performance
- Achieve financial stability

These values are embedded across our operations and in the way we deliver services to the community. Additional plans are designed in the fields of Human Resources and Business. Initial planning has commenced to emphasise the first key indicator. An overarching Plan and Policy “Intellectual Property” (IP) and “Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property” (ICIP). The IP and ICIP are being developed in collaboration with TJC, with many thanks to Frank Wright who was able to provide his knowledge to assist WAMS in this endeavour.

Minister Park continued with the established Regional Health Ministerial Advisory Panel (RHMAP). A committee of appointed people who are advocates for health care in rural and regional areas. We are pleased to support the CEO who has been appointed as a panel member.

Amy Townsend commenced in a new role of Culture & History Coordinator. She has supported WAMS and fellow colleagues in cultural immersion, as well as inclusion of all cultures in our business, to share their history and identity whilst at the same time, learning of ours. Amy has held in services for WAMS and for other organisations and also represented WAMS in many other endeavours. She provided weekly facts and a new language word for staff to learn. Monday was a cultural “Did you know” and Wednesday became “WoW” (Word of Wednesday) where she would introduce staff to a Gamilaraay word, the meaning and an audio of the phonetics.

The construction of the purpose-built facility at Brewarrina is making steady progress. The Brewarrina Shire Council are supportive of the development and the economic growth that this infrastructure will bring to both for the town and for the people. The land has direct sight to the Aboriginal Fish Traps which have been identified as older than the Pyramids. The rental property at Sandon Street continues to show signs of age and disrepair. We have been unable to secure funding to conduct a major overhaul of much-needed repairs. Thereby creating a major work health and safety risk for clients, staff and visitors to the property.

Biliirr-Gal-Baa (“Black Cockatoos Place”), formerly known as Gilbert Lodge, have two units that have long since been out of commission. Works have been progressing to demolish the two units and replace with a wheel-chair accessible unit. Planning has commenced for a property to be converted into four units is well under way.

Conclusion

I represented the Directors by attending Government House in Sydney with the CEO and members of her family. It was a proud moment as she received an Order of Australia Medal (AM). Christine has been a consistent and dedicated advocate for health and social change across WAMS footprint and beyond. We are proud of what has been achieved by her leadership. Her persistence of lobbying is evident by the growth of the organisation.

To continue as Chairperson has afforded me to engage with people from diverse businesses and social backgrounds that offer WAMS the opportunities to grow their professional knowledge as well as expand their operational profile. This is an experience that I enjoy. A responsibility that I do not take lightly. It is an honour to continue to work for the betterment of our community. I extend my sincere gratitude to the four dedicated Directors who walk the WAMS path with me. Additionally, I give appreciation and thanks to each of the staff who are a member of the team, our country living and our future thriving.

**MARY PURSE, CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Ltd

ABN 78 014 990 451

General Purpose Financial Report

For the financial year ended 30 June 2024

Restricted for internal use only.

Celebrating over 38 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



Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Ltd
ABN 78 014 990 451

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Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Ltd
ABN 78 014 990 451

Directors' Report

The Directors present their report together with the financial statements of Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Ltd (the Corporation) for the year ended 30 June 2024.

1. Directors

The Directors of the Corporation at any time during or since the end of the financial year are:

Mary Purse
Carol Janissen
Iris Hall
Doreen Peters
Jenny Trindall
Rhonda Ashby

2. Information on directors

The names of each person who has been a Director during the year and to the date of this report are:

Name	Position	Occupation	Appointed/Resigned
Mary Purse	Chairperson	Retired	
Iris Hall	Director	Retired	
Carol Janissen	Secretary	Australian Unity	
Doreen Peters	Director	TAFE services coordinator	
Jenny Trindall	Director	-	
Rhonda Ashby			Appointed 20 May 2024

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

3. 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.

There were no significant changes in the nature of the activities of the Corporation during the year.

4. Review of operations and results of those operations

Operating results

The operating result of the Corporation amounted to a profit \$1,313,669 (2023: \$2,131,272).

5. Significant changes in the state of affairs

There were no significant changes in the state of affairs of the Corporation that occurred during the financial year.

6. Events subsequent to the reporting date

There has not arisen in the interval between the end of the financial year and the date of this report any item, transaction or event of a material and unusual nature likely, in the opinion of the Directors, to affect significantly the operations of the Corporation, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Corporation, in future financial years.

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Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Ltd
ABN 78 014 990 451

Directors' Report

7. Likely developments

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

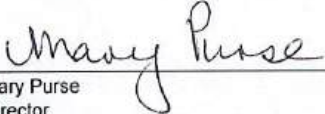
8. Meeting of Directors

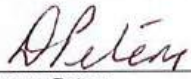
	Number eligible to attend	Number attended
Mary Purse	12	12
Iris Hall	11	11
Carol Janissen	12	12
Doreen Peters	12	10
Jenny Trindall	12	11
Rhonda Ashby	1	1

9. Auditor's independence declaration

The auditor's independence declaration is set out on page 24 and forms part of the Directors report for the financial year ended 30 June 2024.

This report is made out in accordance with a resolution of the Directors:


Mary Purse
Director
[Insert date] 19/12/2024


Doreen Peters
Director
[Insert date] 19/12/2024

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Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Ltd
ABN 78 014 990 451

Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income

For the year ended 30 June 2024

		2024	2023
	Note	\$	\$
Revenue	2	15,318,451	12,028,155
EXPENSES			
Administration expenses		(2,930,539)	(715,755)
Consultants & professional fees		(762,632)	(425,576)
Contractors		(914,752)	(867,787)
Employee expenses		(5,770,469)	(4,178,359)
Loss on disposal of assets		19,783	(513,919)
Medical & dental supplies		(1,039,108)	(1,170,467)
Motor vehicle expenses		(244,085)	(163,007)
Occupancy costs		(297,544)	(255,155)
Program costs		(398,021)	(162,202)
Repairs & maintenance		(976,832)	(748,781)
Travel & accommodation expenses		(313,579)	(234,345)
Other expenses		(81,989)	(84,679)
Depreciation and amortisation		(993,460)	(793,214)
TOTAL EXPENSES		(14,703,226)	(10,313,248)
SURPLUS FROM OPERATIONS		615,225	1,714,907
OTHER INCOME			
Fair value gain on investments		3,793	13,907
Net finance income		419,322	191,198
Other income	3	275,329	305,524
TOTAL OTHER INCOME		698,444	510,630
SURPLUS BEFORE TAX		1,313,669	2,225,537
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Revaluation increment / (decrement)		-	(94,265)
TOTAL OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		-	(94,265)
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		1,313,669	2,131,272
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		1,313,669	2,131,272

The notes on pages 9 to 20 are an integral part of these financial statements. Restricted for internal use only.



Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Ltd
ABN 78 014 990 451

Statement of Financial Position

As at 30 June 2024

		2024	2023
	Note	\$	\$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	14,857,018	12,542,920
Trade and other receivables	5	435,682	541,986
Other current assets	6	180,774	118,413
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		15,473,475	13,203,319
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Investments	7	17,700	13,907
Property, plant and equipment	8	15,613,834	14,024,926
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		15,631,534	14,038,834
TOTAL ASSETS		31,105,009	27,242,153
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Cash and cash equivalents	4	7,193	4,051
Trade and other payables	9	1,208,187	936,060
Lease liabilities	10	40,798	40,798
Employee benefits	11	626,029	426,410
Contract liabilities	12	6,595,596	4,511,632
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		8,477,803	5,918,950
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Lease liabilities	10	90,189	130,987
Employee benefits	11	86,311	55,179
TOTAL LIABILITIES		8,654,303	6,105,116
NET ASSETS		22,450,706	21,137,036
EQUITY			
Retained earnings	13	22,450,706	21,137,036
TOTAL EQUITY		22,450,706	21,137,036

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Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Ltd
ABN 78 014 990 451

Statement of Changes in Equity

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
RETAINED EARNINGS		
Opening Balance	21,137,037	19,005,765
COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		
Profit	1,313,669	2,131,272
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	1,313,669	2,131,272
TOTAL RETAINED EARNINGS	22,450,706	21,137,036

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Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Ltd
ABN 78 014 990 451

Statement of Cash Flows

For the year ended 30 June 2024

New Paragraph...

	2024	2023
Note	\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Cash receipts from customers	1,251,854	1,604,219
Cash receipts from Government and other grants	12,297,286	12,901,986
Cash paid to suppliers and employees	(9,032,478)	(8,607,824)
Interest received	419,322	198,298
NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	4,935,984	6,096,679
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	(2,702,340)	(1,815,854)
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	118,110	62,272
NET CASH USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES	(2,584,230)	(1,753,582)
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Payments of lease liabilities	(40,798)	(121,588)
NET CASH USED IN FINANCING ACTIVITIES	(40,798)	(121,588)
NET INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	2,310,956	4,221,509
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year	12,538,869	8,317,360
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR	4 14,849,825	12,538,869

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Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Ltd
ABN 78 014 990 451

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 1 Accounting Policies

REPORTING ENTITY

Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Ltd (the 'Corporation') is domiciled in Australia. The Corporation's registered office is at 37 Pitt St, WALGETT, NSW, 2832.

BASIS OF PREPARATION

a) *Statement of compliance*

These financial statements are general purpose financial statements for distribution to the members and have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures made by the Australian Accounting Standards Board and Interpretations of the Australian Accounting Standards Board, and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*.

These financial statements were authorised for issue by the Board of Directors as of the date of the Directors Declaration.

b) *Basis of measurement*

The financial statements have been prepared on an accruals basis and are based on historical costs modified, where applicable, by the measurement at fair value of selected non-current assets, financial assets and financial liabilities.

c) *Functional and presentation currency*

These financial statements are presented in Australian dollars, which is the Corporation's functional currency. Financial statements have been rounded to the nearest dollar unless otherwise stated.

d) *Use of 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.

Estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Information about judgements made in applying accounting policies that have the most significant effects on the amounts recognised in the financial statements is included in the following notes:

- **impairment of 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;
- **useful lives of depreciable assets:** management reviews its estimate of the useful lives of depreciable assets at each reporting date, based on the expected utility of the assets. Uncertainties in these estimates relate to technical obsolescence that may change the utility of certain property, plant and equipment;
- **employee entitlements: as described in the accounting policies,** provisions are measured at management's best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the obligation at the end of the reporting period. These estimates are made taking into account a range of possible outcomes and will vary as further information is obtained.

MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Changes in material accounting policies

The Corporations also adopted *Disclosure of Accounting Policies: Tier 2 and Other Australian Accounting Standards (Amendments to AASB 1049, 1054 and 1060)* from 1 July 2023. Although the amendments did not result in any changes to the accounting policies themselves, they impacted the accounting policy information disclosed in the financial statements.

The amendments require the disclosure of 'material', rather than 'significant', accounting policies. The amendments also provide guidance on the application of materiality to disclosure of accounting policies, assisting entities to provide useful, entity-specific accounting policy information that users need to understand other information in the financial statements.

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Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Ltd
ABN 78 014 990 451

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Management reviewed the accounting policies and made updates to the information disclosed in notes below Material accounting policies (2023: Significant accounting policies) in certain instances in line with the amendments.

Summary of material accounting policies

The Corporation has consistently applied the following accounting policies to all periods presented in these consolidated financial statements, except if mentioned otherwise.

INCOME TAX

No provision for income tax has been raised as the Corporation is exempt from income tax under Div. 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

PROPERTY PLANT & EQUIPMENT

i. Recognition and measurement

Property, plant, and equipment are stated at historical cost, except for land and buildings which are carried at their revalued amounts, being the fair value at the date of revaluation less any subsequent accumulated depreciation and subsequent accumulated impairment losses. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the items.

The revalued amount of land and buildings is determined based on periodic, valuations (specify how often, like every 3 years) by external independent valuers, less subsequent accumulated depreciation for buildings.

Revaluation Model for Land and Buildings

Land and buildings are revalued to fair value based on valuations by external independent valuers. Revaluations are carried out with sufficient regularity to ensure that the carrying amount does not differ materially from that which would be determined using fair value at the end of the reporting period.

Increases in the carrying amount arising on revaluation of land and buildings are credited to other comprehensive income and shown as revaluation surplus in equity. Decreases that offset previous increases of the same asset are recognized in other comprehensive income and deducted from the revaluation surplus directly in equity; all other decreases are charged to the income statement.

Cost Model for Other Assets

Other items of property, plant, and equipment are stated at historical cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses.

ii. Depreciation

The depreciable amount of all property, plant and equipment, except for freehold land is depreciated on a straight-line method from the date that management determine that the asset is available for use.

Assets held under a finance lease and leasehold improvements are depreciated over the shorter of the term of the lease and the assets useful life.

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%

Depreciation methods, useful lives and residual values are reviewed at each reporting date and adjusted if appropriate.

LEASES

At inception of a contract, the Corporation assesses whether a contract is, or contains, a lease. A contract is, or contains, a lease if the contract conveys the right to control the use of an identified asset for a period of time in exchange for consideration.

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Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Ltd
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Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

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.

iii. Right-of-use asset

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 or the assets estimated useful life on a straight line basis and assessed for impairment in accordance with the impairment of assets accounting policy.

iv. Lease liability

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.

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.

FAIR VALUE OF ASSETS

'Fair value' is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date in the principal or, in its absence, the most advantageous market to which the Corporation has access at that date. The fair value of a liability reflects its non- performance risk.

A number of the Corporation's accounting policies and disclosures require the measurement of fair values, for both financial and non- financial assets and liabilities.

When one is available, the Corporation measures the fair value of an instrument using the quoted price in an active market for that instrument. A market is regarded as 'active' if transactions for the asset or liability take place with sufficient frequency and volume to provide pricing information on an ongoing basis.

If there is no quoted price in an active market, then the Corporation uses valuation techniques that maximise the use of relevant observable inputs and minimise the use of unobservable inputs. The chosen valuation technique incorporates all of the factors that market participants would take into account in pricing a transaction.

If an asset or a liability measured at fair value has a bid price and an ask price, then the Corporation measures assets and long positions at a bid price and liabilities and short positions at an ask price.

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For the year ended 30 June 2024

FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

i. Recognition and initial measurement

Financial instruments are recognised initially on the date that the Corporation becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

On initial recognition, all financial instruments are measured at fair value plus transaction costs (except for instruments measured at fair value through profit or loss (FVTPL) where transaction costs are expensed as incurred).

ii. Financial assets

All recognised financial assets are subsequently measured in their entirety at either amortised cost or fair value, depending on the classification of the financial assets.

Classification

On initial recognition, the Corporation classifies its financial assets into the following categories, those measured at:

- amortised cost; or
- fair value through profit or loss.

Financial assets are not reclassified subsequent to their initial recognition unless the Corporation changes its business model for managing financial assets.

Amortised cost

Assets measured at amortised cost are financial assets where:

- the business model is to hold assets to collect contractual cash flows; and
- the contractual terms give rise on specified dates to cash flows that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding.

The Corporation's financial assets measured at amortised cost comprise trade and other receivables, cash and cash equivalents and other financial assets in the balance sheet.

Subsequent to initial recognition, these assets are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method less provision for impairment.

Interest income and impairment losses are recognised in profit or loss. Gain or loss on derecognition is recognised in profit or loss.

Impairment of financial assets

Impairment of financial assets is recognised on an expected credit loss (ECL) basis for financial assets measured at amortised cost.

When determining whether the credit risk of a financial asset has increased significantly since initial recognition and when estimating ECL, the Corporation considers reasonable and supportable information that is relevant and available without undue cost or effort. This includes both quantitative and qualitative information and analysis based on the Corporation's historical experience and informed credit assessment and forward looking information.

The Corporation uses the presumption that an asset which is more than 30 days past due has seen a significant increase in credit risk.

The Corporation uses the presumption that a financial asset is in default when:

- the other party is unlikely to pay its credit obligations to the Corporation in full, without recourse to the Corporation to actions such as realising security (if any is held); or
- the financial assets is more than 90 days past due.

Credit losses are measured as the present value of the difference between the cash flows due to the Corporation in accordance with the contract and the cash flows expected to be received. This is applied using a probability weighted approach.

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Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Trade receivables

Impairment of trade receivables have been determined using the simplified approach in AASB 9 which uses an estimation of lifetime expected credit losses. The Corporation has determined the probability of non-payment of the receivable and multiplied this by the amount of the expected loss arising from default.

The amount of the impairment is recorded in a separate allowance account with the loss being recognised in bad debt expense. Once the receivable is determined to be uncollectable then the gross carrying amount is written off against the associated allowance.

Where the Corporation renegotiates the terms of trade receivables due from certain customers, the new expected cash flows are discounted at the original effective interest rate and any resulting difference to the carrying value is recognised in profit or loss.

Other financial assets measured at amortised cost

Impairment of other financial assets measured at amortised cost are determined using the expected credit loss model in AASB 9. On initial recognition of the asset, an estimate of the expected credit losses for the next 12 months is recognised. Where the asset has experienced significant increase in credit risk then the lifetime losses are estimated and recognised.

Financial assets that are held for trading or are managed and whose performance is evaluated on a fair value basis are measured at FVTPL.

iii. Financial liabilities

Subsequently financial liabilities are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

The financial liabilities of the Corporation comprise trade and other payables and lease liabilities.

IMPAIRMENT OF ASSETS

At the end of each reporting period the Corporation determines whether there is an evidence of an impairment indicator for non-financial assets.

Where an indicator exists and regardless for indefinite life intangible assets and intangible assets not yet available for use, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated.

Where assets do not operate independently of other assets, the recoverable amount of the relevant cash-generating unit (CGU) is estimated.

The recoverable amount of an asset or CGU is the higher of the fair value less costs of disposal and the value in use. Value in use is the present value of the future cash flows expected to be derived from an asset or cash-generating unit.

Where the recoverable amount is less than the carrying amount, an impairment loss is recognised in profit or loss.

Reversal indicators are considered in subsequent periods for all assets which have suffered an impairment loss.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

i. Short-term employee benefits

Liabilities for wages and salaries that are expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service are recognised in respect of employees' services up to the end of the reporting period and are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled. The liabilities are presented as current employee benefit obligations in the balance sheet.

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Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

ii. Other long-term employee benefits

The liabilities for long service leave are not expected to be settled wholly within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related service. They are therefore measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the end of the reporting period. Consideration is given to expected future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures and periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the end of the reporting period of high quality corporate bonds with terms and currencies that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows. Remeasurements as a result of experience adjustments and changes in actuarial assumptions are recognised in profit or loss.

The obligations are presented as current liabilities in the balance sheet if the Corporation does not have an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting period, regardless of when the actual settlement is expected to occur.

CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash comprises cash on hand and demand deposits. Cash equivalents are short-term, highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

CURRENT AND NON-CURRENT CLASSIFICATION

Assets and liabilities are presented in the statement of financial position based on current and non-current classification.

An asset is classified as current when: It is either expected to be realised or intended to be sold or consumed in the Corporation's normal operating cycle; It is held primarily for the purpose of trading; It is expected to be realised within 12 months after the report period; or the asset is cash or cash equivalent unless restricted from being exchanged or used to settle a liability for at least 12 months after the reporting period. All other assets are classified as non-current.

A liability is classified as current when: It is either expected to be settled in the Corporation's normal operating cycle; It is held primarily for the purpose of trading; It is due to be settled within 12 months after the reporting period; or there is no unconditional right to defer the settlement of the liability for at least 12 months after the reporting period. All other liabilities are classified as non-current.

REVENUE & OTHER INCOME

Revenue from contracts with customers

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.

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Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

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; and
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.

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

i. Rendering of services

The Corporation earns revenue from provision of professional services, incorporating consulting advice. Revenue is recognised over time in the accounting period when services are rendered.

ii. Sales

Revenue is recognised at the point the customer purchases the goods and services. Payment of the transaction price is due immediately at the time of purchase.

iii. Grant revenue

Grant revenue is recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income when there is reasonable assurance that the grant will be received and all grant conditions will be met, it is probable that the economic benefits gained from the grant will flow to the Corporation and the amount of the grant can be measured reliably.

When grant revenue is received whereby the Corporation incurs an obligation to deliver economic value directly back to the contributor, this is considered a reciprocal transaction and the grant revenue is recognised in the balance sheet as a liability until the service has been delivered to the contributor, otherwise the grant is recognised as income on receipt.

The Corporation receives non-reciprocal contributions of assets from the government and other parties for zero or a nominal value. These assets are recognised at fair value on the date of acquisition in the balance sheet, with a corresponding amount of income recognised in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

iv. Donations

Donations and bequests are recognised as revenue when received.

v. Interest revenue

Interest revenue is recognised using the effective interest rate method.

GOODS AND SERVICES TAX (GST)

Revenues, 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 taxation authority, it is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of an asset or as part of an item of expense; or
- for receivables and payables which are recognised inclusive of GST.

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is included as part of receivables or payables.

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Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Ltd
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Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

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

COMPARATIVE AMOUNTS

Comparatives have been restated to reflect the current year presentation of the financial statements. No prior year adjustments have been performed and the total balances have not been altered.

TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

Trade receivables are recognised initially at the transaction price (i.e. cost). Most sales are made on the basis of normal credit terms and do not bear interest. Receivables are not discounted to present value.

At the end of each reporting period, the carrying amounts of trade and other receivables are reviewed to determine whether there is any objective evidence that the amounts are not recoverable. Debts are written off once attempts at recovery of the debt have ceased.

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Note 2 Revenue		
DISAGGREGATION OF REVENUE		
Dental fees received	2,927	22,700
Doctors fees	1,248,926	1,128,514
Maintenance fees received	831,116	-
Grants income	11,819,917	10,876,941
Administration fees received	1,415,564	-
TOTAL	15,318,451	12,028,155

Information about the performance obligations arising under each of the above categories of revenue, including a description of when the entity typically satisfies its performance obligations, the significant payment terms, the nature of the goods and services provided, obligations for returns, refunds and other similar obligations, and types of warranties and related obligations is provided together with the accounting policies for revenue in Note 1. This note also details the methods used to recognise revenue for performance obligations satisfied over time.

Contract assets arising from contracts with customers giving rise to revenue are disclosed as part of 'trade and other receivables'.

		2024	2023
	Note	\$	\$
REVENUE			
Revenue	2	15,318,451	12,028,155
TOTAL REVENUE		15,318,451	12,028,155

		2024	2023
		\$	\$
Note 3 Other income			
OTHER INCOME			
Other income		275,329	305,524
Fair value gain on investments		3,793	13,907
TOTAL OTHER INCOME		279,122	319,431

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Celebrating over 38 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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Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Note 3 Other income		
OTHER INCOME		
Government subsidies	14,895	23,175
Recovered expenses	38,279	63,133
Rents received	71,950	87,797
Sundry income	150,205	131,419
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	275,329	305,524

Note 4 Cash and cash equivalents

Reconciliation of cash

For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand and in banks, net of outstanding bank overdrafts. Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period as shown in the statement of cash flows can be reconciled to the related items in the statement of financial position as follows:

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Cash and bank balances	14,857,018	12,542,920
TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	14,857,018	12,542,920
Credit cards and overdrafts	(7,193)	(4,051)
TOTAL CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	14,849,825	12,538,869

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Note 5 Trade and other receivables		
Trade debtors	435,682	541,986
TOTAL TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES	435,682	541,986

Impairment of receivables

The Corporation applies the simplified approach to providing for expected credit losses prescribed by AASB 9, which permits the use of the lifetime expected loss provision for all trade receivables.

To measure the expected credit losses, trade receivables have been grouped based on shared credit risk characteristics and the days past due. The loss allowance provision as at 30 June 2024 incorporates forward looking information.

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Note 6 Other current assets		
Prepayments	180,774	118,413
TOTAL OTHER CURRENT ASSETS	180,774	118,413

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Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Note 7 Investments		
Shares at market value	17,700	13,907
TOTAL INVESTMENTS	17,700	13,907

Note 8 Property, plant and equipment	Land and buildings	Plant and equipment	Motor vehicles	Total
BALANCE AT 1 JULY 2023				
Gross carrying amount	16,761,890	3,013,810	1,320,967	21,096,667
Accumulated depreciation	(4,515,712)	(1,977,132)	(578,897)	(7,071,741)
NET CARRYING AMOUNT AT 1 JULY 2023	12,246,178	1,036,678	742,070	14,024,926
Additions	1,902,405	467,551	332,384	2,702,340
Depreciation	(574,224)	(233,570)	(194,808)	(1,002,602)
Disposals	-	-	(111,780)	(111,780)
NET CARRYING AMOUNT AT 30 JUNE 2024	13,574,359	1,270,659	767,866	15,612,884
Balance at 30 June 2024				
Gross carrying amount	18,665,295	3,841,360	1,380,870	23,887,525
Accumulated depreciation	(5,089,936)	(2,570,702)	(613,004)	(8,273,642)
NET CARRYING AMOUNT AT 30 JUNE 2024	13,575,359	1,270,658	767,866	15,613,883

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Note 9 Trade and other payables		
TADE AND OTHER PAYABLES		
GST Payable	94,445	181,862
Payroll Liabilities	91,556	68,072
Superannuation Payable	3,095	31,851
Trade payables	868,687	478,070
Accrued Expenses	150,404	176,204
TOTAL TADE AND OTHER PAYABLES	1,208,187	936,060

Note 10 Leases

Corporation as a lessee

The Corporation has leases over a range of motor vehicles.

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

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Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

The Corporation leases motor vehicles with lease terms varying from 2 - 3 years, the lease payments are fixed during the lease term. No new motor vehicle leases were entered into during the financial year ended 30 June 2024.

The Corporation entered into a lease agreement for the installation of solar panels. Base instalments are \$3,090.78 ex. GST for a term of 60 months. The end of term residual value is \$38,719 ex. GST.

a) Lease liabilities

Right-of-use assets related to leased properties are presented as property, plant and equipment.

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Lease Liability	40,798	40,798
TOTAL CURRENT	40,798	40,798
NON-CURRENT		
Lease Liability	90,189	130,987
TOTAL NON-CURRENT	90,189	130,987

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Note 11 Provisions		

CURRENT		
Employee entitlements	622,829	422,810
Purchased leave	3,200	3,600
TOTAL CURRENT	626,029	426,410
NON-CURRENT		
Employee entitlements	86,311	55,179
TOTAL NON-CURRENT	86,311	55,179

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Note 12 Contract liabilities		

Unexpended project grants	6,595,596	4,511,632
TOTAL CONTRACT LIABILITIES	6,595,596	4,511,632

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
Note 13 Retained earnings		

Opening Balance	21,137,037	19,005,765
Current Year Earnings	1,313,669	2,131,272
TOTAL RETAINED EARNINGS	22,450,706	21,137,036

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Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Ltd
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Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2024

Note 14 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.

	2024	2023
Key management personnel transactions with the Corporation	\$	\$
Short term benefits	1,221,473	886,665
Post employment benefits	90,753	74,123
Long term benefits	11,748	1,762
TOTAL KMP TRANSACTIONS	1,323,974	962,550

Other related party transactions

From time-to-time members of Key Management Personnel will utilise services provided by the Corporation. These transactions are on normal commercial terms and conditions no more favourable than those available to other members of the Aboriginal community unless otherwise stated. Such transactions are considered trivial and domestic in nature and hence are not required to be disclosed any further.

Note 15 Contingencies

There are no contingencies as at 30 June 2024 (2023: \$nil).

	2024	2023
Note 16 Auditor's remuneration	\$	\$
AUDIT SERVICES		
Crowe Australasia		
- Audit of Financial Statements	25,000	25,000
	25,000	25,000

Note 17 Subsequent events

There has not arisen in the interval between the end of the financial year and the date of this report any item, transaction or event of a material and unusual nature likely, in the opinion of the Directors, to affect significantly the operations of the Corporation, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Corporation, in future financial years.

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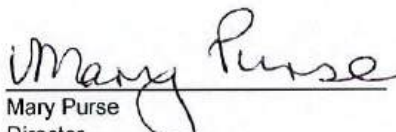
Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Ltd
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Directors' Declaration

The Directors of the Corporation declare that:

1. The financial statements and notes, are in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*;
 - a) the comply with Australian Accounting Standards - Simplified Disclosures and;
 - b) give a true and fair view of the financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of the performance for the year ended on that date of the Corporation.
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.


Mary Purse
Director
[Insert date] 19/12/2024


Doreen Peters
Director
[Insert date] 19/12/2024

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Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited

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Auditor's Independence Declaration under Section 60-40 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits 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 2024, there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in section 60-40 of 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.

Crowe Audit Australia

Crowe Audit Australia

Gabriel Faponle

Audit Partner

Registered Company Auditor No. 513644

Dated at Dubbo on the 19th day of December 2024

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Independent Auditor's Report to the members of Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Limited (the Corporation), which comprises the statement of financial position as of 30 June 2024, 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 material accounting policies, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Corporation is in accordance with the Division 60 of 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 2024 and of its financial performance for the year ended; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosure and the Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Regulations 2022*.

Basis for Opinion

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

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Other Information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information contained in the Directors' Report for the year ended 30 June 2024 but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report, or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

The directors of the Corporation are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the Corporation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Corporation or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Corporation's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Corporation's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.



- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Corporation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Corporation to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure, and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during the audit.

Crowe Audit Australia

Crowe Audit Australia

Gabriel Faponle
Audit Partner
Registered Company Auditor No. 513644

Dated at Dubbo on the 19th day of December 2024



Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Ltd
ABN 78 014 990 451

Detailed Operating Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2024

		2024	2023
	Note	\$	\$
Revenue	2	15,318,451	12,028,155
EXPENSES			
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES			
Computer Costs		303,804	274,441
Licences Fees & Accred. Costs		15,537	21,834
Office Supplies		59,199	56,675
Promotions & Advertising		104,023	132,578
Subscriptions		81,077	97,829
Telephone & ISDN		62,974	87,879
Director's Expenses		75,551	44,519
Administration Charge (61250)		1,388,660	-
Cleaning Charge (61850)		144,355	-
Management Fees (64530)		8,598	-
Maintenance Charge (65620)		686,762	-
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES		2,930,539	715,755
CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES			
Accounting Fees		43,291	9,439
Auditors Remuneration		49,500	70,750
Consulting Fees		453,595	158,882
Legal Costs		51,591	43,768
Insurance		164,656	142,737
TOTAL CONSULTANTS & PROFESSIONAL FEES		762,632	425,576
CONTRACTORS			
Specialist & Contract Services		914,752	861,787
Commissions Paid		-	6,000
TOTAL CONTRACTORS		914,752	867,787
Employee expenses		5,770,469	4,178,359
LOSS ON DISPOSAL OF ASSETS			
Gain on Sale of fixed assets		(19,783)	513,919
TOTAL LOSS ON DISPOSAL OF ASSETS		(19,783)	513,919
MEDICAL & DENTAL SUPPLIES			
Dental Supplies & Equipment		6,025	21,869
Locums, Doctors & Dentists		886,110	956,590
Medical Equip. & Supplies		103,789	163,483
Medical Services		43,184	28,526
TOTAL MEDICAL & DENTAL SUPPLIES		1,039,108	1,170,467
Motor vehicle expenses		244,085	163,007
OCCUPANCY COSTS			
Electricity & Gas		123,196	88,736
Hire of Venue & Equipment		23,447	14,386
Landscaping & Fencing		18,282	14,126
Pest Control		11,276	10,893
Rates		99,499	89,587
Rent		11,681	26,836

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Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Ltd
ABN 78 014 990 451

Detailed Operating Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
Note	\$	\$
Security	10,163	10,592
TOTAL OCCUPANCY COSTS	297,544	255,155
PROGRAM COSTS		
Program Costs	398,021	162,202
TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS	398,021	162,202
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE		
Equipment	33,430	42,372
Repairs & Maint Buildings	857,171	611,468
Repairs & Maint. Equipment	86,232	94,941
TOTAL REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	976,832	748,781
TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION EXPENSES		
Accommodation, Meals and Travel	313,579	234,345
TOTAL TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION EXPENSES	313,579	234,345
OTHER EXPENSES		
Funeral Donations & Wreaths	15,930	8,621
Fundraising Expenses	1,896	3,192
Freight	-	141
Donations & Sponsorships	7,820	9,783
Bank Charges	456	555
Catering Expenses	32,973	45,908
Consumables	22,914	16,480
TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES	81,989	84,679
DEPRECIATION AND AMORTISATION		
Depreciation		
Depreciation	993,460	793,214
TOTAL DEPRECIATION	993,460	793,214
TOTAL DEPRECIATION AND AMORTISATION	993,460	793,214
TOTAL EXPENSES	14,703,226	10,313,248
PROFIT FROM OPERATIONS	615,225	1,714,907
OTHER INCOME		
FAIR VALUE GAIN ON INVESTMENTS		
Fair Value Gain on Investments	3,793	13,907
TOTAL FAIR VALUE GAIN ON INVESTMENTS	3,793	13,907
NET FINANCE INCOME		
Interest received	419,322	198,298
Interest Paid	-	(7,100)
TOTAL NET FINANCE INCOME	419,322	191,198
OTHER INCOME		
Fundraising income		
WAMS Fundraising (49775)	1,154	-
TOTAL FUNDRAISING INCOME	1,154	-

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Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Ltd
ABN 78 014 990 451

Detailed Operating Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2024

		2024	2023
	Note	\$	\$
Other income			
Government Subsidies		14,895	23,175
Recovered Expenses		38,279	63,133
Rents Received		71,950	87,797
Sundry Income		148,055	131,419
TOTAL OTHER INCOME		273,179	305,524
Sundry income			
Merchandise		995	-
TOTAL SUNDRY INCOME		995	-
TOTAL OTHER INCOME		275,329	305,524
TOTAL OTHER INCOME	3	698,444	510,630
PROFIT BEFORE TAX		1,313,669	2,225,537

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FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION REPORT JULY 2023 TO JUNE 2024

Introduction

The Finance and Administration Department at WAMS has two primary functions:

1. Financial Management

This includes maintaining accurate financial records, managing payroll, preparing accounts for audit, and providing financial reporting to funding bodies. The department also ensures compliance with the ATO, NSW Treasury, and other statutory requirements.

2. Administrative Support

The team provides comprehensive administrative support across WAMS. This includes, but is not limited to, coordinating accommodation and travel bookings for visiting specialists and staff, managing external contractors, procurement, insurance schedules, asset registers, safety and fire safety schedules, and other essential records.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to Gabriel Faponle and the audit team from Crowe, WAMS' auditing firm, for their diligent work in completing the audit. Our gratitude also extends to Adam Cole and his team from KPMG, who have provided invaluable support across payroll and accounting functions.

We would also like to acknowledge and thank Nick Seeman, Project Manager from Constructive Dialogue Architects (CDA), who assists with researching, writing and submission of additional funding opportunities. To this end, CDA have assisted WAMS and BAMS to acquire an additional \$3.6M in grant funding .

We acknowledge the ongoing support and funding from the following organisations:

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

Staffing

Finance and Administration Team

- Mathew Baker – Manager, Administration and Finance
- Mellisa Timmins – Finance Assistant
- Rebecca Gleeson – Administration Team Leader
- Vacant – Administration Assistant
- Cheryl Suey – Black Cockatoo Place Caretaker

Cleaning Team

- Caran Doolan – Team Leader
- Kerry Kennedy
- Deborah Fernando
- Anne Peacock

Overview

WAMS concluded the financial year with a total funding and revenue of \$15 million, including \$1.2 million in Medicare income, reflecting ongoing improvements in our Medicare billing processes. Over \$2.7 million was invested in capital upgrades, including new dental equipment, facility renovations, staff accommodations, and enhancements to our IT infrastructure and software.



Walgett Operations

WAMS has strengthened its financial performance while preparing for future challenges and the growing needs of the community. We are currently managing several major renovation projects and exploring new staff accommodation options to support recruitment.

We gratefully acknowledge increased funding for mental health and men's health programs, provided by the Australian Government Department of Social Services and the NSW Ministry of Health. We also received supplementary financial support from NACCHO and the AHMRC, particularly for flood recovery efforts, continuing post COVID measures, vaping research and initiatives related to the Voice referendum.

Progress continues on the Freedom Ride Memorial Park through multiple successful funding applications. Additional capital funding has also been secured for maintenance of medical and accommodation facilities.

Ongoing improvements in IT infrastructure and data management remain a strategic focus. While this is a long-term initiative, we recognize the critical importance of robust data systems to WAMS' operations.

Significant maintenance work was completed this year, including the dental clinic refurbishment, enhanced lighting and security at Euragai Goondi, and the installation of security cameras at the Freedom Ride site.

Brewarrina Operations

Brewarrina achieved success in securing additional mental health and suicide prevention funding from the Australian Government Department of Social Services. Further funding has been received for mental health and flood response initiatives, supported by the Department of Social Services and the NSW Ministry of Health.

The much-anticipated \$5 million purpose-built facility has received planning approval, and designs have been refined in preparation for development.

Efforts are ongoing to improve accommodation options for medical professionals providing services in Brewarrina.

Conclusion

The 2023/24 financial year was marked by significant investment in capital works, new equipment, and the expansion of vital health programs. These developments reflect WAMS' continued commitment to delivering high-quality services and improving community outcomes.

In closing, I would like to thank Christine Corby (CEO) and Katrina Ward (COM) for their leadership and ongoing support. I also extend my appreciation to my team – Mrs. Rebecca Gleeson and Mrs. Mellisa Timmins – for their dedication and hard work.

Thank you.

MATHEW BAKER
FINANCE MANAGER



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER REPORT JULY 2023 TO JUNE 2024

Introduction

WAMS commenced this reporting period with the official launch of the Freedom Ride (FR) Memorial Park and the website. The return of three “students”, who were part of the 1965 bus journey, was a humbling and emotional experience. Identifying local history, which has had both local and international interest since the journey to our western towns, is culturally significant and historically relevant. We are extremely grateful to welcome local people, local businesses, as well as parliamentary personnel, corporate agencies and individuals from across NSW.

The continued identification of local Aboriginal history, identity and culture has allowed these values to be practiced across our programs, displayed on infrastructure, and spoken by staff. Holding cultural workshops at WAMS to learn “all-things” Gamilaraay, as well as staff who observe their own ethnic practices, has created a social gathering of respect and understanding.

Visitors to WAMS

Having the Governor of NSW, the Premier and various Ministers stop in our town is fundamental to their appreciation of our day’s work, the variation of work, and the unexpected issues that we often encounter.

The proverbial “show and tell” often leaves people with positive appreciation on what a local business can achieve as a team and as partners to other teams in the town. Our “packages” also validates the broad range of work we conduct from primary health care, community develop and social support services.

It is important for our guests to leave our rural communities with pleasant memories. The negativity often portrayed in the media by some individuals, who chose to behave in a certain manner, can outweigh the good work that people strive to achieve.

Partners of WAMS

To partner, to work together, to share resources have mutual benefits for both staff employed, as well as respective clients. Reciprocated care can achieve an understanding of the roles and activities of each business, therefore creating programs that are encircled around the client and their families.

Many community events are organised and partnered by local Council such as Harmony Day, Youth Week, NAIDOC, Australia Day, the Walgett Show and Reconciliation Week. Health and social activities are also held each year with a collective of business who have the skills and expertise to deliver, including DV Awareness, International Women’s Day and Mental Health wellbeing.

Formal and legal understandings such as Memorandums of Understanding or a Service Level Agreement, ensures the objectives are planned, the strategies are designed and the outcomes achieved. Government and non-government agencies have affirmed their obligation to work with staff to provide optimum care for “shared” clients, of which we are extremely grateful.

Locally, WAMS continue to work with the Dharriwaa Elders Group across a variety of programs. They have kindly provided an account of our combined work into a WAMS report for this financial period. With thanks to the committee, staff and elders who work with our personnel to deliver social and wellbeing programs.

The proposal to work with personnel from the University of Newcastle is ongoing due to funding not being available. Both agencies are continuing to lobby for this innovative program to be based on country where people live and work.



Quality

Quality is defined by both the supply, delivery and quality outcomes to achieve best practice in health care. It is inclusive of the policies, procedures, contracts, positions descriptions, registers and recording of data, narratives as well as photographic recordings. Running parallel is our daily business and obligations to adhere to funding conditions and report against each Key Performance Indicator.

Recording against the standards of accrediting agencies for children's services, clinic, dental and the all-encompassing operations are mandatory for certification, registration and continuation of the business. This mixture of ingredients create a well-seasoned and well-baked banquet of services to nourish, nurture and replenish the body and soul of an individual. For the clinic operations, in July 2023 WAMS was approved for Clinic Accreditation for 3 years

Standards are met according to the Quality Improvement Councils regulations. Accreditation measures quality in the workplace by service delivery to clients, staff satisfaction, reporting accountabilities and relationships with stakeholders. WAMS supply quarterly workbooks on these activities to our organisation accreditation agency.

Having sourced a local person, who commenced in November 2023, to lead HR practices and procedures will enable immediate access to an in-house experience person working in this field. With previous history of thirteen years working across the employment sector in Walgett's LGA, gives her insight and experience into social and community environments.

Quality in Culture

WAMS continues to provide a culturally diverse and inclusive service and organisation for their staff, clients and for the community. With the planned corporate branding all staff are wearing Frank Wright-designed, shirts. This has had a very positive effect both on staff and the wider community showing our organization as a "unified and connected" service.

Newly-appointed staff are provided with a cultural orientation session, including a visit to the Freedom Ride Memorial Park. The first stage of our culturally-appropriate wayfinding signage has now been erected throughout our the WAMS properties with a continuation of this signage to be erected at various external buildings.

Quality in Governance

Governance encompasses the roles and legal obligations of Directors, their knowledge of corporate responsibilities, how they represent the business. A Professional development is encouraged at all times. In this reporting period the Directors attended training conducted by Terri Janke Company called "Guarding Governance". Such training has provided them with a summary of their current roles along and the ever- changing legislations and regulations to oversee a not for profit business

Governance also includes the leadership of a business, reporting to a Board, reporting to staff, being accountable to community, stakeholders and to the funders. With these outcomes being achieved over many years, I have had the honour of being recognised and included in governmental committees. In September 2023 I attended Government House to receive the Order of Australia Medal (AM) for significant service to Indigenous Health and to the community of Walgett.

In October 2023 I was appointed to the Regional Health Ministerial Advisory Panel (RHMAP). This Panel was developed to strengthen community engagement and foster genuine co-design principles in the development of healthcare in regional NSW.



Quality in Operation

The Strategic Plan has been finalised covering a five year period ending in June 2027. The document has been forward to the Auditor, funding agencies and partner organisations. Brochures are printed and provided to visiting personnel including politicians, government officials, organisations, medical students, stakeholders and other businesses.

The Human Resources Plan is a working document and updated under the instruction of the Human Resources Officer. The Business Plan is an ongoing operational overview of the activity of the organization with relevant updated commentary.

An Arts Register is in its first design of capturing all pieces of art, photography, craft pieces and other objects of cultural significance. To record location, a narrative of the item, artist/identifier and the year it was received at our businesses.

To complement the Arts Register and to capture our cultural corporate identity, an Intellectual Property (IP) and Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property (ICIP) Policy is created.

We are currently editing a new streamlined website that will have updated information on current services, resources and WAMS related documentation. This website will also link to, and to compliment the history of the Freedom Ride.

WAMS are now officially registered as an National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Provider. This means we have the capacity to care for our clients according to their eligibility to receive treatment, social support and personal assistance.

Community Events/Health Promotion Programs

In conjunction with Goonimoo Children's Service Manager, Amy Townsend, and colleagues from the UNSW the CHIPP Program was developed, which is a co-design of a community led child injury prevention Program (CHIPP) which aimed to bolster child safety at the family, organisational and community levels. In July 2023 a CHIPP Podcast was recorded between the UNSW and WAMS to discuss the project and provide program results.

15 December 2023 – In partnerships between Dharriwa Elders Group (DEG), WAMS & George Institute of Global Health UNSW Food and Water for Life Project, a reverse osmosis water kiosk was installed and launched at the DEG premises for community access to safe, free and chilled drinking water.

WAMS assisted with the sponsorships for the Walgett Shire Council's "Beat The Heat" campaign at the Walgett and Collarenebri local pool where free entry, healthy snacks and beverages, entry prizes etc. were on offer to both communities.

Bulgarr Ngaru Aboriginal Medical Service in Grafton donated a large supply of Bushman's insect repellent to WAMS in March 2024 for distribution to our communities.

WAMS continue to donate on a regular basis to support the Walgett Community Working Party hosting regular Free Curry Nights open to the community where we "Celebrate Culture with Curry".

To supplement Goonimoo's Christmas gifts, locally made clothing for boys and girls were purchased from the local sewing group and added to each children's Christmas surprise.

WAMS also donated 6 x Christmas Photo Sessions, valued at \$80.00 each. Additionally, 21 Christmas packages were given to Australian Unity for local children, valued at \$40.00 each.



The local public school were a victim of alleged arson attack on their hall. WAMS offered a venue to local their activities until such time they had an alternate location to conduct their programs.

Staff support events, either by financial sponsorship or staff attendance, across our service area. Such events include the following;

AECG	SRG	School Awards	ANZAC Day
Local Community Working Party	International Women's Day	Police Aboriginal Advisory Council	Local Interagency
St Joseph's Primary School	Local High and Primary Schools	Family Planning NSW	Local Emergency Management Committee
Walgett Shire Council Harmony Day	Walgett Shire Council Reconciliation	Walgett Shire Council Australia Day	Walgett Shire Council Sorry Day
Walgett Shire Council Meet & greet event	Walgett Shire Council Reconciliation Day	Christmas raffle – vouchers purchased locally to boost the economy	Walgett Shire Council NAIDOC
CDAT	Youth Week	Remembrance Day	Walgett Show
Children's Health Checks (Primary schools)	Health Checks (High School)	Women's Health Checks	Men's Health Checks
Children's Day	Elders Health Checks	Dharriwaa Elders Group	Fruit and vegetable Deliveries

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

In January I accepted the appointment of the second representative to the AHMRC Zone four. The first Zone four representative being the CEO of Orange AMS, Jamie Newman, who holds the position of Chairperson of the governing Board.

As the members state affiliate, staff attended various conferences, workshops and training programs that are held by the AHMRC each year. In March the Chairperson and CEO attended the Indigenous Health Summit "Live Longer, stronger" in Eora, Sydney. In May, staff Melissa Nathan and Louann Brown attended the CQI State Forum in Sydney where Louann was nominated for an "Emerging Talent Award".

National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO)

Being our national peak body for ACCHO's, we support their organisation through attendance of webinars, conferences, workshops and information sessions. Their AGM was held in Canberra and was attended by two BAMS and two WAMS personnel. NACCHO also provide ongoing support via funding for COVID and flood relief and we are grateful for the additional contributions to assist our communities.

Conclusion

As another financial year draws to a close it is always a busy time with planning Annual Reports, preparing for our AGM and attendance at various meetings, both on and offsite. The service continues to thrive and grow and I am forever grateful to my staff at both our Walgett & Brewarrina sites who continue to be the backbone of the organisation. I wish to also thank our wonderful Board of Directors for their strength, resilience and decision making to improve both operational and organisational aspects of both services and look forward to what 2024/2025 brings.

CHRISTINE CORBY. AM
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



CHIEF OPERATIONS MANAGER REPORT JULY 2023 TO JUNE 2024

Introduction

The COM provides cultural leadership across the organisation and is responsible for the management and growth of the public health and social and emotional wellbeing programs. The COM oversees the managers to ensure WAMS/BAMS operations are managed effectively, and achievement of the agreed program performance indicators occurs.

This role also supports the CEO's achievement of organisational objectives and facilitates delivery of business operations across both WAMS and BAMS. The position also includes overseeing Human Resources (HR) and recruitment of staff and general practitioners.

Whilst for a portion of the year a HR Consultant was employed the COM worked closely with them until the HR Consultant resigned due to illness which saw the COM overseeing Human Resources internally with the assistance of executive management team and more recently a Human Resource Officer. This initiative has been beneficial as it has provided the pathway for updating essential onboarding documentation related to human resources and recruitments such as, employee contracts, job descriptions, performance appraisals and recruitment processes and welcome packages.

Impacts affecting service delivery.

The ongoing effect of the Covid 19 pandemic had impacted the workforce with staff shortages continuing during the reporting period. Staff have been fortunate to be upskilled with CommuniCare training which has been paramount for the flow on effect of Medicare claiming processes.

Without staff willingness and commitment to WAMS it would be difficult to provide such essential and professional services for the local and surrounding communities. The Pandemic continued to take its toll on the staffing of the organisation with an extraordinary amount of leave being taken due to COVID outbreaks and staff fatigue. This has led to having a domino effect creating an extraordinarily low level of staffing and difficulties meeting service targets.

Through maintaining a regular advertising campaign many positions were filled by the end of the financial year, with more expected to be filled in the coming months. COVID 19 outbreaks and major flooding events played havoc to normal operations but, with ongoing support and teamwork, staff were able to adapt and be flexible within their roles to provide the services required. Staff readily adjusted and encouraged community to support each other to increase community resilience. WAMS and BAMS continued providing vaccination clinics to reduce the effects of both covid and flu viruses including the Japanese encephalitis vaccine (JEV) which, due to the floodwater waters, contributed to an increased mosquito population and risk of infections occurring.

The Dental Clinic has undergone major renovations which is scheduled to be complete by 1st July, 2024. These renovations have not gone without the usual delays caused by materials being caught up in delays and various other complications.

WAMS/BAMS Medical Practitioners

WAMS has been fortunate to have continued employment of Dr Nina Dowling as a full time General Practitioner (GP), following her relocating to the Walgett district permanently. Dr Amy Derrick completed her GP Registrar and is now employed as a GP and settled in smoothly. Locums GP's were also utilised in meeting the medical demands of the local and surrounding communities. Dr Scot Porter has continued being a consistent locum at BAMS providing essential medical services to the local and surrounding communities.



Accreditation

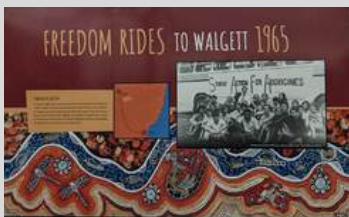
During the reporting period the Clinic Practice Manager resigned which shifted the responsibility of clinic operation to the Acting Clinic Practice Manager (ACPM) and the Chronic Disease Manager (CDM). The clinic was due for its the 3-year Accreditation assessment which I thank the CDM and clinic team who streamlined and organised the clinic processes which, in turn, provided stability and support for staff to successfully achieve the accreditation standards.

WAMS had also been active in being successful in achieving Quality Assurance Accreditation through TeWana for 3 years which will be completed in April 2025. This accreditation focuses on quality improvement activities to monitor and evaluate systems in place always striving to improve the service. BAMS was also successful in being accredited for another three years achieving all standards with AGPAL in April 2023.

In conclusion, although the impacts of the pandemic continued and major flooding events caused business operations to be interrupted, having a flexible approach has contributed to positive changes occurring. WAMS/BAMS organisational structure and business activities will benefit future operations of WAMS/BAMS allowing for future growth of the services presently available.

I would like to personally thank all staff who have continued to focus on providing improved services for our local and surrounding communities.

KATRINA WARD
CHIEF OPERATIONS MANAGER







Health is Life is Health

ALLIED HEALTH



OUTBACK THERAPY

ALLIED HEALTH SERVICES 2023-2024 WALGETT ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICE

OVERVIEW

Outback Therapy is a branch of Raymond Terrace Therapy, and proudly provides outreach Allied Health services to Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service (WAMS). The Outback Therapy services delivered to WAMS include; Physiotherapy, Speech Pathology & Occupational Therapy.

Outback Therapy has had another successful year (2023-2024) partnering with WAMS, strengthening its commitment to enhancing access and health outcomes through expanded delivery of allied health services, notably by increasing the frequency of physiotherapy sessions in 2024.

OUTBACK THERAPY | WALGETT ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICE | 2023-2024



2023-2024 has seen the partnership between Outback Therapy and Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service (WAMS) strengthen and grow which is evident through the surge in referrals and a significant increase in the uptake of face-to-face service provisions.

Outback Therapy's innovative and flexible service delivery approach has been instrumental in ensuring that our therapeutic offerings remain accessible and effective. This forward-thinking approach has enabled us to seamlessly demonstrate our commitment to the community by continuing to deliver critical support to individuals and families who rely on our services.

The partnership with WAMS has brought about exciting opportunities for Outback Therapy to expand our reach and make a meaningful impact for this rural community. By joining forces with the esteemed WAMS organisation, Outback Therapy has gained access to a broader network of like-minded health professionals, cutting-edge resources, and a diverse WAMS team, inclusive of Aboriginal Health Workers. Working collaboratively optimises the ability to develop meaningful and culturally competent connections with the Walgett community and further enhances our ability to serve community members with the utmost care & expertise.

Outback Therapy's commitment to providing exceptional services remains unwavering, and we strive to ensure that our therapeutic interventions make a positive and lasting difference in the lives of those we serve. Through the collaborative efforts of the dedicated team at WAMS and the support of the community, Outback Therapy continues to excel in promoting holistic health and wellbeing.



OUTBACK THERAPY | WALGETT ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICE | 2023-2024



Picture: Community Health Expo 2023 (Rob & Beth)

SPEECH PATHOLOGY

Allied Health Professional: Bethany Eden
Speech Pathologist | March 2021 - present



SERVICES BETHANY PROVIDES:

- ❖ Provision of paediatric speech pathology services in the clinic, school, within the home and home programs
- ❖ Provision of Adolescent and Adult speech pathology services in the clinic, community and home consultation
- ❖ Speech, language and literacy; assessment and recommendations
- ❖ School Screenings
- ❖ Use of Telehealth services where appropriate
- ❖ Incorporation of WAMS Aboriginal Health Workers in service delivery
- ❖ Resource development: Culturally sensitive Activity Packs, assessments, resources
- ❖ Liaising with and supporting local services; schools, preschools, Western NSW Local Health District
- ❖ Fortnightly book reading at Goonimoo Playgroup and upskilling of Goonimoo staff in communication development

OUTBACK THERAPY | WALGETT ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICE | 2023-2024



- ❖ Outreach services to Goodooga and Brewarrina

SPEECH PATHOLOGY

Allied Health Professional: Laura D'Amico
Speech Pathologist | 2024 - present



SERVICES LAURA PROVIDES:

- ❖ Provision of paediatric speech pathology services in the clinic, school, within the home and home programs
- ❖ Provision of Adolescent and Adult speech pathology services in the clinic, community and home consultation
- ❖ Speech, language and literacy; assessment and recommendations
- ❖ Use of Telehealth services where appropriate
- ❖ Incorporation of WAMS Aboriginal Health Workers in service delivery

OUTBACK THERAPY | WALGETT ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICE | 2023-2024



Over the previous year, Beth has continued to provide Speech Pathology services to WAMS and outreach services to Goodooga and Brewarrina. At the beginning of 2024 Beth took an extended leave of absence. To continue our support for WAMS, Laura, our Speech Pathologist from Raymond Terrace Therapy provided outreach services.

Beth and Laura have supported clients of all ages and abilities to work toward their communication goals. Due to the streamlined approach to Speech Pathology Beth has developed in the prior years, there is currently no waitlist, ensuring more clients are able to be seen.

Beth has provided health promotion resources and education sessions which have assisted in an increase in referrals and promotion of how Speech Pathology can support the Walgett community.

Beth has continued her focus on creating positive relationships with local services in Walgett by providing service directly in the school and preschool settings. Beth has participated in a book reading program at Goonimoo playgroup to promote how book reading can support language development, enhance relationships with families in the community and has supported upskilling educators in communication development.

Speech Pathology services remain an integral component of WAMS service offerings. We are optimistic about the future of Speech Pathology at WAMS and are committed to continually improving service delivery while leveraging the vibrant and welcoming therapy environment.



OUTBACK THERAPY | WALGETT ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICE | 2023-2024



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Allied Health Professional: Samara Unwin
Occupational Therapist | 2019 - present



SERVICES SAMARA PROVIDES:

- ❖ Provision of paediatric Occupational Therapy review and assessments
- ❖ Provision of Occupational Therapy to adolescents and adults
- ❖ Home programs
- ❖ Play Group intervention / information sessions
- ❖ School Screenings
- ❖ Post care hand and upper limb injury
- ❖ My Aged Care referrals and assessment
- ❖ Equipment prescription and exploration of funding options
- ❖ Funding applications and advocating for individuals
- ❖ Fall prevention and mobility equipment provision
- ❖ Home environment review and modifications recommendations
- ❖ Liaising with and supporting local services; schools, preschools, Western LHD
- ❖ Lymphodema Services
- ❖ Driving Assessments

OUTBACK THERAPY | WALGETT ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICE | 2023-2024



Over the previous year, Samara has provided monthly Occupational Therapy (OT) outreach services to WAMS. The OT service has continued to grow over the past 12 months. The OT delivered through WAMS addresses the needs of all of the community, from paediatrics, to adults, to our elders and is provided to all areas of the local community and surrounding areas.



The Occupational Therapy service includes a regular monthly outreach service to Collarenebri, a joint service provision with Samara (OT) and a WAMS Aboriginal Health Worker, it includes support to the daycare and school. To increase access to OT services in remote communities, a Brewarrina Aboriginal Medical Service (BAMS) OT service is run on a needs basis, also supported by a WAMS Aboriginal Health Worker.

Samara has completed additional training to enrich the OT service and further diversify the resources available to the Walgett community. Lymphoedema Services and Driving Assessments are now available.

The Occupational Therapy role continues to adapt and incorporate the growing and changing needs within the community. Samara has become involved with ongoing and emerging local groups; such as Local Children's play groups (Goonimoo) and the Elders group.

The Occupational Therapy service includes Telehealth and remote access to WAMS practice software ensures the continuity of service delivery. This encompasses indirect client services, such as funding reports for home modifications to better accommodate individual needs. The Telehealth service has effectively addressed the challenges of geographical isolation for some residents who are unable to travel, thereby enhancing access to services and offering a more inclusive approach to the Walgett community.

OUTBACK THERAPY | WALGETT ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICE | 2023-2024



PHYSIOTHERAPY

Allied Health Professionals: Robert Martinez
Physiotherapist | 2014 - present



SERVICES ROBERT PROVIDES:

- ❖ Paediatric physiotherapy review and assessments
- ❖ Physiotherapy services across the age span
- ❖ Musculoskeletal conditions assessment & intervention & Acute conditions
- ❖ Group programs: Cardiorespiratory rehabilitation “Heart Matters”
- ❖ Chronic and complex disease management
- ❖ Outpatient service provision within the clinic and community
- ❖ Palliative care
- ❖ Complex and chronic pain management
- ❖ Team Leader for Allied health team
- ❖ Incorporation of WAMS Aboriginal Health Workers in service delivery

OUTBACK THERAPY | WALGETT ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICE | 2023-2024



PHYSIOTHERAPY

Allied Health Professionals: Shubham Biyala
Physiotherapist | 2024 - present



SERVICES SHUBHAM PROVIDES:

- ❖ Paediatric physiotherapy review and assessments
- ❖ Physiotherapy services across the age span
- ❖ Musculoskeletal conditions assessment & intervention & Acute conditions
- ❖ Group programs: Cardiorespiratory rehabilitation “Heart Matters”
- ❖ Chronic and complex disease management
- ❖ Outpatient service provision within the clinic and community
- ❖ Palliative care
- ❖ Complex and chronic pain management
- ❖ Team Leader for Allied health team
- ❖ Incorporation of WAMS Aboriginal Health Workers in service delivery

OUTBACK THERAPY | WALGETT ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICE | 2023-2024



Over the previous year, the Physiotherapy service offering at WAMS has seen a significant increase with the addition of fortnightly services by Shubham Biyala who joined the Outback Therapy team in January 2024. Rob Martinez has continued to provide monthly physiotherapy outreach to WAMS. Physiotherapy at WAMS continues to provide a wide ranging physiotherapy service for acute and chronic conditions.

In 2024, Outback Therapy proudly maintained its long-standing commitment to providing allied health services to WAMS, with Physiotherapy being its most established and sought-after service. Rob is celebrating his tenth year of service to the vibrant community of Walgett under WAMS.

There continues to be a strong community need for physiotherapy across the lifespan. Our physiotherapist provides services from a clinic within the newer WAMS building and continues to deliver individual and group programs within the Exercise Therapy Room (ETR). The specialised gym equipment allows rehabilitation, improves accessibility and allows variety for exercise options.



The physiotherapy led cardiorespiratory rehabilitation, “Heart Matters” continues to be a valuable WAMS service offered to the community, now having two weekly groups. “Heart Matters” is delivered in the ETR and co-facilitated by Annie Deane (Life Modifications). We also implemented a 6 week fall prevention program aimed at those who have had a fall or are at risk of a fall.



Robert has continued his bimonthly service to Brewarrina Aboriginal Medical Service (BAMS) and is absolutely thrilled with the experience so far. As part of Outback Therapy, he brings with him the passion and dedication to further broaden access to experienced and specialised physiotherapy advice for rural and remote communities.

Robert is determined that through his enthusiasm and commitment to enhancing Physiotherapy services, he will leave a positive impact on the lives

of those he serves, promoting health and well-being in “the Outback”.

OUTBACK THERAPY | WALGETT ABORIGINAL MEDICAL SERVICE | 2023-2024



Health is Life is Health

BREWARRINA



BREWARRINA REPORT JULY 2023 TO JUNE 2024

Introduction

The team continues to provide culturally appropriate health services for the Brewarrina and surrounding communities whilst working in partnership with the local VMO Doctors surgery, Local Health Service, Primary Health Network, and other health related organisations

The GP clinic endures to provide expert quality medical service and primary health care management through engagement of a semi-permanent GP– Dr Scott Porter. Dr Porter has become a familiar face within Brewarrina and community members are embracing the continuity of care offered by Dr Porter and the team. Staff and community members have become 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, but they were also managed accordingly to improve overall health outcomes. Dr Porter has worked closely with the team who consciously coordinated adult and child health checks, which continues to be a beneficial tool in identifying and monitoring chronic disease throughout the Brewarrina and Outreach communities.

The team from Brien Holden Vision Institute continues to provide expert Optometry services to support BAMS, through their teams visiting and delivering a high standard of eye health care to individual clients. They also provide training and access to substantial equipment which assists in 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 include psychological intervention, Ear Nose and Throat Specialist, Drug and Alcohol Counselling, Podiatry, Women's Health, Australian Hearing, Family Planning and Sexual Health clinics.

Purpose Built Facility

WAMS has successfully progressed with the purpose-built facility at Doyle Street. Thank you to CDA for the work in engagement of the relevant people to surveying and for the modular property design. The building is being designed for its environmental suitability and taking into account our harsh summer conditions. It will suit the unique challenges of the remote/rural communities.

Accreditation

Our diligent staff 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 was renewed for another three-year period in April 2023. Congratulations to all staff who have been able to achieve this result. The Electrical Test & Tag is up to date with a quality change in Fire Safety Specialist companies retaining integrity in compliance. Health and safety team continued to strive toward improving qualifications and skills to provide professional health care services that are welcoming and culturally appropriate for our clientele.

Covid 19 Impacts

Covid 19 impacts have been reduced, whilst still present in the community and does have some impact on staffing levels due to precautions put in place to protect vulnerable members of the community, the ongoing measures have become second nature and part of daily care within the organisation.



Visiting services include:

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| ○ General Practitioner - Medical Locum service | 5 days a week |
| ○ Psychologist – Social Emotional Well Being program, | 2 days a week |
| ○ Drug and Alcohol Counsellor | Weekly |
| ○ Sexual Health Clinic | monthly |
| ○ Family Planning – Women's Health clinic | fortnightly |
| ○ Podiatry | fortnightly |
| ○ Ear Nose & Throat Specialist | every 3 - 4 months |
| ○ Brien Holden Vision Institute | quarterly |
| ○ Dietician and Physio/exercise program | 2 days a week |
| ○ HAPEE Australian Hearing | quarterly |

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
Family planning support	General medical duties	Outreach clinic Orana Haven
Visiting Health Clinics	Health Assessments	Home visits
SEWB Support	Vaccination 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-Birrlee Pre School	Clontarf Boys Academy	St Patrick's Primary School
Brewarrina Central School		Brewarrina Christian School

- Influenza, JEV and COVID 19 vaccination clinics

Brewarrina Central School	Community members	BAMS Staff
Orana Haven	Weilmoringle	Bre Shire Council

Local Representation:

Interagency Health Meetings	Ngemba Community Working Party	Brewarrina Local Aboriginal Lands Council
Integrated Care Program	ANZAC March	NAIDOC Week Celebrations
Local Emergency Management	Mark Coulton Visit	Remembrance Day
Orana Haven	Local Schools	

WAMS

Board of Directors Meetings and AGM	CQI Meetings	Clinic Governance
Managers Meeting	WHS Meetings	Transport meetings
Respiratory Clinic	All Staff Meetings	Health Minister – Ryan Park
Local Emergency Management Meetings	Ministry of health representatives	LHD Representatives



Conferences / Forums Attended

AHMRC AGM	NACCHO AGM	Aboriginal Chronic Conditions Conference
AHMRC QCI Meeting	Rural Doctors Network Forum	Headspace Conference

Health Promotion

Health Checks	Covid 19 Awareness	Wellness Packs delivery
School Flu Vaccine Clinic	Homelessness day	Covid positive packs
NAIDOC week	Community Wellbeing Event	Open Day/May Measure Month
White Ribbon Day	Women's Health Awareness	Careers expo
RUOK Day	Child protection Week	Ochre Day

Staff In-services & Training

Covid 19 Immunisation	Covid 19 Infection Control	Cold Chain Breach
Work Health & Safety	Medicare Claiming	First aid/ CPR
Covid 19 Awareness	Covid 19 Vaccination updates	AGPAL /PENCAT
Work Health & Safety	Wound Care Seminar	Retinal Camera refresher
	Certificate 4 AHP PHC	

External Relationships

Brewarrina Multipurpose Service	Mission Australia	McKillop
Western Local Health District	Brewarrina Central School	St Patrick's School
Brewarrina Shire Council	Weilmoringle Public School	Brien Holden Vision Institute
RACGP _ JTIS	Br Local Aboriginal Lands Council	Brewarrina Museum
Ngemba Community Working Party	Orana Haven Drug & Alcohol Rehabilitation Centre	Dubbo Western NSW Eye Health Partnership
Primary Health Network	NIAA	AHMRC / NACCHO
Brewarrina Lands Council	Brewarrina Museum	University of Newcastle
Local Emergency Management Committees	Brewarrina Police, Fire & Ambulance Services	Brewarrina Sporting Clubs

Staffing for the period.

- Katrina Ward
 - Bernadette Hertslet
 - Dee-Anna Nixon
 - Chris Boney
 - Roxanne Crawford
 - Joseph Gordon
 - Gemma Roper
 - Natasha Barker
 - Belinda Loughnan
 - Megan Kelly
 - Julia Bow
 - Shan Undugodage
 - Vanna Engthongham
- Manager & Chief Operations Manager
 - Endorsed Enrolled Nurse – Clinic & Team Supervisor returned May 2024
 - Endorsed Enrolled Nurse - Healthy for Life
 - Gardener / Maintenance
 - Cleaner (resigned)
 - Trainee AHW
 - Dietitian (returned from Maternity Leave April 2023)
 - Receptionist
 - Medicare Compliance Officer & Reception
 - ITC Coordinator/SEWB worker (Resigned May 2024)
 - Registered Nurse
 - Suicide Prevention Practitioner
 - Cleaner



BAMS Manager (Chief Operations Manager) is responsible for overseeing operations and staff performance of the medical service including coordinating, and leading clinical services and programs for the local community. This position is a key leadership role where the BAMS team is lead and manages to provide quality health care to local and surrounding communities ensuring all activities undertaken meet legislative, accreditation and professional standards and funding obligations.

- Katrina Ward

General Practitioners are contracted on a locum basis. The visiting GPs are responsible for monitoring and managing the Primary Health Care and Chronic Disease needs of clients. They work alongside the BAMS team to provide medical interventions to improve overall health and wellbeing outcomes for our communities.

- Dr Scott Porter

Administration Staff are the frontline personnel who often become multi-skilled and perform the general office duties that assist in the daily conduct of Clinics and other support services.

- Natasha Barker Receptionist

Medicare Officer and Senior receptionist are responsible for overseeing Medicare claims and ensuring compliance is adhered to as well as taking a lead role in administrative duties.

- Belinda Loughnan Medicare Officer / Senior Receptionist

Aboriginal Outreach Program provides an avenue to promote better health and to advocate on client's behalf to access healthcare assistance.

- Natasha Barker Aboriginal Outreach Worker / Admin support

Medical Clinic provides a Locum GP service 5 days a week to enable 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 clinic team assist the GP's and provide initial medical assessments and care to clients prior to them consulting with the GP.

- Julia Bow Registered 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 and GP Management Plans for individuals and assists clients to access the Chronic Disease Programs such as exercise and nutritional programs on offer. Health promotion education and awareness events are also coordinated by the healthy for life team.

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

SEWB / Suicide Prevention Program provides visiting Psychologists who offer 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.

- Will Grech Psychologist
- Fran Read Psychologist
- Shan Undugodage Suicide Prevention Practitioner

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

- Stephen Ross 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
- Wanna Engthongham Cleaner

Summary:

I am pleased to report that many of the staff have participated in additional training opportunities to enhance their skills. Joseph has taken a lead role in Eye and Ear Health in Brewarrina and surrounding communities having a vested interest and passion in improving the overall health outcome of our people and community.

Conclusion

I look forward to 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.

During the reporting period I spent time at WAMS in the Chief Operations Manager (COM) position and oversaw both operations. I have continued to be impressed by the BAMS staff's willingness and ability to ensure BAMS operations continued strongly whilst I was offsite. I would like to wholeheartedly thank and congratulate the dedicated staff for their ongoing diligence and commitment to ensuring the best possible health care. The BAMS team often provide ongoing services, outside their job descriptions, while extremely short staffed, which does not go unrecognised.

In the last week of March 2024, I sustained a workplace injury which has resulted in significant time off and offered unique challenges as a result. Bernadette Hertslet and Belinda Loughlin are both acting up in my absence to ensure continued operation of business activities and provision of service to the Brewarrina Community. A safety review of the incident was conducted whereby recommendations offered were to monitor the situation as per the particular situation. A return-to-work plan is in effect with continued assistance from EML, Workcover, Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Ltd (WAMS) and Brewarrina Aboriginal Medical Service (BAMS).

KATRINA WARD

CHIEF OPERATIONS MANAGER and BAMS MANAGER



Health is Life is Health

**CHILDREN'S
SERVICES**



GOONIMOO MOBILE CHILDREN'S SERVICE REPORT

JULY 2023 – JUNE 2024

Introduction

Early Childhood Education is limited in our Shire and Goonimoo outreach has kept communities connected, heard and cared for when it comes to delivering sessions. Goonimoo playgroups focus on children 0-5 years old and often have included the whole family for wrap around supports. Goonimoo Mobile Children's Service receive funding from NIAA for locational supported playgroups.

Playgroup Venues

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Walgett WAMS, Goonimoo Centre | twice weekly - Monday and Wednesday |
| • Collarenebri Preschool & Lions Park | once weekly - Tuesday |
| • Carinda Town Hall | once weekly - Thursday |

Staffing

For this reporting period the Team experienced a change in staff, Stacy Buliani held the Management role until December 2023 in which she vacated her role to move family away from the area.

In January, WAMS welcomed Joanne Flick as Manager, supported by Bridie Lake and Larina Murray.

We farewelled Tara Smith in March. We additionally welcomed Sheriden Fernando in February and Lucinda Sands-Dennis in May as Early Childhood Educators.

Joanne conducted monthly team meetings with structured agenda. With playgroup delivery four days a week, the fifth day is used for study, office work, preparation, restock and deep cleaning of the centre and cars.

Service Delivery

Goonimoo Playgroups saw a shift in the local Aboriginal people accessing the service more. The team delivered packs filled with safe, hygienic and welcoming information and resources being an introduction token allowing parents to meet the new team and manager. Resources aligned with Early Childhood Health, consisting of individual hand soaps, tissues, toothbrushes and toothpaste related to an information sheet to demonstrate to young children, parents and family members the importance of children cleanliness and early prevention practices from the everyday cold and flu and spread of germs.

January 2024 came with new ideas and improvement on service delivery. Goonimoo team had an opportunity to refine the playgroup's structure. Developing new programs, sourcing and including other Health professionals around us. Successful programs newly created and added to our playgroups include:

- Devanshi's Food Talk
Delivering vital information to our families around what we feed our children, how our children eat, what's best for our young bubs to consume.
- Gamilaraay Language Program
Exposure to the local Aboriginal language Gamilaraay.
- Auslan sign
Key sign words, role modelling to families and children an alternate way to communicate.
- Creating a group time item that was flexible and allowed room to add.

Community Development Activities

WAMS Health Promotions	Walgett Careers Day	Easter Events
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day – Walgett & Collarenebri	Walgett Show Early Childhood Entry	International Women's Day Walgett & Collarenebri
ANZAC Day	Sorry Day	NAIDOC Week
	Births & Registrations Walgett & Collarenebri	

In August, the team celebrated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day at Collarenebri and Walgett communities to promote the 2023 theme "Little Voices, Loud Future". The Children enjoyed the event, getting hands-on with Aboriginal arts and crafts, including the creation of vibrant and beautiful sand art pieces.



They set up various craft stations that catered to all children, and even took story-time outdoors, led by Bethany the Speech Pathologist, who enchanted the children with the beloved book 'Possum Magic.' Craft activities included Sand Art, Aboriginal Scratch Art, crafting an Aboriginal flag and Indigenous Hand colouring in. To make the day even more special, children received gift bags filled with exciting activities to enjoy at home. In our commitment to promoting literacy, each bag also included the book 'Purlka ngamaji Kakaji.'

WAMS Referral Service Access

- New Directions Mums and Bubs Nurse Children's Immunisation and Health checks.
- Midwifery team
- Hearing Australia – HAPPEE Ears
- WAMS Dental team – Oral Health.
- Allied Health – Therapy Assistant, Speech, Occupational Therapy, Dietician, Psychologist and Mental Health Clinician assisting with developmental assessments and referring to Paediatrician or General Practitioner.
- Social and Emotional Wellbeing program supporting families and positive behaviour techniques.
- Goonimoo continues to receive referrals through its links to programs within WAMS as well as referred to playgroup from other organisations within the community.
- Access to playgroups can be via self-referred, family, friends or local services.

Professional Development

The team regularly commit to the below training to ensure all certifications are up to date and the team are knowledgeable in the current practices.

WAMS Inservice Training	First Aid & CPR	AMSED Modules	AIFS Training Australian Institute Food Safety.
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In conclusion

The team have transitioned well, in spite of the challenges in staff changes throughout the reporting period. They continue to strive with many new ideas and quality improvements for the enjoyment and benefit of the communities within our Shire.

Goonimoo Mobile Children's Service endeavour to continue its renowned delivery of quality playgroups to our communities and families who seek to engage. Relying on our trusted professional relationships to support our children in the efforts of accessing Early Childhood Education remotely.

Community connections play a key role in reaching goals for families who have limited access to and understanding of processes.

2024 has been the start of successfully implementing new teachings and changes for Goonimoo that we imbed and uphold to deliver to our families and children.

JOANNE FLICK
GOONIMOO MOBILE CHILDREN'S SERVICE MANAGER



Health is Life is Health

CLINIC



CLINIC TEAM REPORT JULY 2023 TO JUNE 2024

Introduction

The Clinic provides many services to the Walgett community. We have two permanent Doctors as well as GP locums that regularly visit the organisation. Our core purpose as an organisation is improving the health and wellbeing of people in Walgett and the surrounding communities. The clinic focuses on both preventative and ongoing care within a multi-disciplinary team which consists of General Practitioners, Registered Nurses, Aboriginal Health Workers and Midwives.

Doctors

WAMS has Dr Nina Dowling and Dr Amy Derrick, as our permanent GP's who are supported by regular visiting GP locums. Alongside working in the GP clinic our doctors cover outreach clinics in Pilliga, as well as providing cover in the Wellness service Building at WAMS.

Pharmacy

The dispensary is managed by our Senior Aboriginal Health Worker, Phillip Dowse. Any staff member who assists in the dispensing of medications must have achieved their Dispensary Assistant Certificate III through the Pharmacy Guild of Australia.

Transport

The team assists clients with WAMS appointments and out of area pre-booked Specialist medical appointments. Local transport ensures clients can attend their medical appointments with any of the WAMS services. By offering transport, we can increase the accessibility to medical care for our clients. The team also works in collaboration with Walgett pharmacy ensuring clients medications are delivered directly to their homes if unable to collect them themselves. WAMS also purchased wheelchair bus in May 2024, which helps to take clients away to medical appointments in which they would struggle to be able to do so without it.

Clinic

In April 2024 WAMS successfully recruited Asha Parekatt, to the Permanent Registered Nurse position, WAMS also successfully recruited a casual nurse Helen Malcolm who works alongside Asha or backfills in other nursing positions at WAMS. WAMS was supported by the agency Registered Nurses from the Remote Area Health Corp (a support service for agencies who are funded by the Commonwealth program for COVID clinics) and Aboriginal Health Workers up until March 2024.

Liver Clinic

Our Senior Aboriginal Health Worker Philip Dowse also Coordinates the liver clinic, holding video conferences with the specialists and patients also coordinating their ultrasounds and pathology also conducting home visits.

Midwifery and New Directions Mothers and Babies program

Midwifery/ AMIHS program- the community Midwife and Aboriginal Health Worker provide antenatal and postnatal care to expecting mothers and their newborn babies. The Midwife works in consultation with the GP and associated hospitals where women have elected to birth.

WAMS currently has a permanent Midwife and is actively trying to recruit to the Aboriginal Health worker position.



New Direction Mothers and Babies- the Child and Family Health Nurse and Aboriginal Health Worker provide childhood immunisations and ensure children are reaching their developmental milestones and appropriate assessments are attended if required.

WAMS has had a casual Child and family health nurse and is actively trying to recruit a full-time nurse and Aboriginal Health worker.

ITC

In February 2024 ITC relocated to the clinic the ITC program has two staff members a ITC coordinator and also a ITC Nurse, The ITC Program aims to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and / or Torres Strait Islander patients with chronic health conditions through better access to coordinated and multidisciplinary care. It also aims to contribute to closing the gap in life expectancy by improving access to mainstream primary health care, including allied health and specialists.

COVID 19

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. WAMS offers booster Covid vaccinations when available.

Medical Students

Medical students commenced placements at WAMS in May 2024. Fifth year medical students from the University of Western Sydney undertook a four-week placement at WAMS. Learning takes place through immersion, by observing direct patient care delivered by the grass roots services and by working in and with Aboriginal communities.

They were introduced to the complexities of health care of families and communities and to gain an insight into patient-centred primary health care. They were also given opportunities to appreciate the community and understand the social support available to Aboriginal people, as well as the barriers and difficulties in accessing health services.

Conclusion

Staff are to be congratulated on their constant commitment to ensuring our community is well supported and are getting all their health needs met.

KAYLA THURSTON
ACTING CLINIC PRACTICE MANAGER



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ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM



REPORT ON ORAL HEALTH PROGRAM JULY 2023 TO JUNE 2024

Introduction

The aims of the Dental Program is to;

- To provide a culturally appropriate mix of dental health services for clients who reside in WAMS service area
- To improve access to dental services for all our clients
- To build an effective dental workforce
- To work effectively with local partners in the provision of quality dental care

Activities

During this financial year it was not possible to provide dental care services as ongoing renovation works forced the dental clinic to remain closed.

Ms Kayla Thurston, Dental Team Leader was re-deployed as Acting Clinic Manager
Ms Sarah Dowse, Dental Assistant was redeployed as Clinic Receptionist.

Ms Dowse organised appointments and patient transport to dental clinics in Dubbo, Moree or Coonamble for patients requiring emergency dental care.

In terms of oral health promotion, the dental team presented oral health information and products at the Walgett Careers Expo and the Walgett Show.

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.

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

Dr SANDRA MEIHUBERS AM
DENTAL CONSULTANT



Health is Life is Health

**DHARRIWAA
ELDERS GROUP**



WAMS and DEG - 2023/2024

This year Dharriwaa Elders Group “DEG”) progressed the Walgett Youth Wellbeing Collaboration with Walgett AMS and Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT to establish a new wellbeing service for children and young people. The Youth Wellbeing Service that we are building for Walgett in Collaboration with the Walgett Aboriginal Medical Service Ltd (WAMS) and Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT) Limited (ALS) is based in Aboriginal SEWB models which are holistic and position people with their broader social, historical and political context. Children and young people in Walgett are inseparable from and embedded with family, community, country and culture and the Two River Pathway model three-interlinked strategies recognises this. The Two River Pathway to Change model is a locally led model, informed by the evidence, including that by UNSW researchers involved in the Yawaya Ngarra-li partnership.



Left: In January 2024, Stephen Ross Alcohol and other Drugs Counsellor and Sarah Ellison – Mental Health Counsellor, began work at WAMS. They are important supporters of the Yuwaya Ngarra-li Dealing with Fines program and are seen here with DEG's Zoe Sands.

Below: DEG joined WAMS' ceremony in July 2023 for the launch of the Freedom Rides Park.



Left: In September 2024, Ash Jacky from the ALS presented DEG's Speaker Clem Dodd with special artwork re the Walgett Youth Wellbeing Collaboration.



Food & Water 4 Life - WAMS and DEG

DEG and WAMS are working together with Yuwaya Ngarra-li partners in the George Institute for Global Health to initiate community programs that will improve Walgett's food and water security. Backed by research led by DEG and WAMS, we worked this year to bring acceptable quality drinking water to Walgett, locally-produced foods in community gardens and better access to healthier food choices. The Healthy Supermarket program undertook a survey of the Walgett IGA supermarket to determine which items had higher nutritional content so we could promote them as “Healthy Choices”. IGA manager Paresch Patel is always supportive and has been doing what it takes to improve his company's offerings of affordable food. During the period the project designed a Community Freezer program to distribute frozen free meals. Our Food and Water For Life community survey received a mention in the prestigious 1/8/23 Nature journal editorial: <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-023-02442-7> !



Left: IGA's Paresch Patel with WAMS' Melissa Nathan, Annie Deane and Devanshi Gala discussing the findings of the supermarket audit.



Above left: DEG's Ty Hickey with WAMS' Devanshi Gala setting up a Meal of the Month in the Walgett IGA. Above centre: DEG's Rick Townsend officially launched DEG's gali in December 2023 – Walgett's first reverse osmosis chilled drinking water. WAMS, Council, Police, Mission Australia and the Walgett Newsagency joined us.



Health is Life is Health

WELLNESS SERVICE



WELLNESS CENTRE REPORT JUNE 2023 to JULY 2024

Introduction

A major achievement this year was the change of name from **The Chronic Disease Service** to the **Wellness Centre**. This change reflects a service that delivers preventive and integrative care and is a 'place of referrals'. Evidence shows the way a person is labelled or diagnosed, in attachment to particular diseases, has negative impacts on the person's sense of self and identity.

Labels can unduly influence or prejudice care and create stigma which ultimately affects the ways people cope with the illnesses they have. The change of name was welcomed by the community and embraced by staff.

Team Members

Stephen Ross - Drug and Alcohol Network Coordinator	Melissa Nathan – Wellness Centre Manager
Annie Deane – Healthy for Life Modifications Officer	Melissa Haley – FCPHC AHP
Devanshi Gala – Community Dietitian	Sarah Ellison – Mental Health Clinician
Louann Brown – FCPHC AHW	Christine Hill – Outreach Nurse
Jenny Hunt - Aboriginal Health Worker Eye Health	Cheryl Harmston – Medical Billings Officer
Eathan Dickson – Aboriginal Health Worker	Kimblea Pickering - Receptionist

Farewells and Internal Movements

The Centre experienced the following staff moving on to other employment, Grant Hancock (AHW) and Vivien Anyimba (RN). Receptionist, Monique Watts, transitioned into another department within WAMS. We wish them all well and every success in their new endeavours.

Key Achievements

- Name change to Wellness Service
- Local Australian Day nomination to Annie Deane – Healthy for Life
- Nomination of Louann Brown AHW at the CQI Awards
- Commencement of Mental Health Clinician
- Commencement of AoD Coordinator

Challenges

Local recruitment continues to be a challenge and proven trend countrywide. It is difficult to contend with competitors incentives, and nurses and AHPs are currently in high demand. A lack of accommodation in town is an added negative impact on recruitment and affects service delivery.

Continued vacancy of the GP position and the documented challenges also negatively impacted services such as health assessments and well-being care, which are essential elements of Aboriginal funded care.

Agencies worked together

Aged Care Australia	Dharriwaa Elders Group (DEG)
Domestic Violence Group	Family Planning NSW
Multipurpose Health Service	MacKillop Family Services
Mission Australia	Orana Haven
PCYC Walgett	RFDS
Thiyamali	Walgett Holistic Working Group (WHWG)
Walgett Shire Council	Youth Action Meeting (YAM)



Wellness Services

Specialist Services

This year saw the departure of the two Cardiologists, Dr Kalamadasa and his registrar Dr Goonetilleke, with recruitment of the position on-going. The Paediatrician position remains vacant and the Endocrinologist visits have decreased due to family commitments. This is a trend seen across Australia as medical shortages affect rural and regional areas. Engagement talks are on-going to connect new providers to the service. Specialist services continued with Dermatologists Dr David Cook and Dr Adam Harris attending 3 times a year.

Allied Health Clinics

Allied Health clinics have continued with an initiative to increase referrals under care plans thereby increasing Medicare revenue. Most allied health providers are now seen under referral which is a large improvement on previous years. Allied Health consists of Physiotherapy with extra days added this year, Podiatry, Psychology, Occupational Therapy, Optometry, Speech Therapy. HAPEE Hearing under Australian Hearing has continued a bi-monthly service to Walgett and outlying services. Data cleansing persists with the aim to increase quality of data capture seeing an increase across all the services offered at the Wellness Centre. This will continue into the next year.

Nursing clinics

The Nursing stream continued to provide services that enhance access to client care, including recommencement of QAAMS (Diabetes testing), 24 Hour Ambulatory BP testing and 24-Hour ECG monitoring. An increasing demand for case management and aged care coordination is burgeoning and an adjustment of the Wellness Nurse service will be seen over the next 12 months to meet this change in care. Nurses continue to run an immunisation program while supporting GP services.

SPECIALIST CLINICS	
DERMATOLOGIST Dr David Cook Dr Adam Harris	3 monthly visits. Increase 26% Increased 20% - Only 2 clinics this year due to illness
ENDOCRINOLOGIST Dr Guttikonda	Increase of 43% due to increased service days
ALLIED HEALTH CLINICS	
HAPEE HEARING	To be confirmed
HEARING AUSTRALIA	Lack of Audiologist nationwide
OPTOMETRIST VARIOUS	Across all areas 720 Aboriginal clients 148 new clients
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY	1 week per month Increase of 100%
PHYSIOTHERAPIST Rob Martinez Shubham Biyala	Increase of 300% (data cleansing and increased shifts)
PODIATRIST Luke Buchtmann Sonika Prasad Savo Maric	No comparable figure
PSYCHOLOGIST Will Grech	Incorrect data entry
SPEECH THERAPIST Beth Eden	150% increase (data cleansing)



Programs

Alcohol and Other Drugs

The Coordinator commenced in November providing regular services to Walgett, Collarenebri and Brewarrina, with occasional visits to Pilliga on demand. The second year of ongoing vacancy of AHW in this program continues to impact service delivery. Naloxone training was attended again this year, however, there has been a decrease in opioid use, and an increase in Ice use in the surrounding area.

The formation of the Youth Action Committee, aimed at early intervention of youth crime, saw a 30% decrease in youth crime a few months after commencement. Interagency networking continues to be an important element of working with the community and included agencies such as the Domestic Workers Group, AA meetings, Schools, and Legal Aid amongst others.

Eye Health

WAMS continue to work actively within Walgett and clinics are in high demand. Eye Health promotion is embedded into many areas of our service delivery.

Family Centred Primary Health Care (FCPHC)

The program provides comprehensive and coordinated primary health care to people in rural and remote areas where mainstream services are limited and has been severely affected by the challenges of the current year.

The Pilliga service has changed in nature due to clients now attending Wee Waa, however, outreach has continued for Podiatry clinics, nursing, mental health and AoD on demand.

Goodooga clinic services were maintained at the MPS site funded under RDN with 3 GPs on a fortnightly rotation most months of the year. Data cleansing has commenced for other services delivered at Goodooga to ensure accurate data is maintained.

Healthy for Life

The Program provides services to the communities of Walgett, Namoi, Gingie and Collarenebri. It is a well-being program spanning all of life age groups and empowers people to make healthy food, nutrition and lifestyle choices, supporting their chronic conditions, promoting self-management and reducing risk factors.

Activities included, but are not limited to:

Anzac Day Parade	Are you ok Day
Supermarket Audit	Walgett Careers expo
Family Cooking sessions	Fruit and vegetable water deliveries
Children's Cooking Sessions	Meal of the Month Cooking demonstrations
Supporting the primary school	Garden Network meetings
International Women's Week	Native Grains

The Community Garden continues to develop and are currently in a transition phase in preparation for expansion. Expansion will include extended shade coverage increasing productivity of the gardens. The produce is used to supplement healthy food diets of our chronic care clients.

The Community Garden Network program meets quarterly and is seasonally themed. The program is well received and the community come together to share ideas over a meal with educational gardening input, swapping tips, seeds and produce.

The network is designed to support and encourage people to grow more produce at home and there is no criteria for joining the Network, participants can be very experienced gardeners or novices, where everyone is welcome.



The Meal of the Month program promotes healthy eating by encouraging and educating the community about healthier recipes and food choices. Each month a recipe is created based on seasonal, available, healthy and affordable ingredients with a competition held to assess the uptake of the sessions. Tastings are held at the local supermarket.

Under the guidance of the Healthy for Life Modifications Officer, the following programs were offered:

Community Exercise sessions held in Apex Park	Individual exercise programs
Community Garden Network meetings	Maintaining Community Gardens and veggie box distribution to Chronic Disease clients
Falls Prevention Program	Meal of the Month
Walking Group (Winter)	Community Health Promotion at Walgett Show
Yoga promotion	Outreach lifestyle programs to surrounding areas

Mental Health Team

The recruitment of a trained mental health clinician allowed for more intensive one-on-one care to be undertaken. Linked into the AoD Team for support, this is helping to create a robust skilled mental health team at WAMS covering the footprint area.

Conclusion

Our programs are systematically reviewed for efficiency, sustainability and effect on positive client outcomes. In the interest of continuous improvement, regular data cleansing is conducted to ensure accurate service delivery is captured.

WAMS continue to create health opportunities that clients can access locally instead of travelling to other locations outside of the service delivery area.

We are pleased to strengthen partnerships with our stakeholders to work towards the common goal of optimum client care.

MELISSA NATHAN
WELLNESS CENTRE MANAGER

Men's Group Brewarrina
26th June 2024
HELD AT BREWARRINA
ABORIGINAL CHILD & FAMILY CENTRE (ACFC)



This initiative aims to create a supportive environment for men in Brewarrina, fostering a platform for interaction and educational opportunities. By giving participants the autonomy to direct their own paths, the program seeks to empower them to co-design projects that align with their personal and community goals, thereby enhancing ownership of their developmental journey.



The day targeted Indigenous residents of Brewarrina community who were at risk of developing renal disease and failure. Participants included those with diabetes and renal issues under the care of Drs McClintock and Flore-Chapman. Some participants did not attend ACP or HbA1c testing, as they did not want to provide a urine specimen or wait for the testing to be completed.

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**BREWARRINA ABORIGINAL
MEDICAL SERVICE**