



**Aboriginal
Health Council
of Western Australia**

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AHCWA News



AHCWA Chair Vicki O'Donnell Receives OAM

AHCWA Marks International Transgender Day of Visibility

New **COVID-19 Preparedness** Kits



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This newsletter may contain images of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that have passed away.

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Coffee break with: Des Martin

Kaya, Welcome to the April edition of the AHCWA Newsletter

The legacy, resilience and strength of Aboriginal community controlled organisations in leading and delivering services for their communities is the foundation for the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

It is built on the knowledge that ACCOs, and their holistic approach to service delivery, are better for Aboriginal people. They achieve better results, employ more Aboriginal people, are connected and embedded in the community; and are therefore often preferred over mainstream services. No other way of delivering services guarantees Aboriginal empowerment and protects identity and culture.

Therefore, it is crucial that community-controlled services are supported through a strong and representative Western Australian ACCO Peak Body.

As the only formal Aboriginal community controlled peak body in Western Australia, AHCWA has been funded by the Western Australian Government to establish a second formal Aboriginal community controlled peak body with a social services focus.

The AHCWA Social Services Committee, made up of AHCWA Board Directors and Aboriginal leaders from across the State, has been established to lead this work, and is supported by the Closing the Gap Social Services Team.

To better understand the expertise, service offerings and locations of ACCOs across Western Australia, AHCWA has engaged Think Culture to complete a mapping exercise of the WA ACCO landscape.

To ensure transparency, generate buy-in from the sector and to encourage ACCOs to join the newly established peak body, the Closing the Gap Social Services Team is currently working with a web developer to create a website. The site will not only promote the National Agreement and Closing the Gap implementation activities; but also provide a platform for regular updates on the WA ACCO Peak Body.

Partnerships, shared decision-making and self-determination are at the centre of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. For that reason, genuine engagement with WA ACCOs is vital for the development of a representative WA ACCO Peak Body. The AHCWA Social Services Committee has agreed to convene state-wide consultations with ACCOs to discuss the draft constitution for the future WA ACCO Peak Body.

Given the current COVID-19 circumstances, the Committee decided that online consultations across all regions would be the preferred option to enable everyone to provide their input into the foundational elements of the WA ACCO Peak Body.

The Closing the Gap Social Services Team is currently busy planning the different consultation sessions, and further details will be distributed soon, so watch this space.



Staff Update

During the April quarter, AHCWA's PHCQI team recruited Clinical Support Nurse Joe Staniszewski; Public Health Medical Officer Zoe Smythe; Health Administration Officer Billy Scott; Sexual Health Promotion Officer (Syphilis) and Eye Health Program Officer Ragilen Kristnasawmy, and Public Health Program Officer Summer Porter.

In the Office of the CEO, Policy Officer Tatiana Gonzales joined the team; in Corporate Services, Accounts and Payroll Officer (PAMS) Chadni Patel was recruited; and the Communications and Design team expanded to accommodate an additional Graphic Designer in Pauline Murphy. In Business Development, Contracts and Compliance Coordinator Lisa Weise and Contracts and Compliance Administrator Samantha McDonnell and Mappa Data Officer Veranika Hermansyah were employed; and in Workforce and Sector Development, Ear Health Program Officer Julie Lomas was added to the AHCWA team.

March 2022 Celebrating One Year of COVID Vaccinations

Australia's fight against COVID-19 commenced on 22nd March 2021, with the rollout of Phase 1B of the Australian Government's vaccination plan. We've put together a photo spread in recognition of 12 months of COVID vaccines, and of the enormous effort and achievements made in this space by our sector, Member Services and their staff. **Congratulations to our strong and innovative sector for their outstanding management of this unprecedented event.**

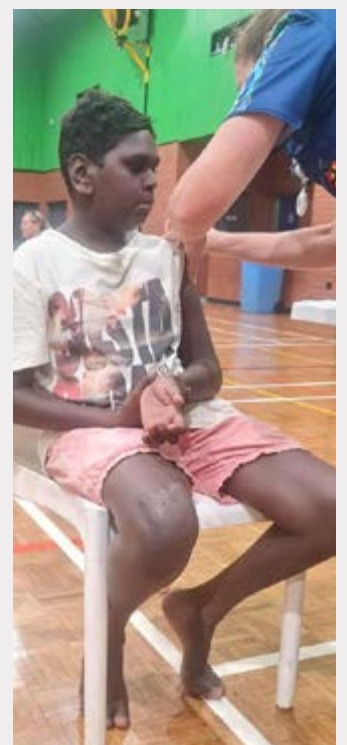




Image: Vicki O'Donnell was recognised for her service to the Indigenous community of Western Australia. Photograph: Andrew Seabourne

AHCWA Chair Vicki O'Donnell Receives OAM for Her Service to the Indigenous Community

The Board and staff of the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services across Western Australia would like to congratulate the AHCWA Chair, Vicki O'Donnell on the recognition of her service to the Indigenous community in Western Australia with a Medal of the Order of Australia.

Vicki, a Nyikina woman who grew up in Derby, has dedicated her life to addressing chronic disease among Indigenous people in the Kimberley.

The former CEO of the Derby Aboriginal Health Service has worked as a strategic leader in Aboriginal Community Controlled Health for the past 15 years. A key part of her role is providing advocacy and support to members to ensure the sector has a stronger voice at the state and Commonwealth level. In addition to chairing the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia, she is currently the Chief Executive Officer for the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service in Broome.

"My motivation is for working in health — specifically Aboriginal Health — is to advocate for our people so that we can have better access to health, wellbeing and to improved health outcomes in rural, remote and metropolitan areas," she said.

Vicki has extensive expertise and understanding of Aboriginal health and is a strong role model for Aboriginal Women in Leadership. She was instrumental in working with the Western Australian Health Department and State Aboriginal Affairs Department to establish the DAHS dialysis unit and later the Kimberley Renal Service.

Vicki has been a Director of AHCWA for more than 15 years, and has been Chairperson for eight years. Vicki has also served as a member of the WA Aboriginal Health Ethics Committee for over 12 years, as well as on the board of the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation. She is a member of numerous State and Federal Ministerial Committees and Steering Groups, advising on Aboriginal health issues, representing Western Australia on the Closing the Gap Coalition of Peaks and sitting on the Western Australian Aboriginal Advisory Committee.

In 2011, Vicki was a WA Women of the Year Inductee for Aboriginal Health, achieving recognition at both a state and national level for her advocacy in the sector.

Vicki said she was humbled to be named among the 732 awards in the General Division of the Order of Australia and the 1040 Australians recognised in the 2022 Australia Day Honours List.

She extended her heartfelt congratulations to all her fellow Australians recognised in the Honours List.



AHCWA hosted guest speakers Bubba Carroll and Joel Davis during March for an event to mark International Transgender Day of Awareness.

AHCWA Marks International Transgender Day of Visibility

AHCWA's Sexual Health Team marked International Transgender Day of Visibility on Thursday, 31 March by hosting two guest speakers for a yarn about their journeys as Indigenous gender diverse mob. Transgender Day of Visibility is dedicated to celebrating the contributions that transgender and gender nonconforming mob make to community, while also raising awareness of the discrimination they often experience worldwide. The day is also an occasion to reflect on the barriers and violence transgender and gender diverse people face in work, life and community.

The term transgender refers to someone whose gender identity is different from their assigned or presumed gender at birth. People who identify as transgender are more likely to experience abuse, harassment, and violence in their lifetime, and many of these experiences happen in environments where transgender and gender diverse people should be supported; such as their homes or places of work. A recent study of young LGBTQA+ Australians showed

two-thirds reported feeling unsafe or uncomfortable in the past 12 months at their educational setting due to their sexuality or gender identity; and that transgender and gender diverse people experienced high levels of psychological distress, suicidal ideation, self-harm, and verbal harassment related to their sexuality or gender identity.

Celebrating visibility and inclusivity for transgender and gender diverse people can include asking people what their pronouns are, rather than assuming them, and making an effort to understand the basic terms around transgender and gender diverse experiences. Listening respectfully to the experiences of gender diverse people and avoiding questions that might make them feel uncomfortable, and never making assumptions about gender, are all small ways of furthering compassion, respect and inclusivity for transgender people.

You can find out more about International Transgender Day of Visibility at tdov.org.au

AHCWA's Keisha Calyun

Wins Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship

Ballardong woman and AHCWA staff member Keisha Calyun has begun a Bachelor of Medicine at Curtin University this year, after winning the Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship; which supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander undergraduate students studying health-related disciplines.

"Transitioning from the corporate world to Aboriginal health three years ago, immediately I knew this would be my future career pathway," Keisha said. "I have seen the significant, positive outcomes of having an Aboriginal doctor working with community. I work with doctors who advocate and have the power to influence change. These are my role models."

Keisha, who completed Indigenous Pre Medicine and Health Sciences at Curtin University last year, worked as an Information Management Officer for AHCWA's Mappa project, an online health service mapping platform that aims to stop the displacement of regional and remote people from their family and country when needing to seek health care.

In 2019, she was awarded a WA Youth Award in the Hope Community Services Positive Achievement Category, recognising her important contribution to society through her work on the project.

Keisha is one of just two Western Australian representatives on the inaugural First Nations Youth Health and Wellbeing Committee, which works to develop and implement innovative solutions to bring about Aboriginal health equity.

The 26-year old, who grew up in Toodyay, is a member of WA Aboriginal Health Ethics Research Committee; where she brings a youth perspective to ensuring research projects are carried out in culturally safe and secure ways. She is also part of a Noongar women's cultural dance group, Kwarbah Djookian and has performed at the Fremantle Dockers AFLW Indigenous Round, Reconciliation WA National Reconciliation Week Breakfast, Wardarnji Festival and various community events.



AHCWA's Keisha Calyun has begun a Bachelor of Medicine at Curtin University this year, after winning the Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship.

"I am interested in regional and remote Aboriginal health. When I am a doctor, my intention is to work in this space," Keisha said. "A driving influence for me is knowing that most of the doctors working in our communities are non-Aboriginal. Whilst they do many great things for Aboriginal people, it would be empowering, provide more self-determination and ensure better outcomes if Aboriginal doctors were achieving these outcomes."

For Keisha, becoming a doctor was something she had dreamed of, but she never thought it was possible. Now, she wants to be a role model and motivate other young Aboriginal people in the way that she has been inspired.

"I wish to carry on the legacy of the leaders who came before me, making a difference for our people, and their health. I believe the best outcomes for Aboriginal people will come from 'our health in our hands,' she said.

Have You Met Phil and Philis?

AHCWA's New Syphilis Resource

Infectious syphilis cases are increasing significantly in Western Australia, with higher case numbers being detected in vulnerable populations, including Aboriginal communities. As the COVID-19 pandemic has dominated health promotion work over the past two years, rates of syphilis have climbed without sufficient public awareness, especially among populations where social stigma can discourage people from getting tested. Public education programs are the best prevention, and AHCWA has created a new, culturally safe and informative syphilis flip chart to help health

professionals raise awareness about the disease. AHCWA's new syphilis resource *Have You Met Phil and Philis?* features diagrams and illustrations, information around identifying syphilis, safe sex, testing procedures and treatment; as well as how to access further information about the disease. This brand new resource is available through the organisation's Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Team.

Please contact Veronica Walshe on 08 9227 1631 or veronica.walshe@ahcwa.org to access a copy.



AHCWA's Shannon McGuire

Inducted to the WA Women's Hall of Fame

AHCWA's Family Wellbeing Coordinator and Whadjuk, Yued and Ballardong woman Shannon McGuire has been inducted into the WA Women's Hall of Fame in recognition for her work empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women. More than a decade ago Shannon, who had competed in Miss Universe and Australia's Next Top Model, co-founded Miss NAIDOC Perth with Aunty Glenda Kickett as an avenue for leadership and confidence building for young women from her community.

"Miss NAIDOC first started out as a beauty pageant held during the NAIDOC Ball back in the 80s," Shannon said. "When Aunty Glenda approached me to be involved in the program, I had been working in the community and was keen for our program to be more meaningful. But my time in the industry had also shown me that it was an opportunity for women to have a voice."

Today, Miss NAIDOC Perth is a six week program which focuses on identity, values, healthy relationships, community, understanding emotions, grief and loss, and what leadership means in an Aboriginal community. There are photo shoots, presentation and public speaking training, and participants take part in cultural days with Elders. The winning contestant, crowned during National Reconciliation Week at the end of May, becomes an ambassador for NAIDOC Week.

"Country Road dressed the girls last year, and we're starting to attract more and more women that want to work in the fashion industry, but that's not our priority" Shannon said. "It's about culture and connection to Country, and what the participants stand for when they hold the platform of Miss NAIDOC Perth. Do they stand with the Miss NAIDOC Perth ethos? That's who the judges pick."

When she received the call from the WA Women's Hall of Fame in March, Shannon didn't yet know she'd been nominated. "I'm really happy about this recognition for the program and all the people that have worked on this," Shannon said. "We've come so far. We have a lot of fun and I learn from all the women that come through the program. It's a sisterhood, and a space for us to build each other up."

At AHCWA, Shannon turns her affinity for community work and education to the Family Wellbeing Program. "I'm passionate about working with mob on the ground, having conversations and facilitating a space where we can discuss the issues faced by our people. The training allows us to share tools to help them deal with that."



AHCWA's FWB Coordinator Shannon McGuire is been inducted into the WA Women's Hall of Fame. Photograph by Chris Gurney

"The mental health space is really opening up and people are having conversations more comfortably. There's always lots to learn, but it's really exciting being in this space. Family Wellbeing is a course written for community. It's broad, and covers a whole lot of topics, but the essence of it is about healing; and looking at healing as a continual process and a way of living."

You can find out more about Miss NAIDOC Perth at naidocperth.org.au and more information about AHCWA's Family Wellbeing Program at ahcwa.org.au/family-wellbeing



Aboriginal
Health Council
of Western Australia

Ear
Health

Simon Says

Let's Learn to Keep Ourselves
Healthy and Protected from
Nasty Cigarette Smoke.

Ear Health and Cigarette Smoke: A New AHCWA Resource

AHCWA's Tackling Indigenous Smoking and Ear Health Teams have joined forces to create a new booklet in the Simon Says series. Compellingly designed and full of activities, the new health promotion resource follows the adventures of Simon, Keisha, Curtis and Hayley as they learn about the impact of cigarette smoke on the ears.

To access a free copy for your organisation,
please contact Lorraine.Tai@ahcwa.org.



Meet Joe Staniszewski: AHCWA's New Clinical Support Nurse

Fresh from a previous role running a sexual health clinic, AHCWA's new Clinical Support Nurse, Joe Staniszewski brings strong experience in nursing and clinical management to the role. Joe is skilled in conducting clinical PDSA cycles, data interpretation, analysis and evaluation; and has a passion for continuous quality improvement. If you need continuous quality improvement coaching or have a continuous quality improvement project that you would like assistance with, Joe is your guy. **You can reach him by email at joe.staniszewski@ahcwa.org**



AHCWA Donates Blood

AHCWA staff regularly donate blood to the Australian Red Cross, and April was no exception. Red Cross collects around 1.5 million blood donations every year to help people with medical conditions that require blood or blood products regularly; and for important medical research. Healthy adults between the ages of 18 and 75 who meet the eligibility requirements can donate, and every donation can save up to three lives.

You can find out more about blood donation with Australian Red Cross at redcross.org.au



AHCWA's Aboriginal Health Sector State Conference Postponed

Due to the growing uncertainties surrounding COVID-19 and the Omicron variant in Western Australia, AHCWA's Members and Board Directors have resolved to postpone the 2022 WA Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector State Conference.

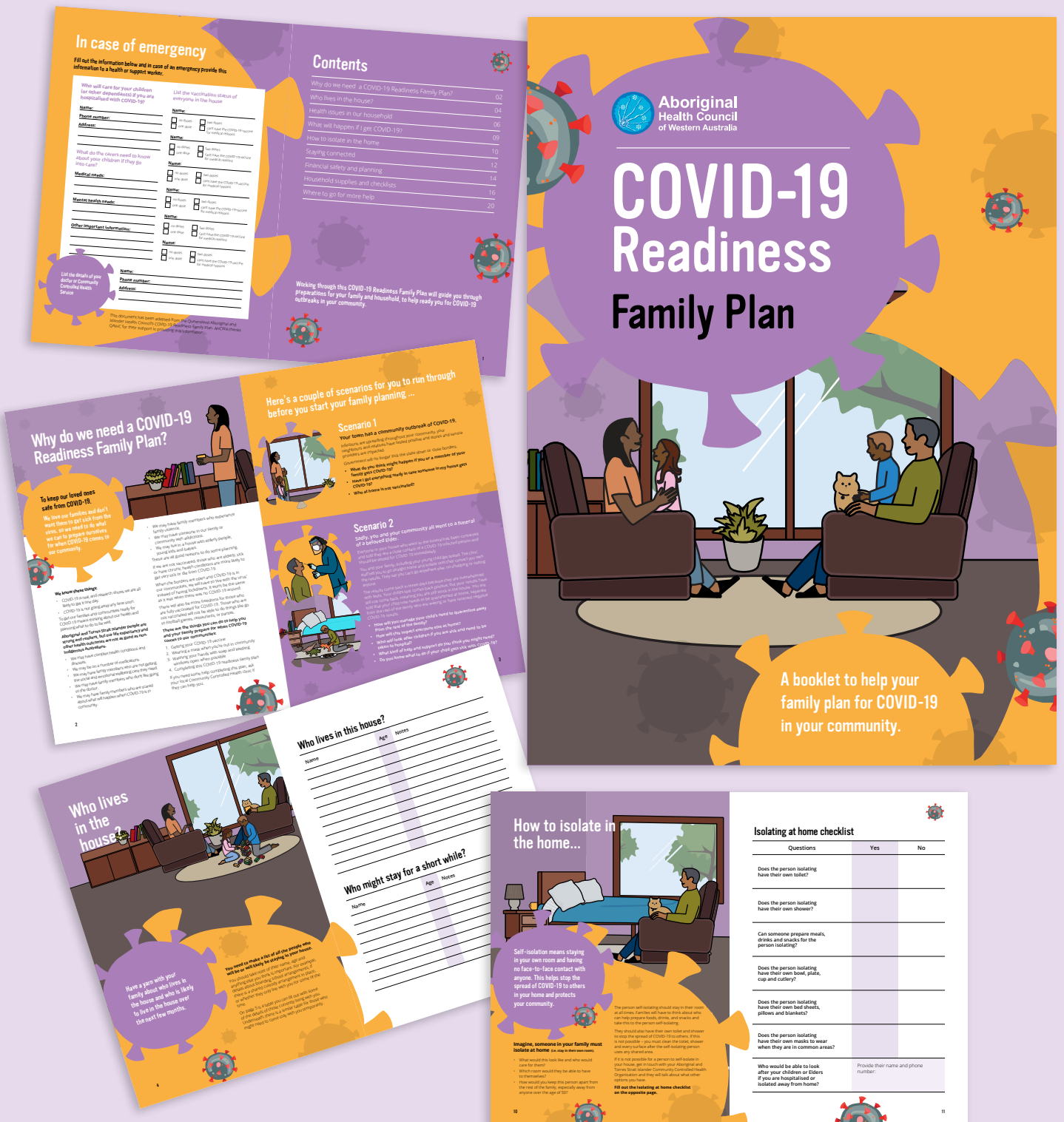
The conference had originally been scheduled for 28 until 31 March 2022, but a future date for the event will be decided once the extent and impact associated with the Omicron variant is better known over the coming months.

Find out more at events.ahcwa.org.au/waacchs2022/

New COVID-19 Preparedness Kits

AHCWA and WA Health have produced a series of new resources to help guide and inform communities around vaccination and staying safe from COVID-19 in preparation. Among these is a COVID-19 Family Plan, a Symptom Diary, check lists and how-tos, new video advice from health professionals, local champion advocate posters featuring people from a range of WA communities, and new information sheets and myth busting materials that can be downloaded and shared amongst your networks.

You can download and share these from the Aboriginal Health Council of WA website www.ahcwa.org.au/vaccineresources



COVID-19 Factsheet

Self-Isolation Guide

This guide is for people who are in home isolation that may be feeling sick or have been confirmed to have COVID-19.

Getting home

If you need to get home, you must take care of the journey to get home. This means you should not go to work, school, or university, or use public transport to avoid the chance of spreading the virus to others.

Your home

To be able to stay at your home, you need to have a confirmed diagnosis of COVID-19. You should ensure you:

- Can stay in a bedroom by yourself
- Have access to food and other necessities (including hygiene products and toilet paper)
- Have access to a bathroom and toilet
- Have access to a companion when needed
- Have the correct drug and cleaning products

Protecting people in your home

It's not always possible to stay home alone in your home. If you have members of your household who are at risk of severe illness, you should consider the following:

- You should wear a mask in a common area
- The small person should avoid common areas (e.g. kitchen, living room, bathroom)
- The small person should avoid contact with the person who is sick
- The small person should avoid contact with the person who is sick
- The small person should avoid contact with the person who is sick

Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia

COVID-19 Factsheet

How to Set-up ServiceWA

How to Set-up Your Tablet or Smartphone How-to

How to Set-up a myGov Account

How to Set-up myGovID

Get boosted for our mob

Get your COVID-19 booster and help protect our mob.

Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia

COVID-19 Factsheet

How to Set-up myGovID

- Download the myGovID app
- Select Create a myGovID
- Enter your email address
- Verify your email
- Enter your personal details
- Confirm myGovID account you wish to link

COVID-19 Symptom Diary Management Plan

A booklet to help you manage COVID-19 at home with assistance from your GP.

Why do we need a COVID-19 Symptom Diary?

This guide is for people who have caught COVID-19 and have mild to moderate symptoms.

If you have COVID-19, you should follow the instructions given to you by your clinic.

Most people with COVID-19 will recover without needing to go to hospital or any special treatment. But all COVID-19 patients need to be monitored closely while they recover at home.

To help you to monitor your health at home, you will need some equipment, including a thermometer and a pulse oximeter. Your local clinic can help you access these.

Good: green boxes feeling well, experiencing mild symptoms in the area indicated.

Okay: yellow boxes if you are experiencing moderate symptoms in the area indicated.

Sick: orange boxes if you are experiencing severe symptoms in the area indicated.

Really Sick: red boxes if you are experiencing severe symptoms in the area indicated.

My Symptom Diary

Signs and Symptoms	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
Heart rate (bouts)				
Respiratory (breathing)				
Temperature				
Breathlessness				
Cough				
Muscle aches and pains				
Headache				
Fatigue (tiredness)				
Vomiting or diarrhoea				
Food and Water Intake				
Food intake				
Fluid intake				

AHCWA Launches the **Birds and the BBV Bites**

AHCWA's Sexual Health and BBV Team, in partnership with Hepatitis WA, WAAC and SHQ are running a series of informative lunchtime Teams sessions all throughout the coming months on STIs, Hepatitis, HIV and how to protect yourself. Topics include:

- Alphabet soup: A short and sweet conversation about the different identities that exist under the umbrella term of LGBTQIA+
- PrEP and PEP Pudding: HIV Prevention
- Hepatitis Test and Treat
- HPV on a stick: HPV and Cervical Screening

You can find recordings of all these online sessions on our AHCWA YouTube channel bit.ly/36h1Nx3.



Dial-in and Takeaway

The Birds & the BBV Bites



For more information about these sessions, please contact Veronica Walshe on 08 9227 1631 or veronica.walshe@ahcwa.org

AHCWA's Cancer Education Training for Aboriginal Health Professionals

AHCWA's five-day cancer education course for Aboriginal Health Professionals is running across Perth and Broome over the coming months, increasing participant knowledge about the prevention, early detection, treatment and the impact of disease to improve cancer care. The course will be held in Broome from Monday 16th until Friday 20th May, 2022; Monday 15 until Friday 19 August in Perth, and Monday 3rd until Friday 7th October in Broome.



A nationally accredited cancer education program for Aboriginal health professionals, the five day Cancer Education Course aims to:

- Increase participant knowledge about cancer, prevention, early detection, treatment and the impact of disease to improve the care of people with cancer
- Improve participant skills to provide support to clients with cancer and promote prevention and early detection messages in the community
- Facilitate networks between Aboriginal health professionals and cancer support staff based in the local and surrounding areas. You will receive:
 - Nationally accredited certification - HLTAHW035 Provide information and support around cancer.
 - Course registration.
 - A participant booklet and study notes.

The course is free, with limited support for accommodation and travel available. To register, you can download and complete the application form at ahcwa.org.au or contact Michelle de La Haye on 08 9227 1631 or via email at michelle.delahaye@ahcwa.org



AHCWA's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Governance Training

The Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia, in conjunction with the team at ATSI ICT Aboriginal Corporation, have developed the BSB41021 – Certificate IV in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Governance Training. This qualification reflects the role of individuals working as board members, contact officers and senior staff within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations. It also applies to public servants working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander boards of governance. In these roles, individuals bring a wide range of knowledge, skills and experience to the workplace with an acute awareness that they operate in two cultures. They have cultural obligations to their community as well as legal and financial obligations to the wider community, funding bodies, and legislation.

This is an exciting course that will build upon your skillset where you will engage with others in simulations of running a registered board, which you can then pass on to your organisation or community. The training is delivered over four one-week blocks via Microsoft Teams initially, with the intention of moving to face-to-face sessions. Attendance and participation is by group discussions, role plays, and activities, as well as engagement with podcasts and by completing activity workbooks.

Course Dates:

Block One: Monday 2 May - Friday 6 May, 2022

Block Two: Monday 20 June – Friday 24 June, 2022

Block Three: Monday 25 July – Friday 29 July, 2022

Block Four: Monday 22 August – Friday 26 August, 2022

Course Content

The training consists of twelve modules covering:

BSBATSIL411 - Undertake roles and responsibilities of a Board Member

BSBATSIL412 - Participate as a Board Member

BSBATSIL413 - Review and apply the constitution

BSBATSIL408 - Manage a board meeting

BSBATSIC411 - Communicate with the community

BSBATSIC412 - Maintain and protect values in the organisation

BSBATSIM414 - Oversee the organisation's annual budget

BSBATSIM418 - Oversee financial management

BSBATSIW416 - Obtain and manage consultancy services

BSBATSIM416 - Oversee organisational planning

BSBATSIM419 - Oversee the development of organisational policies

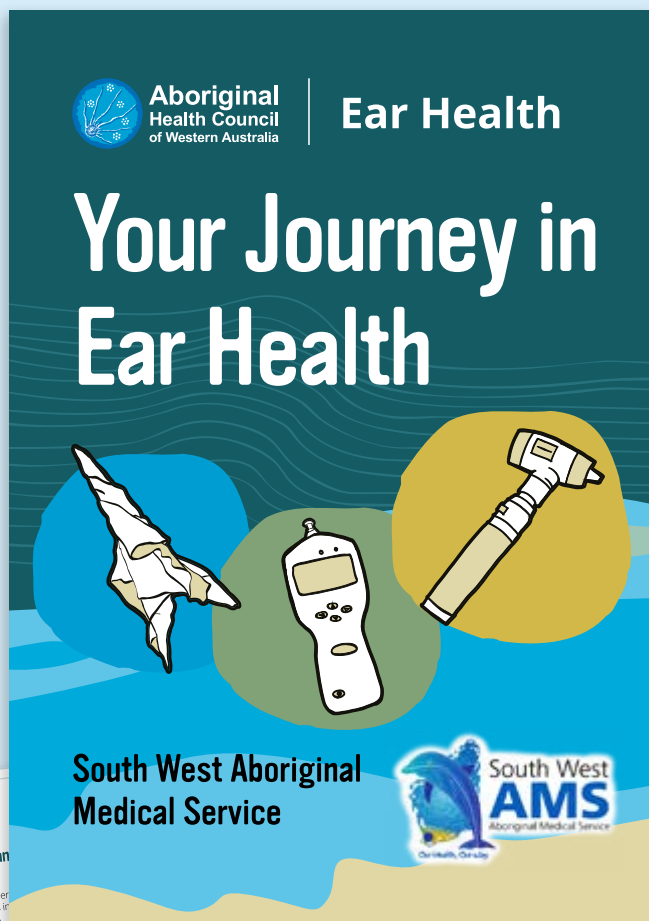
BSBATSIM417 - Implement organisational plans

For more information or to register your interest, contact reception at AHCWA on 08 9227 1631 or email Amanda.collins-clinch@ahcwa.org

SWAMS Launches Your Journey in Ear Health Resources

AHCWA and the South West Aboriginal Medical Service teamed up to produce Your Journey In Ear Health, a series of new booklets and videos designed to help communities better understand and prevent disease and ear related health issues. The resources were launched this January at a community event held at Eaton Foreshore Playground, which featured AHCWA's 'Big Ear' bouncy castle, a sausage sizzle, face painting and the opportunity to have a yarn with SWAM staff about ear health, and AHCWA's Tackling Indigenous Smoking Team about quitting smoking.

You can access the Your Journey in Ear Health resources at SWAMS clinics or online at <https://bit.ly/3unWsMd>



Ear Health How-to from The South West Aboriginal Medical Service

Ear infections are common in all children, and can accompany a simple cold or flu. But Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children currently experience some of the highest rates of ear disease and associated hearing loss in Australia. Experiencing hearing loss in childhood can affect speech and language development, and may lead to further problems. The good news is ear disease and associated hearing loss are largely preventable.

That's why we've put together these tips on how to keep your ears healthy.

In order to close the gap we need to address ear health issues in childhood. Early education and prevention is key.



Ear Health How-to from The South West Aboriginal Medical Service

How to make tissue spears to clean your ears:

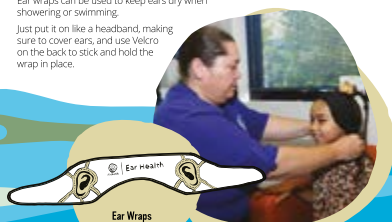
- Grab a tissue;
- Fold it into a triangle;
- Pinch the centre and twist;
- Tear the tip off;
- Gently insert the tissue into the ear, twisting to dry and clean wax.



Tissue Spears

How to use ear wraps:

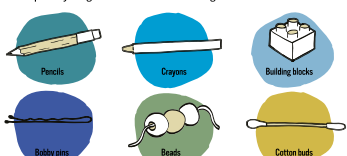
Ear wraps can be used to keep ears dry when showering or swimming. Just put it on like a headband, making sure to cover ears, and use Velcro on the back to stick and hold the wrap in place.



Ear Wraps

What not to put in your ears:

Don't put anything into ears that could damage the eardrum. This includes:



Blow - breathe - cough for healthy ears:

We can maintain good ear care with the 'Blow - breathe - cough' technique:

- Blow the nose using a tissue;
- Breathe in through the nose, and out through the mouth;
- Cough into an arm;
- Sneeze into a shirt;
- Wash your hands afterwards.





Indigenous Health Workforce Traineeships In Focus : Introducing Tia Brand-Williams

About Me: "I am a 25 year old Martu woman currently living in Newman WA. In 2018, I completed the Aboriginal Primary Health Care training at Marr Mooditj with interest in working as an Aboriginal Health Practitioner. I'm currently employed by Puntukurnu Aboriginal Medical Service in this role for almost 2 years. I decided last year to begin further training and applied for the Diploma of Nursing at Marr Mooditj to become an Enrolled Nurse, this will be one of my greatest achievements. Working at PAMS has given me the opportunity to give back to my community, I have been able build trust and rapport with patients by listening to their concerns, advocating for wellness and providing educating on acute and chronic health issues. I am also involved in performed physical examinations, such as taking vital signs and performing health checks. Once I become a nurse my skills will become widened. Both PAMS and AHCWA have been a great support throughout my studies and work whilst being part of the Indigenous Health Workforce Traineeship (IHWT) Program."



The Indigenous Health Workforce Training Program



The Indigenous Health Workforce Traineeships program aims to support traineeships in health workforce roles for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people working in Aboriginal community controlled health services.

At AHCWA, the program provides approved trainees with financial support, mentorship and guidance whilst they undertake a nationally recognised qualification in the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector.

Currently, 21 trainees from AHCWA's Member Services are actively enrolled in either Health Training or Community Services courses of their choice. The objective of the program is to increase the number of skilled Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people working in the health sector and provide them with a viable career for the future. Once trainees have successfully gained their nationally recognised qualification they are guaranteed fulltime employment at the end of their traineeship.

For more informatuon about the Indigenous Health Workforce Traineeships (IHWT) Program or the application process, please contact the Traineeship Program Coordinator, Maddelene Doyle, on 08 9227 1631 or via email at maddelene.doyle@ahcwa.org

Flu season is back!



**Get your flu
jab at your
local clinic**

**You can get it at the same time
as your COVID-19 shot**

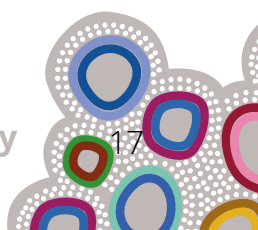


**Did you know that your bub can
have it in their first year?**



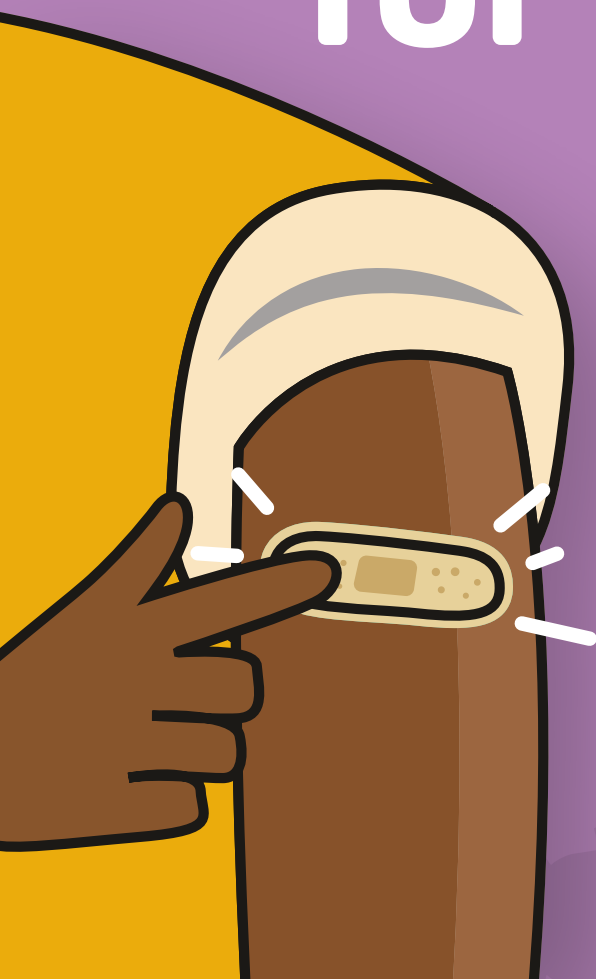
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