



**Aboriginal
Health Council
of Western Australia**

Annual Report

2021 - 2022

Annual Report 2021-2022 Cover Artwork by Tim Prouse - Boonwurrung

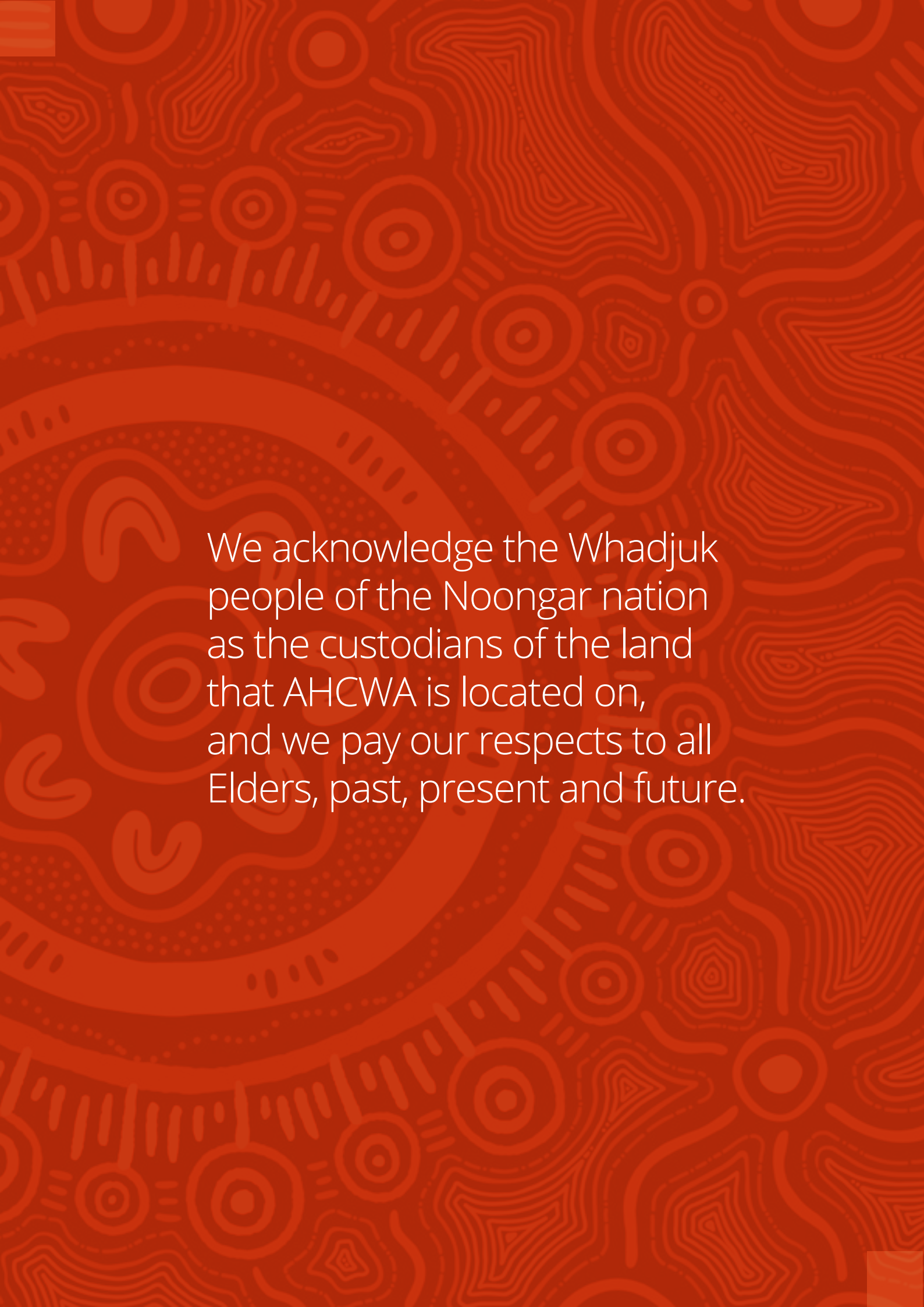
The centrepiece of the artwork represents AHCWA and our Member Services working together and leading the way through the adversity the sector has faced throughout 2021-2022. The many undulating lines within the artwork show the journeys forged by our ACCHS through these difficult times - and the connections built between them. The surrounding lines show the journey taken through these difficult times. These lines move in all directions which show how the journeys and paths we take are never easy. Smaller circles can be seen throughout which again represent the connections we make, and how these connections and collaborations can serve as anchor points, and help us grow and expand.

Disclaimers

A. The term Member Service is inclusive of all Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS) and Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHO) that satisfy the membership requirements of the AHCWA Constitution.

B. The word Aboriginal has been used throughout this document. When referring to Aboriginal we are referring to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.





We acknowledge the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation as the custodians of the land that AHCWA is located on, and we pay our respects to all Elders, past, present and future.

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Who We Are and What We Do

AHCWA is the peak body for Aboriginal health in Western Australia. We work to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal people and their communities.

Vision Statement

Aboriginal people in Western Australia enjoy the same level of health and wellbeing as all Western Australians.

Mission Statement

As the leading authority for Aboriginal health in Western Australia, we strive to strengthen and promote the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service (ACCHS) Sector Model of Care, empowering Aboriginal people to achieve health equality in their communities.

The ACCHS **Model of Care**

AHCWA strives to strengthen and promote the ACCHS Model of Care, which is built around the delivery of comprehensive, holistic and culturally secure primary health care services.



Organisational Values



Culture – Acknowledging and understanding the importance and diversity of Aboriginal culture in all that we do.

Integrity – Working with personal and collective integrity whilst striving to achieve service excellence for our Members and community.

Passion – Exhibiting passion, positivity and commitment in all that we do to inspire and empower all people, Member Services and communities to reach their potential.

Collaboration – Fostering and contributing to shared objectives through inclusiveness and engagement with our Member Services.

Accountability – Being accountable to all our Members, stakeholders and the community.

Resilience – Embracing challenges and harnessing opportunities to empower our communities for self-determination.

Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer's Report

As Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer of the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia, it gives us great pleasure to share some of the highlights of the 2021 -2022 year.

Closing the Gap – Social Services

In order to support a stronger Aboriginal community controlled sector, and to deliver on its commitments under the National Agreement, the Western Australian Government has funded AHCWA to establish a second formal Aboriginal Community Controlled peak body. As the targets of the National Agreement aim to close the gap in outcomes between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Australians in many socio-economic areas, the new Aboriginal community controlled peak body has a social services focus. We are excited to advise that the establishment of the Western Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO) Peak Body is progressing well. Pro bono lawyers King & Wood Mallesons were engaged to assist with the development of a draft constitution for the peak body. Consultations with ACCOs and community will be held in July 2022, and we anticipate the constitution will be finalised and the peak body registered by the end of 2022.

To understand not only the ACCO sector in Western Australia, but also the broader landscape of stakeholders, the project team has undertaken stakeholder mapping and identified engagement strategies for the various stakeholders through a stakeholder engagement plan.

A communications strategy was developed which included regular updates to key stakeholders on the progress of the peak body and the development and launch of its website – Coalition of Aboriginal Services Western Australia (CASWA).

Western Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector Conference

The AHCWA WA Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector Conference 2022, Youth Conference, and Members' Planning Day, which were scheduled for March 2022, were regrettably cancelled this year due to COVID-19. However, it is hoped that AHCWA will be able to hold a very successful Conference in March 2023.

Annual General Meeting

The AHCWA 2021 Annual General Meeting was held in Perth on Thursday, 25th November, where Members welcomed an addition to AHCWA's Member Service network with the endorsement of the new Pilbara Aboriginal Health Alliance (PAHA) as an Associate Member.

Social and Emotional Wellbeing

Following considerable negotiation and discussion, the Mental Health Commission was able to award, under a closed tender, the Social and Emotional Wellbeing Pilot contract in June 2022. Subcontracts have now been finalised with Derby Aboriginal Health Service; Wirraka Maya Health Service; Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service; Bega Garnbirringu Health Service and the South West Aboriginal Medical Service.

Each Service is now commencing recruitment to enable the rollout of the pilot program as soon as possible.



COVID-19 Member Support

As AHCWA's ACCHS network were predominantly preparing for, and addressing COVID-19 outbreaks throughout much of this year, their capacity to apply for funding, source and purchase appropriate resources was limited. AHCWA was able to step in to advocate for, and secure devolved funding on behalf of, the ACCHS on several fronts. AHCWA was able to purchase, supply and distribute \$600 000 worth of Personal Protective Equipment, apparatus and Rapid Antigen Tests on behalf of the ACCHS, long before Commonwealth, State or Primary Health Network resources could be deployed.

Transition of Services to Aboriginal Community Control

Working in collaboration with the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service, the AHCWA Governance team is supporting the establishment of an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service in the Fitzroy Valley. AHCWA has facilitated pro bono legal support in the development of the Rule Book and workshops with the Steering Committee for this service. This project was also highlighted when seeking pre-election commitments from Senator Pat Dodson, along with the solar power pilot program for ACCHS.

Esperance Rural Health West Feasibility Study

Rural Health West, in partnership with AHCWA, has commissioned a study to examine the feasibility of options for the provision of an ACCHS in Esperance. The study included the development of a Steering Group; review of available data and reports; identification of service organisations and health professionals to be included in consultations; and community stakeholder consultation. Following more than 50 community consultations and an analysis of the findings, the Steering Group met in June to discuss the final report.

In closing, AHCWA would like to thank the AHCWA Board of Directors for their continued support during the past 12 months and the AHCWA staff, who have worked hard implementing the strategic intent of the Board whilst meeting the needs and expectations of all stakeholders.

AHCWA would also like to thank all of our funders, key stakeholders and partners for their continued support of the work we do.

Chairperson - Vicki O'Donnell

Chief Executive Officer - Des Martin

AHCWA's Member Services



Member Changes

New Associate Member Pilbara Aboriginal Health Alliance (PAHA)

Ceased Ordinary Member Carnarvon Medical Service Aboriginal Corporation (CMSAC)
(now operating as Carnarvon Gascoyne Outreach Service under the Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service)

Board of Directors

Executive Directors



Chairperson
Vicki O'Donnell



Deputy Chairperson
Chris Bin Kali



Secretary
Fabian Tucker



Treasurer
Deborah Woods

Regional Representatives



South West
Ernie Hill



Metro
Joslyn Eades-Tass



Pilbara
June Councillor



Goldfields
Eric Simpson



**Gascoyne
Murchison**
Rachel Mallard



Kimberley
Raymond Christophers

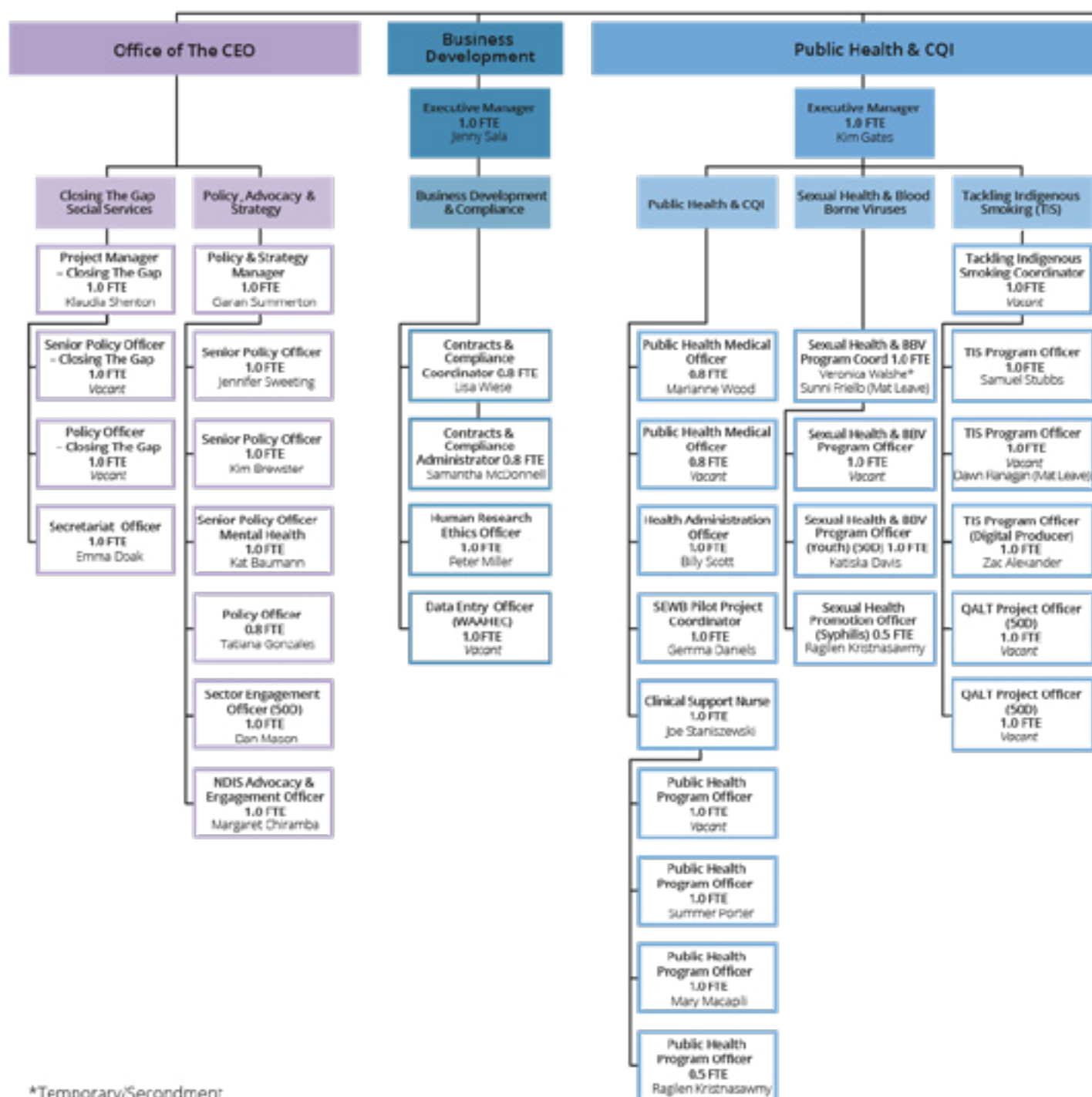


Central Desert
Preston Thomas



Youth Director
Wade Garwood

Organisational Chart



*Temporary/Secondment

Aboriginal Health Council Of Western Australia
Board Of Directors | (Chairperson 0.5 FTE) – Vicki O'Donnell

Chief Executive Officer
 Des Martin
 1.0 FTE

Deputy Chief Executive Officer
 1.0 FTE
 Amanda Collins-Clinch

Executive Officer
 1.0 FTE
 Kerry Mann

Events Coordinator
 1.0 FTE
 Hayley Warner

Workforce & Sector Development

Corporate Services

Executive Manager
 1.0 FTE
 Andrew Webster

People & Culture

Finance

Communications & Design

Information, Communication & Technology

People & Culture Advisor
 0.9 FTE
 Kimberley Biggs

People & Culture Officer
 1.0 FTE
 Lailah Eloche*
 Rissy Monaghan (Mat Leave)

People & Culture Administrator
 0.6 FTE
 Bianca Sherlock

Traineeship Program Coordinator (SOO)
 1.0 FTE
 Maddeline Doyle

Finance Manager
 1.0 FTE
 Kate Ribeiro*
 Deepa Vaghiani (Mat Leave)

Assistant Accountant
 1.0 FTE
 Ovana Logutova

Accounts & Payroll Officer
 1.0 FTE
 Suzie Schipp

PAMS

Assistant Accountant
 1.0 FTE
 Bhumi Hirani

Accounts & Payroll Officer
 1.0 FTE
 Chandni Patel

Communications & Publications Coordinator
 1.0 FTE
 Kim Kirkman

Senior Graphic Designer
 0.8 FTE
 Rachael Salter

Graphic Designer (SOO)
 1.0 FTE
 Tim Prouze

Graphic Designer
 0.6 FTE
 Pauline Murphy

Graphic Designer (SOO)
 0.4 FTE
 Vacant

Videographer
 0.8 FTE
 Ashley Spratt

ICT Support Engineer
 1.0 FTE
 Patrick Nkhata

ICT Trainee
 0.6 FTE
 Vacant

Administration

Receptionist
 1.0 FTE
 Grace Caine

Mappa

Workforce & Sector Development

Mappa Platform Manager
 1.0 FTE
 Vacant

Technical Lead (Mappa)
 1.0 FTE
 Kevin Waterson

Full Stack Developer (Mappa)
 1.0 FTE
 Kawaljit Batth

Data Officer (Mappa)
 1.0 FTE
 Venanika Hermansyah

Mappa information Management Officer
 0.2 FTE
 Keetha Calyun (Casual)

Training & Development Centre Coordinator
 1.0 FTE
 Davide Trevisan-Singh

Family Wellbeing Program Coordinator (SOO)
 1.0 FTE
 Shannon McGuire

Family Wellbeing Program Officer
 1.0 FTE
 Michelle de La Haye

Ear Health Program Coordinator
 1.0 FTE
 Lorraine Tauli

Ear Health Program Officer
 0.5 FTE
 Julie Lomas

Senior Trainer & Assessor
 1.0 FTE
 Vacant

Trainer & Assessor
 1.0 FTE
 Vacant

NDIS Business Support Coordinator
 1.0 FTE
 Joyal Shaju

Youth Program Coordinator (SOO)
 1.0 FTE
 Jai Clarke

Youth Program Officer (SOO)
 1.0 FTE
 Vacant



Office of The Chief Executive Officer

The Office of the Chief Executive Officer provides executive and administrative services to the organisation and the AHCWA Board of Directors. This work unit encompasses a Closing the Gap – Social Services Team and a Policy and Strategy Team working across a broad range of advocacy, consultation and policy; coordinating research, engagement and executive services.



Office of The Chief Executive Officer

Throughout 2021-2022 AHCWA's Closing the Gap – Social Services Team progressed various actions towards the establishment of the WA ACCO Peak Body. Extensive sector consultations were undertaken, a draft constitution, communications strategy and ACCO register developed, and a website launched.

During the reporting period, AHCWA's Policy Team provided wide-ranging policy advice to a variety of stakeholders and effectively addressed various issues raised by the sector. This included advocating for improvements in COVID-19 response in relation to both the health and welfare needs of Aboriginal people; lobbying for changes to ambulance services in Western Australia; and promoting social and emotional wellbeing services for Aboriginal people.

Closing the Gap – Social Services

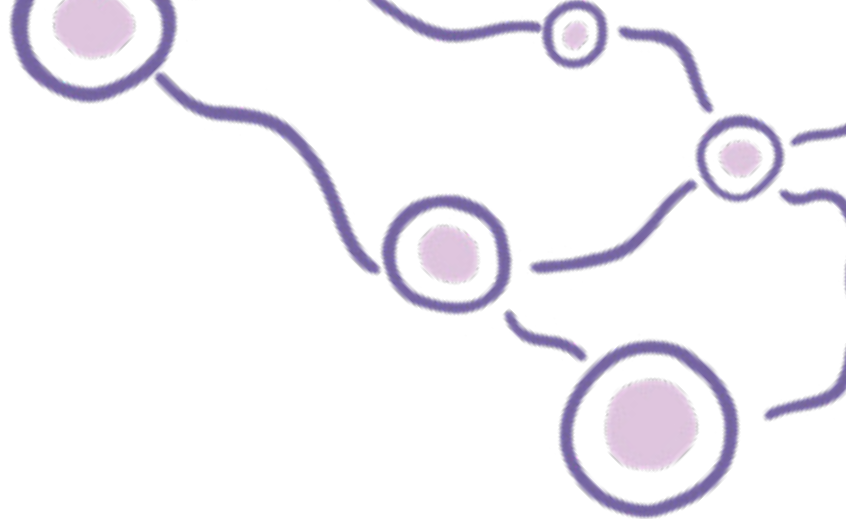
As the National Agreement on Closing the Gap is now well into its implementation phase, building and supporting the development of stronger Aboriginal community-controlled services in the social services sector will require a strong Aboriginal community-controlled peak body.

Due to AHCWA's expertise as a peak body and our strong involvement in the negotiations on the National Agreement and the Coalition of Peaks, the Department of Premier and Cabinet has commissioned AHCWA to establish a Western Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation Peak Body.

This work is being led by the AHCWA Social Services Committee, a subcommittee of the AHCWA Board. The Committee consists of the AHCWA Chairperson, five AHCWA Board Directors and five independent Aboriginal representatives.



AHCWA staff supported a statewide COVID-19 vaccination campaign



The Committee is supported by the Closing the Gap Social Services Project Team to develop a model for the WA ACCO Peak Body and to engage with current and ongoing implementation activities for the National Agreement.

The aim of the WA ACCO Peak Body is to strengthen and increase the capacity of WA ACCOs involved in service delivery to Aboriginal people in Western Australia across priority sectors identified under the National Agreement.

Throughout 2021-2022, the Committee progressed various actions towards the establishment of the WA ACCO Peak Body. In November 2021, the Committee convened a constitution workshop to discuss components for the draft constitution of the proposed WA ACCO Peak Body. This draft constitution will be discussed with ACCOs across Western Australia in state-wide online workshop sessions throughout July 2022.

In order to understand the diversity of the ACCO sector in Western Australia, the Project Team has developed a comprehensive ACCO register, which identified 970 ACCOs providing various services across metropolitan, regional and remote areas, such as housing, education and early childhood care and development.

In addition to this, a communications strategy was developed outlining communications activities to not only increase knowledge around the National Agreement, but also to provide updates on the establishment of the WA ACCO Peak Body. These activities are being rolled out from June 2022, starting with the launch of a WA ACCO Peak Body website.

As the only Western Australian Peak Body on the Coalition of Peaks, AHCWA has been leading and influencing implementation activities of the National Agreement. The Project Team has been strongly involved in the development of national sector strengthening initiatives for the disability and health sector, as well as the evolution of data development principles under Priority Reform Four.

AHCWA has also worked closely with the WA Government on progressing the Governments' commitments, as outlined in the WA Closing the Gap Implementation Plan, such as the development of the whole-of-government ACCO Strategy.

Policy, Advocacy and Strategy

AHCWA's Policy, Advocacy and Strategy Team works to achieve the organisation's mission of strengthening and promoting the ACCHS Model of Care and empowering Aboriginal people to achieve health equality in their communities by influencing policy at Commonwealth, State and Local Government levels.

Throughout the 2021-2022 financial year, drawing on the leadership, expertise and priorities of our Member Services, AHCWA's Policy Team provided extensive policy advice to a range of stakeholders and successfully addressed a number of issues raised by the sector. This work was supported by the expansion of the team, including the acquisition of funding to provide specialised policy advice to the Western Australian Mental Health Commission.

Key areas of activity for 2021-22 included:

Supporting the ACCHS sector during COVID-19

In 2022, as COVID-19 spread into Western Australia, AHCWA and its Member Services worked tirelessly to ensure Aboriginal communities were protected from the worst impacts of the pandemic. For the Policy Team, this included advocating for improvements in COVID-19 response in relation to the health and welfare needs of Aboriginal people. The Policy Team worked closely with not-for-profit organisations who were able to provide food relief parcels and other goods to Aboriginal communities.

The Policy Team also reviewed and tested existing mechanisms meant to provide access to COVID-19 related support, including the COVID Care at Home program, 13COVID phone lines, and WA Government survey forms. AHCWA was able to highlight where these pathways were difficult to navigate and suggested improvements.

The Policy Team conducted a mapping exercise that involved scenario-testing the 13COVID phone lines. This exercise informed subsequent advocacy by AHCWA and contributed to changes in government surveys, 13COVID phone line options, and welfare assistance to regional and remote communities, which made COVID-19 support more accessible to Aboriginal people.



Additionally, in response to welfare issues raised by our Member Services, AHCWA connected with several non-government organisations to explore food and essential item relief for Aboriginal communities during the COVID-19 outbreak. Members were informed of the support these organisations could provide and the process for obtaining resources.

During the COVID-19 outbreak in 2022, ACCHS across Western Australia took action to protect their communities. It was the decisive and pre-emptive action of the sector, supported by governments and other partners, which helped to reduce the impacts of the pandemic on Aboriginal communities.

ACCHS undertook significant COVID-related work, including:

- providing care to COVID-positive patients, welfare checks and social and emotional wellbeing support;
- COVID-19 testing for both symptomatic people and close contacts;
- facilitating necessary paperwork for COVID-positive patients;
- early identification of vulnerable cases who might benefit from treatment, and direct provision of those treatments;
- close monitoring for those at risk of poorer outcomes;
- early identification of welfare needs (e.g. food needs) for families in isolation/quarantine and ensuring those needs were met;
- ongoing care for pre-existing chronic conditions and managing acute care needs which arose during isolation;
- the continuation of the COVID-19 vaccination roll-out; and
- communicating with communities to manage fears and concerns.

AHCWA provided extensive briefing to the Western Australian Government about this unfunded work. Following this advocacy, AHCWA was invited to submit a formal funding proposal. After further consultation with Member Services, AHCWA submitted a funding proposal that outlined the work being undertaken by the ACCHS sector to support and care for Aboriginal communities. Since ACCHS are best placed to provide their communities with culturally secure care, and many Aboriginal people were already seeking COVID-19 related support from their local ACCHS, AHCWA proposed that the Western Australian Government provide funding to support an Aboriginal Community Controlled COVID Ambulatory Care Service. The proposal was approved and AHCWA received funding to distribute to regional and remote ACCHS, with a separate grant provided to cover the metropolitan area.

Advocating for changes to ambulance services in Western Australia

AHCWA and our ACCHS have been advocating for changes relating to ambulance services in Western Australia for many years. The inquiry into the delivery of ambulance services in Western Australia provided an opportunity to continue to advocate for changes in this space.

Based on extensive feedback received from our Members, AHCWA was able to craft a strong submission with pertinent case studies that made clear the serious risks to the health of Aboriginal communities posed by current ambulance arrangements. AHCWA and our Member Services then appeared at an inquiry hearing to provide additional evidence. AHCWA has since met with St John WA to discuss some of the issues raised at the hearing and to consider ways of improving ambulance services.

The Standing Committee on Public Administration's report, *Delivery of Ambulance Services in Western Australia: Critical Condition*, contained a number of recommendations which directly relate to issues raised by AHCWA and our Member Services during the inquiry. AHCWA sent an additional response to the Minister for Health to outline the sector's views on the inquiry's final report and recommendations.

The WA Government's response to the inquiry report reflects several of the suggestions made by AHCWA, and we are hopeful that our extensive advocacy and policy advice will lead to changes in this space.

Promoting social and emotional wellbeing services for Aboriginal people

The Policy Team continues to engage in policy and program discussions that relate to mental health and social and emotional wellbeing services. Due to increased activity in this space, AHCWA secured funding from the Western Australian Mental Health Commission (MHC) for a Senior Policy Officer for Mental Health.

One of the Policy Team's key achievements for 2021-22 was the establishment of an ACCHS SEWB Working Group. Discussions with ACCHS staff indicated that there was a need to bring together SEWB teams from across the sector to share learnings and engage in joint advocacy. The inaugural online meeting was held on Friday, 4 March 2022, with 17 participants representing eight ACCHS. A further SEWB Working Group meeting was held in May 2022. The aims of the SEWB Working Group are to:

- develop a strong working partnership in WA between ACCHS delivering SEWB services;
- create a safe space to listen, yarn and problem solve issues that may arise in the ACCHS sector relating to work within SEWB services;
- be a platform to share information about policy changes and reforms in the SEWB space;
- gather information that may inform advocacy efforts; and
- provide a platform to collectively engage with key stakeholders including NACCHO and the WA MHC.

There has been an increase in resource sharing between ACCHS since the initial SEWB Working Group meeting. The Working Group provides a strong foundation to promote the sector's SEWB services and undertake advocacy to address key issues related to mental health.

The Policy Team also provided cultural advice on a range of mental health and SEWB matters:

- AHCWA raised the need for additional Aboriginal engagement at several Steering Committee meetings for the WA Lived Experience (Peer) Workforce Project. The project aims to guide the development of a thriving state-wide consumer, family and carer Lived Experience (Peer) workforce across the mental health (including suicide prevention) and alcohol and other drug sectors. As a consequence of the Policy Team's advocacy, three Aboriginal engagement workshops were held, which informed the development of the WA Lived Experience (Peer) Workforce Framework.
- AHCWA organised a targeted interview for ACCHS staff to provide their views on the development of the WA Mental Wellbeing Framework, and participated in a co-design workshop for a Youth Step-Up Step-Down Service, a Youth Long-Term Housing and Support Program, and Youth Psychosocial Packages.
- AHCWA also made submissions in relation to the:
 - Ministerial Taskforce into Public Mental Health Services for Infants, Children and Adolescents aged 0-18 years in Western Australia (State);
 - *Mental Health Act 2014* Statutory Review (State);
 - WA Mental Health Workforce Action Plan (State); and
 - Review and revision of the *National Alcohol and Other Drug Workforce Development Strategy 2015-2018* (National).

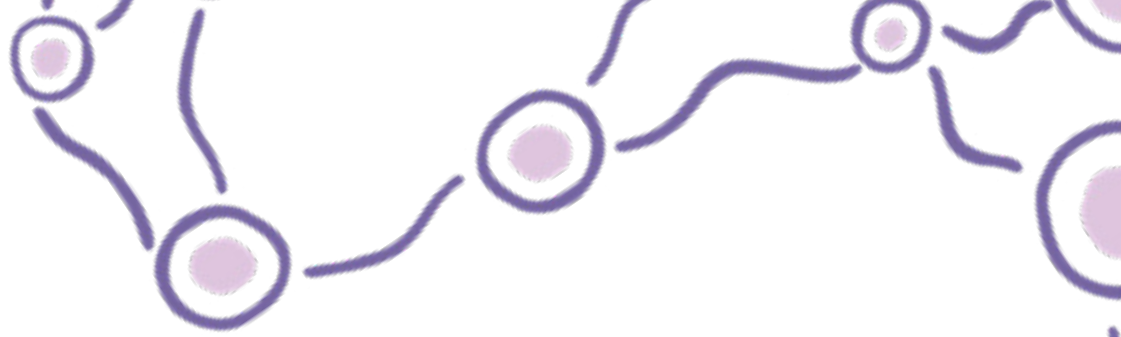
The recruitment of a Senior Policy Officer for Mental Health has significantly increased AHCWA's capacity to provide advice and advocacy in the SEWB and mental health space. The Senior Policy Officer has collaborated closely with AHCWA's Sector Engagement Officer and other AHCWA staff to meaningfully engage with MHC consultation processes. Importantly, the Senior Policy Officer has also been actively building relationships with SEWB staff in the ACCHS sector and with other non-government organisations.



AHCWA works to promote the sector's SEWB services to address key issues related to mental health

AHCWA provided formal submissions and feedback on the following policy matters:

- Guiding Principles: Ensuring Culturally Safe Health Genomics in Partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples (National);
- Primary Health Care 10 Year Plan (National);
- National Obesity Prevention Strategy 2022-2032 (National);
- Inquiry into the Provision of General Practitioner and Related Primary Health Services to Outer Metropolitan, Rural, and Regional Australians (National);
- Inquiry into the Delivery of Ambulance Services in Western Australia (State);
- Potential New National Key Performance Indicators for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander primary health care (nkPIs) (National);
- State Commissioning Strategy for Community Services (State);
- WA State Infrastructure Strategy: Foundations for a stronger tomorrow (State);
- WA State Budget 2022-23 (State);
- Introduction of Aboriginal Health Practitioner role (State);
- National Ant-Racism Framework (National);
- National Tobacco Strategy 2022-2032 (National);
- Independent Governance Review of the Health Services Act 2016 (State);
- Review of the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (National);
- WA Health Promotion Strategic Framework 2022-2026 (State);
- WA Primary Health Alliance Aboriginal Health Strategy (National); and
- Voluntary Patient Registration: Consultation with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector (National).



Sustainable Health Review (SHR)

The SHR is a ten-year reform program, which includes eight Enduring Strategies and 30 Recommendations aimed at ensuring an innovative and financially sustainable health system for Western Australia, focused on prevention and care in the community. The Department of Health (DOH) identified a need for greater engagement with the Western Australian ACCHS sector in the implementation of the recommendations, and AHCWA was commissioned to lead this work.

During 2021-2022, AHCWA worked to promote the SHR across the sector while also highlighting the integral role of the ACCHS sector within the broader health system. While SHR activity was limited in the first half of 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Policy Team continued to explore opportunities for advocacy.

Over 2021-22, the Policy Team focused on:

- facilitating connections between DoH Recommendation Leads and Western Australian ACCHS;
- increasing the awareness and understanding of the SHR by Western Australian ACCHS;
- providing advice to DoH on Aboriginal stakeholder engagement methods;
- liaising between Western Australian ACCHS and Recommendation Leads regarding representatives for reference groups and working groups; and
- ensuring the implementation of all recommendations reflects the needs of Aboriginal communities.

AHCWA continues to undertake specific advocacy in relation to SHR Recommendation 3a – 'Reduce inequity in health outcomes and access to care with focus on Aboriginal people and families in line with the Western Australian Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing Framework 2015- 2030'. This Recommendation includes a milestone to strengthen the ACCHS sector, which aligns with Priority Reform Two – 'Building the Community Control Sector' – of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

AHCWA also continued to advocate regarding priority areas identified by AHCWA's Member Services. This includes:

- Patient journey issues under Enduring Strategy 4 ('person centred, equitable, seamless access'). This Enduring Strategy includes the outpatient reform program and ensuring improved coordination and access for country patients.
- Mental Health and SEWB under Enduring Strategy 2 ('improve mental health outcomes').
- Workforce under Enduring Strategy 7 ('culture and workforce to support new models of care'). Work in this area included feedback on the introduction of the Aboriginal Health Practitioner role in the Western Australian health system.
- Changes to commissioning models to prioritise Aboriginal Community Control under Recommendation 17 ('implement a new funding and commissioning model for the Western Australian health system from July 2021 focused on quality and value for the patient and community, supporting new models of care and joint commissioning').

Given the significance of the broad SHR reform agenda, AHCWA will build on this existing work, and continue to promote the central role of ACCHS and their culturally secure and comprehensive model of primary health care in the Western Australian health system as SHR implementation progresses in the coming years.



National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Advocacy and Engagement

Since the establishment of the NDIS in 2013, disability service provision has increasingly become a service offering for Western Australian ACCHS. The Policy Team assisted Member Services with their activities as NDIS Service Providers, and support access to the NDIS for Aboriginal people with disability.

AHCWA's NDIS Working Group, comprising of NDIS teams from within its Member Services, met regularly to resolve service delivery issues. The Working Group is the central point of support for Member Services, allowing the sharing of information, experiences, opportunities and lessons learnt regarding the NDIS. This Working Group also provides a platform to engage with stakeholders, as well as acting as a forum through which ACCHS can collectively advocate on issues relating to NDIS processes, service delivery and availability, participant access, and participant packages.

During 2021-2022, the NDIS Working Group focused on:

- Collating evidence to inform discussions with National Disability Insurance Agency representatives with regard to issues affecting service provision, such as:
 - NDIS Plan reviews and rollovers;
 - registration and audit requirements; and
 - costs and complexities of remote and very remote NDIS service provision.
- Providing input into a consultation process as part of the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability, to develop recommendations for improvement in the First Nations Disability Sector.
- Troubleshooting and sharing ideas on challenges and successes in their NDIS service provision.



AHCWA's NDIS Business Development Team met regularly with Member Services to share information, knowledge and experiences



The Policy Team also provided input into various policy processes relating to disability and the NDIS, including the:

- Inquiry into current scheme implementation and forecasting for the NDIS;
- NDIS support for decision making consultation;
- Proposed changes to the *National Disability Insurance Scheme Act 2013* (NDIS Act) and the *National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Participant Service Guarantee and Other Measures) Bill 2021*;
- Disability Sector Strengthening Plan (National Agreement on Closing the Gap); and
- NDIS Annual Pricing Review 2021-2022.



AHCWA worked with our Member Services to develop a WA NDIS Communications Initiative

AHCWA also worked with Member Services to develop and rollout the WA NDIS Communications Initiative to raise awareness in Aboriginal communities about NDIS services.

According to the Australian Institute for Health and Welfare, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework 2020, 47 per cent of Aboriginal people aged 15 and over reported having a disability or restrictive long-term health condition in Western Australia in 2018-19. In addition, Aboriginal people were 1.5 times as likely as non-Aboriginal people to have a disability or restrictive long-term health condition, and 2.6 times as likely to have a profound core activity limitation. This demonstrates the importance of making Aboriginal people aware of the supports that are available to them, including those provided by the ACCHS sector. To promote the availability of NDIS services, AHCWA produced the following products as part of the NDIS Communications Initiative:

- four audio recordings (in different languages) for radio: 'Overview of role and responsibility of the NDIS';
- four audio recordings (in different languages) for radio: 'Eligibility for the NDIS';
- one animation on 'How to access NDIS funding' for social media, and AHCWA and Member Services' website distribution;
- one animation on 'How the NDIS can support you' for social media, and AHCWA and Member Services' website distribution; and
- three videos of NDIS participant success stories, and a booklet version of the stories for communities that do not have internet/digital access.



Together with representatives from 12 WA Members Services, AHCWA attended the Remote and Very Remote Yarning Circle in Darwin. Western Australia was the most highly represented region, emphasising the level of engagement with NDIS events and issues in our state. Three Members gave presentations at the event.

AHCWA also maintained strong relationships and connections with other stakeholders within the disability and NDIS space, such as National Disability Services Western Australia, the Western Australian Association for Mental Health, Western Australia's Individualised Services, and the Building the Local Care Workforce Team.

The work of AHCWA and its Member Services has demonstrated the need for strong advocacy in the disability space, to ensure that Aboriginal people with disability receive the culturally secure supports they need and that the NDIS is fit for purpose.

Sector Engagement

AHCWA's Sector Engagement Officer supports our Member Services in areas of concern and unmet need, identifying issues and looking for solutions with regards to matters such as training, workforce, funding and programs. The Sector Engagement Officer is a critical point of contact, linking Member Services, AHCWA staff, and health providers and funders in the regions to drive change and improve health services.

2021-2022 continued to throw challenges at the ACCHS sector, especially in the areas of COVID-19 illness and restrictions. The sector adapted incredibly well in the face of these challenges and made progress in a range of areas, evident in the continued success of the Aboriginal Regional Health Planning Forums. The forums offer a great opportunity for information sharing, help identify and solve common problems, and map sector gaps to inform AHCWA's advocacy. The information and resources shared at the forums play a vital role in the delivery of better health outcomes for Aboriginal people.

A total of 25 planning forums were held in 2021-2022, with a large number of these being delivered online due to travel restrictions and risks associated with COVID-19. While the capacity to attend forums online has ensured AHCWA's continued participation, it has also been important for AHCWA to be present in-person where this was possible. AHCWA participated in the following forums across each of the seven regions in 2021-2022.

Regions	Number
Goldfields	2
Great Southern	4
Kimberley	5
Metro	3
Pilbara	6
Southwest	1
Wheatbelt	2
Yamatji	2
Grand Total	25

In addition to the planning forums, AHCWA's Sector Engagement Officer represented the sector in several other important workshops and forums, including:

- WA's whole-of-government ACCO Strategy workshop: AHCWA participated in a day-long workshop with approximately 80 representatives from all Western Australian Government departments and a number of ACCOs from across Western Australia. The aim of the workshop was to develop a WA Government ACCO Strategy, which aims to strengthen the ACCO sector as per Priority Reform Two of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.
- The Healthy Environment and Lives (HEAL) Network: The HEAL Network is a national research initiative, aiming to translate research and knowledge into policy and practice to improve the Australian health system and the environment. The Sector Engagement Officer is part of the WA Aboriginal advisory group.
- WA Lived Experience (Peer) Workforce Project: AHCWA participated in both the steering committee and an Aboriginal Advisory Group for this project, which aims to grow the peer workforce across WA.

Metropolitan Aboriginal Health Planning Forum

The establishment of the Metropolitan Aboriginal Health Planning Forum was a significant milestone and one of the highlights of 2021 for the ACCHS sector. AHCWA facilitated the first Forum meeting on Tuesday, 12 October 2021. Following this meeting, forum participants engaged in planning workshops to develop a strategic plan.

The development of a Metropolitan Aboriginal Health Planning Forum is extremely important to the sector, due to the high number of Aboriginal people living in the metropolitan region and the prevalence of Aboriginal people being transferred from the regions to metropolitan-based services.

Going forward, the Forum will bring together metropolitan health sector stakeholders from the ACCHS sector, government agencies and services, and non-government organisations to undertake planning and advocacy. By regularly bringing together key stakeholders in Aboriginal health, the Forum will enable meaningful partnerships and facilitate a strategic approach to the development and implementation of culturally responsive, high quality and evidence-based health services and programs for Aboriginal people. The Forum will also enable Aboriginal people to have a voice in relation to identified health issues, health planning, and decision making within the metropolitan region.





Business Development

AHCWA's Business Development work unit comprises of a Business Development and Compliance Team formed with a focus on funding, contracting, governance, accreditation and compliance.

The team work to represent the ACCHS sector in various other not-for-profit forums and steering committees, raising the profile of the ACCHS Model of Care and increasing funding opportunities for Member Services.



Business Development

During 2021 to 2022, the Business Development team focused on increasing funding to the ACCHS Sector, contracting, governance, accreditation and compliance.

AHCWA continued to advocate for government and philanthropic funding to the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services sector. The Executive Manager Business Development engaged with the Western Australian Department of Finance Delivering Community Services in Partnership policy working group, as well as the Department of Communities Commissioning working group. Throughout the year the Business Development team continued to represent the ACCHS sector in various other non-for-profit forums and steering committees, raising the profile of the ACCHS Model of Care and increasing funding opportunities for the Member Services.

Corporate Governance and Sector Support

Governance and compliance is maintained for AHCWA with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission and the Australian Charities and Not for-Profits Commission (ACNC), as well as maintaining ISO accreditation.

In May 2022, the AHCWA Board conducted a membership review, with one Service no longer fulfilling the membership requirements, which resulted in their membership ceasing. A membership eligibility matrix has been developed to provide clarity for ongoing requirements.

The Governance Team also provided support to our Member Services, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, to ensure they were kept informed on legislative changes across the various Acts, *Corporations Act 2001 (Cth)*; *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 (Cth)*; *Australian Charities and Not for-Profits Commission Act 2012 (Cth)* and *Associations Incorporation Act 2015 (WA)*; and their duties as Directors and CEOs during the pandemic.



Bega Garnbirringu Health Services staff prepared and distributed food to clients who were in isolation due to COVID-19



This included advice in relation to governance and various legislative changes including:

- new Director Identification Number requirements;
- changes to employer superannuation guarantee and the new *Work Health and Safety Act 2020 (WA)*; and
- circulating opportunities for Board, management and ACCHS staff on upskilling through courses, workshops, webinars, scholarships and intern opportunities.

Provided individual member support and advice regarding:

- pro-bono legal advisors to reduce risks in contracting by Members through development of suitable terms and conditions;
- direction on templates, policies and procedures that need Director approval;
- NDIS funding and applications for Aged Care funding;
- commencement of work with pro-bono lawyers to write rule books for the new Social Services Peak Body and the Fitzroy Valley proposed AMS; and
- provided references or letters of support as required for Member Services for funding submissions and expansion of services.

Member Services continued to engage with AHCWA via a practical dialogue aimed at mitigation and aversion of potential organisational risks.



Yura Yungi Medical Service Aboriginal Corporation staff worked with consultants in Halls Creek to prepare their 2022-2023 Business Plan

Contracts and Reporting

The Contracts and Reporting Team continued to support AHCWA to apply for grants, negotiate contracts, and establish reporting requirements. Some of the highlights for the year included:

- supporting the development of 17 funding applications;
- reviewing AHCWA's 42 contracts and funding agreements to ensure compliance and reporting requirements are encompassed;
- managing appropriate AHCWA policies and providing administrative assistance in the use of: Contracting of Consultants and Contractors, Sub-Contracts, Member Service Agreements, Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs), letters of support, grant applications and reporting;
- collating information and data from all relevant work units to produce the six monthly and annual core funding reports for NACCHO and State Department of Health;
- circulating information on available grants and tenders via the bi-monthly grants list to ACCHS;
- administering sub-contracting arrangements with the Member Services, such as the philanthropic funding and devolved funding from WA Health, WAPHA and Lotterywest;
- providing assistance with funding applications by member services, including document reviews and suggestions; and
- assisting members with consortium bids, including streamlining the EOI process, keeping them across opportunities, and advising on effective acquittals.





To address the difficulties experienced by Member Services in obtaining funding within short timeframes, AHCWA strategically moved towards managing consortium bids. This reduces the resources required by Member Services to secure funding, and increases the responsiveness of Member Services to major local issues as they arise. To help manage the outbreak of syphilis, for example, Member Services were able to apply to AHCWA for small grants to aid their local initiatives by completing expressions of interest, rather than by preparing tender and grant submissions to large funders.

As the ACCHS were predominantly preparing for, and addressing COVID-19 outbreaks throughout 2021-2022, their capacity to apply for funding, source and purchase appropriate resources was limited. AHCWA was able to step in to advocate for, and secure devolved funding on behalf of the ACCHS on several fronts. This included:

- \$6.2M in increased clinical staffing costs from WA Health;
- \$1.5m in increased administration and transport personnel, purchase of personal protective equipment, pulse oximeters and rapid antigen tests, fit testing of masks, increased infection control, and the provision of non-prescription medication care packs from WA Primary Health Alliance;
- \$500, 000 from Lotterywest to address food security and increase Telehealth capacity as well as care and activity packs for patients in isolation;
- \$250, 000 from Paul Ramsay Foundation for COVID-19 isolation support;
- \$300, 000 from Lotterywest for ACCHS capacity building activities such as: organisational capacity building; governance software; strategic planning consultants; governance training; supporting capacity development in speciality focus areas to suit local needs; and
- pro bono donations of goods and services from Johnson & Johnson and BP Medical Supplies.

AHCWA was therefore resourced to purchase, supply and distribute \$600, 000 worth of personal protective equipment, apparatus and Rapid Antigen Tests on behalf of the ACCHS long before Commonwealth, State or PHN resources could be deployed.



Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service staff prepared food boxes for clients affected by COVID-19 restrictions



COVID-19 medicine bundles were prepared for clients



Contract Highlights

New funding secured in the 2021-2022 period included:

- Australian Digital Health Agency: Digital Health Strategy for Western Australia agreement for 2022/2023.
- Department of Communities: NDIS Ready Business Solutions funding expansion and extension to 31 December 2023.
- Department of Communities: Mappa inclusion of NDS and Disability Service Providers expansion and extension to 31 December 2023.
- Department of Health: ACCHS COVID Ambulatory devolved funding.
- Department of Health: Climate Health agreement
- Department of Health: Immunisation Promotion and Education grant.
- Lotterywest: COVID Support devolved funding.
- Mental Health Commission: SEWB Pilot project.
- NACCHO: COVID-19 Vaccine Support additional funding.
- NACCHO: COVID-19 Outbreak and Response grant.
- NACCHO: Ear Health.
- Paul Ramsay Foundation COVID-19 Support devolved funding.
- Telethon Kids Institute LGVTQA+ Inclusive Training Services Agreement.
- WAPHA COVID Support devolved funding.



Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service staff during the pandemic response

Philanthropic Partners

AHCWA's Philanthropic Partners have provided much needed funding and pro bono services and goods over the past twelve months. AHCWA would like to give our sincere thanks to the following:

BHP Vital Resources Fund



Johnson & Johnson Family of Companies



Paul Ramsay Foundation



King & Wood Mallesons



Quality and Compliance

In July 2021, AHCWA had its ISO reaccreditation audit with no non-conformances found and eight recommendations suggested. The Contracts and Compliance Coordinator is working with AHCWA management to implement the recommendations promptly and effectively. This was a commendable result in a very busy year.

The Contracts and Compliance team also assisted a number of AHCWA teams to explore more diverse and automated reporting solutions in Smartsheet, and improving organisational reporting.

A comprehensive review of insurance coverage and risk management was also completed at the end of the reporting period.



Ethics

The Western Australian Aboriginal Health Ethics Committee (WAAHEC) is one of three Aboriginal specific Human Research Ethics Committees (HREC) in Australia. The WAAHEC is recognised by, and registered with, the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

Membership of the WAAHEC is as follows:

Name	Position
Vicki O'Donnell	Chairperson
Chris Bin Kali	Regional Representative
Deborah Woods	Regional Representative
Lynette Mallard	Aboriginal Elder
Ezzard Flowers	Male Layperson
Dan McAullay	Research Professional
Jocelyn Jones	Research Professional
Michael Wright	Research Professional
Francine Eades	Health Professional
Jye Walker	Youth Representative
Keisha Calyun	Youth Representative
Daniel Vujcich	Representative with Legal Training

WAAHEC received the following submissions during 2021 -2022:



95

New applications



212

Amendments



87

Progress Reports



21

Final Reports



49

Publications

The WAAHEC Secretariat coordinated nine meetings over the 2021 -2022 year. The main regions for research within Western Australia were the metropolitan area, Kimberley, South West, Murchison-Gascoyne and Pilbara. Research project included National projects.

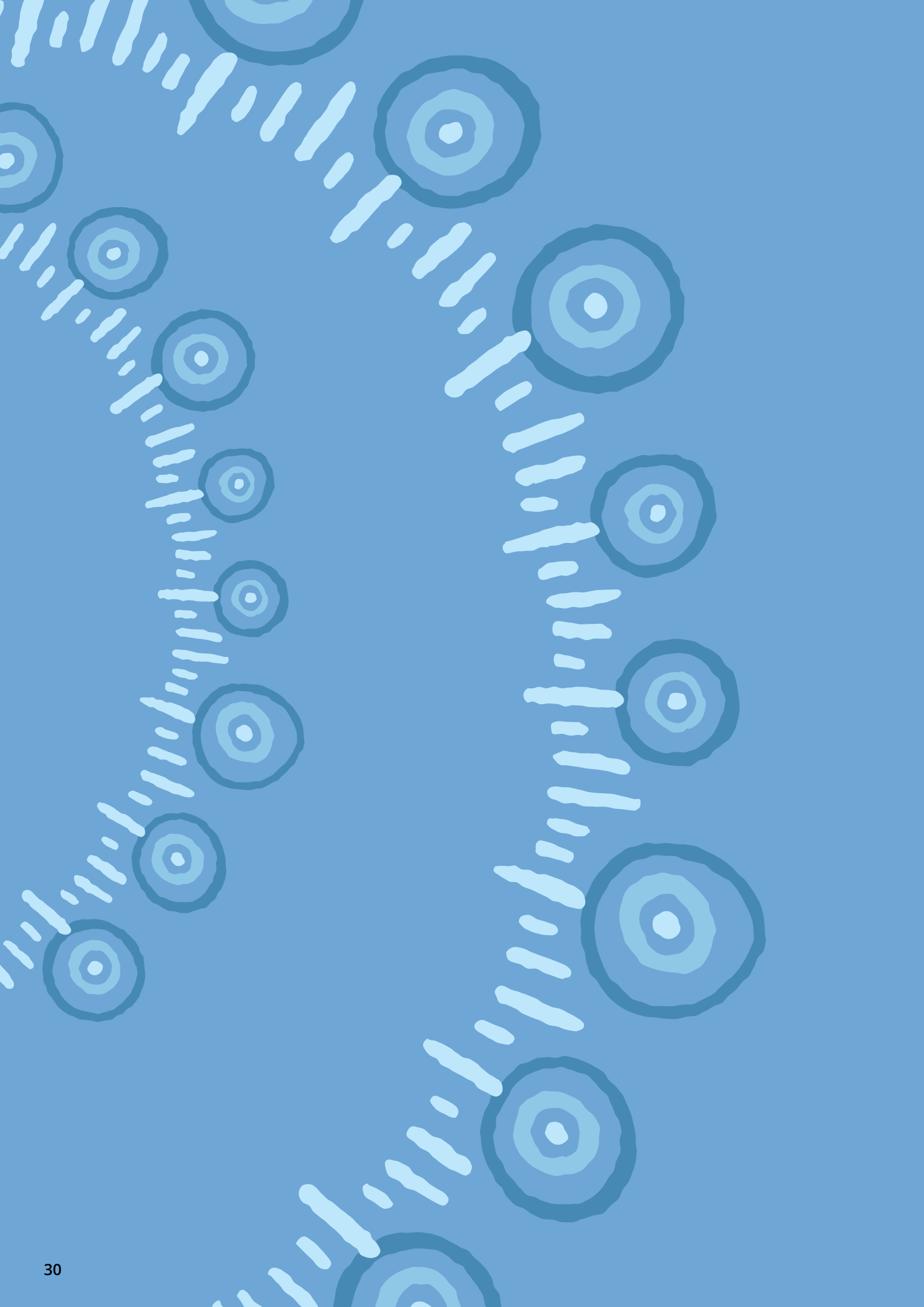
The research projects undertaken related to various categories and health issues affecting Aboriginal people including: mental health and wellbeing, Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, ear health, immunology, sexual health, paediatrics, and environmental health.

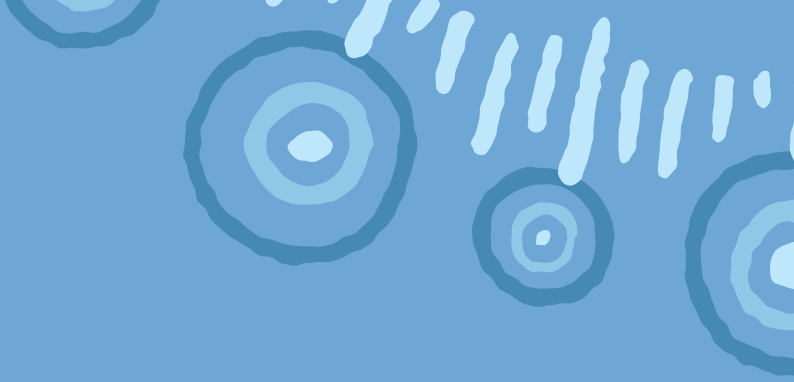
WAAHEC continues to adhere to the national underpinning guidelines and documents that govern its operations. This includes self-reporting to the National Health and Medical Research Council annually to demonstrate National Standard compliance, and ensuring any feedback is actioned where necessary. The Secretariat continued to provide six-monthly approved project summaries uploaded to the AHCWA website for the public to view and monitor quality research projects currently being undertaken in the regions.

WAAHEC noted that research is being conducted in Western Australia in some cases without WAAHEC approval, when such approval is considered necessary. Considerable collaboration in this matter with responsible institutions has ensured better understanding of the approval process for researchers.

The improvement in governance has ensured the reporting of translation to policy and community, will continue into 2023.

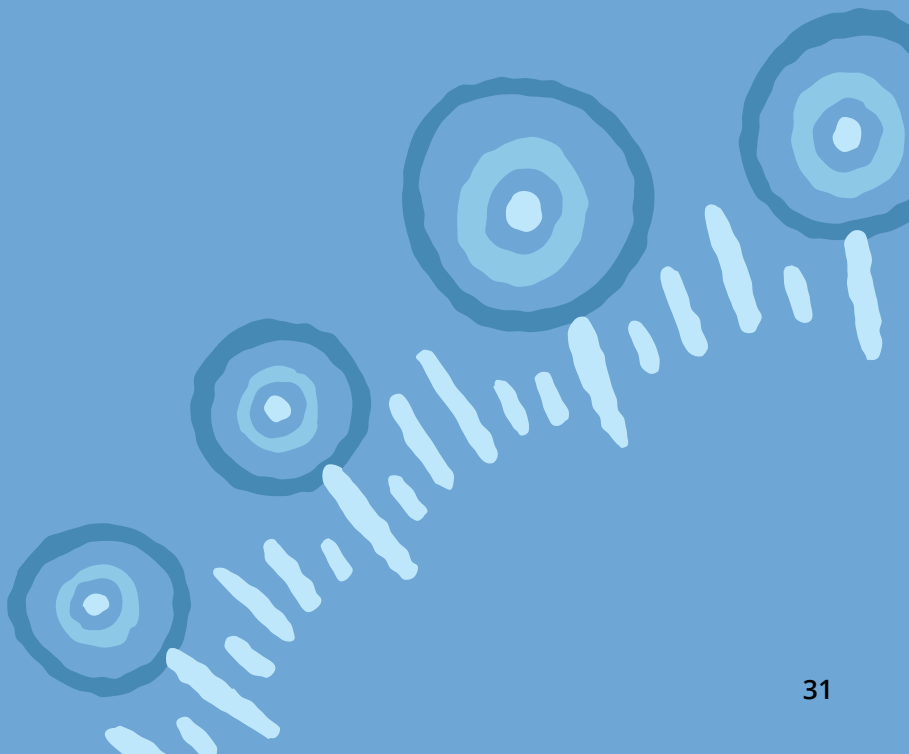






Public Health and Continuous Quality Improvement

The Public Health and Continuous Quality Improvement Team support Western Australian ACCHS to encourage and establish best practice in the primary healthcare setting. The team works at a national, state and local level to advocate for and assist positive recognition and improvement in the service delivery for ACCHS in Western Australia.



Public Health and Continuous Quality Improvement

Throughout the 2021-2022 year, COVID19 continued to dominate the workload of both the ACCHS and of AHCWA's Public Health and Continuous Quality Improvement Team. The ACCHS have provided one of the most prompt and highly effective responses of any health system to COVID-19 outbreaks in Aboriginal communities. Throughout this period, AHCWA's PHCQI Team provided escalated support to Member Services to ensure that they had the requisite clinical information, supplies and space for information sharing to continue supporting their communities.

Services the PHCQI Team provided to our Member Services during the 2021 -2022 year included the hosting of weekly COVID preparedness meetings for CEOs and Clinical Leads to share their workarounds for emerging issues that came about with sudden community outbreaks. The PHCQI Team also provided regular updates to our Member Services on Aboriginal COVID-19 case numbers in the state, changes to the Medicare Benefits Scheme and restrictions and mandates set by the government.

The Public Health Team continued to be a strong voice for all the Western Australian ACCHS, ensuring that both the ACCHS sector and Aboriginal people are not forgotten across all aspects of COVID-19 management.

COVID-19 data and communication

With the COVID-19 vaccine now an established part of ACCHS service delivery, the main focus throughout the second half of 2021 and early 2022 was engaging with newly eligible populations and tackling volatile myths surrounding immunisation. The Public Health Team made it their focus to tackle such myths through campaigns in collaboration with AHCWA's Communications Team.

As community COVID-19 outbreaks occurred in early 2022, problems securing case number data for Aboriginal people in Western Australia's regions left ACCHS in the dark. Through continued advocacy, the Public Health Team worked to establish continued data sharing from WA Health around COVID-19 case numbers amongst Aboriginal people in the state. With this data, the ACCHS have been able to plan service delivery more effectively and provide efficient and timely COVID-19 medical management to positive clients.

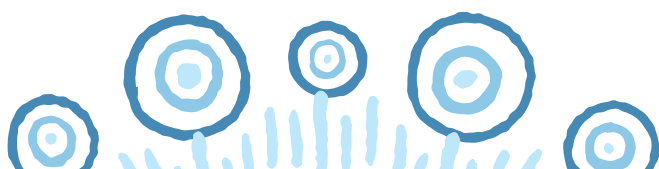
The PHCQI Team continued to lead the AHCWA COVID-19 response providing support to Member Services. This included hosting weekly COVID-19 meetings with the CEOs and Clinical Leadership Group (CLG) of our Member Services, education updates through the CLG and attendance at local, state and national meetings. In January the support provided branched out to include outbreak responses in preparation for the opening of Western Australia's borders and the subsequent increase in COVID-19 cases in the state.



Professor Ted Wilkes AO and Dr Christopher Blyth featured in an AHCWA and Derbarl Yerrigan video resource to help dispel common COVID-19 misinformation



Clinical Leadership Workshop





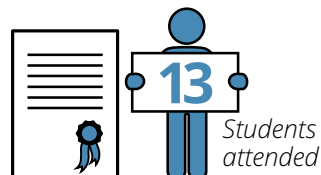
Immunisation advocacy for Aboriginal communities

AHCWA continued to be a part of the North Metropolitan Health Service's Metropolitan Immunisation Partnerships Collaborative, advocating for measures to improve the immunisation rate amongst Aboriginal people living in the Perth metropolitan area. The PHCQI Team diverted their efforts to reducing vaccine hesitancy through addressing emerging myths about immunisation with Aboriginal people in Western Australia. This included creating a number of social media toolkits around COVID-19 boosters and co-administration of influenza and COVID-19 immunisation, working with AHCWA's Communications Team to develop animated resources for young people not vaccinated for COVID-19 and incorporating vaccination myth busting education within regular immunisation training to address the 'infodemic' that has accompanied the COVID-19 pandemic.

AHCWA's 10681NAT Course in Immunisation Training for Aboriginal Health Workers and Aboriginal Health Practitioners aims to increase the vaccination workforce, with the goal of closing the gap in immunisation rates in Western Australia. The course teaches participants about the immune system, safe administration of immunisation, and the cold chain process; as well as imparting the skills to tackle emerging community myths about immunisations.

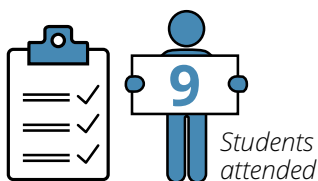
2x

1068 NAT
Immunisation
Courses



1x

Immunisation
refresher



All participants were from the Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service's various clinics. While many more registered for the course throughout Western Australia, travel restrictions resulting from COVID-19 outbreaks in regional Western Australia prevented them from taking leave from work and travelling to Perth for training.

The immunisation refresher training proved to be a useful tool to deliver up-to-date immunisation education within a short time-frame. Participants of the training gained valuable skills particularly in childhood immunisations and devising health promotion initiatives to promote timely immunisation with their cohort.



AHCWA offered a 10681NAT Course in Immunisation Training for Aboriginal Health Workers and Practitioners



Continuous Quality Improvement support for Member Services

Beyond COVID-19, the PHCQI Team focused on building on Continuous Quality Improvement support for Member Services. This has been achieved through the provision of tailored CQI mentoring, the creation of CQI tools for clinical staff to use, the hosting of quarterly forums for CQI officers and practice management staff to share CQI successes and the facilitation of workshops to assist in planning, implementing and evaluating ideas for change. The team also started to return to a 'business-as-usual' model, working on discrete projects in the realms of advance care planning, hepatitis C testing and treatment, child and maternal health, chronic disease management, eye health, and digital health.

The PHCQI Team have strong ties with the Australian Digital Health Agency and have delivered numerous activities to increase Member Services' enthusiasm with using digital health. This has included consulting on the current state of digital health usage, providing updates on changes in the space, as well as one-on-one support when needed and advocating to Practice Information and Recall System corporations around changes to make software more usable for ACCHS staff.

Eye health audit and recommendations

In partnership with Johnson & Johnson, AHCWA's Eye Health Project commenced in April 2021 with the aim of improving access to and provision of eye health services to Aboriginal people in Western Australia. AHCWA completed year one of the project, producing a report on results of the scoping exercise and recommendations on how to move forward.

The scoping exercise explored how eye programs are implemented within each ACCHS; identified barriers and enablers to eye health screening; and highlighted effective management of conditions including diabetic retinopathy. Services have identified the lack of sufficient equipment to carry out thorough eye health screening, high staff turnover contributing to a deficit in eye health (and particularly equipment) knowledge and inconsistencies in eye health referral pathways among the barriers in the sector. It was identified a 'siloed' approach to conducting external eye health specialist operations and issues with eye health processes including clinical data and recall input. These findings made apparent the need for an Eye Health Training Coordinator role at AHCWA to facilitate regular training with ACCHS in response to staff turnover, as well as ensuring CQI is embedded into eye health processes to ensure they work for the service.



AHCWA staff marked World AIDS Day on December 1 to show support for people living with HIV and to commemorate those who have died

Sexual Health

The AHCWA Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Program incorporates four Sexual Health programs: Birds and BBV training; the Young Leaders Training; Syphilis Health Promotion; and the Hepatitis C Project.

It has been a busy and exciting year for the team, seeking new and innovative ways to deliver sexual health promotion during ongoing COVID-19 lockdowns and travel restrictions, which prevented face-to-face delivery. Although AHCWA's face-to-face training was impacted, the team has still been able to deliver sexual health education and messaging through online education, social media, radio, and resource development.

Check Protect Respect

The team decided to create a social media campaign titled 'Check Protect Respect', which aims to engage young Aboriginal people across the state in sexual health education. The objectives of the social media campaign are to raise awareness about the syphilis outbreak in Western Australia; other sexually transmitted infections and blood born viruses; risky behaviours; and general awareness. The team delivered these through fun and engaging methods such as memes, TikToks and language definitions. Moving forward, the team will look to expand the social media platforms with collaboration and consistent content produced.

Check Protect Respect social media campaign



1,100
follows



200
post shares



reach of
30,000

Syphilis awareness

The syphilis outbreak continues to be a concern in the metropolitan area and some regions of Western Australia. In the past two years we have seen an increase in the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people diagnosed with HIV, and effort continues in the race towards eliminating Hepatitis C by 2030. AHCWA's Sexual Health Team keep STI and BBV testing a high priority and work to raise awareness within communities so there is better understanding around the importance of testing and contact tracing.

As part of their syphilis awareness raising and education effort, the AHCWA Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Team delivered a presentation titled 'Why We Should Be Worried About Syphilis' to 100 delegates at the Youth Affairs Council Western Australia Youth Summit. The team also promoted the syphilis outbreak and the importance of getting tested on ABC Radio Kununurra and Radio Mama Geraldton in November and December 2021.



Check Protect Respect Facebook page

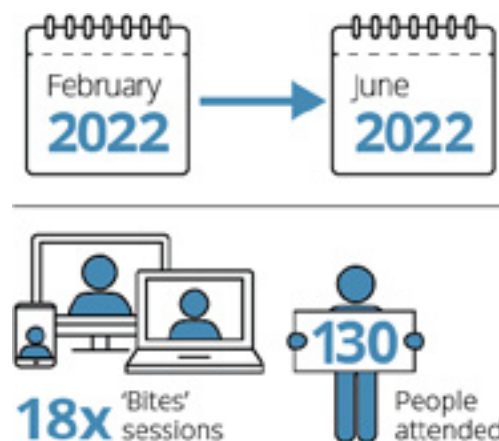


The Birds and the BBVs

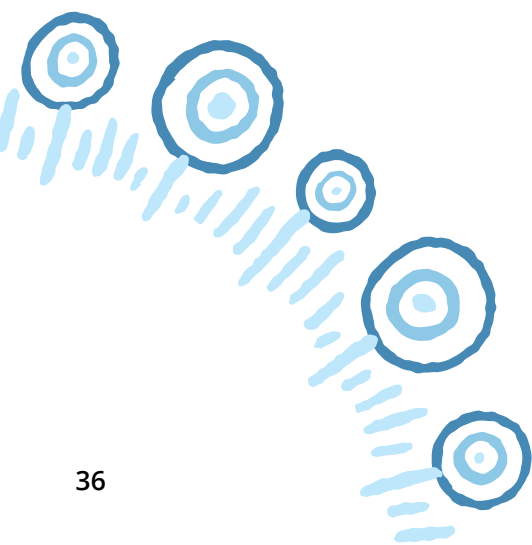
Seven Birds and BBVs training sessions were held over the past 12 months; three in the metropolitan area and four in regional Western Australia. Unfortunately, due to service restraints related to COVID-19 and flu infection, including extra staffing required for community COVID-19 vaccination; five sessions were postponed. Despite this, participant numbers exceeded expectations in both the metro and regional areas.

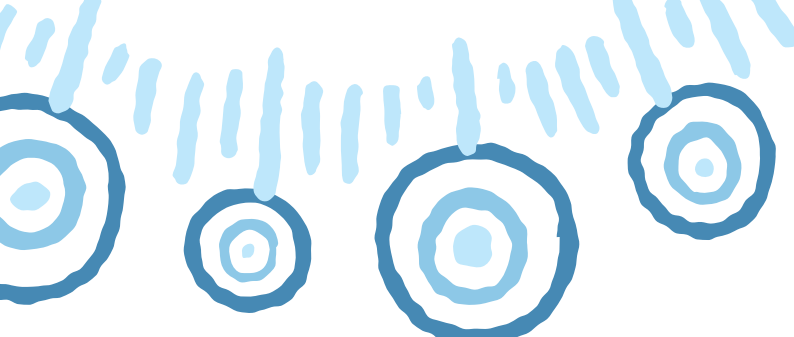


The “Birds and BBV Bites” now better known as “The Bites” was created to deliver short STI and BBV information online during the lunch break. The Bites were initially promoted amongst Sexual health staff working in ACCHS, recorded and made available via the AHCWA website and YouTube channel. They have since gained popularity and continue on a weekly basis. Topics discussed are on anything related to sexual and reproductive health and presenters are from partner organisations such as Sexual Health and Blood-borne Virus Program, Department of Health WA, Sexual Health Quarters, Hepatitis WA, Western Australian Aids Council, Youth Educating Peers Project and SiREN. Invitations to join online have extended to WA Country Health Services, Public Health Units and other organisations that work with Aboriginal people.



The Birds and the BBVs Program increases participants' knowledge, skills and confidence to yarn with their clients about the importance of STI, HIV and BBV testing





Come Have a Yarn

Once the Western Australian state borders opened in March 2022, the AHCWA Sexual Health and Blood Born Virus Team had the opportunity to recommence travelling to deliver face-to-face training and health promotion activities.

In June 2022, the Team travelled to Wiluna to deliver a one and a half day workshop on Respectful Relationships, STIs and BBVs, at the Ngangganawili Aboriginal Health Service (NAHS). A mix of content from AHCWA's Young Leaders Program, Birds and BBVs and Moorditj Leadership Training was developed.

The session was named 'Come have a Yarn' and encouraged young people in the region to come and yarn with NAHS and AHCWA about looking after your body and your relationships. Fourteen young people aged between 12 and 16 years participated in the training and youth peer education. Feedback was very positive and NAHS has requested that the AHCWA Sexual Health Team return later in the year for further training and peer educator learning and support.

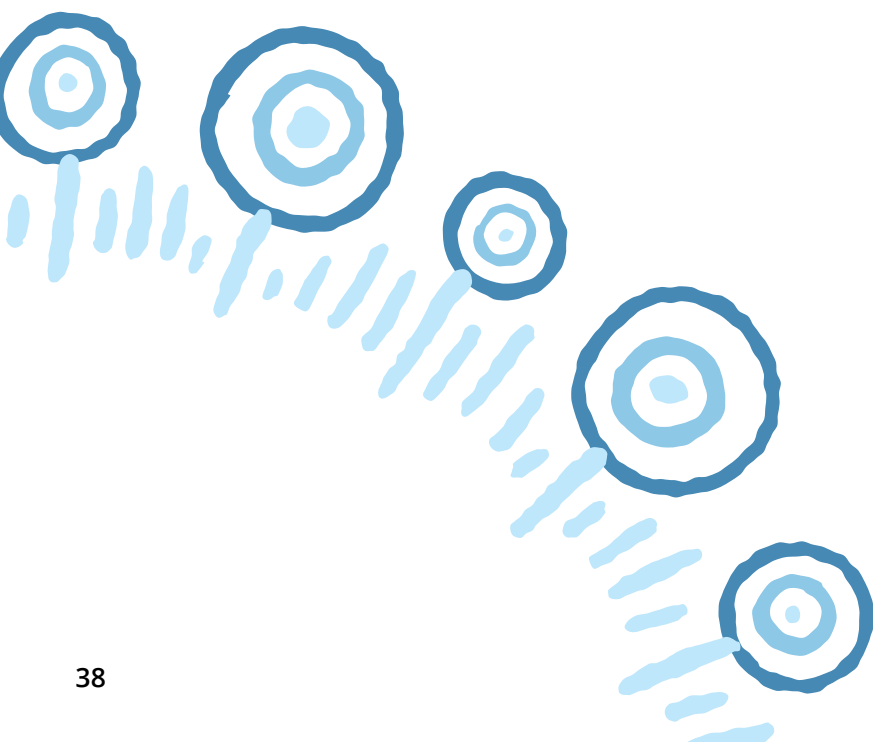


AHCWA's Sexual Health team and Ngangganawili Aboriginal Health Service held a workshop yarning about healthy bodies and healthy relationships in Wiluna

Sexual Health Forums

AHCWA hosted three Sexual Health Forums over the past 12 months, the first in November 2021 had 24 staff from 14 WA ACCHS attend both face to face and online. The syphilis themed forum featured an epidemiological update from the Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Program, focus testing for AHCWA's new syphilis flip chart, a pre-recorded presentation from Dr Donna Mak from the Department of Health's Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus program on syphilis treatment and management; and syphilis point of care testing training theory and practice delivered by staff from Flinders University.

Feedback from the participants was very positive and two further online forums were held throughout 2022. The forums were themed Hepatitis C and Inclusive Health Care respectively, with presentations from Hepatitis WA and Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service on their Hepatitis C Audit and from Sexual Health Quarters. AHCWA Sexual Health Forums will continue quarterly for sexual health staff working in the WA ACCHS.



Moorditj Koort Health Expo

AHCWA held a sexual health stall at the Moorditj Koort Health Expo in June 2022, featuring a range of resources and merchandise, and a roll the dice game where participants were invited to answer a sexual health related question. Approximately 25 young Aboriginal people aged 18 years and under and 25 Aboriginal people aged 18 years and over engaged in conversations about syphilis and other STIs and BBVs.

Events hosted by AHCWA's Sexual Health and Blood Born Virus team in 2021-2022 included:

- World Hepatitis Day 28/7/21;
- World AIDS Day 01/12/21;
- Cervical Cancer Awareness Week 11/12/21; and
- Transgender Day of Visibility 31/03/22.

Resources developed by AHCWA's Sexual Health and Blood Born Virus Team in 2021-2022 included:

- A syphilis flip chart and board game: The 'Go along Phil and Philis' syphilis flipchart (funded by Western Australian Country Health Service) and the 'Syphilis and Ladders' board game were both focus tested with young Aboriginal people, and clinical and non-clinical staff at our ACCHS. AHCWA received positive feedback on both resources from young Aboriginal people who attended the recent Young Leaders Program in the Fitzroy Valley and the Come Have a Yarn workshop in Wiluna.
- A Hepatitis C testing criteria infographic for staff working in our ACCHS.
- A Needle Syringe Program information chart for ACCHS staff on how to set up a NSP within their service.



AHCWA's Sexual Health team offer two-day Birds and BBVs training around STI and BBV awareness in partnership with Hepatitis WA and the WA AIDS Council

The Young Leaders Program

The Young Leaders Program (YLP) is a peer education program targeted at young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 12 to 25 across Western Australia. Young Leaders focuses on building the capacity of young people, providing them with the tools to make informed decisions about their health, and to share this information with their peers. Topics covered during 2021-2022 included mental health, alcohol and drugs, healthy relationships and sexual health and blood borne viruses. Once participants complete the program, they are supported to deliver health promotion activities within their own community.

Over the past year, the program has undergone a small revamp to ensure it remains relevant to matters facing young people today. The Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Team were fortunate to work with approximately 130 young people across the metropolitan, Midwest and Kimberley regions during the reporting period. Feedback received was extremely positive, with all participants completing the program saying they would recommend it to their peers.

Young Leaders Program Testimonials:

"Too Deadly"

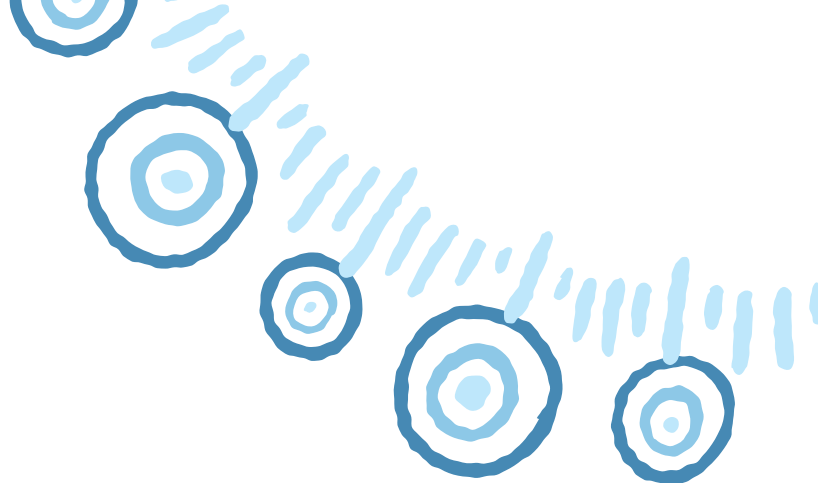
"Grateful to have this type of support"

*"Doing the program with friends,
having laughs and talking
about personal topics"*

The success of the Young Leaders Program over the 2021-2022 year can be attributed to its flexible delivery, increased promotion, interactive activities and its partnering with community-based workers. Working alongside community-based workers has been integral for the program, as it has helped provide a sense of familiarity and rapport within the workshops, and a contact person between facilitators and participants within the community.



AHCWA's Young Leaders Program delivers sexual health education to young Aboriginal people across Western Australia



Tobacco Control

AHCWA's Tobacco Control program is comprised of two teams: the Tackling Indigenous Smoking Team and the Quitline Aboriginal Liaison Team.

Tackling Indigenous Smoking (TIS)

Smoking remains the leading cause of preventative death amongst Aboriginal people, and a factor in 37 per cent of all Aboriginal people's deaths. AHCWA's TIS Team is one of 37 national Tackling Indigenous Smoking grant recipients, funded to reduce the prevalence of smoking amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. AHCWA's TIS Team achieves this through a range of evidence-based health promotion activities.

There is evidence that tobacco control initiatives are working, with a reduction in the percentage of Aboriginal people who smoke daily reducing from 50 per cent of Aboriginal people above 15 years old in 2004-2005, to 37 per cent in 2018-2019.

On 28 December 2021, The Hon Greg Hunt MP, then Minister for Health, announced a four year, \$188M extension to the national Tackling Indigenous Smoking program. This announcement was followed by changes to the TIS programs, as follows:

- a 12 month extension for current TIS programs from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.
- competitive tender for TIS programs for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2026.
- change of TIS regions to align with Australian Bureau of Statistics Indigenous Regions.



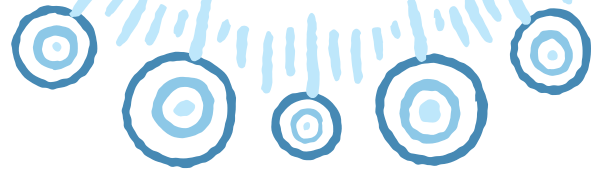
AHCWA's TIS team engaged with community members at the City of Stirling's Mirrabooka NAIDOC celebration in November 2021

Various COVID-19 restrictions throughout 2021-2022 impacted the ability of AHCWA's TIS Team to engage with community at events and educational sessions but despite this, the team had a number of engagement highlights for the year, including:

- a cigarette butt competition to mark World No Tobacco Day;
- Sir Doug Nicholls AFL game – Fremantle v Collingwood;
- sponsorship of volunteer shirts and trophies for Barry Cameron Memorial Basketball Carnival;
- a partnership with AHCWA's Ear Health Team for the 2021 Simon Says booklet;
- engagement at NAIDOC events in Mirrabooka and Armadale;
- development of resource 'Follow the Path to a Healthy Baby';
- engagement at the Moorditj Koort Health Expo;
- development a new virtual reality game 'TIS Said Knock You Out';
- TIS promotion on Noongar Radio;
- a significant increase in audience engagement on Tomorrow's Dream social media platforms across Facebook and TikTok; and
- Shooting Stars Seven Sisters netball game education sessions at:
 - Girrawheen Senior High School
 - Clontarf Boys Academy
 - Belmont City College
 - Banksia Grove Primary School.



The TIS Team offered smoking education information at Wirrpanda Foundation Deadly Sista Girlz Ken Wyatt Cup in August



Quitline Aboriginal Liaison Team

As part of the changes announced to the Tackling Indigenous Program, the Quitline Aboriginal Liaison Team (QALT) program did not receive funding beyond 30 June 2022. This announcement was met with great disappointment by the health services who have engaged with QALT over the last three years and even more so for the QALT program officers employed in the program.

Notwithstanding the cessation of funding for the QALT program, there were some great highlights for 2021-2022, which included:

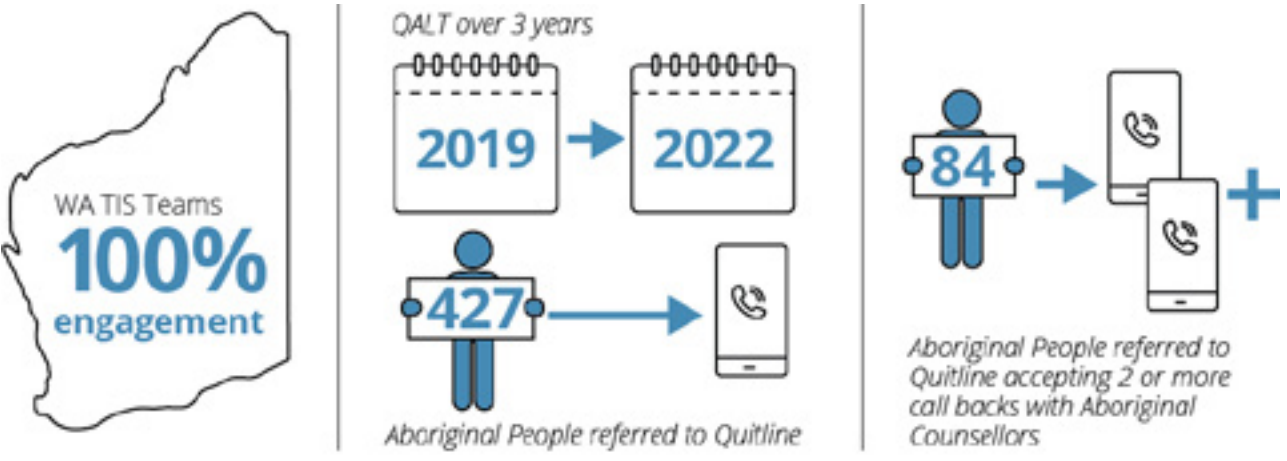
- radio media campaigns on NOVA and Noongar Radio;
- a statewide YouTube media campaign advertising harms of second-hand smoke;
- a bus back advertising campaign;
- Brief intervention and Quitskills training at Ord Valley, Kununurra, Geraldton, Newman;
- more than 500 smoke-free resource packs distributed to Aboriginal people in hospital;
- Quitline posters in language: including Kimberley Kriol, Kununurra Kriol, Miriwoong; and
- updated artwork for Quitline referral pads and resources.



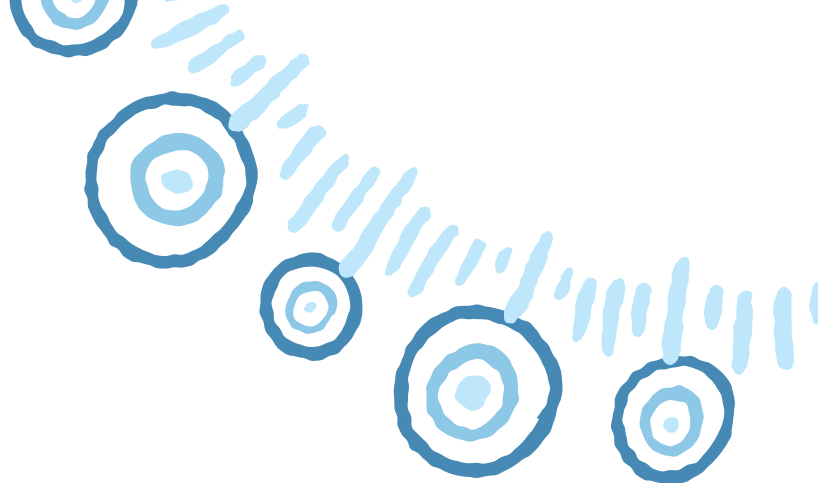
AHCWA's QALT Project Officer Tara Rowe in the Waringarri Radio studio with host Ethan Cox



The QALT team would like to thank all WA TIS programs, health services and AHCWA colleagues who supported the program for the last three years.



The Quitline Aboriginal Liaison Team Officers visited the Mid West in September 2021, delivering their QALT Brief Intervention Upskilling Workshop in Geraldton



Social and Emotional Wellbeing

Following much advocacy, AHCWA was successful in securing funding to deliver a pilot to improve the quality of life for Aboriginal people through the implementation of the ACCHS Social and Emotional Wellbeing Model of Care. The pilot program provides the opportunity to highlight the model as best practice for Aboriginal people.

The Transforming Indigenous Mental Health and Well Being Research Program has been commissioned by the Mental Health Commission to evaluate the pilot, with close collaboration occurring with AHCWA.

The pilot will increase access to social and emotional wellbeing and holistic healthcare services for Aboriginal people of all ages in the Kimberley, Pilbara, Mid-West, Goldfields and South-West regions of Western Australia.



The second Social and Emotional Wellbeing Gathering brought together leaders from across Australia to renew the national framework

AHCWA has sub-contracted five Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services to facilitate the program in their communities:

- Bega Garnbirringu Health Service in Kalgoorlie;
- Derby Aboriginal Health Service in Derby;
- Wirraka Maya Health Service Aboriginal Corporation in South Hedland;
- Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service in Geraldton; and
- South West Aboriginal Medical Service in Bunbury.

During the 2021-2022 year, a SEWB Pilot Governance Committee was formed, with monthly meetings ensuring that all pilot sites had input to the tendering process and access to planning support.

An AHCWA based SEWB Pilot Project Coordinator was employed to ensure the fidelity of the model is upheld and stakeholders continue to be supported throughout the pilot. The next phase of the pilot project will involve implementation and include a planning workshop and site visits.







Workforce and Sector Development

AHCWA's Workforce and Sector Development work group supports the capacity of our Member Services in both workforce and sector development. The work group comprises of a Registered Training Organisation arm, a series of Health Programs and the Mappa platform.

Workforce and Sector Development

During the 2021-2022 year, the Workforce and Sector Development work unit supported AHCWA's Member Services through its Training and Development Centre and a variety of education, training and workforce and sector development programs.

The work unit also provided advocacy and leadership through attendance at meetings, forums, committee/working groups and workshops, on the relevant programs, such as ear health; NDIS; social emotional wellbeing; cancer; and first aid, as well as the Aboriginal Health Practitioner qualification.

Training and Development Centre

AHCWA's Registered Training Organisation, the Training and Development Centre, delivered a number of accredited and non-accredited qualification and workshops throughout the 2021-2022 year. The Training and Development Centre seeks to make a difference to healthcare settings and in Aboriginal people's lives, and raise awareness of the challenges that most Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities face on a day-to-day basis; including access to health services and awareness of health related issues.

The courses offered during this period included the:

- Certificate II in Family Wellbeing (currently undergoing reaccreditation)
- BSB40220 Certificate IV in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Governance
- 10681NAT Course in Immunisation Training for Aboriginal Health Workers and Aboriginal Health Practitioners
- Ear Health Training:
 - HLTAHW025: Provide information and strategies in hearing and ear health;
 - HLTAUD002: Assess and respond to occupational noise risk; and
 - HLTAUD003: Conduct play audiometry.
- HLTAID011: First Aid Training
- Birds and BBVs Sexual Health Workshops; and
- Cancer Education Training.

During the January to June 2022 period, the Training and Development Centre focused on the compliance responsibilities of the Registered Training Organisation (RTO), which included reviewing and updating all the policies and procedures, as well as developing new documents aligned with the standards for RTOs 2015 requirements. In support of the RTO compliance, the Training and Development Centre employees attended workshops delivered by the Training Accreditation Council Western Australia's own Vocational Education and Training regulator.

In addition to those courses undergoing reaccreditation, the Training and Development Centre has been preparing to add a number of qualifications to its scope of registration. These are aimed at building the workforce capacity of the Aboriginal workforce to support the Aboriginal community controlled health sector and their communities.

The prospective courses to be added to AHCWA's scope of registration include:

- 11037NAT - Certificate IV in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Theory and Practice.
- Certificate II in Indigenous Environmental Health.
- Certificate III in Indigenous Environmental Health.
- Certificate IV in Aboriginal Disability Advocacy.

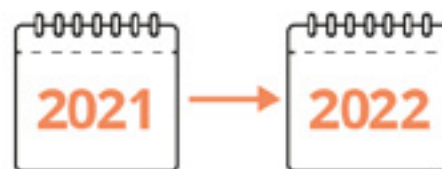
These courses are at the core of AHCWA's commitment to invest in training for individuals and industries that works with, and for, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

AHCWA receives funding through the Department of Health Indigenous Australians Health Program: Emerging Priorities Program to support activities that target improved health outcomes specifically and primarily for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and communities.

Under the Addressing Aboriginal Workforce Skills Shortage to Improve Preventive Health Activity, AHCWA receives funding to support the AHCWA Member Services with two workforce capacity-building programs: Cancer Education Training and the development of Indigenous Environmental Health training package.



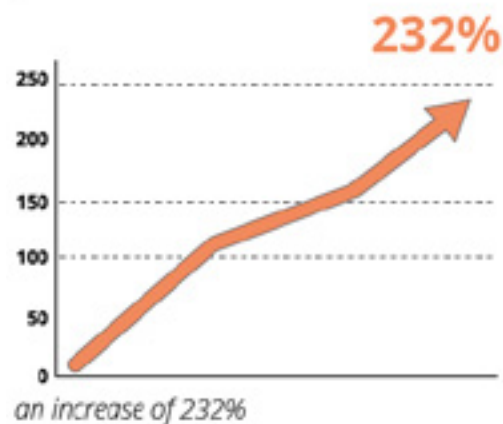
AHCWA's Immunisation Training courses ran in Perth, Bunbury, and Broome in 2021



AHCWA's Training and Development Centre trained



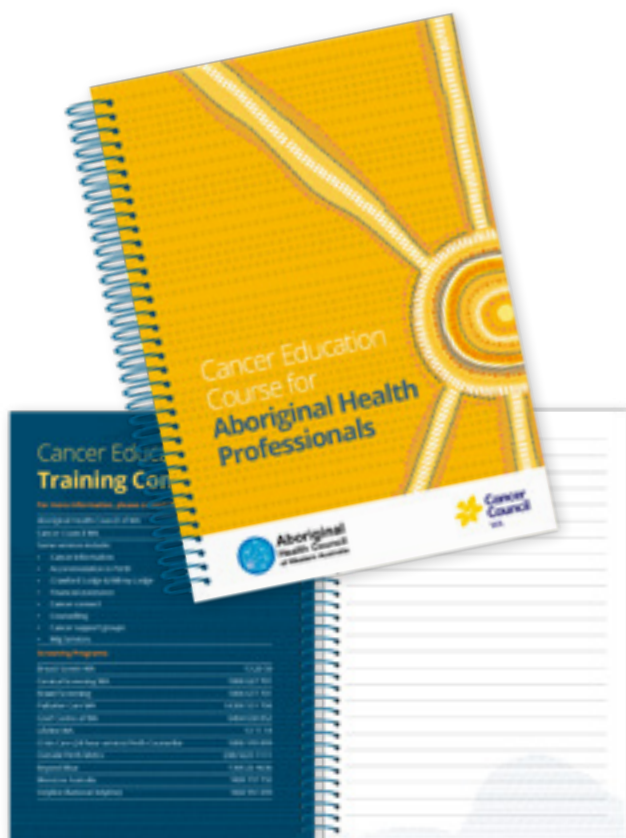
73 Participants



Cancer Education Training

Cancer is the second leading cause of death for Aboriginal people, who are 1.4 times more likely to die from cancer than the wider population. There is an urgent need to address the cultural barriers that impede access to cancer prevention, early detection and care for Aboriginal people.

In September 2021, AHCWA, in partnership with Cancer Council of Western Australia, delivered its first nationally accredited Cancer Education Course for Aboriginal Health Professionals, HLTAHW035 Provide information and support around cancer. The five-day course provides culturally relevant training to health professionals working with people with cancer in the sector. Funded by AHCWA, it aims to increase knowledge and awareness around the resources and services available to support Aboriginal people with cancer.



Cancer Education Training resources

The course was developed in conjunction with local health professionals in Perth and works to improve Aboriginal health professionals' knowledge and understanding of:

- cancer as a condition
- cancer staging
- how treatment decisions are made
- cancer treatments and their side effects.
- resources and services currently available to help Aboriginal people diagnosed with cancer, and
- cancer prevention, early detection and screening strategies.

The Program includes many of specific learning needs, including:

- assisting people to access reliable and current information about cancer;
- explaining how cancer develops, the lifestyle risk factors that can lead to cancer and how people can reduce their risk, in a way that is appropriate and understood by community;
- providing support to Aboriginal patients with cancer and their families;
- organising follow-up care for cancer clients;
- assisting with raising the option of palliative care and supporting clients to access appropriate services;
- providing feedback on the effectiveness of cancer programs and services for clients; and
- working with health organisations and services to raise awareness about cancer, cancer prevention and early detection.



During 2021-2022, 12 participants attended AHCWA's Cancer Education Training program. Eight of the participants were Aboriginal health professionals from the metropolitan area, and the remaining four participants were from Bunbury, Northam and Broome. The participants worked in both Aboriginal medical services and hospital settings. Participants were primarily Aboriginal Liaison Officers, Aboriginal Health Practitioners, Aboriginal Health Workers and Aboriginal Health Promotion Officers.

Response to the program from all involved has been overwhelmingly positive, with all outputs and outcomes successfully achieved. Feedback has revealed participants are using the knowledge and networks developed during the program to pursue further training in cancer-related care, which will ultimately improve outcomes for Aboriginal people and cancer patients in the regional and local areas of Western Australia.

Due to the unpredictability of the COVID-19 outbreaks, AHCWA unfortunately had to cancel the scheduled May Cancer Education Training to be delivered at the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service training centre in Broome.

AHCWA utilised this time to look at other ways of improving the cancer education program, such as:

- Identifying strategies to make the course more appealing to the broader community.
- Reducing the length of the course, and presentation times.
- Converting the course, or part of it, to a non-accredited three-day course and facilitating it as a workshop, thus removing assessments and reducing the course operating time.
- Delivering separate workshops for community-based people and Aboriginal health professionals.
- Promoting the cancer program in the Pilbara and using the Broome Hospital Tele Chemo Unit site visit to incorporate a site visit via Teams video presentation.
- Create a survey specific to services in the Kimberley and Pilbara, asking what they want from the cancer training.

AHCWA has managed to secure more training dates for the 2022- 2023 year.



Cancer Education courses were held at various locations across the state in 2021

Indigenous Environmental Health Training

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are disproportionately affected by diseases linked with environmental health. This is due to a number of factors including the remote location of some communities; poor infrastructure; lack of access to tradespeople and repairs; and the cost of maintenance.

AHCWA has been working closely work with key partners across our Member Services network, including those who are Registered Training Organisations; as well as Community Skills WA; and the Department of Training and Workforce Development to design and deliver a Certificate II and III training package in Indigenous Environmental Health. The training package will ensure health workers are provided with the necessary leadership and technical skills to progress environmental health initiatives in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Western Australia.

Proposed outcomes under the Indigenous Environmental Health training package include:

- Increased knowledge, awareness and understanding of environmental health including, how it affects Aboriginal people, and connects with health issues like trachoma, rheumatic heart disease and water quality.
- Increased Indigenous Environmental Health workforce.
- Increased community awareness of environmental health.
- Increased presentation by Aboriginal people to health services screening for preventive health issues linked with raised education and awareness of environmental health risks.
- Decreased preventive health issues due to the above.
- Decreased delay of general repairs to houses related to key environmental health issues in community housing where Indigenous Environmental Health Officers are trained.

AHCWA has engaged a Course Writer, in consultation with a Course Reference Group consisting of Environmental health and industry skills experts, to develop the training package.

While the program has been delayed by COVID-19 related challenges, AHCWA has undertaken creative employment strategies in response to nationwide workforce shortages of qualified Trainer and Assessors with the aim of finding a suitable applicant in the recruitment for the program during the 2022-2023 year.





Aboriginal Disability Advocacy Training

AHCWA receives funding from the Department of Communities to develop an accredited Vocational Education and Training Certificate II and Certificate III to equip disability service providers with the skills and knowledge to provide culturally secure education and advocacy for Aboriginal people with disabilities.

AHCWA have engaged a course writer to undertake the following key deliverables:

- Conduct an environmental scan to identify relevant current training packages, units of competency, and gaps or issues regarding cultural security.
- Conduct stakeholder consultation to identify current issues in relation to advocacy and the rights of Aboriginal people with disability.
- Develop a gap analysis from environmental scan and consultation.
- Develop a competency matrix.
- Identification of accreditation process and development of strategy to achieve course accreditation.
- Develop a course structure.
- Trial a select number of core course competencies with targeted service providers.
- Develop an implementation plan, including potential future funding streams.

A Course Reference Group will be established to review the course content in preparation for the course to be added to the AHCWA Scope of Registration and subsequent delivery of the first pilot group in the coming year.

Ear Health

AHCWA receives funding from the Commonwealth Department of Health towards an ongoing Ear Health Coordination Program. The 2021-2022 year was one of both achievements and unpredictable challenges for the program, with COVID-19 continuing to impact Aboriginal people and communities, particularly in the early half of 2022.

Throughout the year, AHCWA's Ear Health Team worked in partnership with Rural Health West to assist with timely access, service delivery, systems and processes to improve patient safety and access to Primary Health Care services in the rural and remote regions.

AHCWA's Ear Health Training supports our Member Services throughout the sector to professionally develop the skills required to competently provide ear and hearing care to children, families and the communities. The uptake of training during 2021-2022 was low due to travel and other restrictions associated with COVID-19.

However, during the period the Ear Health Team has worked with AHCWA's Communications and Design Team, through consultation with the ACCHS Ear Health Forum, on the development of Simon Says and Our Journey in Ear Health resource booklet and video series. These resources have been developed by AHCWA to promote ear health messaging featured in a clinical setting and hosted by Aboriginal Health Practitioners. Production of the resources created the opportunity for community members to participate and share their experiences in ear health. The resources aimed to equip community members with information on ear and hearing screening as a tool for ACCHS in regions.



Broome Regional Aboriginal Medical Service staff featured in AHCWA's Your Journey In Ear Health video series, promoting ear health care



AHCWA's Ear Health team visited My World Child Care in Midvale to perform ear health screening on the children



Filming for the Your Journey In Ear Health series was undertaken and completed for the South West, Kimberley, Gascoyne and Murchison regions. The South West Aboriginal Medical Service video and booklet edition of Your Journey In Ear health was launched in early 2022. The Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service, Derby Aboriginal Health Service and Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service editions set for release in late 2022. AHCWA also had the opportunity during the reporting period to work with the Nirrumbuk Environmental Health Services in the Kimberley, building and strengthening relationships with the team whilst developing a video promotion in outreach to gain traction for the team working with remote communities.

In development for the 2022-2023 year, Professor Kelvin Kong and the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation are planning to co-facilitate a new National Working Group comprising of Ear Health Coordinators and Community representatives. The purpose of this working group is to design and implement standardised ear health care plans as well as continue to advocate for national ear health key performance indicators.

The AHCWA Ear Health Coordination Program would like to acknowledge and thank all our ACCHS and Rural Health West for their contributions this year.



Broome Regional Aboriginal Medical Service staff featured in AHCWA's Your Journey In Ear Health video series, promoting ear health care

The Family Wellbeing Program

Funded by the WA Mental Health Commission, AHCWA's Family Wellbeing Program aims to increase awareness and develop strategies around the factors that impact on family wellbeing.

The project brings together Aboriginal health professionals and others who work with Aboriginal people to gain the necessary skills to be able to support individuals, families, and communities to overcome their social and emotional challenges and create stronger communities and family environments.

The program involves the delivery of a Certificate II in Family Wellbeing, where participants develop skills in:

- effective communication and conflict resolution;
- how to cope with grief and loss and managing emotions;
- how to overcome emotional challenges;
- understanding and recognising mental health and stress management;
- understanding the importance of personal, emotional and social wellbeing;
- how to effectively guide individuals, families and communities through difficult times; and
- how to integrate principles of wellbeing into one's own life.



Family Wellbeing Training was held in Geraldton and Mullewa in 2021 to foster skills that support the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal people

In early 2021, the expiry of the reaccreditation for the 10272NAT Certificate II in Family Wellbeing occurred and all students enrolled before the expiry date of 22 March 2021 subsequently had 12 months to complete the course. During the 2021-2022 financial year, AHCWA were still in the Teach Out mode in the July to December period.

This program is currently owned by the Batchelor Institute and is currently undergoing the reaccreditation process through the Australian Skills Quality Authority. AHCWA have been unable to deliver the Family Wellbeing program in the first half of 2022, and aim to recommence delivery from October 2022.



A Family Wellbeing Training participant in the Gascoyne region, 2021

First Aid Training

During the 2021-2022 year, due to the COVID-19 lockdown and associated restrictions, AHCWA delivered two First Aid Training sessions. In November 2021, First Aid Training was delivered to Bega Garnbarringu Health Service in Kalgoorlie. Eight Certificate IV Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care students attended the training, as part of the requirements of their training, and an additional four Bega Garnbarringu staff attended, making a total of 12 participants at the workshop. In December 2021, First Aid Training was also delivered to 15 staff from the Nyoongar Outreach Service in East Perth, as part of their job requirements. A total of 27 participants attended the First Aid Training during the 2021-2022 reporting period.

As the First Aid Training Units, HLTAID003 and HLTAID001 were both superseded during this period to HLTAID011 and HLTAID009, all training resources were required to undergo update and re-mapping.

AHCWA is currently reviewing the resources for delivery of the updated First Aid Training in the new year.



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Governance Training

AHCWA receives funding from the WA Department of Health through the Supporting Governance and Building Pathways to support educational initiatives that improve the governance and business management skills for employees, board members and affiliates of AHCWA.

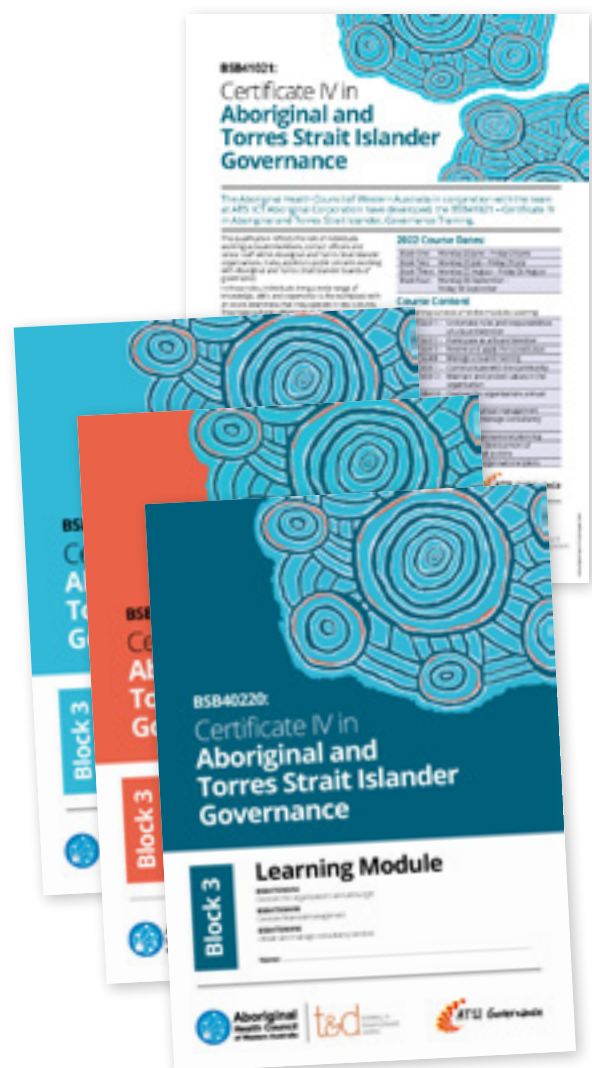
One of the key achievements of the grant has been delivery of the two-day governance skillset training delivered in partnership with the team from the ATSI ICT Corporation. Although COVID-19 related barriers and restrictions have arisen, including the closure of the Western Australian border, the AHCWA team were able to deliver the training via Teams to the Boards of a number of remote Member Services.

After a series of delays, the Certificate IV in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Governance was finally able to start Block One during the 2021-2022 year. The training was delivered through the Training and Development Centre Training Room to the participants from AHCWA's Member Services in regional and remote locations via Teams. The fresh and exciting training package consists of theory, discussion and role-play, along with many laughs.

There are four training blocks in total, with the training anticipated to finish in October 2022 followed by a graduation ceremony. AHCWA plans to deliver the training in 2023 after an update of the resources in line with the reaccreditation of the course.



Participants and course material for AHCWA's new Certificate IV in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Governance Training



Youth Program

In April 2018, the Western Australia Aboriginal Youth Health Strategy 2018-2023 was launched by then Minister Ken Wyatt at the Western Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector Conference. The Strategy's recognition of young Aboriginal people's specific health needs made it a significant document for the Aboriginal Health Council of WA and the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services sector. In 2019, AHCWA received Commonwealth funding for the implementation of the strategy.

This allowed AHCWA to establish its Youth Program, which ran a successful Aboriginal Health Youth Conference, facilitated several regional workshops with Aboriginal youth, established an AHCWA Youth Committee, sat on various working groups, and provided an Aboriginal youth voice via feedback on a variety of policies, strategies, programs and services.



The Youth Program's key outcomes included:

- the development of the Youth Team's advocacy and stakeholder engagement role;
- improved consultation with Aboriginal young people across the State through the youth conference, regional workshops and the AHCWA Youth Committee;
- the increased support of young people within the Aboriginal health sector;
- Implementation of the Western Australia Aboriginal Youth Health Strategy was the catalyst for AHCWA to provide important opportunities for more young people to;
- advocate for their community and the issues impacting on young people;
- access professional development and training; and
- input into the broader agenda of the Aboriginal health sector.

A central tenet underpinning the Strategy was to ensure Aboriginal young people were at the centre of service and program planning and design, with services actively engaging in what they have to say and open to learning from them. Consultation with young people across the state is a critical component to realising this. The AHCWA Youth Program developed three key mechanisms for engaging and consulting with Aboriginal young people across Western Australia; the Youth Committee, Youth Conference, and regional workshops.



AHCWA's inaugural Youth Camp was held in November 2021 in Shark Bay and Denham



The purpose of the AHCWA Youth Committee is to provide Aboriginal young people aged 18 to 29 with an opportunity to discuss and consider ways to address current issues affecting young people in Western Australia's regions. It fulfils one of AHCWA's listed strategic actions: 'Create mechanisms to support young Aboriginal people to contribute to the planning and development of initiatives and strategic actions under the Strategy.'

The Youth Committee is intended to regularly bring together the Youth representatives of the regions across Western Australia in a meaningful way to:

- contribute to and provide oversight, support and guidance on the implementation of the strategy;
- contribute to the development of the annual AHCWA Youth Conference;
- provide a youth perspective to the AHCWA Policy, Advocacy and Strategy team on National State and Local Government policies and strategies;
- provide a youth perspective to the AHCWA Public Health and CQI team on National and State Government policies and strategies; and
- proactively influence the AHCWA Executive Team and Board of Directors on issues affecting Aboriginal Youth in Western Australia seeking advocacy and lobbying on behalf of the Youth Committee.

AHCWA is conscious of the need to continue to engage with, and consult Aboriginal youth, and provide a platform for their views and insights. To this end, increasing the membership and the representative nature of the Youth Committee is necessary. The AHCWA Youth Team have been actively involved in advocating for and representing the views of Aboriginal young people across the health and youth sector, seeking the input of young people to develop strategies, policy, and submissions.

At many of the forums and organisations they are invited to, they are not only working to advocate but also educate people that processes, policies, programs and services must not only be inclusive, but culturally appropriate.

Unfortunately, the funding from the Commonwealth Department of Health for the Youth Program ceased on the 31 December 2021 and AHCWA have been advocating at a state and national level to receive funding for the Youth Program, however have been unsuccessful to date.



AHCWA's inaugural Youth Camp was held in November 2021 in Shark Bay and Denham

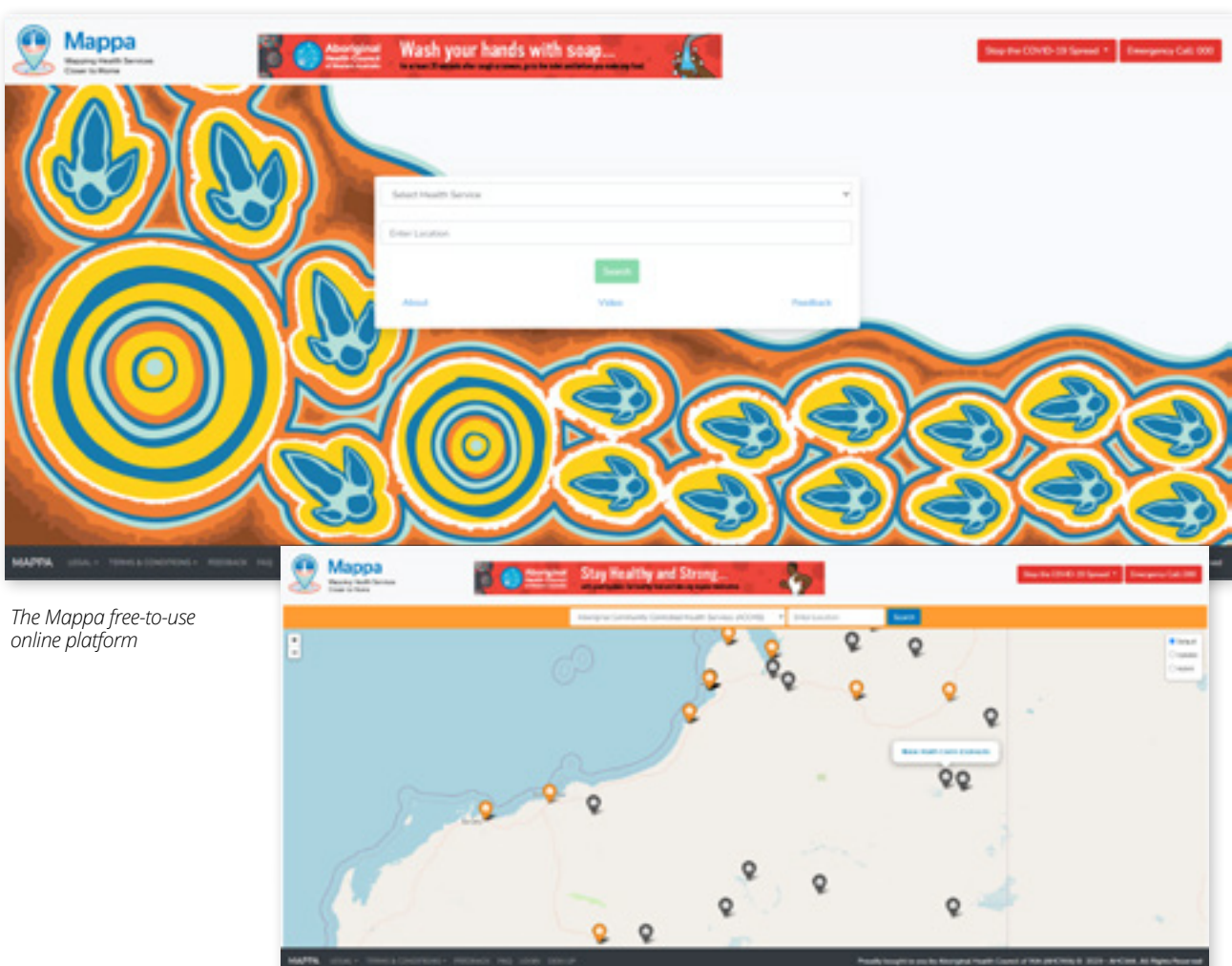
Mappa

Mappa is a free-to-use online platform that improves access for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people and their communities to health services as close as possible to family, home and Country. The consultation, design and development of Mappa has been driven by cultural considerations and made possible through collaboration with the whole of the Western Australian health sector.

Mappa uses spatial mapping technology to visualise the location of primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare, alcohol and other drugs, visiting specialists, outreach clinics, and mental health and social and emotional wellbeing services.

Whilst Aboriginal people have been known to be transient or nomadic people, Mappa was designed to empower Aboriginal (and Non-Aboriginal) people and their communities to access accurate and reliable health service related information regardless of their location, including:

- what services organisations deliver;
- where these services are delivered;
- whether services are culturally appropriate;
- COVID-19 specific information;
- opening hours, clinic times, service schedules;
- travel related information; and
- regularly updated links to WA Health and other vital culturally appropriate information.



The Mappa free-to-use online platform

During the 2021- 2022 year, AHCWA received funding from a number of key partners and stakeholders to support the development of a variety of deliverables and milestones for Mappa. These included the WA Department of Health; the WA Country Health Services; the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service; the Department of Communities; Lotterywest; and Johnson & Johnson.

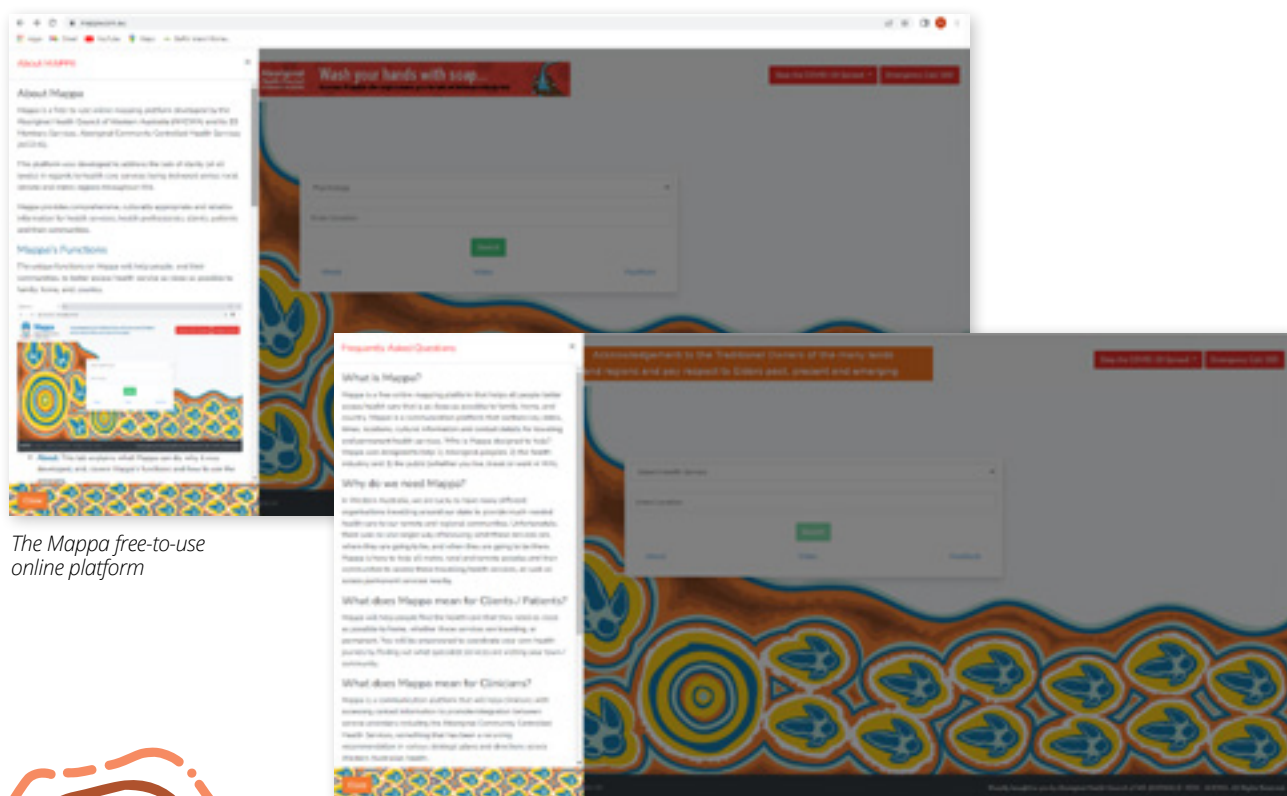
Some of the new features of Mappa include:

- A pilot project to feature the NDIS services for the South West region of Western Australia; and
- The addition of eye health services to the health services tab.

The Mappa team have been working hard behind the scenes on the development of a Mappa Business Case for the future, with support from PricewaterhouseCoopers and the Mappa management team; and the development of admin and user manuals for each of the primary bodies engaged in Mappa.

Mappa is in early stages development of a business case and has developed a marketing plan to support and enable the longevity of Mappa into the future, so as to support Aboriginal access to both primary and secondary health care closer to home.

Mappa continues to gain interest across both the health and non-health sectors, not just in Western Australia but nationally, and we anticipate many new and exciting ventures for the platform in the coming year.



The Mappa free-to-use online platform

NDIS Business Solutions Program

AHCWA received funding from the Department of Communities in February 2021 to support the Western Australian Aboriginal Controlled Community Health Service sector to establish sustainable contemporary NDIS business solutions responsive to the needs of Aboriginal people with disability. The initiative sought to enhance the business practices of Western Australian ACCHS to ensure they were viable and efficient NDIS service providers into the future.

In June 2021, AHCWA employed an NDIS Business Solutions Coordinator and NDIS Advocacy and Engagement Officer to work closely with AHCWA's Member Services, providing support to their NDIS systems. In February 2022, AHCWA received further funding from the Department of Communities to provide additional support in the implementation of the demand exploration project; development of a marketing conceptual framework; implementing a community of practice and assisting in the retention of support coordinators.

The NDIS Business Solutions Coordinator worked closely with the NDIS Advocacy and Engagement Officer on the coordinated NDIS Support to the Member Services in the NDIS space.

NDIS CMS Project – The NDIS CMS project is in its implementation stage. Participants in the project are offered a one-time implementation budget to accommodate the on-boarding costs associated with a new platform. The implementation phase is expected to conclude in December 2022.

The Demand Exploration Project – The NDIS team has delivered two NDIS DEPs to interested Member Services, with two more expected to be delivered before the end of the year. The DEPs are individually tailored projects which cater for the AHCWA Members' needs and look at a range of NDIS factors that could influence an organisation's sustainability in the NDIS realm. The completed DEPs focused on conducting a demand analysis similar to that of a feasibility study, examining the opportunities and costs associated with NDIS service delivery, offering financial tools and conducting board and management training.



AHCWA and our Member Services created a series of promotional films aimed at improving the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities' understanding of NDIS services



NDIS Resource Creation Project – The project has to date completed two advisory group meetings. The meetings identified key areas Member Services will benefit from as a collective. AHCWA will be purchasing licenses for NDIS resource pools and training materials to share with Member Services until a time that we are able to produce and deliver these modules in-house.

NDIS Marketing Project – This project is still in the early stages, and project scope is currently being explored. The next phase of the project will be mapping the Member Service needs, which will be completed via both surveys and consultations. Based on the findings, the project will aim to deliver comprehensive tools and resources to meet Member needs as identified.

Outside the program deliverables, the NDIS Business Solutions Program Team act to fill any gaps identified by WA ACCHS when delivering NDIS services. This is achieved through participation in the consultation process with wider government and disability sector stakeholders, advocating on behalf of the AHCWA Members and acting as an intermediary between people with disability and service accessibility.



AHCWA and our Member Services created a series of promotional films aimed at improving the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities' understanding of NDIS services

Aboriginal Patient Advocacy Training

The inequity and injustice that can confront Aboriginal people in our health system can lead to poorer health outcomes and health advocacy plays a big part in addressing these issues.

In 2019, AHCWA partnered with the Health Consumers' Council, the Bila Muuji Aboriginal Health Organisation Incorporated and the National Justice Project through a Memorandum of Understanding to promote, distribute and develop an Aboriginal Patient Advocacy Training Program. This program was designed to support anyone who wishes to advocate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in the health system, to government or to health service providers.

Since early 2021, and through the challenges of COVID-19, the partnership has added the finishing touches to the training package with the goal of enabling training for organisations and those who work with Aboriginal people and communities, to help support them and their networks when dealing with the health system.

This training will help people gain a better understanding of the barriers and enablers for Aboriginal people in our health services and systems, a deeper understanding of their health rights and the important role of health advocacy.

Over the past 12 months, the training has been developed with a focus on:

- increasing understanding around the barriers that can prevent Aboriginal people accessing equitable care;
- methods for developing a better understanding of the health system;
- exploring a deeper understanding of health rights;
- developing health advocacy skills to better support Aboriginal clients;
- learning about various complaints mechanisms and avenues for people; and
- self-care and vicarious trauma.

The Aboriginal Patient Advocacy Training Program may also be used to train non-Aboriginal health and allied professionals and their support staff on the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients and how to meet them in a culturally safe or appropriate way.

A pilot session was held in December 2021, with further sessions in August 2022, including the review and continuous quality improvement of the resources.





Corporate Services

The Corporate Services work group consists of five distinct work units encompassing People and Culture, Finance, Communications and Design; Information, Communication and Technology; and Administration.

Corporate Services

People and Culture

The People and Culture work unit is responsible for AHCWA's strategic workforce planning, talent management, recruitment, training and development, team building, employee relations, and improving the overall operational efficiency of the organisation.

Throughout the 2021-2022 year, the People and Culture team continued to support the organisation's workforce and Member Services as they transitioned into the post-pandemic world, pro-actively addressing unique workforce challenges across the sector.

The team provided tailored human resource management support and advice to Member Services across key workforce and human resource matters including recruitment and selection, job design, workforce planning, training and development, work health and safety, and industrial relations.

Key areas of support included:

- assisting Member Services with strategic workforce planning, talent searches and succession planning;
- recruitment of temporary, short term and permanent workers in a challenging labour market;
- sharing and disseminating professional development opportunities including culturally appropriate training, workshops, conferences and scholarships to build workforce capacity;
- assisting Member Services with job design and skills assessments to assist with workforce planning;
- navigating workforce and industrial relations considerations in the wake of the pandemic including mandatory vaccinations, job redesign and redeployment, fit testing requirements and rapid antigen testing;
- providing advice regarding amendments to the *Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth)* with respect to workplace rights and obligations for casual employees;
- understanding and implementing the new work health and safety laws;
- complying with changes to the *Fair Work Act 2009 (Cth)* and *Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Cth)* to ensure that workers are protected and empowered to address sexual harassment at work; and
- assisting Member Services to meet payroll and compliance obligations with respect to changes to Modern Awards, annual wage reviews, the *Superannuation Guarantee (Administration) Act 1992*.

Workplace Culture and Employee Satisfaction

An Employee Satisfaction Survey administered via the organisation's Employee Assistance Program provider in October 2021, provided valuable insight into the organisation's workplace culture and satisfaction.

89%

of respondents indicated that the organisation has a respectful workplace culture amongst management and peers



82%

of respondents firmly believe the management team demonstrates strong leadership skills



83%

of respondents believe the organisation demonstrates a strong commitment to workplace safety and cultural safety



87%

of respondents would recommend the organisation as a great place to work



Workplace Flexibility

The organisation continued to embrace its commitment to fostering a culture of flexibility and a family friendly work environment; ensuring employees felt supported with individual flexible working arrangements to balance their work and home commitments. These arrangements include promoting a hybrid workplace, flexible work hours, compressed work weeks and job sharing.

These arrangements have supported employees to maintain a healthy work-life balance, which in turn increased productivity, engagement and retention.

26%

of employees had an agreement to work flexible hours or arrangements



23%

of employees work on a part time or casual basis



Continuing Professional Development

The team focused on building and maintaining a culture of continuous learning and development, building talent from within and promoting career development opportunities.

382

e-learning activities completed



260

episodes of training and development



30

staff undertook cultural safety training



30

opportunities for employees to act and advance into leadership or managerial positions



Compliance and Record-Keeping

The team maintained its paperless electronic filing and continued to search for new and innovative ways to increase efficiency. In doing so, the team maintained another year of exceptional compliance in record-keeping of 98%.

Our people at 30 June 2022



73%

of employees identify as female



20%

of employees have worked for the organisation for longer than five years



40%

of AHCWA's executives identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander



60%

of AHCWA's executives identify as female

Employee Achievements



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

Image: Vicki O'Donnell was recognised for

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

The Board and staff of the Council of Western Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (CWAACHS) Western Australia would like to recognise her service to the Indigenous community in Western Australia.

Vicki, a Nyikina woman who dedicated her life to address among Indigenous people.

The former CEO of the DCA Service has worked as a Senior Aboriginal Community Control for past 15 years. A key part of her advocacy and support to the sector has a strong connection to Country. In her role as Chair of the Aboriginal Health Council, she is currently the Chair of the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services Council.

"My motivation is for specifically Aboriginal people for our people so that to health, wellbeing and outcomes in rural, remote areas," she said.

the Australian and Sexual Health within the role for just by her team for the Emerging Leaders Award outstanding work of

While Katiska did not prize, which acknowledged demonstrating leadership, inclusive and inspiring were "tugely impressive" doing within the nomination, Katiska is a Whadjuk woman who involves delivering Aboriginal people face-to-face. During her more than 15 years, 150 young Aboriginal people workshops are safe spaces delivered with community, and that educating and engaging way.

The feedback received for workshops has been extraordinary all participants saying the sessions to their peers.

AHCWA's Shannon McGuire Inducted to the WA Women's Hall of Fame

AHCWA's Family Wellbeing Coordinator and 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 leadership and confidence building women from her community.

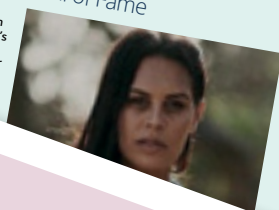
"Miss NAIDOC first started out as a contest which focuses on identity, values, relationships, community, grief and loss, and what leads to the Aboriginal community. The participants take part in a presentation and public speaking competition. The winning contestant, an ambassador for NAIDOC, is crowned at the Reconciliation Week at the Perth Convention Centre."

Today, Miss NAIDOC Perth is a platform which focuses on identity, values, relationships, community, grief and loss, and what leads to the Aboriginal community. The participants take part in a presentation and public speaking competition. The winning contestant, an ambassador for NAIDOC, is crowned at the Reconciliation Week at the Perth Convention Centre.

"Country Road dressed in starting to attract more want to work in the fast connection to Country. NAIDOC Perth. Do the Perth ethos? That's what we're about."

When she received the OAM, Shannon said, "I'm really proud to be nominated for the program and on this." Shannon said, "A lot of fun and I like through the program to build each other."

At AHCWA, Shannon works and educates the Program. "I'm on the ground, hands-on, and that's where people. The team deal with them."



AHCWA's Shannon McGuire
Inducted into the WA
Women's Hall of Fame

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, 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 Health and Wellbeing 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 a culturally safe and secure way. She is also part of a Noongar women's cultural dance group, Kwarbah Dockian, and has performed at the Fremantle National Reconciliation Week breakfast, Wardangri 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.

Indigenous Health Workforce Traineeship Program

The Indigenous Health Workforce Traineeship (IHWT) program is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health and is designed to grow the workforce capacity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, improve health outcomes, and create viable career pathways for people working within the ACCHS Sector.

Throughout the 2021-22 year, the IHWT program gained significant momentum, with more than 20 participants and three graduates. In particular, the program had an increase in the number of male participants enrolling into the Certificate IV Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care Practice. Upon completion, these qualifications will empower participants to become Aboriginal Health Workers or Practitioners, working as part of a multidisciplinary team providing holistic primary health care services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients, families and community groups.

The IHWT program currently has trainees enrolled in:

- Certificate III in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care (HLT30113)
- Certificate III in Community Services (CHC30215)
- Certificate III in Health Administration (HLT37315)
- Certificate IV in Health Administration (HLT47315)
- Certificate IV in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care Practice (HLT40213)
- Diploma of Counselling (CHC51015)
- Diploma of Nursing (HLT54115)

To further support trainees in the IHWT program, the Program Coordinator has conducted a number of site visits and provided dedicated guidance, support and cultural mentorship to help each trainee succeed in their studies and their future careers.



Trainees currently studying Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care at KAMS RTO in the Kimberley

AHCWA would like to congratulate the following three trainees who have successfully completed their studies and gained their nationally recognised qualification:

Tessa Schreuder: Certificate IV in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care Practice (HLT40213) at the South West Aboriginal Medical Service.

Brenda Warner: Certificate IV in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care Practice (HLT40213) at the South West Aboriginal Medical Service.

Tia Brand Williams: Diploma of Nursing (HLT54115) at the Puntukurnu Aboriginal Medical Service.

AHCWA would also like to thank all the Registered Training Organisations and participating ACCHS for their involvement with the program and we look forward to celebrating the 2022-2023 graduates.



Tessa Schreuder and Brenda Warner, pictured with AHCWA Traineeship Program Coordinator Maddelene Doyle (centre); have completed a Certificate IV in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care Practice

Communications and Design

Strategic, clear and effective communication is vital to meeting the growing need for information, advice and guidance for AHCWA's Member Services and communities across a broad range of health issues.

Communications that are practical, accessible, culturally appropriate, timely, clear, and trustworthy not only promote AHCWA itself, as the only Western Australian peak body in Aboriginal health; but also convey and promote primary health care messaging for our Member Services.

AHCWA's communication objectives are to provide information, advice, and guidance to Member Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services and Aboriginal communities more broadly to empower Aboriginal people to achieve health equality in their communities. Our communications seek to influence the state and national Aboriginal health agenda as determined by our Member Services, and to support their work and sustainability.



AHCWA's COVID-19 Resources

A decorative graphic in the bottom right corner consisting of a series of blue dots of varying sizes and a thick blue curved line, suggesting a stylized path or data trend.

Breaking news related to Aboriginal health is communicated through media releases, and regular media representation across local, state-wide and national media is achieved by AHCWA around Aboriginal health-related events, updates and priorities.



75

AHCWA builds and maintains relationships with partner and affiliated organisations and the public through a series of conferences, meetings, training programs and community events, at which our Member Services, staff and programs are promoted.

Throughout this year, AHCWA's Communications and Design Team has worked on a series of health campaigns partnering with organisations like the NDIS to tell the stories of real Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander NDIS service users, and raise the profile of the service through culturally relevant animations; and with high profile members of the Aboriginal health community in the promotion of COVID-19 vaccination, treatment and management specifically for Aboriginal people. AHCWA has also partnered with several of our Member Services on a campaign to promote Ear Health specifically within regional Aboriginal communities, incorporating videography and design.

The Team has also supported AHCWA's Sexual Health Team by creating resources like the 'Go Along Philis' flip chart and various Training and Development programs with workbooks. Online, AHCWA's engagement has been augmented through ongoing digital campaign to acknowledge significant days on the Aboriginal calendar, and cultural information such as the Noongar seasons via social media platforms.



SWAMS 'My Ear Health Journey' booklet and video

Some Communications and Design highlights for 2021-2022

15

media features
achieved for AHCWA



12

monthly
e-bulletins



4

quarterly
newsletters



A new Instagram page
launched for AHCWA



Between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022
and AHCWA achieved:

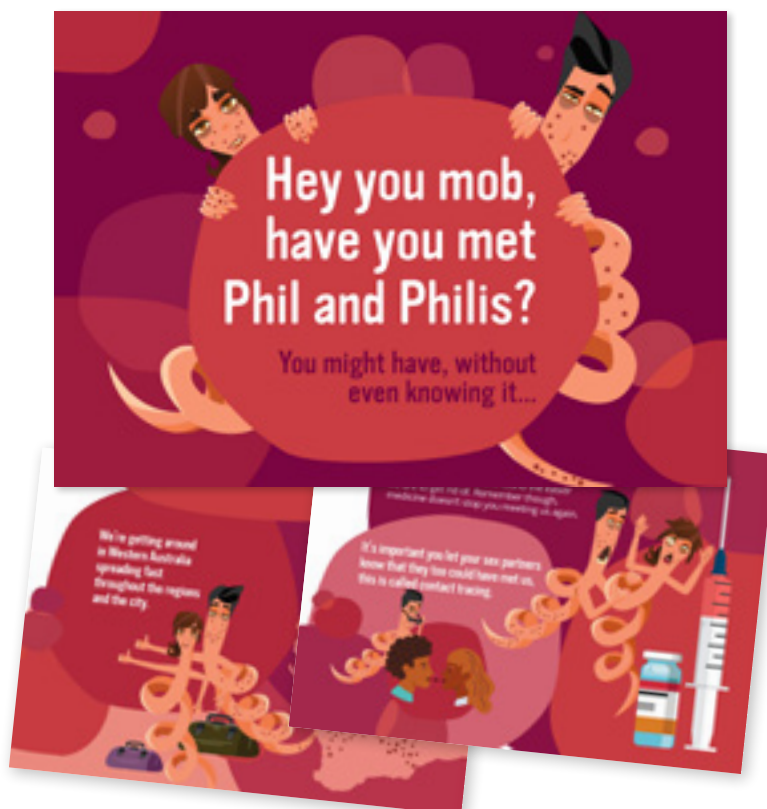


A Facebook Page reach of
101,088, an increase of 161.4%



3,491 Facebook page likes

Our highest performing post, with a reach
of 31,435 was a Q&A with Professor
Ted Wilkes and Dr Chris Blyth on
COVID-19 and Aboriginal people.



Phil and Philis syphilis education flip chart



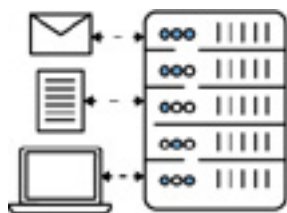
Noongar seasons social media tiles

Information, Communications and Technology

Throughout the 2021-2022 year, the Information, Communication and Technology work unit focused on improving operational efficiency and effectiveness through the upgrade and implementation of new infrastructure, systems and technology.

This included a migration to Office 365 to improve flexibility and work practices and a server upgrade to improve email and data storage. Multi-factor authentication was also implemented to improve security, anew printers were installed and the AHCWA website was upgraded to improve the organisation's online presence.

Key Achievements



Migration to Office 365

- The migration to Office 365 allowed users to access services online such as documents, emails, contacts and calendars. This upgrade has improved access and flexibility in work practices.
- Server Infrastructure.
- The servers were upgraded to improve email and data storage, increase relative performance and network infrastructure, consolidate management efficiency and improve reliability.



Data Security and Multi-Factor Authentication

- Multi-factor authentication was implemented across key software platforms to increase security and help prevent unauthorised access via cyber-attacks. This has helped improve data security and compliance with regulatory requirements.



Upgrade of the AHCWA Website

- The re-design and development of a new AHCWA website has helped improve AHCWA's online presence, and aided in the sharing of resources and marketing of services.



Installation of new printers

- The installation of two new multifunctional digital printers has improved capacity, quality and overall functionality for users.

Reconciliation Action Plan

AHCWA is one of a network of 1,100 organisations Australia wide that have embarked on developing and implementing Reconciliation Action Plans (RAP) to embed the principles and purpose of reconciliation within their day to day business operations.

Since 2006, RAPs have enabled organisations to sustainably and strategically take meaningful action to advance reconciliation. Based around the core pillars of relationships, respect and opportunities, they provide tangible and substantive benefits for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, increasing economic equity and supporting self-determination.

During the 2021-2022 year, AHCWA's Reconciliation Action Plan Committee progressed with the third stage of our RAP framework, a stretch RAP, which focuses on long-term strategies and works towards defined measureable targets and goals.

Over the past year, AHCWA's RAP Committee established new methods of reporting to assist in capturing the impact of the RAP on the organisation.

One of the aims of AHCWA's RAP is to promote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

During 2021-22, AHCWA has continued this by developing new business opportunities with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service providers, celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander days of recognition and continuing to support staff with accessing cultural mentors.

As was typical of 2021-2022, COVID-19 had an impact on AHCWA's RAP deliverables, especially with regard to events. Despite this, some of the highlights for 2021-22 included:

- a workshop held for AHCWA staff with Mort and Vivienne Hansen of Binyaarns Bush Medicines exploring Noongar plants and their medicinal properties.
- AHCWA participating in the Walk for Reconciliation at Kaarta Koomba (Kings Park) on June 3 to mark National Reconciliation Week.
- recognising important Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander dates and seasons via a digital campaign across the organisation's social media platforms and reception screen.

AHCWA would like to thank all of the committee members who have contributed to the RAP over the past 12 months.





Summary

Financial Report



For the year ended 30 June 2022

The attached Summary Financial Statements and other specific disclosures are an extract of, and have been derived from, the full audited financial statements of the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia ("Organisation") for the financial year ended 30 June 2022.

Other information included in the Summary Financial Statements is consistent with the full Annual Financial Report.

A copy of the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia's Annual Financial Report, including the independent Audit Report, is available to all members on the Organisation's website www.ahcwa.org.au

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Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia Directors Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2022

The Directors of the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia ("AHCWA") ("Organisation") ("Corporation") present their report together with the financial statements for the financial year ended 30 June 2022.

Directors

The name of each person who acted as a Director during the year and as at the date of this report are:

Vicki O'Donnell	Chairperson	Kimberley	04/11/2017	Present
Christopher Bin Kali	Deputy Chairperson	Kimberley	27/11/2020	Present
Deborah Woods	Treasurer	Murchison/Gascoyne	27/11/2020	Present
Fabian Tucker	Secretary	Goldfields	04/11/2017	Present
Preston Thomas	Director	Central Desert	25/03/2015	Present
Eric Simpson	Director	Goldfields	04/11/2017	Present
Raymond Christophers	Director	Kimberley	27/11/2020	Present
Joslyn Eades-Tass	Director	Metro	09/06/2021	09/02/2022
Rachel Mallard	Director	Murchison/Gascoyne	09/06/2021	Present
June Councillor	Director	Pilbara	27/11/2020	Present
Ernie Hill	Director	Southwest	25/03/2019	Present
Wade Garwood	Director	Youth	27/11/2020	Present
Donna Nelson	Director	Metro	09/02/2022	29/03/2022

Principal Activities

During the year, the principal activity of the Organisation was to network, provide support, advocate, influence policy, monitor performance, build workforce capacity, and improve and strengthen the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal people and their communities.

There have been no significant changes in the nature of these activities during the year.

Operating Results

The Organisation recorded a Surplus of \$1,598,287 (2021: Surplus of \$2,059,703) as reported in the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

Significant Changes in the State of Affairs

No significant changes in State of Affairs.

Environmental Issues

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

Auditor's Independence Declaration

A copy of the Auditor's Independence Declaration as required under s.60-40 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* is included on page 89 of this financial report.

Information on Directors

The number of Director meetings held for the year ended 30 June 2022 was 9.

Name	Position	Region	Period of Tenure		Director Meetings	
					No. of Meetings Eligible to Attend	No. of Meetings Attended
Vicki O'Donnell	Chairperson	Kimberley	04.11.2017	Present	9	9
Christopher Bin Kali	Deputy Chairperson	Kimberley	27.11.2020	Present	9	9
Deborah Woods	Treasurer	Murchison/Gascoyne	27.11.2020	Present	9	7
Fabian Tucker	Secretary	Goldfields	04.11.2017	Present	9	5
Preston Thomas	Director	Central Desert	25.03.2015	Present	9	6
Eric Simpson	Director	Goldfields	04.11.2017	Present	9	6
Raymond Christophers	Director	Kimberley	27.11.2020	Present	9	9
Joslyn Eades-Tass	Director	Metro	09.06.2021	09.02.2022	3	3
Rachel Mallard	Director	Murchison/Gascoyne	09.06.2021	Present	9	9
June Councillor	Director	Pilbara	27.11.2020	Present	9	8
Ernie Hill	Director	South West	25.03.2019	Present	9	8
Wade Garwood	Director	Youth	27.11.2020	Present	9	9
Donna Nelson	Director	Metro	09.02.2022	29.03.2022	2	1

Indemnifying Officers or Auditor

No indemnities have been given or agreed to be given or insurance premiums paid or agreed to be paid, during or since the end of the financial year, to any person who is or has been an officer or auditor of the Organisation.

Proceedings on Behalf of the Organisation

No person has applied for leave of Court to bring proceedings on behalf of the Organisation or intervene in any proceedings to which the Organisation is a party for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the Organisation for all or any part of those proceedings.

The Organisation was not a party to any such proceedings during the year.



Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia Directors Declaration for the Year Ended 30 June 2022

Dated this 28th of October 2022

In the opinion of the Board of Directors of the Aboriginal Health Council of WA:

- a. The financial statements and notes of the Aboriginal Health Council of WA are in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001 and Australian Charities and Not for profit Commission Act 2012, including:
 - i. Giving a true and fair view of its financial position as at 30 June 2022 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date; and
 - ii. Complying with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations), the Corporations Regulations 2001 and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commissions Regulation 2013; and
- b. There are reasonable grounds to believe that the Aboriginal Health Council of WA will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

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

Chairperson – Vicki O'Donnell

Dated 28th October 2022

Treasurer – Deborah Woods

Dated 28th October 2022



Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia Income Statement for the Year Ended 30 June 2022

	Notes	2022 \$	2021 \$
INCOME			
Revenue from ordinary activities - Recurrent		11,704,751	7,288,939
Revenue from ordinary activities - Non Recurrent		3,742,300	2,292,386
Total Income	2	15,447,051	9,581,325
EXPENDITURE			
Employee benefits expense		6,325,895	4,854,491
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	3	686,840	487,583
Operating lease expense	3	140,729	113,106
Loss on sale of non-current assets	3	-	12,028
Finance costs		669	1,639
Grant administration expenses		884,230	783,296
Meeting/seminar/workshops		178,558	261,896
Member Support Grants		5,056,202	586,197
Insurance costs		62,295	54,429
Motor vehicle expenses		4,691	3,185
Office supplies and consumables		84,618	64,360
Travel expenses		424,037	299,412
Total Expenditure		13,848,764	7,521,622
Surplus for the year attributable to Members of the Aboriginal Health Council of WA		1,598,287	2,059,703
Total comprehensive income for the year attributable to Members of the Aboriginal Health Council of WA		1,598,287	2,059,703

Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia Income Statement for the Year Ended 30 June 2022

	Notes	2022 \$	2021 \$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash at bank	4	13,354,786	7,139,863
Trade and other receivables	5	272,426	494,093
Other current assets	6	233,470	208,879
		13,860,682	7,842,835
NON CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	7	6,127,840	6,202,796
Intangible assets	8	776,878	1,049,131
Right of use assets	9	4,135	28,943
		6,908,853	7,280,870
TOTAL ASSETS		20,769,535	15,123,705
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade creditors and accruals	10	3,157,135	773,442
Lease liabilities	14	3,216	24,843
Provision for employee entitlements	12	800,562	799,212
Contract liabilities	11	5,902,573	4,248,275
		9,863,486	5,845,772
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Lease liabilities	14	-	3,216
Provision for employee LSL entitlements	12	155,194	122,149
		155,194	125,365
TOTAL LIABILITIES		10,018,680	5,971,137
NET ASSETS		10,750,855	9,152,568
EQUITY			
Start up capital		11,020	11,020
Accumulated surplus		10,739,835	9,141,548
TOTAL EQUITY	13	10,750,855	9,152,568



Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 30 June 2022

1. Reporting Organisation

The Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia ("AHCWA") is a not-for-profit organisation which is an unlisted public company limited by guarantee. The principal activity of the entity is the provision of primary health care support services and associated health programs to Aboriginal communities.

2. Basis Of Preparation Of Summary Financial Report

(a) Basis of Preparation

The Financial Statements and specific disclosures included in this Summary Financial Report have been derived from the full Annual Financial Statements for the financial year. Other information included is consistent with the full Annual Financial Statements. The Summary Financial Report does not, and cannot be expected to, provide as full an understanding of the financial performance, financial positions and financing and investing activities of the organisation as the full Annual Financial Statements.

A full description of the accounting policies adopted by the group may be found in the full Annual Financial Statements, which was approved by the Directors on the 28th October 2022.

(b) Basis of Measurement

The financial statement has been prepared on an accruals basis and is based on historical costs.

(c) Functional Currency

All amounts disclosed are presented in Australian dollars which is both the functional and presentation currency of the entity.



Independent Auditor's Report

To the Directors of the Aboriginal Health Council of WA

Report on the audit of the financial report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of the Aboriginal Health Council of WA (the "Registered Entity"), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2022, and the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies and the Directors' declaration.

In our opinion, the financial report of the Aboriginal Health Council of WA has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- a giving a true and fair view of the Registered Entity's financial position as at 30 June 2022 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- b complying with Australian Accounting Standards and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

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 Registered Entity 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.

Other information

The Directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Registered Entity's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2022, 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 the Directors for the financial report

The Directors of the Registered Entity are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the ACNC Act, and for such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Directors are responsible for assessing the Registered Entity'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 Registered Entity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Directors are responsible for overseeing the Registered Entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial report

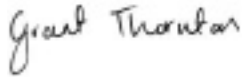
Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the 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 this 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 Registered Entity'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 Registered Entity'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 Registered Entity 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 our audit.



GRANT THORNTON AUDIT PTY LTD
Chartered Accountants



C A Becker
Partner – Audit & Assurance

Perth, 28 October 2022

This image shows a full page of blank, lined paper. It features approximately 20 evenly spaced horizontal grey lines across its entire width, providing a guide for handwriting or typing. The paper itself is a clean, off-white color. There are no margins, text, or other markings present on the page.



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