



**Aboriginal
Health Council
of Western Australia**

Annual Report | 2022 - 2023

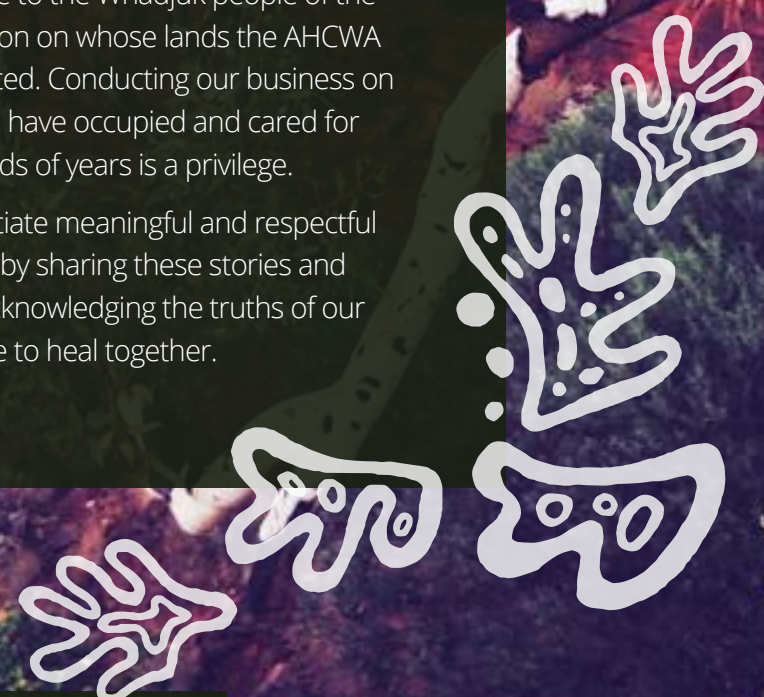


Resurgence –
a Journey of Resilience

Acknowledgment of People and Country

The Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia (AHCWA) acknowledges Traditional Custodians across Australia. We value your wisdom, communities, cultures, and ongoing connections to the land and sea. In particular, we pay tribute to the Whadjuk people of the Noongar nation on whose lands the AHCWA office is situated. Conducting our business on the lands you have occupied and cared for over thousands of years is a privilege.

We aim to initiate meaningful and respectful relationships by sharing these stories and images. By acknowledging the truths of our past, we hope to heal together.



Kimberley - Photography Wayne Quilliam

Cover photo: Grass Tree after a fire 300km south of Kalgoorlie. Photography Wayne Quilliam
aboriginal.photography

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.



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Welcome to the 2022/2023 Annual Report

To those past and present Elders whose lands we have visited this year: thank you for your generosity and wisdom and for welcoming us onto your lands.

To our developing and future leaders and generous funders, we are committed to a truthful, just, and equitable future. We will continue to support your aspirations and promote more positive pathways for the years ahead.

The theme of this year's report is "Resurgence – a Journey of Resilience"

During 2022/2023, the Sector experienced a shift out of the COVID-19 crisis management and into the "new normal." This shift included returning to preventive health, including health checks and promotion.

As a result of this shift, many Member Services have expanded over the past 12 months, especially in the areas of Social Emotional Wellbeing, the National Disability Insurance Scheme, and Family and Domestic Violence.

The artwork, by Tim Prouse, a Boonwurrung man, captures the essence of this resurgence and growth.

"In the centre are a series of circles that represent Aboriginal communities that are all connected. These communities symbolise the strength of Aboriginal people together throughout the land, working together to help create a better future for the next generation.

The shapes and symbols that flow around the artwork surrounding the Community represent new growth, new opportunity, forward thinking, and direction. It shows the resilience of the Country and our people. Even after many challenges we face in the health sector, we always advance and come back stronger."



Acacia Pycnantha (Golden Wattle)

Chairperson's message



On behalf of my fellow Board of Directors, I am delighted to present the 2022/2023 Annual Report, which embodies the theme of “Resurgence - A Journey of Resilience.” This report is a testament to our unwavering commitment to improving the health and well-being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across Western Australia.

As we reflect on the past year, we are reminded of our challenges and the immense resilience that has propelled us forward. The AHCWA Board was cognisant that the Member Services had suffered previously due to COVID-19, so it was keen to support the rebuilding and growth of the sector. Resurgence, in all its forms, has been at the heart of our collective journey towards achieving health equity for our communities.

In this annual report, we celebrate the achievements and milestones of AHCWA and, more importantly, the indomitable spirit within our Medical Services and communities that drives us to strive for better health outcomes continuously. We have established our voice through resilience and determination, ensuring our unique needs and aspirations are heard and acknowledged.

Our commitment to the delivery of comprehensive primary healthcare remains unwavering. Guided by the knowledge that holistic healthcare encompasses physical, emotional, social, and cultural well-being, we have focused on expanding our support for Aged Care Services, recruiting specialist staff, and delivering new programs.

Throughout this report, you will find stories, data, and evidence of resilience manifested in our training programs, health initiatives, and community collaborations. From improving health literacy and preventative care to expanding our network of culturally competent healthcare professionals, we are making substantial strides towards

closing the health gap experienced by Indigenous peoples.

AHCWA's involvement as the only Western Australian representative on the Coalition of Peaks has allowed us to work closely with the Coalition, Commonwealth, and State Government to implement the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (CTG). We have actively participated in initiatives like the Health Sector Strengthening Plan, Disability Sector Strengthening Plan, WA CTG Implementation Plan, and the WA whole-of-government Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation Strategy. Through these efforts, we continue to contribute to closing the gap in health outcomes for Aboriginal people.

Our collective duty is to ensure that the voices and experiences of our communities are woven into the fabric of comprehensive healthcare. Doing so empowers our resurgence and lays the foundations for a healthier, more equitable future.

I extend my deepest gratitude to our dedicated staff, Board of Directors, Aboriginal Member Services, community partners, and supporters who have contributed to our achievements over the past year. Together, we have reshaped the landscape of Aboriginal health, fostering an environment where resilience thrives, and our journey towards equity becomes a reality.

Vicki O'Donnell OAM
Chairperson

Chief Executive Officer's message



I am pleased to welcome you to the Aboriginal Health Council of WA's Annual Report for 2022/2023, centred around the theme “Resurgence - A Journey of Resilience.”

This year's theme captures the remarkable journey our organisation and Aboriginal Medical Services across Western Australia have undertaken. In the face of unprecedented challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, our communities and healthcare providers have shown unwavering resilience and adaptability as the sector emerges from the pandemic.

The past year has witnessed a remarkable resurgence in our efforts to provide quality healthcare to our Aboriginal communities. Our Members have not only managed the impact of the pandemic, but have also thrived by transforming and evolving their services. We've embraced telehealth, expanded outreach programs, and worked collaboratively to ensure no one is left behind in accessing vital healthcare services.

Our journey of resurgence reflects our culture's enduring strength and our healthcare professionals' dedication. Together, we have weathered the storm, and through unity and innovation, we've emerged stronger than ever.

This Annual Report serves as a testament to our collective achievements, highlighting the incredible work of the dedicated health staff across Western Australia ACCHOs, the partnerships that have fueled our success, and the stories of resilience within our communities.

As we move forward, let us remember the lessons we've learned during this challenging period. Let us continue to adapt, innovate, and empower our communities to lead healthier lives.

Thank you for your unwavering support and commitment; together, we will continue our journey of resurgence, guided by the principles of resilience, our Model of Care, and the goal of achieving improved health outcomes for all Indigenous people.

Des Martin
Chief Executive Officer

Our Vision

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

Our Mission

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



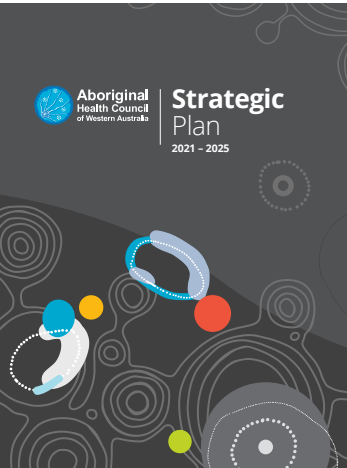
Santalum Acuminatum (Quandong)

About the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia

The Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia (AHCWA) is the peak body for Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS) in Western Australia. We exist to support and act on behalf of our 23 Member Services across the state, actively responding to their individual and collective needs.

Governed by an Aboriginal Board of Directors representing seven regions in Western Australia, AHCWA aims to promote and strengthen the ACCHS Model of Care. This model is built around delivering comprehensive, holistic, and culturally secure primary healthcare services. We come together as one to respect, welcome, and understand social and cultural needs; network and provide mutual support; advocate and influence policy; monitor the performance of the ACCHS sector; build the capacity of the Aboriginal health workforce; and improve and strengthen the social and emotional wellbeing of Aboriginal people and their communities. Representing the interests and needs of our Member Services, we lead and influence the development of Aboriginal health policies at the local, regional, state, and national level. We advocate for the rights and entitlements of all Aboriginal people and their communities to optimal health and wellbeing. Incorporated under the *Commonwealth Corporations Act 2001* (Cth) in May 2005, AHCWA continues to evolve and build capacity as the leading authority for comprehensive Aboriginal primary health care in Western Australia.

Strategic Plans



AHCWA's Strategic Plan 2021 – 2025

AHCWA's Strategic Plan 2021 – 2025 provides direction and a comprehensive framework for improving the health and well being of Aboriginal people. This plan outlines the specific objectives, strategies, and actions that need to be taken to address the health challenges faced by Aboriginal Communities while respecting and integrating their needs and unique cultural values



WA Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services Sector Workforce Strategy

AHCWA's WA Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services Sector Workforce Strategy 2023 – 2028 provides a common framework for developing and growing the ACCHS sector workforce in Western Australia (WA). It has been developed alongside AHCWA's Member Services, Registered Training Organisations (RTOs), and our stakeholders and partners across Australia. Their contributions have helped identify the vital workforce-related challenges, future needs, and required focus areas that will strengthen WA's ACCHS workforce over the next five years.

Four key goal areas



Enhance and promote the ACCHS Model of Care as the best practice primary health care for Aboriginal people and communities.



Support and strengthen our Member Services to achieve excellence in service delivery.



Lead and influence the state and national Aboriginal health policy and research agenda as determined by our Member Services.



Grow and advance the capacity and capability of AHCWA and our Member Services for long term sustainability.

Board of Directors

AHCWA is governed by a Board of Directors, who are all Aboriginal people representing the ACCHS and their communities in the seven regions of WA. The Board of Directors consists of 12 Directors, all of whom are at least 18 years of age and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage. The Board of Directors meets bimonthly, and the AHCWA Executive Managers also attend the meetings alongside the Chief Executive Officer.



Vicki O'Donnell OAM
Chairperson

Background:
Vicki is a Nyikina Aboriginal woman from Derby and has been a leader in Aboriginal Community Controlled Health for the past 15 years. She has been the CEO of the Derby Aboriginal Health Service and is currently the CEO of the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service in Broome.

Committees and Memberships:
Vicki has been a Director of AHCWA for over 15 years, spending eight years as the Chairperson. She has served as a WA Aboriginal Health Ethics Committee member for over 12 years and on the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation Board. Vicki is also an advisor on numerous State and Federal Ministerial Committees and Steering Groups advising on Aboriginal health issues.

Achievements:
In 2011, Vicki was the WA Women of the Year Inductee for Aboriginal Health, achieving state and national recognition for her advocacy in the Sector. In 2022, Vicki received the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division for service to the Aboriginal community of Western Australia.



Christopher (Chips) Bin Kali
Deputy Chairperson

Background:
Chris was born in Derby and is a Bardi Jawi and Gidja man from the Kimberley. He spent ten years working within the education system, then moved into the Government sector as a Field Officer at the Department of Education, Employment, and Training. Chris was the Broome Regional Aboriginal Medical Service (BRAMS) CEO for nearly nine years.

Committees and Memberships:
Chris represented Beagle Bay on the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service (KAMS) Board and was a Board member and Chairperson of WACCHO. Chris joined the BRAMS Board in 2015 as Director and is currently the Chairperson. Chris is also on the Boards of KAMS, AHCWA, and NACCHO.

Achievements:
Health has been a significant part of his life for over 15 years, either working in the Aboriginal Medical Service or as a Director. Chris has contributed to the better health of Indigenous people over the years and looks forward to continuing to work for people.



Deborah Woods
Treasurer

Background:
Debbie is a proud Aboriginal woman with connections to Wajarri from the Yamatji region, Noongar from the Great Southern, and Wongi from the Desert area. She has worked for many years in Aboriginal Affairs in the Midwest and Perth Metro as a field officer for the Department of Aboriginal Affairs. During this time, she developed a love for Social Justice for her people after witnessing firsthand the daily injustices and discrimination. As the CEO of GRAMS for several years, she has a great understanding of the challenges that lie ahead for her people and has also witnessed the many excellent services and programs that our sector has implemented to address Aboriginal Health needs.

Committees and Memberships:
Debbie is a Director of AHCWA and a Board member of the Council of Aboriginal Services Western Australia (CASWA).

Achievements:
Debbie has a health economics degree.



Fabian Tucker
Secretary

Background:
Fabian was born in Kalgoorlie and is a Wongatha man from North Eastern Goldfields.

Committees and Memberships:
Fabian has been a Board member since 2006 and the Chairperson of Bega Garbarringu Health Service since 2007. Fabian has been a Director of the AHCWA Board since 2007 and commenced as Secretary in 2017.

Achievements:
He has established and succeeded several businesses over the last 20 years and has overseen Bega Garbarringu Health Service's growth and success in the previous 14 years.



Ernie Hill
South West

Background:
Ernie is a proud Ballardong Wardandi man who grew up and has spent most of his life in Wardandi country. He has a passion for empowering and raising the voice of Aboriginal people in the South West.

Committees and Memberships:
Ernie is the South West Aboriginal Medical Service's Chairman and Director of AHCWA. He is the Chairperson of the Goomburrup Aboriginal Corporation and Catch a Dream Inc. He is also a Board member of Advocacy South West.

Achievements:
Ernie is a Neuro-linguistic Programming Practitioner, a Master Practitioner in Timeline Therapy, and a Master Practitioner in Hypnotherapy. Ernie is passionate about Closing the Gap and improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people.



Eric Simpson
Goldfields

Background:
Eric was born in Geraldton. Eric's first job straight out of school was working as a tyre fitter in Meekatharra. From there, after moving around the mining sector in the gold fields around Meekatharra, Eric was asked by family members to move to Wiluna and take up a position running a mechanics workshop in town.

Committees and Memberships:
Eric has been the Director of the Ngangganawili Aboriginal Health Service since 2011 and Chairperson since 2015. He is also a Director of AHCWA.

Achievements:
Eric is a highly compassionate man who has been a single dad bringing up his family and experienced illness himself as a child; he is committed to helping the local community. Eric sees this service to the local community as his way of giving back.



Rachel Mallard
Gascoyne Murchison

Background:
Rachel was born in Geraldton with a connection to both Wajarri and Nhanda. Her mother and father founded Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service (GRAMS). Rachel is passionate about family, culture and Aboriginal health and is committed to continuing her parent's legacy. She believes that without good health, you have nothing.

Committees and Memberships:
Rachel is the Chairperson of the Barrell Well Community. She is also a Board member of GRAMS and the Hutt River Cultural Committee and a Director of AHCWA.

Achievements:
Rachel's biggest achievements are her seven children and 17 grandchildren.



June Councillor
Pilbara

Background:
June, a proud Banyjima woman, has been the CEO of Wirraka Maya Health Service Aboriginal Corporation in South Hedland since 2012. For three years before that, she was the Indigenous Advisor to the Office of the Ombudsman WA (the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations), advising on the child death review team and supporting the complaints investigation team on Indigenous issues. June is passionate about Aboriginal Child and Maternal health and issues such as Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FASD). She has engaged WMHSAC with the Telethon Kids Institute to work to make FASD history in the Pilbara.

Committees and Membership:
June is a Director of AHCWA. She is also a member of the WA Aboriginal Health Ethics Committee as a health professional with health related research experience in the Aboriginal community in the Pilbara region.

Achievements:
June has a Bachelor of Applied Science (B.A.Sc.) Aboriginal Community Management and Development from Curtin University



Raymond Christophers
Kimberley

Background:
Raymond Christophers is an Aboriginal man of Bardi descent from the Dampier Peninsula. Raymond is the CEO and Managing Director of Nirrumbuk Environmental Health and Services.

Committees and Memberships:
Ray has been a member of the Nirrumbuk Aboriginal Corporation for 25 years and a Director for 23 years.

Ray became a Member/Director of his local Aboriginal Medical Service (BRAMS) and then a Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services (KAMS) Council representative.

Ray holds the position of Deputy Chair on the Board of KAMS and Director on the Board of AHCWA.

Achievements:
Ray was part of the negotiations with the Office of Aboriginal Health for Environmental Health to be centrally funded and to support community based Environmental Health Workers with a regional support team.

He negotiated through KAMS for a Nirrumbuk Environmental Health core membership to the Kimberley Aboriginal Health Planning Forum (KAHPF), which has seen all Aboriginal environmental health programs recognised as a crucial health prevention strategy in the KAPHF five year Strategic Plan.



Preston Thomas
Central Desert

Background:
Preston, known as "Mr T," was born in Mount Margaret and is a Wongi man who works in the Ngaanyatjarra Lands.

Committees and Memberships:
Preston is a former Deputy Chairperson of the Aboriginal Land Trust. He is currently the Deputy Chair of the Ngaanyatjarra Group (which includes the Ngaanyatjarra Council Aboriginal Corporation, Ngaanyatjarra Services, and Ngaanyatjarra Health Service). Mr. T is also the Chairperson of the Kanpa Community Council. He is also an active member of the Aboriginal Legal Service of WA and has been a Director of the AHCWA since 2015. Preston has served as WA representative Director on the NACCHO board for two years.

Achievements:
Preston is committed to the increasing development of Aboriginal Western Australians.



Wayde Garwood
Youth Director

Background:
Wade is a proud Wardandi Noongar man from Bunbury, who has worked at the South West Aboriginal Medical Service for the past eight years, where he initially held the position of Logistics Officer and currently serves as the Asset Coordinator.

Committees and Memberships:
Wade has been a Director of AHCWA for three years, sitting as the Youth Representative. He has also dedicated seven years to being a part of the AHCWA Youth Committee, demonstrating exceptional commitment by leading as Chair for the past three years.

Achievements:
In recognition of his outstanding contributions, Wade was honoured with the Young Achiever Award for the South West at the 2017 AHCWA Sector Awards. His dedication to advocating for youth led to his selection as the inaugural Youth Representative for the AHCWA Board in 2020.



Our membership

AHCWA exists to support and act on behalf of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS) in Western Australia. ACCHS are legal entities with at least 75 per cent Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander directorship and membership. They deliver comprehensive primary healthcare in Western Australia to the community that controls them.

The Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services Sector is a dynamic industry within Australia, operating from a holistic service delivery model.

AHCWA has 23 active Member Services operating 73 clinics across seven Western Australia regions. They provide holistic and culturally appropriate primary health care and Aboriginal health related services to their community.

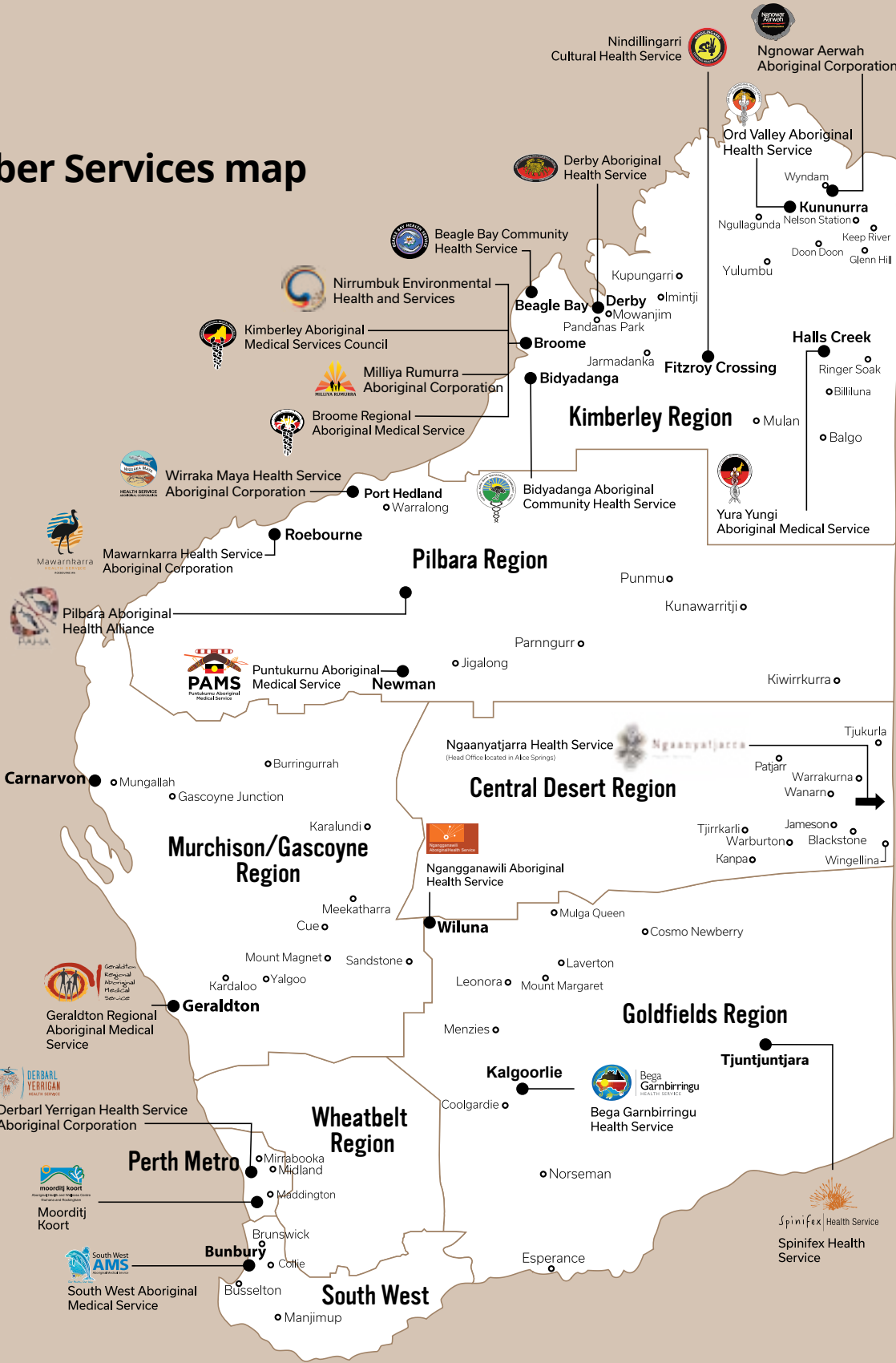
They are governed by an Aboriginal Board of Management elected by their local Aboriginal Community.

Aboriginal Community controlled, holistic primary healthcare

Healthcare professionals work together to deliver a range of healthcare services. They are dedicated to providing culturally safe, primary health care to Aboriginal people. For Aboriginal people, primary health is the whole Community approach to achieve good health and wellbeing.

- Delivering a range of healthcare services**
- Healthcare services that are preventative and focus on health education include:
- Child and maternal health
 - Oral and dental health
 - Health checks
 - Eye and ear health
 - Preventative programs to quit smoking and health and wellbeing
 - Social, emotional, and well being services.

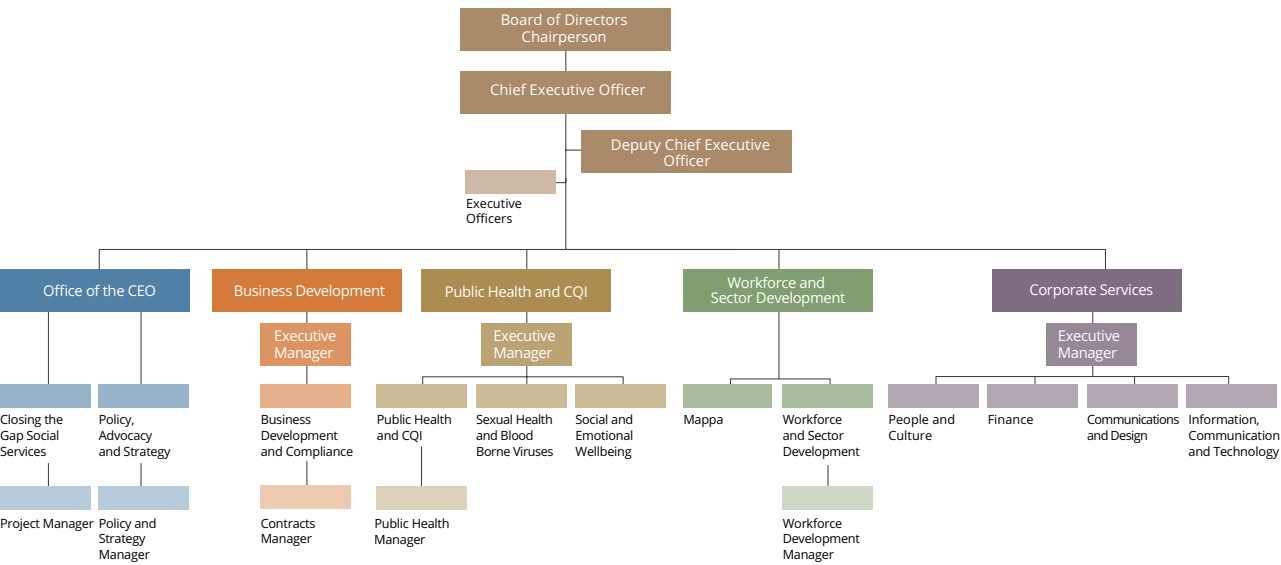
Member Services map



Our organisation

ACHWA's structure is designed around the needs of our Members and in line with funding contract requirements.

The Board of Directors sits at the head of the organisation to provide strategic direction and guidance. With the support of the Executive Management Team (EMT), the Chief Executive Officer is responsible for implementing the strategic plan.



Our Model of Care

As the peak body for ACCHS across Western Australia, AHCWA exists to support our Member Services in delivering comprehensive primary health care effectively for Aboriginal people and their communities. Strength in culture, community control, and self-determination underpin everything we do, and we understand that when services for Aboriginal people are led and delivered by Aboriginal people, the outcomes are always better.



Our 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 while striving to achieve service excellence for our Members and community.	Passion Exhibiting passion, positivity, and commitment in all 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.

Executive Management Team



Des Martin
Chief Executive Officer
Office of the CEO
Closing the Gap Social Services, Policy Advocacy and Strategy, Care and Support Ready Project, Sector Engagement



Amanda Collins-Clinch
Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Workforce and Sector Development
NDIS Business Solutions, Youth Program, MAPPA , Cancer Training , Indigenous Health Workforce Traineeships, Ear Health Coordination Program , First Aid Training , Aboriginal Home Care Workforce Program, Trusted Indigenous Facilitators



Jenny Sala
Executive Manager
Business Development and Compliance, Corporate Governance and Sector Support, Contracts and Reporting, Quality and Compliance, Western Australian Aboriginal Health Ethics Committee Secretariat



Kim Gates/Amanda Bedford
Executive Manager
Public Health and Continuous Quality Improvement, Sexual Health, The Young Leaders Program, Tobacco Control, Social Emotional and Wellbeing, Culture Care Connect, Family Domestic and Sexual Violence



Andrew Webster
Executive Manager
People and Culture, Communication and Design, Information, Communications and Technology, Reconciliation Action Plan, AOD Certification Ready Project

Our highlights

Our Members make a positive difference in the lives of Aboriginal people in Western Australia. We have continued to advocate for the sector and provided our leadership, assistance, and ongoing benefits to all Member Services.

Sector Support

New Peak Body - Council of Aboriginal Services Western Australia

The establishment of the new Western Australian Social Services peak body has further progressed, with the Council of Aboriginal Services Western Australia Limited (CASWA) becoming a registered company under the *Corporations Act 2001* (CTH) on 16 March 2023.

CASWA is not affiliated with any one sector. Its Constitution requires that the elected Board be comprised of Directors from Members across the critical social services sectors, representing all of the regions of WA.

CASWA's strategic vision is that a strong and collective voice unites Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) in WA, which enables them to deliver place-based, community-led and culturally appropriate services to achieve better outcomes for Aboriginal people and their communities.

CASWA is undertaking the recruitment for a Chief Executive Officer.

Closing the Gap

As the only Western Australian representative on the Coalition of Peaks (CoP), AHCWA has been working closely with the CoP, Commonwealth and State Government on the implementation of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. Some of the initiatives that AHCWA has been involved with include the:

- Health Sector Strengthening Plan
- Disability Sector Strengthening Plan
- WA CTG Implementation Plan
- WA whole-of-government ACCO Strategy.

Aged Care and Disability Services

AHCWA and the Member Services expanded its support for Aged Care Services over the year, recruiting specialist staff and delivering new programs. Currently, seven WA ACCHS/ACCOs are providing funded Aged Care services to the community.

AHCWA delivered the Care and Support Ready program supported by NACCHO, which assessed the current NDIS and Aged Care service delivery with Member Services, potential interest in provision services, and barriers to service delivery. AHCWA have also commenced implementation of the Home Care Workforce Support programs and Trusted Indigenous Facilitators Engagement with the Department of Health and Aged Care (Aged Care Stewardship) has occurred throughout the year, including the commencement of an Aged Care Co-design Integrated Care and Commissioning project in the Kimberley with Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service (KAMS).

Within WA, the State Department of Health engaged with the sector in the ACCHS Transition Care Program (TCP) Pilot. AHCWA also advocated more ACCHS involvement in Aged Care Assessments Teams (ACAT) with WA Health.

AHCWA and Member Services participated in the NDIS review in WA, which followed the earlier formal submission to the Joint Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme Inquiry into the Capability and Culture of the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA), and are continuing to monitor developments.

Sector Engagement

WA Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector Conference

AHCWA was delighted to be able to host the 2023 Conference in March 2023, with the theme of Our Future, Our Way – We Are the Leaders for our Communities. The theme reflected the work of our ACCHS in ensuring that healthcare for our people is delivered through services that are Aboriginal led, culturally safe, and responsive to community needs.

Over 550 attendees engaged in at least one aspect of the program across four days, whether as a Youth delegate, Members Planning Day, State Sector Conference delegate, Award Dinner guest, Sponsor, Exhibitor, Speaker or AHCWA staff member.

58 Youth delegates attended the Youth Conference, a one-day event exclusively for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander youth, established to support, network, and provide information for delegates and the wider youth community. Conference sessions were mainly plenary style, with workshop sessions that included a Traditional dance workshop, Traditional food tasting, and an activity called 'Letter to My Future Self.' Delegates particularly enjoyed the interactivity and cultural elements of the workshops.

AHCWAs First Corporate Services Forum

AHCWA proudly hosted its first Corporate Services Forum on Tuesday, 27 June 2023. The face-to-face Forum was held at Fraser’s, Kaarta Koomba (Kings Park), and welcomed 32 Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector representatives.

The unique event brought together healthcare professionals, corporate services experts, and key stakeholders from ACCHS to discuss and collaborate on crucial corporate services and administrative challenges the Aboriginal Health Services face.

The Corporate Services Forum aimed to address ACCHS specific needs and concerns by providing a platform for sharing knowledge, experiences, and innovative strategies. By focusing on corporate services, the Forum equipped participants with the essential tools and resources required to navigate the complexities of the modern healthcare services landscape.

Aboriginal Environmental Health Forum

The Aboriginal Environmental Health Forum was held in October 2022 to promote and emphasise environmental health as a priority for the Aboriginal Community Controlled Sector. It was a follow-up to the inaugural Forum held in 2021 and a space to evaluate the Review of the WA Aboriginal Environmental Health Program Final Report.

There were 58 attendees from the Perth metro, Goldfields, Central Desert, Kimberley, Murchison/Gascoyne, Pilbara, and South West regions.

The Forum was an opportunity for the Aboriginal Community Controlled Sector to review the recommendations presented in the Report and identify how the Sector’s advocacy/governance in this space should proceed. AHCWA is seeking funding to further engage in a co-design process for an Aboriginal Environmental Health Model of Service.

Keeping Communities Healthy and Safe

Support for Kimberley Flooding

In January 2023, the Kimberley region experienced flooding from heavy rainfall caused by ex-Tropical Cyclone Ellie. AHCWA supported the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service to seek funding to engage emergency relief staff, as and when needed, access charter flights to transport medical supplies, staff, and other resources to affected communities, and respond to different unfunded needs as identified by the Community Leaders.

Upgrade for AHCWA Staff Resources

Renovations to the AHCWA Building

In September 2022, the AHCWA Board, following a tender process, engaged Office Fitout Professionals as the preferred Contractor for an office refurbishment. The refurbishment included the establishment of a second Boardroom, Training Room, Kitchen, additional office space, and open plan workstations.

Work was completed at the end of March, and plans are underway to progress Stage Two – the Front Façade.



AHCWA’s first Corporate Services Forum

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.

Policy, Advocacy and Strategy Unit

AHCWA’s Policy, Advocacy, and Strategy Unit aims to strengthen and promote the ACCHS Model of Care and empower Aboriginal people to achieve health equality in their communities by influencing policy at Commonwealth, State, and Local Government levels.

Throughout the 2022-2023 financial year, drawing on our Member Services’ leadership, expertise, and priorities, AHCWA’s Policy Team provided extensive policy advice to various stakeholders. It successfully addressed several issues raised by the sector.

The Policy Team continued to support the AHCWA Member Services, advocating to the Western Australian and Commonwealth Governments for improvements in the COVID-19 response to the health and welfare needs of Aboriginal people.



AHCWA staff attended the 3rd International Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Conference in Cairns

Achievements

In November 2022, the Policy Team provided a submission to the Parliament of Western Australia’s Inquiry into Child Development Services to improve access to pediatricians and allied health services in ACCHS to meet the needs of Aboriginal children across WA. As a result of the submission, AHCWA and Member Services, Derbarl Yerrigan and Puntukurnu Aboriginal Medical Service, appeared before the Inquiry Committee in February 2023, to provide further evidence. The Inquiry Committee plans to engage further with communities and health professionals in regional and remote areas. A report with the findings will be delivered by 31 December 2023.

The Policy Team delivered a ‘mapping and gapping’ project, gathering qualitative data concerning Maternal and Child Health. This identified issues such as a lack of communication and collaboration across hospital services and significant issues in handover and discharge summaries. It further identified the need for better maternity accommodation in Perth and improved access to the Patient Assisted Travel Scheme (PATS).

The Policy Team also undertook Member consultation and extensive research into the current state of dental service provision across the ACCHS sector and WA more broadly.

Care and Support Ready Project

The Policy Team met with 15 ACCHS regarding the broader dental care advocacy piece and five ACCHS regarding the Child Dental Benefits Schedule (this consultation was initiated by the Federal Department of Health and Aged Care). AHCWA also consulted with the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) Western Operations and RFDS Central Operations, the WA Dental Health Service, and the Office of the Chief Dental Officer to discuss their role in dental service provision in WA.

AHCWA also met with several private dentists that operate in regional and remote areas, and with ACCHS dentists from South Australia and New South Wales to understand dental service provision models in other jurisdictions.

This research and consultation culminated in an options paper for CEOs, outlining oral health advocacy options and has since been refined into a position paper with recommendations to the WA Government. The proposals have been shared with the Hon. Amber-Jade Sanderson MLA, and the Policy Team is working with the Minister’s office on actioning the outlined recommendations.

Finally, the Policy Team continues to advocate to reform the patient journey to include utilising digital health platforms to reduce patient travel (e.g. telehealth) and ongoing issues regarding the PATS.

The primary purpose of this project was to perform a gap analysis to assess Member Services current NDIS/aged care service delivery status, potential interest in the provision of NDIS/aged care services, and barriers to NDIS/aged care service delivery.

Findings from this project were provided to NACCHO, who collated the results from peak bodies across Australia to present to the Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care. The findings will help build the provision of services within the care and support networks in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Furthermore, it will provide insights regarding how to make it easier for ACCHS and ACCOs to enter the aged care space.

Sector Engagement

AHCWA employs a Sector Engagement Officer as a key point of contact between Member Services, AHCWA staff, health providers, and funders. The Sector Engagement Officer aims to identify issues and themes across the sector, advocate and influence policy, and improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people in Western Australia.

Engagement

Increasing engagement with Member Services and AHCWA through attendance of Regional Aboriginal Health Planning Forums, Member Service site visits, and staff engagement

AHCWA joined many Forum sub-committees in 22/23, including Aged care, Mental Health, Men’s Health, and FASD.

Advocacy

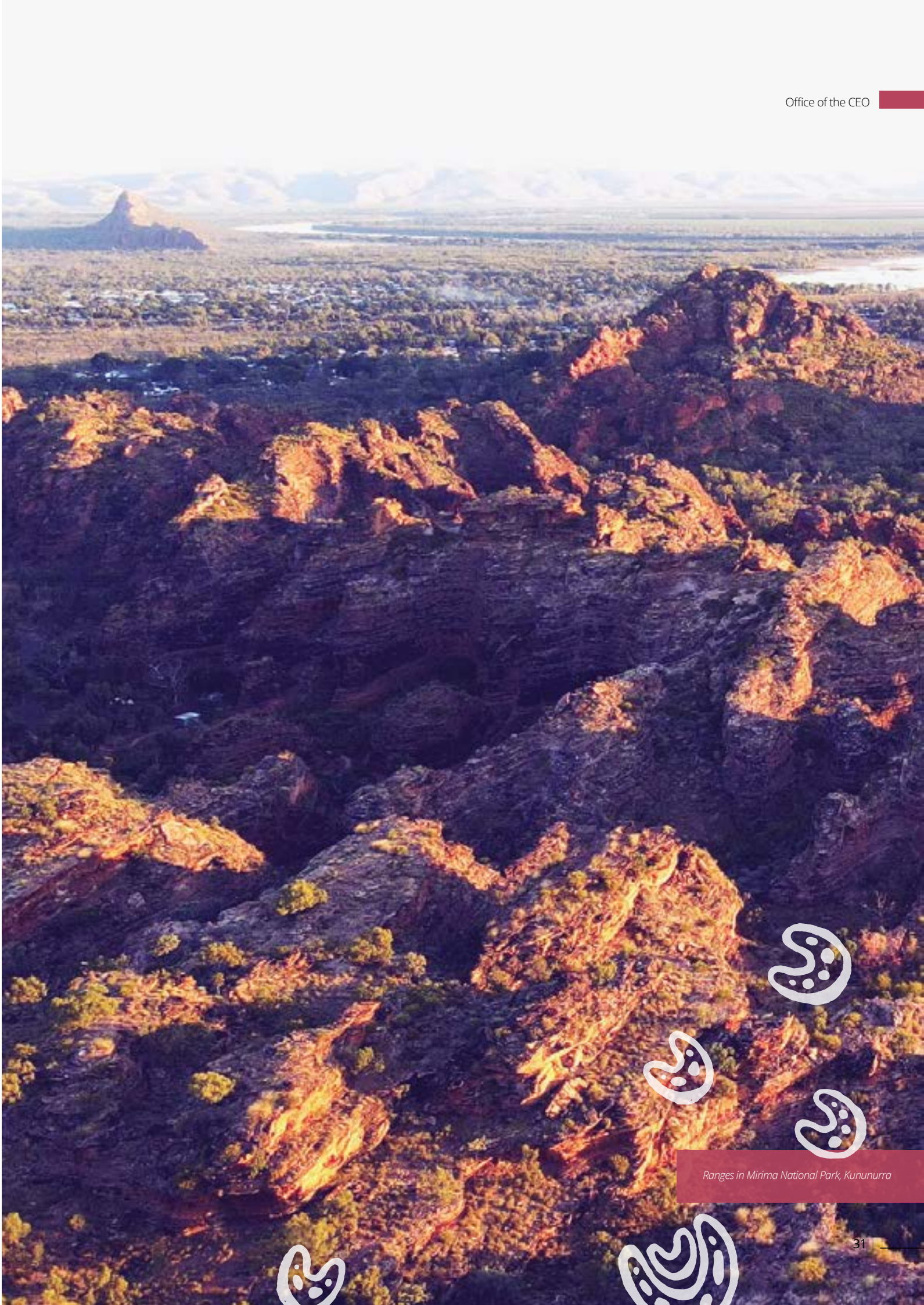
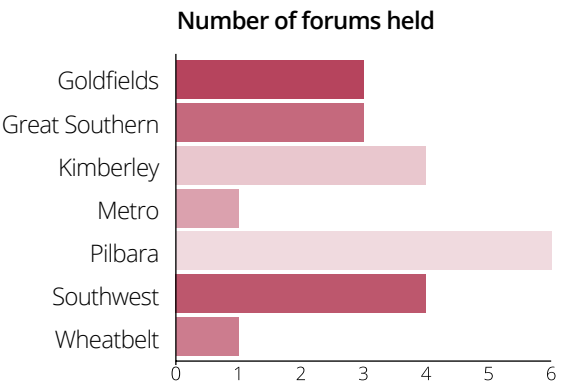
Advocacy for the Sector at the State and Commonwealth level on various topics, such as climate health and housing.

Strategic Partnerships

Connecting the Sector with strategic partnerships, including emergency management and hazard response, service providers, and research.

Regional Aboriginal Health Planning Forums

- Attended 22 Regional Aboriginal Health Planning Forums.
- Key policy and advocacy issues that the Regional Aboriginal Health Planning Forums have helped inform, include:
- Maternal and Child Health
 - Housing and Environmental Health
 - Data
 - Climate Health
 - Budget submissions
 - Strategic partnerships.



Ranges in Mirima National Park, Kununurra

Sustainable Health Review

The Sustainable Health Review (SHR) is a ten-year reform program run by the WA Department of Health, which includes eight enduring strategies and 30 recommendations to ensure an innovative and financially sustainable health system for Western Australia, focused on shifting from a reactive hospital based approach to a health system focused on prevention and care in the community.

Engagement with project teams comprising various stakeholders responsible for the SHR recommendations slowed in 2022/2023, as recommendation implementation lost momentum due to COVID-19.

SHR reset the program at the end of 2022, and identified six recommendations as key focus areas:	
Recommendation 11	(outpatient services).
Recommendation 13	(models of care for people with complex conditions who frequently present to hospitals).
Recommendation 17	(new funding and commissioning models).
Recommendation 22	(digitisation of the health system).
Recommendation 23	(culture and innovation with the Department of Health).
Recommendation 26	(workforce planning).

The WA Department of Health is still refining the reset program and exploring what implementation will look like.

Embedded throughout the six focus recommendations will be health consumers, Aboriginal health, mental health, culturally and linguistically diverse people, low socioeconomic groups and rural and remote communities.

Despite this slowdown in the SHR implementation, the Policy Team continued exploring advocacy opportunities.

Achievements

Over 2022-23, the Policy Team focused on:
Facilitating connections between WA Department of Health Recommendations Leads and West Australian ACCHS.

Increasing the Department of Health’s awareness and understanding of the ACCHS sector.

Provide advice to the Department of Health on Aboriginal stakeholder engagement methods.

Ensuring that the implementation of all recommendations reflects the needs of Aboriginal communities and ACCHS.

AHCWA continues to undertake specific advocacy about the SHR Recommendation 3a – ‘Reduce inequity in health outcomes and access to care with a 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 continues to advocate regarding priority areas identified by AHCWA’s Member Services, particularly regarding improving:

- Dental services across the State
- The Early Childhood Dental Program
- Environmental Health, Maternal and Child Health Services.

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 SHR reform agenda, AHCWA will build on this existing work and continue to promote the central role of ACCHS and its culturally secure and holistic primary health care model in the Western Australian health system as the SHR implementation program progresses.

Highlight

There are many concerns around dental service provision across the State. The SHR Recommendation 8 Early Childhood Dental Program has a priority for the implementation to ensure targeted expansion of the School Dental Service to include at risk 0-4 year olds and continue to work with the Commonwealth to achieve fair, long-term public dental funding arrangements. After an initial consultation, AHCWA drafted an options paper to seek direction from the ACCHS sector. This has recently been changed into a position paper to inform advocacy to the WA Health Minister.

Closing the Gap Social Services Unit

The Closing The Gap (CTG) Social Services Unit was established to provide input into any activities related to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (National Agreement) and to establish a new WA Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO) Peak Body.

The CTG Social Services Unit has provided extensive input into the development of Commonwealth and WA State-wide policies and strategies:
WA Department of Communities ACCO Strategy
WA ATSICCHO Strategy
WA CTG Implementation Plan
Commonwealth CTG Implementation Plan
Health Sector Strengthening Plan
Disability Sector Strengthening Plan
WA whole-of-government ACCO Strategy

The unit has also progressed the establishment of the WA ACCO Peak Body, the Council of Aboriginal Services WA (CASWA). This year, a number of milestones were reached:

- Establishment of the AHCWA Social Services Committee
- Drafting of the CASWA Constitution
- Sate-wide online consultation sessions with the ACCO sector in July 2022
- Registration of CASWA as a Company limited by Guarantee
- Preparation of a business case for ongoing funding
- Registration of CASWA with the ACNC
- Recruitment of a CEO.

Highlight

AHCWA was pleased to learn in May 2023 that the WA Government's 2023-24 Budget has allocated \$6 million over four years to fund the newly established Council of Aboriginal Services WA (CASWA) operation.

“ This is an exciting moment in history for Aboriginal people, communities and organisations in WA because we are finally seeing the Government coming to the table to provide the funding that we need to make real changes. This funding will mean that Aboriginal people in WA can be better represented and be supported to lead service delivery that works for our mob. ”

Vicki O'Donnell.

Highlight

CASWA will be independent and sit alongside AHCWA as WA's second Aboriginal peak body. It will not be affiliated with any one social sector; instead, it will represent WA's broader Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisation (ACCO) sector. CASWA will deliver policy advice and advocacy to the Government and other stakeholders and provide governance and administrative support to help strengthen capacity within the ACCO sector.

In providing funding to CASWA, the WA Government is taking steps to meet its obligations under the National Agreement. Priority Reform Two of the National Agreement requires governments to increase funding for services designed and delivered by ACCOs.

While the allocated funding is welcomed, there is still a long way to go regarding investments in Aboriginal peak bodies in Western Australia compared to other states and territories. This funding is a welcome starting point and will enable CASWA to commence operations in the coming months.

AHCWA hopes the WA Government continues to see the commitment and merit in having increased representation for WA Aboriginal communities on the national decision-making stage and commits to longer-term, more sustainable funding moving forward.



Business Development

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

The team works 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 Contracts and Reporting

The Business Development unit continued to support AHCWA in preparing successful funding applications, committing millions in funding to the Sector, and enabling the establishment of new programs, particularly addressing social determinant challenges.

Achievements

The contracts team managed 130 (on average) open contracts at any time.

Provided Member Services with 29 direct grant opportunities, including:

- \$5.69M in COVID Ambulatory Care funding supported by the Department of Health WA (June 2022 to January 2023);
- \$500,000 in Lotterywest-supported COVID-19 funding (April 2022 to June 2023); and
- \$600,000 in Lotterywest-support Organisation Development funding (January 2022 to December 2023.)

Worked directly with 18 funding partners.

Improved data collection and reporting through investing in more advanced systems and staff training.

Worked with legal advisers on improving contracts to be fair and equitable, such as artist agreements.

AHCWA and the Department of Health WA enabled the Aboriginal Community Controlled COVID Ambulatory Care Service in 2022, designed to support the existing COVID Care at Home program through culturally secure initiatives.

Highlights

15 Member Services across Western Australia were involved in the \$5.69M program, with the initiatives significantly reducing the spread of COVID-19 within vulnerable communities.

Through the program:
Funding was provided for COVID-19 treatment by

40 FTE General Practitioners

58 Nurses and

38 Aboriginal Health Practitioners

Treatment was provided for
28,600 COVID-19 cases through Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services



Western Australian Aboriginal Health Ethics Committee

The WA Aboriginal Health Ethics Committee (WAAHEC) aims to assess, approve, monitor and guide the ethical standards of Aboriginal health research undertaken in WA, and support research that benefits Aboriginal people and communities.

WAAHEC is responsible for reviewing the research needs of the Aboriginal community in conjunction with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services to determine priorities for research.

WAAHEC also ensures that health and medical research projects involving the Aboriginal community will benefit Aboriginal people and increase scientific knowledge.

Achievements

During the 2023 Financial Year, the WAAHEC Secretariat has improved the governance processes, including collating data for overall projects. This has been implemented by ensuring all Chief Researchers are aware of their obligation to provide annual reports and the inclusion of numerous new fields to inform the data.

WAAHEC research assessments

	Fin Year 2021/22	Fin Year 2022/23
Applications	95	86
Amendments	212	234
Responses	66	57
Progress Report	87	221
Final Report	21	18
Publication	49	25
Adverse Event	0	3
Complaint	0	0
Total	530	644

Projects have submitted an annual report:

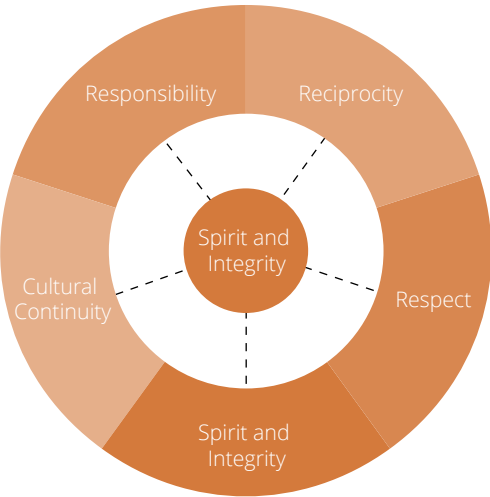
Region	Projects	Communities
Kimberley	55	61
Pilbara	13	13
Murchison Gascoyne/Midwest	20	10
Perth Metro	105	42
Central Desert	2	2
Goldfields	17	8
Great Southern	10	7
Wheatbelt	11	11
South West	29	17
Total	262	171

Highlights

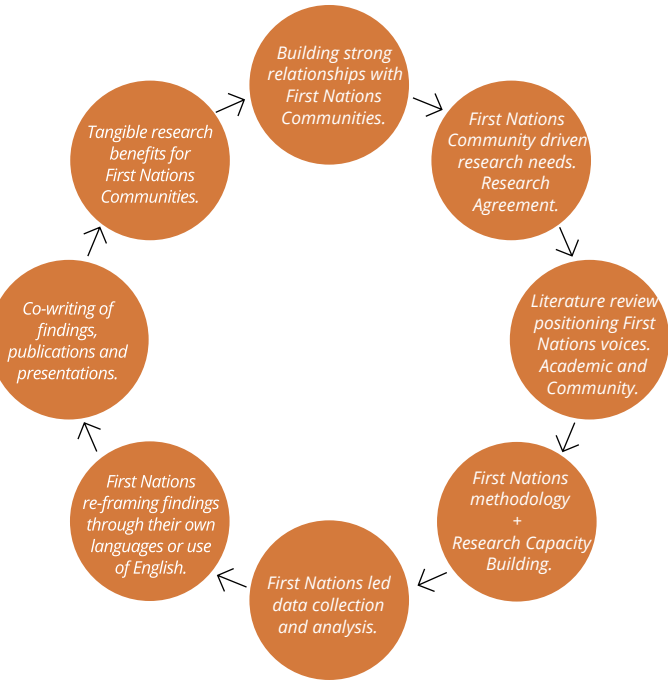
As evidence of the WAAHEC commitment to ensuring Aboriginal Health Research is translated into outcomes for Aboriginal Communities, the successful collaboration between researchers and Aboriginal Elders has enabled the See, Treat, Prevent (SToP) Trial project to be disseminated in four Healthy Skin Booklets in language in the Kimberley region.

Due to the firm governance by the WAAHEC ensuring all research applications address the inclusion of Aboriginal Chief or Associate Investigators, we have verified that 81% of all current projects now include an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander investigator.

Six core values



First Nations research circle



Created by Yorta Yorta woman Mishel McMahon – Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation

Public Health and Continuous Quality Improvement

The Public Health and Continuous Quality Improvement (PHCQI) Team supports WA ACCHS to encourage and establish best practices in primary healthcare. The team works at a national, state and local level to advocate for and assist in positive recognition and improvement in the service delivery for ACCHS in WA.



Grass Trees in Collie - Photography Wayne Quilliam

Clinical Leadership Group Meetings

The group aims to provide an information sharing forum for senior clinicians from WA ACCHS to discuss evolving and emerging clinical practice issues, experiences, innovative ideas, and solutions.

Key external presenters are also invited to present on topics relevant to ACCHS primary care service delivery.

Ten meetings were held over the year, including two hybrid meetings, which allowed face to face and online attendance and a wide range of topics were discussed.

Presentations

- Outpatient Reform Program - Smart Referrals WA
- State Forensic Mental Health Service
- Mosquito-borne disease
- Hepatitis C Virus in Aboriginal people in WA
- Pneumococcal Immunisation
- Advance Care Planning Information in My Health Record
- The Early Childhood Dental Program
- Aboriginal Health Worker/Practitioner Workforce and Training models
- NACCHO Medicines Policy and Programs
- Tuberculosis in Aboriginal people in WA
- WACHS Country PaTHS
- E-prescribing in ACCHS

Key clinical and public health topics

- COVID-19 and primary and booster vaccination recommendations
- Maternal and child health models of care
- Aged care
- Japanese encephalitis virus and vaccination eligibility and information
- Other mosquito-borne viruses, including Murray Valley encephalitis
- Influenza epidemiology, prevention, management and vaccination
- Emerging diseases, including tuberculosis in WA
- LGBTQIA+ Mental Health
- Dental services
- COVID-19 infection prevention and control policies in ACCHS
- Medicare Benefits Scheme updates and claiming
- Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme updates
- Transitions of Care – including discharge summaries, STORK, PaTHS
- Ear and Eye Health initiatives
- Syphilis and other BBVs
- Digital Health - My Health Record, e-prescribing, secure messaging, NASH Certification, AIR organisational registration, active script list, goals of care
- Social and emotional well-being
- The National Disability Insurance Scheme

Key Stakeholders

- AHCWA provides clinical, cultural, facilitation, and consultative services to many key stakeholders, including:
- Commonwealth Department of Health
 - WA Country Health Service
 - Australian Digital Health Agency
 - Rural Health West
 - East Metropolitan Health Service
 - North Metropolitan Health Service
 - South Metropolitan Health Service
 - WA Department of Communities
 - WA Department of Health
 - Child and Adolescent Health Services
 - NACCHO
 - Department of Premier and Cabinet
 - ISA Healthcare
 - Telstra Health

Key Meetings

- Alongside Member Services, participation in and representation at several groups, including:
- National:**
- National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Protection Sub-committee of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee
 - ADHA Medicines Safety Meeting
 - NACCHO clinical Working Groups and Committees
- State:**
- WA Rheumatic Heart Disease Program Governance Group
 - WA Aboriginal Eye Health Advisory Forum
 - WA Trachoma Reference Group
 - WA Child Ear Health Steering Group
 - WA Syphilis Outbreak Response Group
 - WA Japanese Encephalitis Joint Response Meetings and Expert Vaccination Reference Group
 - WA Aboriginal Immunisation Network Steering Committee
 - WA Rural Generalist Reference Group
 - WA Sexual Health and Blood-Borne Viruses Advisory Committee
 - Australian General Practice Workforce Planning and Prioritisation
 - Rural Health West Rural Health Outreach Services Statewide Advisory Forum
 - Rural Health Agency Reference Group
 - WA Aged Care Collaboration Group Meeting
- Regional:**
- Various metropolitan and regional public health network meetings

Family, Domestic, and Sexual Violence Support in WA ACCHS Pilot

AHCWA had been funded by the Department of Communities to support the development and implementation of Family, Domestic, and Sexual Violence (FDSV) practice in ACCHS across WA. Six Pilot sites have embedded FDSV Support Workers to work alongside community to provide culturally appropriate support to address family violence, its impacts and connect families to appropriate services.

The Pilot sites include:
Broome Regional Aboriginal Medical Service (BRAMS)
Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service Aboriginal Corporation (DYHS)
Ngangganawili Aboriginal Health Service (NAHS)
Puntukurnu Aboriginal Medical Service (PAMS)
South West Aboriginal Medical Service (SWAMS)
Yura Yungi Aboriginal Medical Service (YYMS)

The pilot program will be evaluated through Edith Cowan University (ECU).

Achievements

The FDSV pilot started in November 2022, and the six pilot sites are now set up and established.

Regular Governance committee meetings and the Community of Practice meetings are being set up across the sites as a central point of support and information for SEWB pilot site staff to share issues, experiences, knowledge, and ideas regarding work within SEWB services.

The place-based co-design approach has increased learning opportunities and can compare model successes and barriers.

Through the pilot, it is now understood that FDSV is broader than anticipated and that family violence needs to be understood through the lens of colonisation and intergenerational trauma and their continuing impacts, including but not limited to systemic racism, cultural dispossession, entrenched poverty, breakdown of kinship systems, social and economic exclusion, grief, loss, and trauma.

Social and Emotional Wellbeing Pilot Program

AHCWA has been funded by the Mental Health Commission to undertake a pilot project highlighting an ACCHS SEWB service model, created in consultation with AHCWA's Member Services.

This three year pilot will be evaluated in consultation with the University of Western Australia and will support Derby Aboriginal Health Service (DAHS), Wirraka Maya Health Service (WMHS), Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service (GRAMS), Bega Garribirringu Health Service (Bega), and South West Aboriginal Medical Service (SWAMS). Each site has been funded to provide a culturally secure SEWB Team that will develop services in line with the AHCWA SEWB Model of Service, with the flexibility to adapt to local community needs. AHCWA has a SEWB Program Manager and Project Officer who support the sites, manage stakeholder relations, and promote the Model of Service to relevant organisations.



Achievements

The SEWB pilot started in June 2022, and the five pilot sites are now established and providing services.

Regular Community of Practice and Governance committee meetings are being held as a central point of support and information for SEWB pilot site staff to share issues, experiences, knowledge, and ideas regarding work within SEWB services.

The SEWB team is working closely with the Mental Health Commission, which has funded the pilot, to help gather as much information to support the SEWB service model.

The sites Pilot and AHCWA SEWB Team work closely with the evaluation team, Transforming Indigenous Mental Health and Wellbeing at the University of Western Australia, to provide feedback on all relevant information within their sites to support the SEWB service model, and inform the ongoing evaluation.

Workforce Development and Support Unit

The Workforce Development and Support Unit (WDSU) program provides culturally secure, trauma-informed and healing aware learning and development (L&D) support to the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA) funded Social and Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) and Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) workforces.

The program builds confidence and responsiveness for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities by supporting frontline staff, including supervisors and managers, to address the increasing need for SEWB, mental health and AOD assistance.

During this reporting period, the WDSU has successfully established the service by adapting the Framework and Working Guide provided by AHCWA partner, Kimberly Aboriginal Medical Service (KAMS).

Relationships are being established with each service, and engagement is underway as the WDSU works towards engaging in ongoing site visits and networking opportunities such as the SEWB State-wide Forum.

The SEWB Welcome Guide Resource has been adapted to reflect the needs of SEWB/AOD/Link up staff in Greater WA.

AHCWA and KAMS, in partnership, have worked closely to plan a state comprehensive SEWB Forum.

A number of Training Needs Analysis (TNA) meetings/ assessments have been completed in this reporting period in partnership with services within the Perth metropolitan area. The focus has been to establish relationships with organisations within the Perth area and the Greater WA region through site visits and ongoing engagement.



Tackling Indigenous Smoking Program

The Tackling Indigenous Smoking (TIS) program is committed to enhancing the well-being of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities' well-being by decreasing tobacco consumption's prevalence through comprehensive public health campaigns.

During the reporting period, the TIS team conducted educational outreach activities across 11 schools in metropolitan areas, engaging with more than 300 students to impart crucial insights regarding the hazards associated with smoking and vaping.

In addition to school visits, the TIS team actively participated in various community engagement events, including Midland NAIDOC and the Kiara College Mental Health Expo. These platforms were opportunities to disseminate messages promoting smoke and vape-free lifestyles within the community.

Notably, the TIS team focused on addressing the use of e-cigarettes during this period. This was accomplished through a combination of community engagement efforts and strategic use of social media platforms, with a primary goal of raising awareness about the dangers of vaping.

As AHCWA approached the conclusion of the TIS program in late June 2023, in preparation for its transition to one of its Member Services, the TIS team commemorated World No Tobacco Day in May 2023 as the final event within the TIS Program. During this occasion, the TIS team distributed program resources and merchandise throughout the Metropolitan area, emphasising the importance of communities leading tobacco-free lives.



AHCWA staff attended the National TIS Workers Workshop in Darwin



Environmental Health

AHCWA held its second Environmental Health Forum from 24 - 25 October 2022 to promote and emphasise environmental health as a priority for the Aboriginal Community Controlled Sector and to evaluate the Review of the Aboriginal Environmental Health Program Final Report (the Report).

The day and a half Forum aimed to:

- Discuss the recommendations from the Report
- Formulate a sector response to the Report
- Identify priorities for the Aboriginal Community Controlled Sector in Aboriginal Environmental Health
- Inform future directions for the sector.

The Forum participants represented the Perth Metro, Goldfields, Central Desert, Kimberley, Murchison/Gascoyne, Pilbara and South West regions.

The Forum provided AHCWA with the sector’s view on the Report, including a review of the recommendations of the Report. It also offered AHCWA several goals, opportunities for next steps, and guidance.

This included the opportunity to create an evidence-based, community led, co-designed Aboriginal Environmental Health Model of Care that is culturally safe, responsive and focused on prevention with the Department of Health.



Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus Program

The Sexual Health and Blood Borne Virus (SHBBV) Program aims to provide capacity building through the delivery of the following:

- Birds & BBVs STI/BBV training
- Online sexual health information sessions called the ‘Bites
- Quarterly sexual health forums.

The program’s main objective is to engage young Aboriginal people to raise their awareness of sexual and reproductive health. The SHBBV team does this by delivering the Young Leaders Peer Education Program, Check Protect Respect social media campaign and participating in youth events such as the AHCWA Youth Conference.

The team works with ACCHS to provide support, information and resources that can be used in the community and facilitate developing and strengthening relationships with other stakeholders within the Sexual Health sector through MOUs with Sexual Health Quarters, WAAC, HepatitisWA and YACWA.



Syphilis Flipchart

The SHBBV team developed a flipchart to raise awareness about the ongoing syphilis outbreaks in WA. The flipchart ‘Go Along Philis’ launched in September 2022, and over 600 copies have been sent out across ACCHS, the Department of Health, WA Country Health Services and other services that work with Aboriginal people nationwide. The resource has also been promoted at Conferences, Forums and Health Promotion stalls, with positive feedback received.

AHCWA Sexual Health Forum

The SHBBV team holds quarterly Sexual Health Forums for staff working in the ACCHS to provide epidemiology updates, capacity building opportunities, and share good news stories.

The face-to-face Forum held in November 2022 was attended by 36 ACCHS staff, NACCHO Sexual Health Staff and Flinders University POCT program staff. The forums are an excellent opportunity for teams to share their experiences, including barriers and highlights.



Birds and BBVs (STI and BBV) training delivery

The Birds and BBVs is a two day STI and BBV training course that aims to increase individuals’ knowledge, skills and confidence to discuss sexual health matters and identify ways to help break down the shame and stigma associated with sex.

The training, in partnership with Hepatitis WA and WAAC, was delivered six times to 70 participants.

Trainers received positive feedback; most participants reported increased knowledge and skills through pre and post evaluations.

Young Leaders Program

The Young Leaders Program covers mental health, alcohol and drugs, healthy relationships, sexual health and BBVs. Participants are encouraged to go on and deliver health promotion activities or events in their communities and are supported by the Youth Sexual Health Program Officer.

Seven workshops were delivered to 64 young people over the last year; four participants went on to provide peer education activities in their communities.

The Bites

During WA Covid lockdowns in early 2022, the SHBBV team began online sexual health information sessions called ‘The Bites’, which continued in 2023. During this year, 35 sessions with 237 online participants have attracted 410 views via YouTube. The SHBBV team collaborated on The Bites with 13 external stakeholders in sexual and reproductive health.

The Birds and BBVs experienced an exciting first in December 2022; the group comprised all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. 14 Aboriginal Health Practitioners and Outreach Workers attended the two-day training from ACCHS and Health Services in the Perth Metropolitan, South West, Wheatbelt and Goldfields regions. 90 percent of attendees reported increased knowledge after training.

Feedback included:

“ I was looking forward to this training, had a good laugh and lots of yarns.

Enjoyed the training, and the trainers/ presenters were terrific; thank you for all the education.

It was so great and relevant for my role - Thank you!”

All three Conference abstract applications for the “Go Along Philis” Syphilis flip chart (launched in September 2022) were accepted. Poster presentations delivered at the 2022 ASHM Sexual Health and HIV Conference, Rural Health West (RHW) Aboriginal Health Conference and the Communicable Disease and Immunisation Conference. There has been overwhelming interest in the flip chart from ACCHS and other Health Services within WA and nationally, and to date, over 600 copies have been sent out. Phil and Philis will feature further Health Promotion resources in the next 12 months.



Climate Health

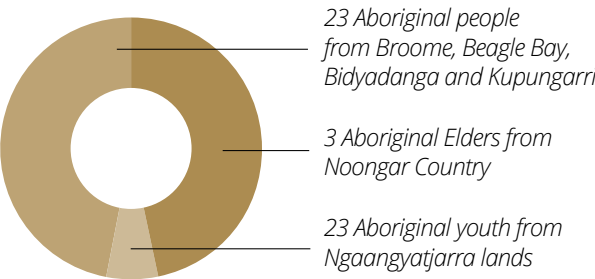
Supporting Climate Health Adaption Planning and Initiatives Project

This project supports AHCWA and three affiliate sites (Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services (KAMS), Ngaanyatjarra Health Service (NGHealth) and Moorditj Koort Aboriginal Corporation (MKAC)) to develop climate health adaption planning initiatives. This includes designing a localised response to identified key extreme weather events affecting the areas and communities.

Achievements

- All three Member Services conducted community consultations for Climate Health with varying levels of AHCWA support.
- Creation of a Climate Health Consultation Information pack including suggested questions and an online survey tool.
- Development of social media tiles for Heat Action Day.
- Literature reviews of key climate health issues for each site were conducted.

Community participants:



“The six Noongar seasons weren't only followed by Noongar people. All living things like animals, bugs and plants followed it. It was a cycle of life and food... [the seasons] were used to help care for country and, in turn, care for the community; however, because of climate change, the Noongar seasons are no longer accurate, with some seasons coming in too early or late and lasting longer or shorter. Native plants grow and produce at different times now. There was a connection between the Christmas trees blooming and the salmon coming out for fishing, which is no longer.”

Elders, Perth.

Eye Health Program

This program supports and builds the ACCHS workforce's capacity to support and provide eye health screening and education.

- It does this via the following:
 - Creation and delivery of eye health training for ACCHS staff around culturally safe eye health screening, equipment usage, clinical data and recall input and navigating the referral process.
 - Promotion of online eye health modules available AHCWA's Moodle Platdform.
 - Development of clinical resources for ACCHS clinicians to use in practice and provide to their clients.

Achievements

- Development of the Eye Health Training package.
- Creation of Eye Health Screensavers to create a visual cue to remind health practitioners of the importance of eye screening and the steps involved.
- Maintained ongoing representation within the WA Trachoma Reference Group.
- Attendance at the Rural Health West Eye Health Advisory Forum.
- Attendance at the National Indigenous Eye Health Conference attendance of AHCWA's Eye Health Trainee Coordinator was sponsored by Rural Health West.
- The Public Health Medical Officer was an expert reviewer for the Trachoma chapter for the next edition of the National Guide to a Preventive Health Assessment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- Rural Health West sponsored AHCWA's Eye Health Trainee Coordinator to attend the 2023 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health Conference.

“After attending the 2023 National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eye Health Conference, I have returned a lot of new knowledge and skills to my workplace. The conference was a great place to network with other health professionals in the eye space and hear about their eye health programs and their services.”

“The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander delegates' workshop greatly displayed working collaboratively to achieve the same goal, Improving Eye Health. This workshop was the highlight of the conference for me, as it was a safe space where all delegates could have a constructive conversation on issues affecting our mob.”

Immunisation Program

Under this program AHCWA provide public health awareness and prevention activities for Aboriginal people and Immunisation education Services for Aboriginal Health Workers and Practioners. This work supports Aboriginal individuals have access to health care, support services and resources to reduce their risk of vaccine-preventable diseases whilst building capacity of ACCHS workforce to deliver best practice immunisation services.

The program provides Aboriginal Health Workers and practitioners with confidence and competency to safely and effectively deliver immunisation services.

The program allows Aboriginal communities access to culturally appropriate information and support to improve their health literacy and to assist them in making informed choices.

Highlight

Vaccine hesitancy towards COVID-19 in Aboriginal individuals and communities is reduced.

Achievements

Immunisation training

Provided the opportunity to upskill 18 Aboriginal Health Practitioners to deliver immunisations, including maintenance of the vaccine cold chain, yarning about immunisation and clinical best practice.

Aboriginal Youth COVID-19 Campaign “Do it for your Mob”

During regular COVID-19 meetings with Member Services, vaccination rates amongst Aboriginal people were regularly reviewed. Through this, it was identified that Aboriginal Youth vaccination rates were particularly low.

The Member Services asked for a media campaign with a youth focus aimed at regions with the lowest vaccination rates in that age range.

AHCWA engaged an external agency to develop a regional campaign using local Aboriginal young people as talent.

A COVID-19 awareness campaign was launched in December 2022 across regional TV, streaming services, and social media platforms. The campaign drew on peer health promotion methodology, which has a longstanding history of effectively changing health behaviours.

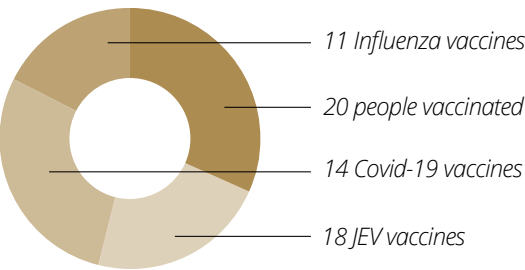
AHCWA worked with Member Services in the Kimberley and Goldfields to create content specifically aimed at the regions, including Aboriginal phrasing and videos of Aboriginal young people. This is effective in previous social media campaigns targeting this group.

Vaccination assistance was provided in partnership with Yura Yungi Medical Service (YYMS).

AHCWA’s Public Health Medical Officer identified YYMS in Halls Creek and their surrounding remote communities as high risk of JEV and most in need of support in providing staff to vaccinate the Community.

AHCWA provided two AHCWA employed Registered Nurse vaccinators over four days to support YYMS and Ringer Soak to work alongside clinic staff and provide the JEV, COVID-19 and Influenza vaccinations. They also provided opportunistic health promotion realted to all three diseases and allowed the community to yarn about them.

Total vaccines given: 43



Digital Health

The Digital Health project coordinates and develops various health projects relevant to the ACCHS, including digital health initiatives and continuous quality improvement projects.

Achievements

Worked closely with ISA Healthcare to gain the functionality for clinicians to upload advance care planning information to My Health Record on their client's behalf.

Created, developed and distributed 12 monthly newsletters promoting best practice in ACCHS primary health.

Development of a “Keeping Patients Data Safe” education piece for ACCHS staff.

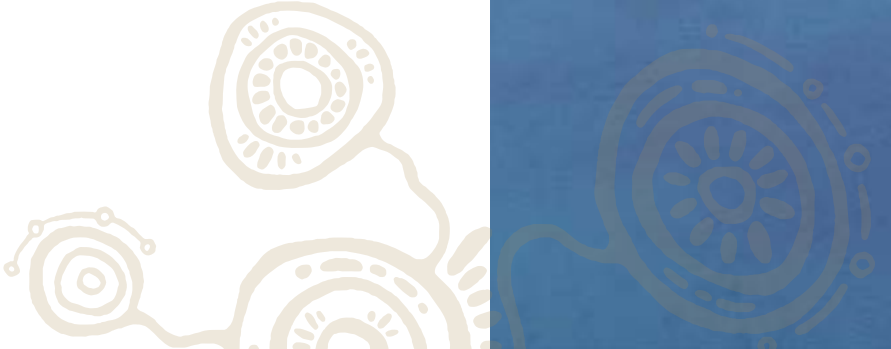
Consultation of services identifying views around E-prescribing.

Promotion of relevant Digital Health education webinars to Member Services.

In previous work, the Digital Health team identified that a main service barrier to advance care plan uploads to My Health Record for Aboriginal peoples was that the patient information record systems that the ACCHS use (MMEx and Communicare) didn't allow for clinicians to upload this document on behalf of the client. AHCWA in partnership with ISA Healthcare and the Australian Digital Health Agency achieved functionality for MMEx users. By alleviating this service barrier for MMEx users, AHCWA envisions this will lead to more patient-led care at the end of life.



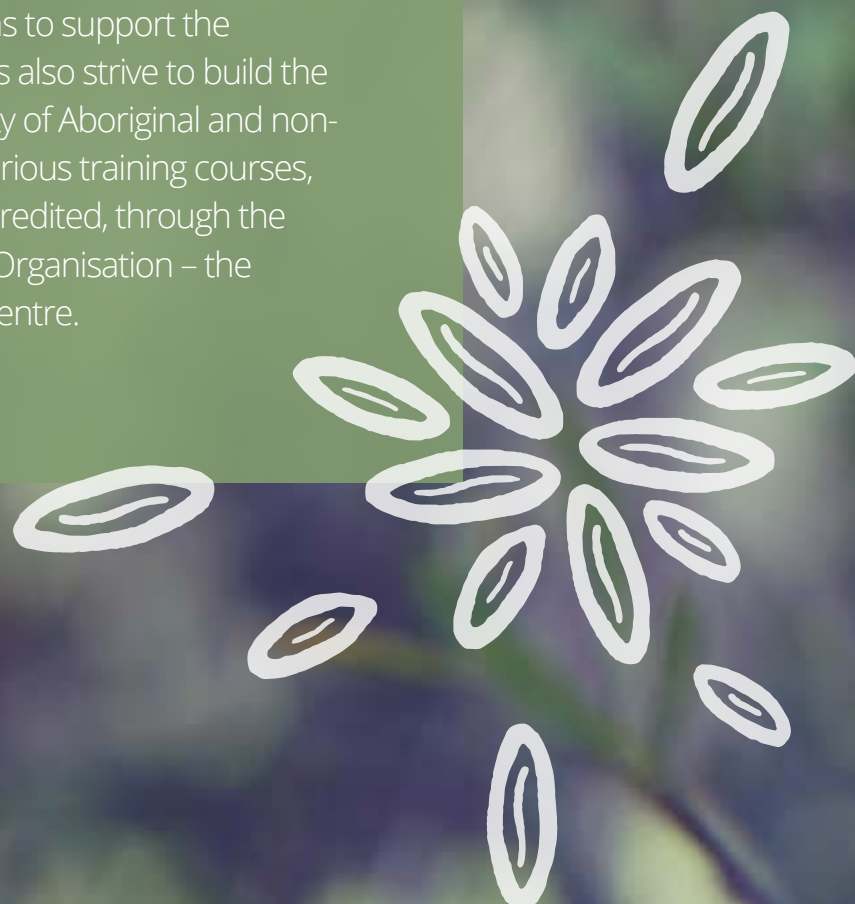
Broome



Workforce and Sector Development

The Workforce and Sector Development Work Group consists of several programs that work closely with the AHCWA Member Services, government and non-government organisations and our National peak body, the National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation.

The programs provide advocacy, leadership, and guidance and facilitate forums to support the sector. Many of the programs also strive to build the workforce and health capacity of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people through various training courses, both accredited and non-accredited, through the AHCWA Registered Training Organisation – the Training and Development Centre.



Santalum Spictum Nut (Sandalwood Nut)



NDIS Business Solutions

Increasingly, Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services across WA are becoming registered providers of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) to support the delivery of disability services that are responsive to the unique needs of Aboriginal people.

AHCWA now supports WA ACCHS to engage with the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA), the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission and their communities to improve access for Aboriginal people with disabilities to participate in the NDIS, as well as to establish sustainable, contemporary NDIS business solutions, ensuring they are viable and efficient NDIS service providers into the future.

Achievements

AHCWA produced the following education pieces, which were used by AHCWA Members across the State:

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 NDIS’.

One animation on ‘How to access NDIS funding’ for social media and the distribution of AHCWA and Member Services’ website.

One animation on ‘How the NDIS can support you’ for distribution on social media and the AHCWA and Member Services website.

Three videos of NDIS participant success stories and a booklet version of the stories for communities that do not have internet/digital access.

NDIS Community of Practice was established and facilitated seven community meetings in the reporting period.

One Demand Exploration project was delivered to support an AHCWA Member Service to make an informed decision around their NDIS service delivery.

Highlight

The WA ACCHS and ACCOs NDIS registration and renewal forum was held on 16 November and 14 December 2022 in Perth and Broome, WA, in partnership with Western Australia’s Individualised Services (WAiS). Ten WA ACCHS/ ACCOs attended the forum representing the regions of Kimberley, Pilbara, Midwest/Gascoyne and Perth metro. Participants included Disability Service Managers, Programs Managers, Support Coordinators and Business Managers. AHCWA consolidated the findings from the forum in an outcomes report that was shared with decision-makers and NDIS stakeholders.

Youth Program

The Youth Program supports the facilitation of the AHCWA Youth Committee and the coordination of the AHCWA Youth Conference.

The program also promotes AHCWA through representation on various working groups or committees requiring a youth voice. This includes liaising with the AHCWA Youth Committee and the AHCWA Policy and Advocacy Team with policy briefs and submissions by liaising with the AHCWA Youth Committee for input and feedback from their respective regions.

AHCWA receives funding from the Paul Ramsay Foundation for the AHCWA Youth Program. During this financial year, the Youth Program Coordinator role was vacant between February and 30 June 2023. The AHCWA Youth Committee were supported by the AHCWA Workforce and Sector Development Work Group to facilitate the committee meetings and prepare for the Youth Conference.

During this period, nine AHCWA Youth Committee members represented the Metro, South West, and Kimberley regions. The AHCWA Youth Committee Chairperson holds the Youth Director position on the AHCWA Board of Directors.

The main work for the program has been preparing for the 2023 AHCWA Youth Conference, ensuring the Youth Committee drives the planning from the agenda and presenters to the key sessions and activities.



Mappa

Mappa is an online platform for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people and their communities that improves access to health services as close as possible to family, home and country.

Mappa’s consultation, design and development have been driven by cultural considerations and made possible through collaboration with the WA health sector. Mappa uses spatial mapping technology to visualise the location of primary health care, secondary and tertiary, alcohol and other drugs, visiting specialists, outreach clinics, mental health and social and emotional wellbeing services.

Achievements

The Front-end User, Database, and Back-end User manuals have all been developed and continuously reviewed in line with any updates in Mappa.

The Advanced Search capabilities have been developed. 1408 NDIS services have been collated and built into the Mappa Platform.

The development of a Mappa Mobile Application. Updating all policies and procedures to ensure they are current and updated in line with legislation.

Reviewing the data and information in Mappa to ensure it is accurate and current through desktop audits and one-on-one meetings with each Member Service.

Reviewing the Platform to ensure the format and information in the front end are consistent with the back end of Mappa.

Reviewing each of the tabs, headings, and sub-headings to ensure the site is user-friendly and easy to navigate, which has included providing a clinical lens over each component of the Platform.



Indigenous Health Workforce Traineeships

The Indigenous Health Workforce Traineeships (IHWT) Program is designed to provide traineeships in health workforce roles for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people working in Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services (ACCHS). Funded by the Australian Government Department of Health (Cth), this program aims to build capacity and create viable career pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people working within the ACCHS Sector.

Achievements

Trainees from the IHWT program are employed across the following ACCHS:

Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service; Kimberley Renal Services; Derby Aboriginal Health Service; Beagle Bay Community Health Service; Broome Regional Health Service; Bidadanga Regional Aboriginal Medical Service; Mawarnkarra Health Service; Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Service; Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service; Moorditj Koort and the South West Aboriginal Medical Service.

AHCWA have worked closely with two key Registered Training Organisations, Marr Mooditj Training and the Kimberley Aboriginal Health Medical Service. Both of these organisations support trainees across the ACCHS to undertake further education and training.



In the 2022/2023 financial year, there were 16 trainees enrolled in training and eight graduates across the following courses:

Highlights

2 HLT54121 Diploma of Nursing students

5 CHC51015 Diploma of Counselling

5 HLT40213 Certificate IV in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care Practice.

AHCWA attended the graduation ceremony in Broome for five Primary Health Care Practice students.

The 2023 Traineeships currently underway, include qualifications for the CHC51015 Diploma of Counselling and the HLT40213 Certificate IV in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care Practice.



Nature's Window, Kalbarri

Cancer Training

The Commonwealth Department of Health funded AHCWA to deliver the Cancer Education Training to the Metropolitan and Kimberley regions of Western Australia. This course aims to provide valuable information to Aboriginal Health Workers, Aboriginal Health Practitioners, Aboriginal Liaison Officers and all other Aboriginal Health Professionals

The training will equip participants with extensive knowledge and expose them to valuable network contacts to enable them to support the Community on their cancer journey.

Achievements

37 students participated in the Cancer Training across the Broome and Perth Metro areas. The pre and post evaluations suggested all students gained significant knowledge and understanding of cancer treatments available and how to access support for people and families of current cancer patients.

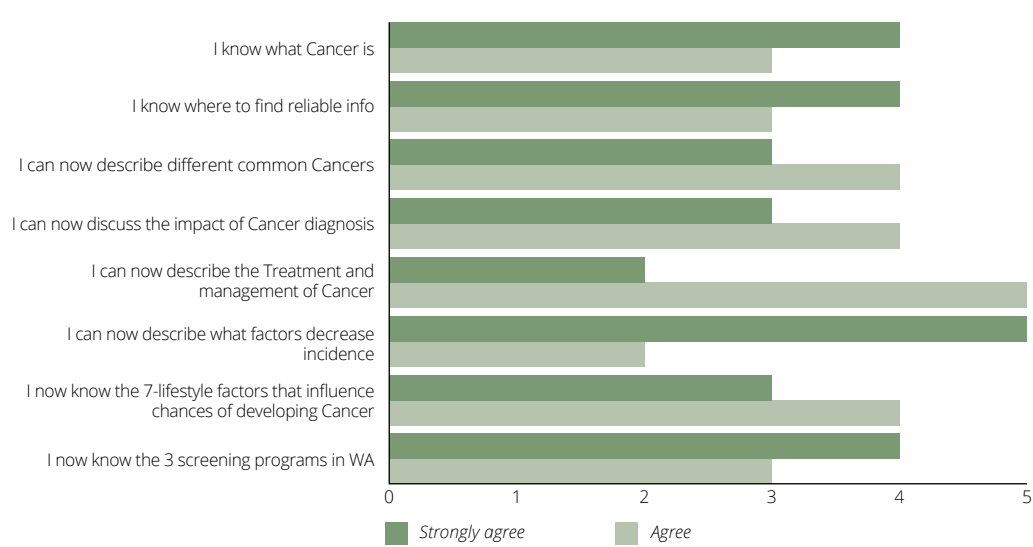
AHCWA partnered with many key stakeholders and organisations over the 12 months to provide presentations and visits for the students, which included the Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service, Cancer Council WA, WA Health, WA Country Health Service, The Cervical Cancer Screening Program, Breast Screen WA, National Bowel Cancer Screening Program, Australian Indigenous HealthInfoNet, and the Program of Experience in the Palliative Approach (PEPA).

- Site visits included:
- Perth – Crawford Lodge tour, Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital (SCGH) Cancer Centre, Medical Oncology, Radiation Department, Haematology and WA Youth Cancer Services.
 - Kimberley (Broome) – Tele chemotherapy Broome Hospital, Blue House, Broome Aboriginal Short Stay Accommodation (BASSA) tour and Breast Screening Bus tour.

AHCWA have engaged Edith Cowan University to evaluate the program to be completed by September 2023.

“The course was organised and made me more confident and aware concerning all types of cancers.”

This graph shows the pre and post course questions, highlighting the information learnt during the course.



Cancer Training sessions.

Ear Health Training Program

The Ear Health Coordination Program continued to enhance the monitoring and treatment of ear and hearing health in primary care, focusing on supporting access to quality, culturally appropriate and safe ear and hearing health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander infants, children and youth. The Ear Health Team worked collaboratively with program partners, such as Rural Health West, to support and identify activities required to improve ear health.

The Ear Health team worked to build the capacity of the Aboriginal Ear Health workforce and other health professionals to successfully achieve the Ear Health Training Certificate and provide optimal ear health care within their communities.

Upon completing the ear health training, graduates have developed a knowledge and understanding of ear and hearing issues, initiating change for ear health prevention, education, ear screening and implementing strategies to improve or manage ear health problems.

Achievements

Some of the achievements included:

- Ear Health annual refresher training with Member Services was conducted in eight upskilling sessions for 45 – 50 participants in the Metropolitan and Kimberley regions.
- 13 new education resources developed.
- 3 ACCHS Ear Health Forum meetings held in September 2022, February, and June 2023.
- Joint AHCWA and Rural Health West Ear Health Forum was held in November 2022, where 12 Member Services attended.

The Ear Health team attended the World Hearing Day event hosted by Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Services (KAMS) in Beagle Bay and Broome Regional Aboriginal Medical Service (BRAMS) clinics alongside stakeholder representatives in both communities. The KAMS and BRAMS hearing health programs continue to align with the ACCHS Model of Care and apply all dimensions of the model to their work in the Kimberley region.

AHCWA and KAMS Ear Health teams presented the ACCHS Model of Care to 60 Curtin University Medical students at the ACCHS Ear Health Forum.

Our Journey in Ear Health booklets and video resources were developed for four regions to educate families in ear and hearing screening and share past experiences in their ear health journey.



BRAMS launch of the Your Journey in Ear Health video and booklet.

First Aid Training

AHCWA's First Aid Training covers all general components of basic life skills and knowledge required to manage a first aid situation. The training is offered to all Member and Non-Member Services throughout Western Australia.

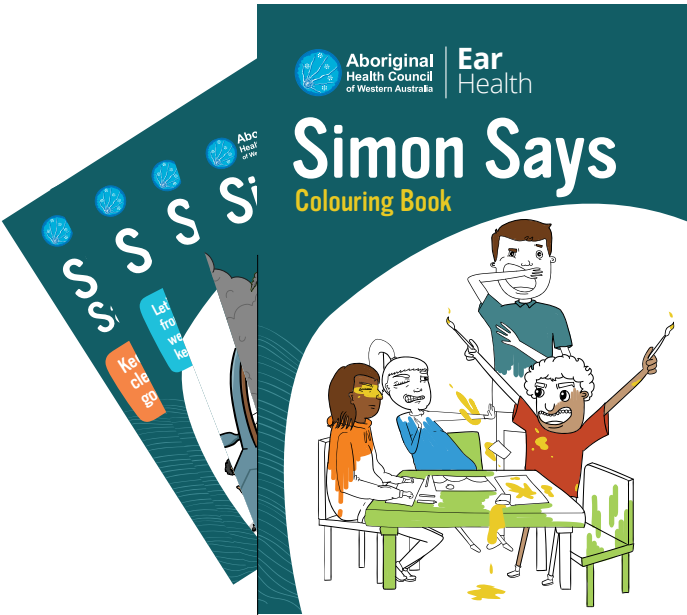
After reviewing the First Aid Training courses at the beginning of 2022, AHCWA delivered two sessions:

- HLTAID011 Provide First Aid – Two day course
- HLTAID011 Provide First Aid Refresher – One day course

During 2022/2023, three sessions were delivered to Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service in Perth. From these sessions, eight students completed a first aid qualification.

Simon Says Series booklets and resources were delivered and received positive feedback from staff, communities and region visiting specialists. During their school visits, ACCHS in the Kimberley, South West, Pilbara and Metropolitan regions conveyed that the children enjoy the tote bags and booklet activities. One community member expressed

“The books are easy to read, and the pictures are great”.



Feedback included:

“ Thank you, great and easy to understand. The explanations were clear and easy to follow/review— one of the best I have attended.”

Aboriginal Home Care Workforce Program

AHCWA receives training funding from NACCHO to deliver the Aboriginal Home Care Workforce Program (AHCWP). It is designed to provide fully funded positions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who are looking to undertake a certificate or diploma level qualification in entry level health or community services courses while working in an ACCHS in Western Australia.

Achievements

As a new program to AHCWA, the Homecare Workforce Program has created networks and relationships across the Member Services, as well as Aboriginal staff within Government and non-Government organisations at Bunbury, Narrogin, Katanning, Kalgoorlie, Wiluna and Warakurna Community/Warburton. These organisations include Amana Living, Silver Chain, and Salvation Army.

Roadshows took place in April and May to engage community members and organisations, and AHCWA received ten expressions of interest as a result of the Katanning, Badebup, Kalgoorlie roadshow.



AHCWA marks the 51st anniversary of the first raising of the Aboriginal

Trusted Indigenous Facilitator Aged Care Workforce Program

The Trusted Indigenous Facilitator Aged Care Workforce program haims to support Elders and older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to understand the aged care system, including identifying their required level of care and services. This support enhances their access to appropriate local care services.

Reduce barriers throughout the aged care journey for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, ultimately to increase their utilisation of these services.

Enhance the capability and capacity of the community-controlled aged care workforce and empower the sector to coordinate place-based care needs.

Leverage the expertise of ACCHOs/ACCOs to recruit and offer comprehensive support locally to ensure a smooth transition into the care workforce.

Utilise the established relationships of affiliates within their regions to provide training, support, and advocacy to the local workforce.

NACCHO has achieved a significant milestone by securing a substantial contract to deliver Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Aged Care support. Through the program, NACCHO will work with the sector to assist Elders and older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and their families in navigating and accessing aged care services.

A workforce of 250 FTE across Australia will support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Jurisdictional workforce will be embedded within Affiliates to provide direct support through training and onboarding, Jurisdictional advocacy, contextualised communications and resources. The contract offers funding to the Service Provider to enable them to support the ACCHO workforce within their jurisdiction. This includes delivery of non-accredited training, mentoring and support, advocacy and delivery of jurisdictional aged care communications and yarning circles.

AHCWA has employed a Workforce and Training Coordinator and Project Officer to support the program, and as of July 1, 2023, this program will be rebranded as the Elder Care Support Program under the stewardship of AHCWA, which has dedicated employees to oversee its success.

Corporate Services

Corporate Services aspires to grow and advance the capacity and capability of AHCWA and our Member Services for long term sustainability. It seeks to strengthen our Sector to undertake business and workforce planning and development to improve resilience and sustainability. It also builds the capacity of Community Members to contribute to the strategic direction of ACCHS and the succession plan for the future. It is responsible for implementing robust processes and systems that ensure AHCWA's continued operational effectiveness and accountability to Member Services.



Dried Banksia Cone

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 organisation’s overall operational efficiency.

Member Service Support

The team continued to support the organisation’s workforce and Member Services, proactively addressing unique workforce challenges across the sector.

The team provided tailored human resource management support and advice to Member Services across critical workforce and human resource matters.



Highlights

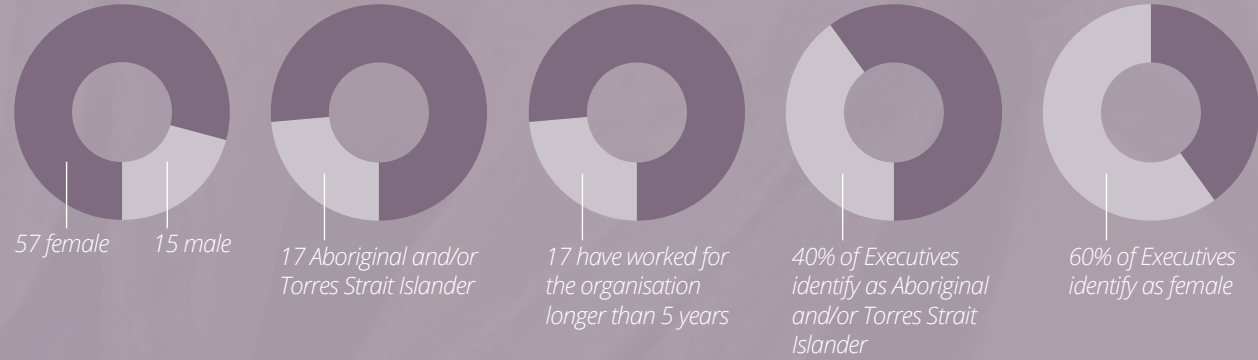
136 episodes of support, including Recruitment and Selection, Job Design, Performance Management, KPI Agreements, Workforce Planning, Compliance, Industrial Relations, Work Health and Safety, Remuneration, Award Interpretation, Contracts, FWA, Privacy and Payroll.

12 workplace planning tools were disseminated, including Workforce Capability Planning Tool, Skills Matrix, JDFs, KPI Agreements, Work plans, Organisational Charts, and Succession Planning.

25 Dissemination of over 25 professional development opportunities for Member Service employees and Board members to build workforce capacity.

Our people

72 employees



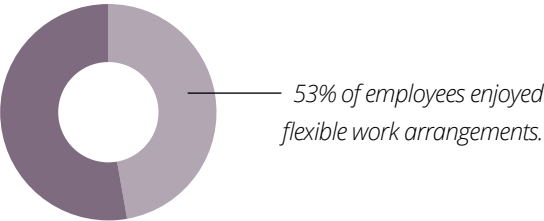
Workplace Culture and Employee Satisfaction

An Employee Satisfaction Survey administered via the organisation’s Employee Assistance Program provider in October 2022 provided valuable insight into the organisation’s workplace culture and satisfaction.



Workplace Culture and Flexibility

The organisation prides itself on fostering a culture of flexibility and a family friendly work environment, ensuring employees feel supported with individual flexible working arrangements to balance their work and home commitments.



Employee Achievements

- Sexual Health Katiska Davis acknowledged by Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine (ASHM)
- Keisha Calyun Represents AHCWA at the Biennial Pacific Region Indigenous Doctors Congress
- Executive Manager Business Development Jenny Sala celebrates 15 years at AHCWA
- Executive Manager Corporate Services Andrew Webster celebrates ten years at AHCWA
- Sexual Health and Blood Borne Viruses Officer Veronica Walshe celebrates ten years at AHCWA
- Finance Manager, Deepa Vaghjiani celebrates ten years at AHCWA
- Senior Trainer and Assessor Michelle's de La Haye celebrates ten years at AHCWA

Continuing Professional Development

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

Highlights

492 e-learning activities completed (Mandatory: 464 + Elective: 28)

163 episodes of training and development

50 staff undertook cultural safety training

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

Alcohol and Other Drugs Certification Ready Project

Partnering with the Western Australian Network of Alcohol and Other Drug Agencies (WANADA), the Alcohol and Other Drugs Certification Ready Project has commenced assisting ACCHS and ACCOs in becoming certified against the Alcohol and Other Drug and Human Services Standard (AODHSS).

The key objective of the project is to support and enable ACCHS and ACCOs in WA to be certified 'ready' against the AODHSS, enabling progression toward accreditation, increased capability to apply for AOD treatment funding, and ultimately enhancing capacity to respond to the AOD treatment needs of local Aboriginal people, families and communities. A secondary objective of the project is to build the Lead Auditor workforce in WA, with a particular focus on Aboriginal workforce development and enhanced career pathways in organisational governance within the Aboriginal Community Controlled sector.



Medical services engaged in the project:

- Broome Regional Aboriginal Medical Services
- Derby Aboriginal Health Services
- Geraldton Regional Aboriginal Medical Services
- Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service Corporation
- Mawarnkarra Aboriginal Health Service
- Moorditj Koort Aboriginal Corporation
- Ngaanyatjarra Health Service
- Yura Yungi Medical Service Aboriginal Corporation
- Yorgum Healing Services

Communications and Marketing

AHCWA's communication objectives are to provide information, advice, and guidance to Member 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.

Throughout the year, the team supported and strengthened our Member Services to achieve excellence in service delivery by offering informative, compelling and practical communications and design support. The team worked on various health campaigns and promotional and educational collateral.

Podcasts

Mob Pod Podcast release

Animation

National Disability Insurance Scheme Animation #2 – “How the NDIS can support you”

Data Security “Keeping your patient’s data safe”

Immunisations across the life animation

Video

Your Journey in Ear Health

Wrap up of the State Sector

HPV Social Media Project

Sexual Health Week TikToks

Graphic recording

Ear Health Forum

Environmental Health Forum

SEWB Forum

Design collateral

Sexual Health

Syphilis and HPV collateral presented at conferences in WA and interstate

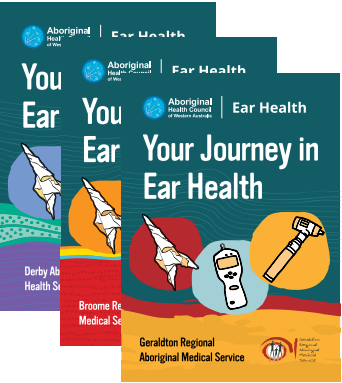
Responded to Kimberley floods and mosquito protection

Education on the dangers of vaping

Ear Health Journey booklets

State Sector conference

Home Care Workforce



AHCWA continued to reach its audience through media releases, social media, digital platforms, and print through hard copy newsletters.

AHCWA E-Newsletters

12
Monthly PHCQI e-bulletins

5
Quarterly AHCWA e-newsletters

2
Workforce and Development e-newsletter

1
Social Emotional Wellbeing e-newsletter

AHCWA Bulletin -Three hard-copy newsletters were distributed to the Member Service network and key stakeholders.

Facebook

Reach: 21/22 54,039

Reach: 22/23 229,280
Likes: 22/23 228

Highest performing post:
Rachael Sampson, NDIS Participant with:

a reach of 4,196
276 Reactions | 63 Comments | 55 Shares

Instagram

Reach: 22/23 13,901
Followers: 22/23 70

Highest performing post:
AHCWA hosts the West Australian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector Conference with:

a reach of 125 | 27 Likes | 27 Shares

ICT and Digital transformation

During the year, the team focused on improving digital capabilities across the organisation and completed several projects focused on improving operational efficiency and effectiveness.

Technology upgrades

- New conference room audio visual equipment;
- New CCTV monitoring systems; and
- Upgraded laptops and workstations.
- Windows Server Operating System upgraded to provide the latest protection against malware and malicious attacks.
- Cyber security awareness training is delivered to all staff to minimise the organisation's exposure to cyber risks.

Digital transformation

Conducted a comprehensive analysis of software solutions and implemented a new Human Resources Information Management System and Finance System.

Quality and Compliance

AHCWA continues to maintain its ISO 9001:2015 Certification. The Surveillance audit conducted in August 2022 identified zero no-conformances and six recommendations that Management has since addressed.

AHCWA continues to use the Quality Management System Logiqc to review documents, manage internal audits, monitor feedback and enhance continuous improvement.

693 documents were reviewed and approved.

Moving into the next reporting period, the focus will continue improving the Risk Management System and Business Continuity Response Plan.



Looma countryside

A close-up photograph of Mallee Gum (Eucalyptus Erythronys) flowers and leaves. The flowers are bright yellow, spherical, and composed of many small stamens. The leaves are green, elongated, and have a prominent midrib. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue sky.

Strategic Plan Key Performance Indicators Report Card

Mallee Gum (Eucalyptus Erythronys)



Goal 1. Enhance and Promote

Enhance and promote the ACCHS Model of Care as best practice primary health care for Aboriginal people and communities.

Strategic Priority

Work with our Member Services to enhance the ACCHS Model of Care application to achieve better health outcomes for Aboriginal people.

Action The Model of Care underpins any model of service delivery.	Progress Aboriginal Environmental Health (AEH) Forum held 24 - 25 October 2022 progressing the State review and engaging the sector in future activities to co-design. SEWB Gathering 3 held 6-8 September 2022.
Action Address the lack of access to primary health care informed by the ACCHS Model of Care in specific regions.	Progress Engagement in NACCHO forums with Commonwealth IAHP Team advocating for the realignment of PHC funding.

Strategic Priority

Promote the ACCHS Model of Care as best practice for Aboriginal people throughout WA.

Action Sexual Health Services providing a culturally safe environment.	Progress AHCWA SHBBV Team have worked with 6 mainstream SHBBV services. Reviewed and provided feedback on 12 resources developed by non ACCHS for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
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Goal 2. Support and Strengthen

Support and strengthen our Member Services to achieve excellence in service delivery.

Strategic Priority

Support Member Services to embed continuous quality improvement and evidence-based practice throughout organisational activities.

Action Facilitate opportunities to share experiences, successes and ideas. Provide CQI coaching and support to Member Services.	Progress Member Services share experience at each CLG Meeting (12). Success stories used as case studies. 21 episodes of support provided. 2 CQI Forums held.
Action Coordinate and Facilitate CQI projects to increase access to STI and BBV testing and treatment.	Progress AHCWA held a face-to-face Sexual Health Forum which facilitated yarning workshops, including updates from the Kirby Institute, NACCHO Communicable Diseases Team and Flinders University.
Action Support primary care clinics to implement best practice.	Progress 3 ear health forums where success stories were presented. 8 upskilling sessions for 45-50 participants. 13 education resources developed.

Strategic Priority

Assist Member Services to effectively utilise innovative best practice solutions to improve access to, and delivery of health care services.

Action Provide information about best practices in sexual health and BBVs.	Progress 53 formal communications which included regular information, updates and training opportunities. SHBBV epidemiology update presented at the AHCWA Sexual Health Forums.
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Action ECCHS Guidelines are incorporated into Communicare for use by the ACCHS.	Progress Of the Member Services surveyed, 62.5% use the Enhanced Child Health Schedule.
Action Work with primary health care clinics and other stakeholders to identify and support activities to improve ear health.	Progress The Needs Analysis was undertaken, and the report was presented to members.
Action Establish a Mental Health Working Group with relevant mental health/SEWB staff at Member Services.	Progress SEWB Working Group established. 6 meetings were held with an average attendance of 12 attendees.
Action Create WA specific NDIS communication resources for Aboriginal people with disabilities.	Progress 8 educational recordings were recorded in different languages, giving an overview of the role, responsibility, and eligibility for NDIS. 2 animations on accessing NDIS funding and how it can support clients for promotion on social media and Member's websites. 3 videos showcasing NDIS participant success stories and a booklet version of the stories for communities that do not have internet/digital access.
Action Establish and facilitate the NDIS Support Coordination Community of Practice.	Progress NDIS Community of Practice was established and facilitated 7 community meetings. 11 AHCWA Member Services and 1 ACCO regularly attend the Community of Practice meeting.

Strategic Priority

Actively support the continuous professional development of the workforce via culturally appropriate training.

Action In collaboration with WAAC and Hep WA, deliver training to staff via face-to-face and online delivery.	Progress 70 participants in face-to-face training. 5 Member Services engaged. 58 participants reported an increase in knowledge (90%).
Action Deliver Birds and the BBVs training.	Progress 6 Birds and the BBVs workshops delivered to a total of 70 participants. 35 online sexual health information sessions (The Bites) recorded and available on the AHCWA website. 237 online participants and 410 views of the pre-recorded 'Bites'.
Action Actively research, assess and disseminate professional development opportunities. Work in collaboration with AMSED to co-design relevant professional development courses for the Sector.	Progress Dissemination of over 25 professional development opportunities for Member Service employees and Directors including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Yorga Djenna Bidi Program– 2023 Aboriginal Cadetship Program– WA Health LEAD Program 2023– Puggy Hunter Memorial Scholarship– Aboriginal Mental Health First Aid
Action Provide one-on-one advice on corporate governance.	Progress Delivered 97 instances of corporate services support and 135 instances of human resources support. 12 referrals to external services for additional support.
Action Support Member Services to achieve efficiencies and effectiveness in HR/IR governance processes. Facilitate regular Corporate Services Forums.	Progress 136 episodes of support 3 Corporate Services Forums were held. 2 online and 1 face-to-face.

Strategic Priority

Support and empower our Member Services to strengthen their governance frameworks and practices.



Goal 3. Lead and Influence

Lead and influence the state and national Aboriginal health policy and research agenda as determined by our Member Services.

Strategic Priority

Lead the ACCHS Sector in the development of health policy priorities for improving the health and wellbeing outcomes of Aboriginal people.

Action Advocating the Ear Health priorities and concerns.	Progress 3 Ear Health Forum meetings held including a joint AHCWA/Rural Health West Ear Health Forum with 12 Member Services attended. Regular meetings with: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– NACCHO Ear Health network– Rural Health West– Hearing Australia– Ear Nose and Throat Head and Neck Surgeons in Australia (ASOHNS), and– Soniq Innovations.
Action Advocating on the behalf of NDIS registered ACCHS in WA and collectively representing their views.	Progress Key NDIS meetings held: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– 8 Working Group meetings (with government agencies attending)– 4 Advisory Group– 20 stakeholder, and– 6 partnerships formed.
Action Advocate for the needs of the ACCHS Sector and Aboriginal Western Australians in policy development and implementation.	Progress All Member Services were consulted on a total of 23 targeted formal consultations, including the dissemination of 33 emails.

Strategic Priority

Proactively influence state and national Aboriginal health policy agendas.

Action Advocating on behalf of NDIS registered ACCHS in WA on legislative reforms and operational changes through submission/paper to the various state and national agencies as they arise.	Progress 2 submissions: the NDIA Justice Transition project submitted to the Joint Standing Committee and NDIA regional and remote market intervention initiatives alongside other sector supports.
Action Youth Program submissions and policy advice.	Progress 11 schools and 2 youth events, running multiple sessions on vaping and smoking. Supported the Make Smoking History initiative and the rising rates of e-cigarette use amongst youth and children.
Action Development and implementation of a WA ACCHS Workforce Strategy in partnership with the Nous Group.	Progress Engagement of Members, NACCHO, Rural Health West, Australian Government Department of Health, the WA Department of Health, WA Country Health Services and the WA Primary Health Alliance involved in developing the WA ACCHS Workforce Strategy. 2 online focus group meetings 7 one-on-one interviews 1 online survey 1 face-to-face workshop WA ACCHS Workforce Strategy launched at the Members Planning day
Action Provide policy advice and information through a cultural lens	Progress 50 requests for formal policy advice and information were completed, and 21 were from the ACCHS sector. AHCWA's policy advice and advocacy led to positive change for the ACCHS sector in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Department of Communities Housing Maintenance Contract: Drafting a letter for the Minister for Housing re: inclusion of ACCHOs.– Newborn children and mothers: advocacy re: clinical handover and discharge summaries including an audit of the process.– Ensuring ACCHS representation on emergency response working groups and committees.

Strategic Priority

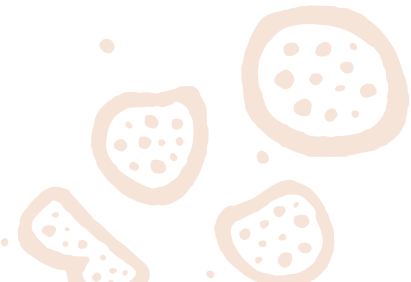
Build and maintain strategic relationships with key stakeholders and partners.

Action Regular meetings with Government Funding partners.	Progress Meetings held: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– WA DoH/WACHS (7)– DoH Commonwealth, inclusive of Partnership Forum Meetings (9)– State Government Ministers (3).
Action Meeting key stakeholders, funders, and ACCHS regularly to discuss the funding agreements and key deliverables to meet the needs of the ACCHS Sector.	Progress Attendance at the following meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– NACCHO Workforce Summit– NACCHO RTO Community of Practice (3)– Stakeholder (10)– Aboriginal Health Workforce Partnership Group (1)– WA health forums regarding the Aboriginal Health Practitioner profession. Key partnerships with NACCHO, WA ACCHS RTOs, Marr Mooditj, Community Skills WA, the Department of Training, Workforce and Development, and Cancer Council WA.
Action Develop and maintain meaningful and strategic relationships with national and state external stakeholders relevant to the provision of primary health care, public health and CQI activities.	Progress Meetings held with: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– the Australian Digital Health Agency (40)– the Department of Health(45)– WACHS (24)– CAHS (3)– the Department of Health (Commonwealth) (9)– the Department of Premier and Cabinet (1)– the Department of Communities (4)– East Metro Health Service (3)– North Metro Health Service (4)– South Metro Health Service (1).

Strategic Priority

Initiate, support, participate in and contribute to culturally appropriate, ethical and relevant research.

Action WAAHEC engagement with Researchers to ensure all applications are culturally appropriate.	Progress 86 new Ethics Applications. 38 face-to-face meetings with Researchers and Research Institutions.
Action WAAHEC engagement with Regional Aboriginal Health Planning Forums.	Progress Engagement with: <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Kimberley Aboriginal Health Planning Forum Kimberley Research Sub Committee– Pilbara Aboriginal Health Alliance– Derbarl Yerrigan Health Services– Yamatji Aboriginal Health Planning Forum– Goldfields Aboriginal Health Planning Forum– Great Southern Aboriginal Health Planning Forum
Action Maintaining relationships with other HRECs and NHMRC.	Progress Engagement with 14 HRECs across Australia as required for collaboration and research projects.





Goal 4. Grow and Advance

Grow and advance the capacity and capability of AHCWA and out Member Services for long term sustainability.

Strategic Priority

Strengthen our Sector to undertake business and workforce planning and development to improve resilience and sustainability.

Action	Progress
Undertake a Needs Analysis on the Ear Health workforce.	8 ACCHS responded to the survey.

Action	Progress
Provide key workforce planning tools to assist with workforce development and sustainability.	12 workplace planning tools disseminated.

Strategic Priority

Build the capacity of community members to contribute to the strategic direction of ACCHS, and succession plan for the future.

Action	Progress
Facilitate the Young Leaders Program to engage young people in sexual health promotion activities.	7 Young Leaders workshops and 4 Peer Educators engaged.

Strategic Priority

Implement robust processes and systems that ensure AHCWA's continued operational effectiveness and accountability to Member Services.

Action	Progress
Purchase and implement a Human Resource Information System.	HRIS system (ELMO) purchased and ready for implementation late 2023.
Implement electronic purchase order system across the organisation.	New finance and accounting software (Sage Intaact) purchased and ready for implementation in late 2023.

Strategic Priority

Identify income streams and develop business opportunities for AHCWA and its Member Services.

Action	Progress
Apply to funders for Devolved funding to disseminate to ACCHS in a commissioning role.	\$500k Lotterywest COVID-19 response fully expended. Negotiations underway for further Emergency Relief devolved funding. \$300k Lotterywest Capacity Building second round secured. \$250k Paul Ramsay Foundation COVID-19 support varied to fund Youth Program.

Action	Progress
Research, identify and disseminate all relevant grant opportunities; philanthropic funding opportunities and business generating activities.	29 Grant opportunities emails sent.

Action	Progress
NDIS Demand Exploration Project – business case study, and capacity building.	2 case studies were completed and feedback received from participants. 3 Members supported to apply for Indigenous Business Support Funding through NACCHO.

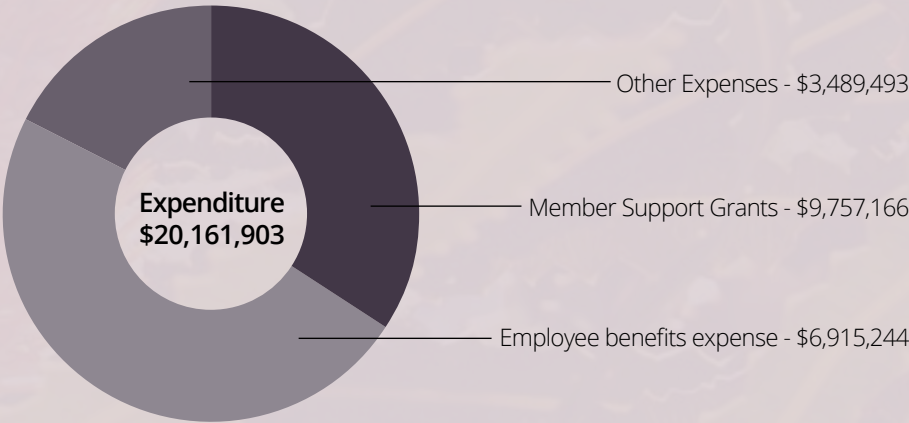
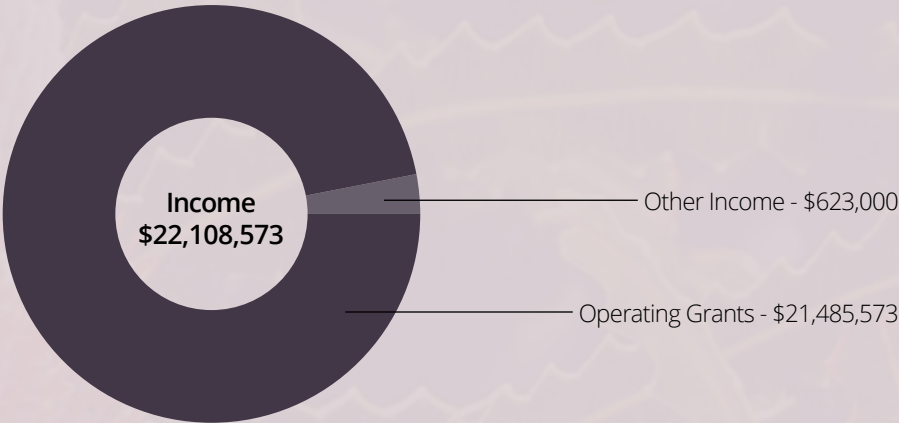
Financial summary

Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia
Directors’ Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2023.

Financial summary

Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia Directors’ Report for the Year Ended 30 June 2023

AHCWA recorded a surplus of \$1.95 million* for the 2022-23 financial year, compared with a surplus of \$1.59 million the previous year.



Total Assets \$26,527,939

Total Liabilites \$13,830,415

**Audited draft financials*

Burdett's Banksia (Banksia Burdettii)

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