



**Aboriginal  
Health Council  
of Western Australia**

Bunuru 2025

# AHCWA Newsletter



## **Kaya,**

On Whadjuk Noongar Boodja, where the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia's office is located, Bunuru brings the hottest season of the year. Scorching heat and minimal rainfall meant that traditionally, Noongar people lived by the coast or near rivers and estuaries during this time, eating freshwater foods and seafood, and enjoying the cool afternoon sea breezes.

With multiple heatwaves hitting WA, we have been working with our Member Services to share climate health promotions for our communities to help prepare, recover, and stay cool no matter the temperature.

You can download and share our AHCWA-designed resources on [climate health here](#).

## **WA State Election: AHCWA's Key Priorities**

# WA State Election

## AHCWA's Key Priorities

1

Fund culturally safe short-stay accommodation specifically for pregnant Aboriginal women who need to travel to regional and metro centres to give birth.



2

Work with Aboriginal Community Controlled housing organisations to reserve housing in metro areas specifically for Aboriginal people. Undertake in partnership with the Aboriginal Community Controlled Sector an audit of housing stock in Aboriginal communities and an analysis of Aboriginal housing needs in metro, regional, and remote WA communities.



The 2025 Western Australian State Election offers the Government the opportunity to profoundly impact the lives of Aboriginal people in WA by embracing new ways of working in partnership and collaboration with the ACCHS Sector to achieve the Four Priority Reforms of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

3

Fund the implementation of the Environmental Health Model of Care and work with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to build community capacity to undertake minor repairs, rather than relying on non-local contractors.



4

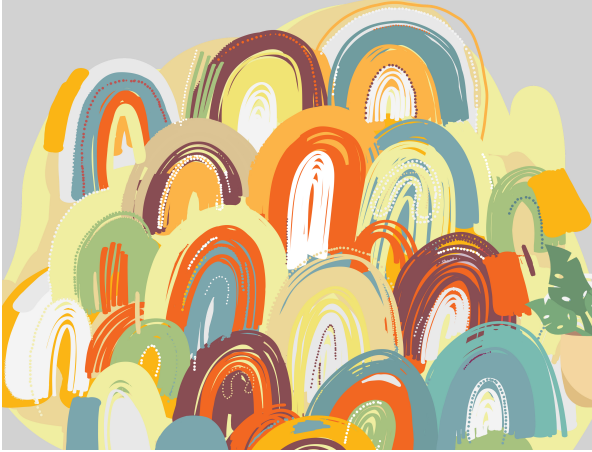
Amend Dental Health Service criteria to provide dental treatment free of charge to all Aboriginal people across WA.



AHCWA calls on the incoming WA Government to address key priority areas for the ACCHS sector and act on commitments made under the National Agreement. These priorities align with the Sustainable Health Review and other key WA Strategies and Frameworks by focusing on discrete funding asks to invest in preventative care and community health care closer to home.

5

Provide sustainable funding for the continuation and expansion of ACCHS Social and Emotional Wellbeing and Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Programs.



6

Fund and resource child development services in order to reduce wait times and expand service provision. Child development services to partner with Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services to deliver culturally safe services and programs.



To find out more, check out our page [here](#).

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# AHCWA Welcomes Remote Food Subsidy Scheme Urges Inclusion of all Remote Communities

The Australian Government will reduce the cost of 30 essential household items in 76 remote stores through a subsidy scheme to ensure the cost of goods in these stores compares to urban supermarkets.

**AHCWA welcomes the price cap**, and emphasises that all remote stores must be able to access the scheme to ensure that no community is disadvantaged.

Follow the QR code to read more:



**AHCWA**



AHCWA welcomes the Federal Government's price cap on food and essential items in remote stores, and emphasises that all remote stores must be able to access the scheme to ensure that no community is disadvantaged.

"This is a welcome response to longstanding food insecurity issues in remote communities, and it will help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in these communities to afford essential groceries, which can cost more than double on average compared to city prices," AHCWA Chair Vicki O'Donnell said.

"But we expect to see these freight subsidies and price locks available to all remote communities across WA by the commencement of the subsidy scheme this July, and price caps on an expanded variety of goods soon to follow"

Read more [here](#).

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## **First Nations Aged Care Report Shows Urgent Action Is Needed To Fix System**

AHCWA supports the Interim First Nations Aged Care Commissioner Andrea Kelly's calls for urgent action by the Federal Government to transform the aged care system, which continues to fail older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

AHCWA and its Member Services took part in extensive consultations on older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' experiences with the aged care system for the Commissioner's Report [Transforming Aged Care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People](#), which was released this month.

It highlights how the system is still largely culturally unsafe for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, not supportive of their cultural wellbeing and needs, alienating, difficult to understand and challenging to access.

Read more [here](#).

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## **AHCWA CEO Des Martin Celebrates 15 Years of Exceptional Leadership**



AHCWA is proud to celebrate Des Martin's 15-year milestone as the organisation's Chief Executive Officer.

Throughout his tenure, he has shown outstanding leadership and dedication to improving Aboriginal health outcomes across WA, profoundly influencing the health sector.

Read more about Des' contribution to the organisation and the sector [here](#).

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## Elder Care Support | State Yarning Circle

# Save the Date:

## Elder Care Support State Yarning Circle 2025



<b>Date</b>	Tuesday 3rd June - Thursday 5th June 2025
<b>Venue</b>	Mandoon Estate, 10 Harris Road Caversham WA

Registration details to follow.

**This Yarning Circle is for the Elder Care Support West Australian workforce.**

If you have any questions, contact the Workforce team at the Aboriginal Health Council of Western Australia: [joyal.shaju@ahcwa.org](mailto:joyal.shaju@ahcwa.org) or [helene.casey@ahcwa.org](mailto:helene.casey@ahcwa.org)



This Yarning Circle is for the Elder Care Support West Australian workforce and will be held on **3 June to 5 June 2025** at **Mandoon Estate, Caversham**.

Registration details to follow.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, contact the Workforce team at AHCWA via [joyal.shaju@ahcwa.org](mailto:joyal.shaju@ahcwa.org) or [helene.casey@ahcwa.org](mailto:helene.casey@ahcwa.org)

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## Immunisation | Upcoming Training



Immunisations save millions of lives every year worldwide. AHCWA's Immunisation Training can help you to become an immunisation provider where you can assist in closing this gap in healthcare.

The next training will take place at **AHCWA** on **1 and 2 April, 2025**, with the registration form found [here](#).

For more information or to register, please contact AHCWA's Immunisation Educator via [public.health@ahcwa.org](mailto:public.health@ahcwa.org)

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## Hearing Health Education | Upcoming Workshop



The second workshop will be held in **Broome** on **22 May, 2025**, with the registration form found [here](#).

AHCWA is currently advertising for new positions, including:

- [Sexual Health Promotion Officer \(1.0 FTE\)](#)

Find the full list of AHCWA's current vacancies [here](#).

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## AHCWA Courses and Training Programs

Actively responding to the needs of our Member Services, AHCWA offers a series of courses and training opportunities.

The following courses and training opportunities are currently available:

- [Ear Health Training](#)
- [Immunisation Training](#)
- [Young Leaders Training](#)
- [Eye Health Training](#)

Call **(08) 9227 1631** to book or click [here](#) to find out more.

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## Compliments & Suggestions

Do you have feedback you'd like to share with us? Compliments, suggestions, and complaints can be submitted directly to our Quality and Compliance Officer [here](#), or through the feedback tab on the contact section of our website [here](#).

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