



WELLINGTON ABORIGINAL CORPORATION
HEALTH SERVICE
ICN: 792

Prospectus



WACHS Vision

WACHS is acknowledged and respected as an organisation of excellence which is demonstrated by a healthier Aboriginal community.

WACHS Mission Statement

To advocate for and facilitate the achievement and maintenance of health outcomes consistent with Aboriginal peoples' evolving notion of cultural wellbeing.

Purpose

WACHS plans, delivers, co-ordinates and advocates for effective clinic and community-based primary health care services to the Aboriginal community.

WACHS Objectives

- a) Provide culturally appropriate primary health care service for Aboriginal people and the wider community within the Wellington shire.
- b) Administer and operate an Aboriginal Medical Service within the legal framework, funding agreements and the capacity of WACHS.
- c) Enhance the health status of the Aboriginal community in Wellington shire including, Nanima Reserve.
- d) Involve Aboriginal people in the planning and provision of primary health care services.
- e) Provide professional development for our Aboriginal Board and staff to support their roles and responsibilities within WACHS.
- f) Support and assist Aboriginal people to better utilise existing holistic health care services.

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge and respect the traditional lands of all Aboriginal people, we respect all Elders past, present & future. We ask all people that walk, work & live on traditional Aboriginal lands to be respectful of culture & traditions and work together as one to better Aboriginal Health.

WACHS Locations



About WACHS

Wellington Aboriginal Corporation Health Service is on the land of the Wiradjuri people.

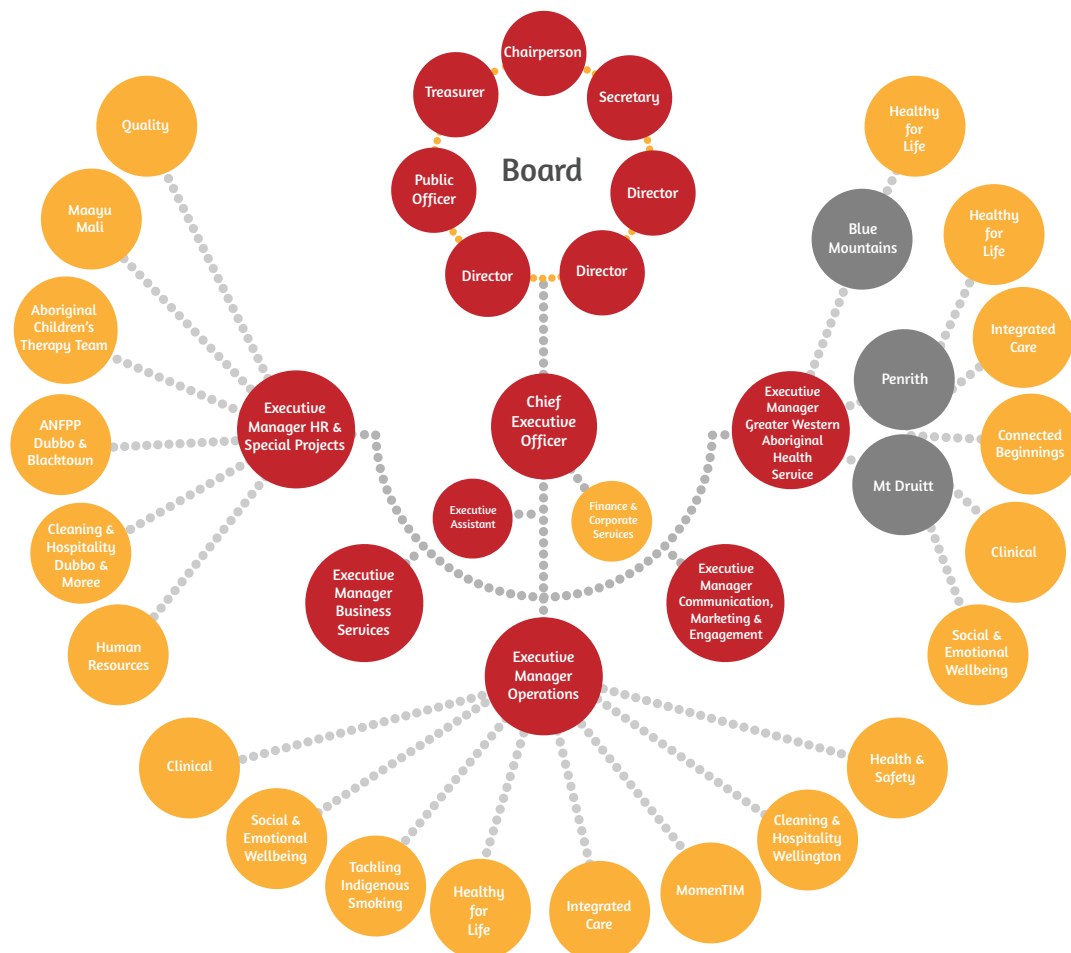
Wellington Aboriginal Corporation Health Service (WACHS) aims to empower Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to take control of their individual, family and community health and wellbeing needs through the community controlled model.

WACHS is an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service offering a Primary Health Care Service and an Integrated Care program, supported by GP Services in our clinics, as well as a number of specialist clinical staff and Aboriginal Health Workers, a Specialist Programs Unit incorporating Social & Emotional Wellbeing, Child & Family Support, Drug & Alcohol, Aboriginal Family Health, Aboriginal Local Support, a Healthy for Life (H4L) Program, Maternal & Child Health Worker, Youth Health Worker and Dietitian targeting Maternal & Child Health and Chronic Diseases. Regional programs including Australian Nurse Family Partnership Program, Aboriginal Children's Therapy Team, Tackling Indigenous Smoking Program, as well as a Human Resource / Financial Management section are also part of our service.

Supporting all WACHS services and programs is a Quality Improvements Program, which incorporates consistent best practice processes across the organisation.

Our Finance team have worked to implement a range of financial objectives to guide decision making in the organisation. WACHS have a number of key strategic objectives in terms of financial management. The purpose of these objectives is to develop our capacity to self-fund priorities which we identify and to ensure we hold sufficient funds to invest in our capital needs, without compromising our liquidity. Also to grow our business by developing new revenue streams and to manage funds appropriately and in accordance with the high expectations rightfully placed on community organisations by funding providers.

WACHS is a not-for-profit organisation that provides specific health and specialist programs to support clients/patients in addressing their health, wellbeing needs and issues in a culturally appropriate way. As well as providing these specific health related services, our service endeavours to provide self-determination and empower Aboriginal people in Wellington, Dubbo, Moree, Western Sydney, Penrith, Nepean Blue Mountains, as well as other towns and communities through our regional programs to take control and responsibility for their health and well-being.





Darren Ah See **Chief Executive Officer**

Darren was born and raised in Wellington and is part of the Wiradjuri nation which covers a large part of central NSW. Darren possesses formal qualifications with a Diploma of Government (Management) and a Certificate IV in Indigenous Governance (Business).

Darren has an extensive employment record in a diverse range of fields including Local Government, Education, Juvenile Justice, and mainstream health. Darren is currently employed as the Chief Executive Officer of Wellington Aboriginal Corporation Health Service where he has been employed since 2003.

He is also a current Board member of both Marathon Health and the Western NSW Local Health District and previously held Board positions with Greater Western Area Health Service, Western NSW Local Medicare Local and the Clinical Engagement Advisory Committee which was part of the Clinical Excellence Commission.

Adam Stuart **Executive Manager Business Services**

Adam Stewart has extensive experience in the Health sector. Over the last 15 years, Adam has worked in the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector and in state and federal governments in Aboriginal health. His roles have centered on management, program development and project management. Adam has a passion for the Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector and is strongly committed to improving the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal people.

Over the years, Adam has been a member of many state and national committees. Most recently, he has been a member of the NSW Better Cardiac Care Advisory Committee for Aboriginal people and the Aboriginal Advisory Committee. At the national level, he has assisted the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care with a project to improve the care provided to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in health service organizations, using the National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards as a framework.

Adam is an Arabana man. His people originate from the far north of South Australia and are the traditional owners of the Kati Thanda–Lake Eyre Region.



Melissa Mills **Executive Manager Operations**

Melissa Mills has worked for WACHS for the past 6 years. A local girl born and raised in Wellington and part of the Wiradjuri/Tubbah Gah tribe, her experience is extensive and covers case management, advocacy, support and strong social justice framework. Melissa is a mother of 3 and has completed an Advanced Diploma of Management. She is also a community volunteer with Touch Football, Junior Rugby Union and Senior Rugby League.



Janet Curran

Executive Manager Human Resources & Special Projects

Janet has worked in the fields of social and human services for more than 25 years. She is a Registered Psychologist and has worked with children and families, juvenile offenders and within the management sphere.

Janet has managed teams of staff in remote and rural locations with a diverse range of skills and experience. Janet has worked at WACHS since 2012 and has enjoyed a variety of roles in that time. She maintains a very strong commitment to respect and fairness in the workplace, balanced with compliance and accountability.

Paul Mills

Principal – Joseph Holloway & Co

With over 25 years experience in the non-government, government and commercial sectors, Paul has a demonstrated record of achievement in working with organisations to improve policy, program and financial outcomes. He specialises in working with 'at risk' entities in both the commercial and non-government sectors, in supporting organisations to develop evidence based programs, assisting organisations to develop resourcing strategies to support their objectives, and in establishing effective financial management systems.

Paul holds post graduate qualifications in Social Science (Human Services) together with further tertiary study in Business (Accounting). He has been the Principal of Joseph Holloway & Co (established in 1969) since 2003.



Jodie Evans

Executive Manager Communication, Marketing and Engagement

With over 26 years of Management, Marketing and Sales experience, Jodie has worked for State and Local Government along with private and not for profit organisations. Her skill set extends from Tourism, Travel, Hotel, Sports and Health related industries managing teams of over 120 staff and 100 volunteers. Overseeing and managing Marketing, Communication, Business and Action Plan's with her key achievements being the following:

- Presented with the Key's To The City – By Coffs Harbour City Council Mayor
- Business Leader Award – Coffs Harbour Chamber Of Commerce Awards
- Marketing & Advertising Award – Coffs Harbour Chamber Of Commerce Awards
- Business Of The Year Award – Coffs Harbour Chamber Of Commerce Awards
- Rotary Pride of Workmanship Award



Aboriginal Children’s Therapy Team

ACTT is a free allied health service for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children that live in the Dubbo area. Aged from birth to eight years, our early intervention program aims to prepare children for school and meet their developmental milestones.

ACTT offers Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy and Psychology services in collaboration with our Aboriginal Health Workers.

Australian Nurse-Family Partnership Program

The Australian Nurse-Family Partnership Program (ANFPP) supports first time mums carrying an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander baby, through a Nurse-led home visiting program, based on the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) model developed by Professor Olds in the US.

The Australian adaptation of the program is unique in that an Aboriginal Family Partnership Worker contributes their cultural knowledge to assist the Nurse Home Visitor and other team members to ensure a culturally safe program is delivered to the client and their family. Visits commence during pregnancy and continue until the child reaches two years of age, ensuring valuable support and advice to mothers that helps with the baby’s development in their early years.



Clinic Program

At our Health Services we offer a wide variety of services within the clinics to look after every member of the family and our Community.

We operate 5 days a week in each location providing services such as Health Assessments, Family Planning, Family Health Programs, Eye Health, Mental Health, Diabetes testing and ongoing checks, ECG’s, Podiatry, Dental , Physio and Drug and Alcohol Programs.

Healthy for Life

The Healthy for Life team offer a broad range of services to support the local community including full Ante Natal, Maternal, Child Health, Dietitian, Chronic Disease Support and Youth and Sexual Health.

The Healthy for Life Program objectives are to:

1. Improve the availability of child and maternal health care
2. Improvement in the prevention, early detection and management of chronic diseases
3. Improve the long term health outcome of Indigenous Australians



Integrated Care

Integrated Care is now becoming everyday practice ensuring all patients have access to staff and services to help support them to better manage their health. Integrated Care, focusing on well integrated processes within WACHS, are working to better service patients and the community. Integrated Care is encouraging the update of the My Health record usage within WACHS to ensure vital health information is available to patients and other nominated health care providers when they need it anywhere in Australia. Patients are encouraged and supported to contact nominated staff when they feel they need help or advice about their health care and available services. All these are key to closing the gap in Aboriginal Health through support, education and access.



Maayu Mali

Maayu Mali is a Drug and Alcohol rehabilitation centre for Aboriginal people over 18, with the ability to house 14 males and 4 females. Maayu Mali provides both residential and community based programs for adults experiencing addiction. This includes a 12 week residential rehabilitation followed by 21 months of aftercare. Our Drug and Alcohol service adopts a five prong approach of:

- Individual treatment and case management
- Group based treatment and care
- Holistic health care
- Living and recreation skills
- Cultural community integration

MomenTIM

MomenTIM is a whole of community approach to improve the mental health of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men. From age 12-25 our young men face challenges that often make them feel isolated. Like they're alone.

It's an important time to remind them – they're not alone. Tomorrow's Indigenous Men are future ancestors. They are today's young men, they grow into Tomorrow's Leaders with the support of the community and wisdom of our Elders.

MomenTIM is a mentoring program designed to work with young Indigenous Men in our Communities.



Regional Eye Program

Regional Eye Health Coordinators (REHC) play a very important role in the holistic care of our communities by way of providing eye clinics. The Eye Health Program was developed in 1999 in conjunction with AH&MRC, RFDS, ICEE and Vision Care NSW who realised there was a vision problem in the Aboriginal Communities and thus the position of REHC was created.

The towns that the WACHS Eye Health Program covers include Baradine, Condobolin, Coonabarabran, Cowra, Dunedoo, Forbes, Gilgandra, Gulargambone, Narromine, Nyngan, Parkes, Peak Hill, Trangie, Warren as well as Wellington.

Social Emotional Wellbeing Program

The SEWB team provides a confidential, culturally appropriate and sensitive service for clients accessing our programs and throughout the referral process. This service is available for any person of the community who may be facing some challenges in their lives which is, or may result in, having an impact on their health.

If you or someone you know are having any of the issues listed then drop in for a yarn with one of our supporting staff from the SEWB Team. The team will work with clients to address their needs and support them if referring to other relevant services or agencies for further support.



Tackling Indigenous Smoking – Quit B Fit

The Quit B Fit team is funded by the Australian Government to deliver the Tackling Indigenous Smoking program, as part of the Closing the Gap initiative. The focus is health promotion, awareness and prevention program to provide Indigenous people with tools and resources to live healthier lives without smoking cigarettes.

Our team run programs in each of the schools in the region and also attend many events to promote the Quit B Fit message to the local communities. The Quit B Fit team covers a large area of New South Wales incorporating Western Sydney, Central West, Far West and New England regions.



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