



# WILCANNIA COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

## — Maari Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation

Maari Ma new Chair & CEO

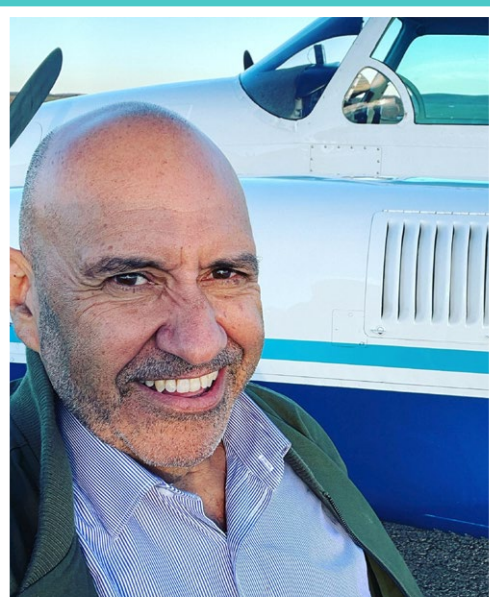


MAARI MA PRIMARY HEALTHCARE SERVICE

FEBRUARY 2023 | ISSUE 61

The Board of Maari Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation is very pleased to announce its new Chair and Chief Executive Officer.

Des Jones, a former Chair of Maari Ma, is



Chief Executive Officer Richard Weston

the new Chair of the Board and Richard Weston, a former CEO of Maari Ma, is returning to that role.

Mr Jones, who led the Board for eight years and served as deputy Chair for 13 years, was elected chair at the Maari Ma Board meeting and Cheryl Blore was elected as Deputy Chair.

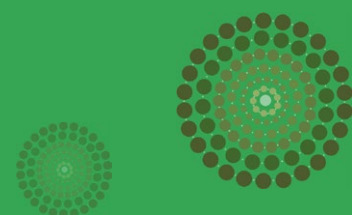


Chair board Des Jones



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"Improving Aboriginal health and closing the gap"



## MAARI MA NEW CHAIR & CEO

The elections follow the recent passing of Maureen O'Donnell in November. Mr Weston takes over the leadership from Bob Davis who retired in July after 12 years at the helm. Mr Jones said he's honoured to have been elected Chair of Maari Ma and looks forward to leading the Board into the future and has welcomed Mr Weston to the CEO's role.

"Richard has a breadth of knowledge and skills in leadership, and senior management positions spanning more than 20 years.

He is an effective leader who possesses a comprehensive understanding of what it takes to build a successful team and a successful organisation. He knows our organisation and the communities we serve very well having worked at Maari Ma for nine years.

Richard was CEO when Maari Ma established the Chronic Disease Strategy and the Child Health Strategy – a

cornerstone of Maari Ma's work today. He left Maari Ma in 2009 to take up the position of CEO of the Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Health Service before moving to CEO of the Healing Foundation where he worked for nine years.

He was then CEO of SNAICC (Secretariat for National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care) before taking on the newly created position of NSW Deputy Children's Guardian – a role created in NSW in response to the Family is Culture Review which examined the child protection system in NSW and its impact on Aboriginal children and their families.

Richard has maintained an interest in Maari Ma since he left and has often held Maari Ma's work up as exemplary to broad national audiences as well as advocating for us and our region.

"All up Richard has a very

strong track record in general management and leading organisational development for more than two decades, and the Board is confident that with his breadth and depth of knowledge in delivering tangible outcomes to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people that he will take Maari Ma from strength to strength."

Mr Weston has enjoyed his time at the Office of the Children's Guardian where he has worked for the past two years and found it to be both rewarding and challenging, and said he is pleased to be returning to Broken Hill and leading Maari Ma once again.

"I am a proud descendant from the Meriam people of the Torres Strait Islands - traditional owners of Mer

(Murray Island). I have family ties to Broken Hill, and Maari Ma and the communities of the far west hold a special place in my heart. Maari Ma is a strong, vibrant, well-functioning organisation with a solid platform on which to build in the next five to ten years and beyond, and I look forward

to working collaboratively and effectively with the Des and Board as well as with all tiers of government and agencies

to achieve positive outcomes for Maari Ma communities. Importantly I look forward to leading and inspiring staff to work at their highest levels. I feel I will be coming back to a place I have long called home and I am excited at the opportunities that will unfold," Mr Weston said.



## FUN AT THE WINGS HOLIDAY PROGRAM

**Children enjoyed a variety of activities during the holiday period including some new equipment– a large trampoline.**

The Tik Tok Dance Off was very popular, games at the oval, pool activities, soccer / league tag and a movie afternoon as well as a BBQ lunch.

Thanks to Kaylene Kemp, Leeann Adams and Wings staff for the work during the school holidays.





## FUN AT THE WINGS HOLIDAY PROGRAM



## WORK HAS STARTED ON WILCANNIA'S NEW HEALTH SERVICE



### Construction has started on Wilcannia's Health and Wellbeing Centre in Bonney Street.

Tropo Architects from Adelaide have designed this purpose-built facility on the banks of the Barka (Darling) River. The community

controlled Centre will focus not only on health issues, but it will also be a place where community

can come, sit and reflect in peaceful surroundings. It will be as much about wellbeing as it will be about

health with the additional holistic focus

of social, emotional, cultural and spiritual wellbeing for the community.

The build is expected to take about 50 weeks so by this time next year all going well the facility will

nearly be finished. The site manager is Brady Brooks.







**Kiila laana's team Tiffany Lynch and Sharon Hooker organized a muuku program open day inviting community members to come along for a relaxed yarn and light lunch with past and current program participants.**

Muuku ambassador Tina O'Neil was on hand to answer any

question and talk about her smoke-free journey.

Attendees enjoyed the opportunity to make body scrubs and hand cream while yarning with the team.

For 2023 the kiila laana team are asking smokers to join the program and take the challenge to reduce smoking and vaping amongst mob.



**Marlene Fleming received a muuku be smoke-free door mat as part of the yapara home screening program.**

The program conducts carbon monoxide (CO) screening in your home to test the air for high levels of the poisonous gas.



**SHARE & LIKE  
THIS POST  
TAG 2 FRIENDS**

**ENTRIES CLOSE 8AM MONDAY  
12TH OF DECEMBER**

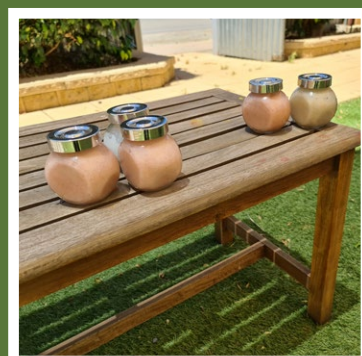


**Michele Johnston from Wilcannia was the lucky winner of kiila laana Facebook page Christmas competition.**

Scan the QR code to join the page and keep up to date with the latest stories and competitions.











## TRAINEES COMPLETE CERTIFICATE IV



**AHP Keeping Well Jenni McDonald with her Certificate IV in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care Practice certificates.**

### **Aboriginal Health Worker trainees have now finished their training and have applied for positions with Maari Ma.**

At the beginning of 2022, Maari Ma filled seven traineeship positions. Throughout the year the trainees received guidance in the various health programs with the possibility of employment in a chosen field.

Maari Ma would like to congratulate Tessa Files who will take up the

AHP (Aboriginal health practitioner) Maternal Health position.

Lakisha Sloane and Tayla Leayr will join the Child and Family Health team as AHPs.

Pearl Ferguson and Kylah White will join the Clinic and Community team as AHPs.

Laura-Lee Simmons and Jenni McDonald will join the Keeping Well team as AHPs.



## GP REVIEW

During the year you should see your doctor to see if your GPMP or medication needs to be changed. You may also need some tests.

## START

Your cycle of care starts with a twelve monthly CTG/IPIP sign up. This includes ATSI Health Check and a follow up by a health worker.

## FOLLOW-UP CARE

Our health workers will visit you to talk about your health and see how you are going with your medications.

# MAARI MA CYCLE OF CARE

## GPMP & MEDICATION

You will be looked after by our Keeping Well team and other specialists like our dietitians, podiatrists and eye specialists. The Keeping Well team and pharmacist will help you with your medications which could include a Home Medication Review and a Webster Pack.

You should see your doctor regularly and develop a care plan to manage your health. This plan is called a GPMP.



## Maari Ma Primary Health Care Service

*Improving Aboriginal Health & Closing the Gap..*

### About MMPHCS

Maari Ma Primary Health Care Service aims to provide culturally appropriate health services to Aboriginal people living in Broken Hill and surrounding communities.

We are governed by an all Aboriginal Board of Directors, who are deeply committed to providing a holistic approach to Aboriginal health that includes physical, emotional, spiritual, cultural and environmental dimensions.

Our health workers, doctors and nurses are committed to providing you with the highest quality care. If you ever feel that this has not been achieved, please contact the manager, Kendy Rogers, on 08 8082 9777 to discuss the matter.

### Regular services

Doctors  
Nurses  
Health workers  
Child health nurses  
Midwives  
Dietician  
Primary mental health workers  
Alcohol and other drug staff  
Psychologist  
Kids dentist  
Adult dentist  
Women's health  
Pharmacist  
Social Worker

### Occasional services

Heart specialist  
Kidney specialist  
Diabetes specialist  
Child health specialist  
Eye specialist  
Alcohol specialist  
Smoking specialist  
Podiatry  
Optometrist  
Psychiatrist  
Child and Adolescent  
Psychiatrist  
Pain Specialist



Kendy Rogers

Service  
Manager:  
PHCS



Nola  
Whyman

Executive  
Manager  
Operations

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