

Bullinah
Aboriginal Health Service

Annual Report

2019-20





VISION

A Strong, Empowered and Healthy
Goori Community

PURPOSE

Bullinah, as a leading Aboriginal organisation,
works together with our communities and partners
to achieve better health and wellbeing by delivering
sustainable, holistic health and wellbeing services
in a culturally strong environment.

Contents

- Our Board**4
- Organisational Structure**7
- Strategic Framework**8
- Chairperson’s Report**10
- Message from the CEO**12
- Finance Report**14
- Health Services Report**20
- NDIS Services**24
- Tackling Indigenous Smoking Report**26



Our Board



Brenda Holt
Chairperson



Nancy Walke
Director

Brenda Holt - Chairperson

Brenda is a proud Bundjalung woman who works and lives in the local community area. She has been involved in Aboriginal Health for about 20 years in a variety of positions and is currently a Senior Aboriginal Health Educator with the Training and Support Unit as part of the NSW Health Education and Training Institute. Her role involves providing education, mentoring and leadership support to the Aboriginal Health Workers who care for Aboriginal mothers, babies and families throughout NSW. She has a strong commitment to the operation of Bullinah Aboriginal Health Service and to see the service develop and to watch the community grow within this organisation.



Emma Walke
Vice Chair



Wendy Knight
Director

Emma Walke – Vice Chair

Emma is a Bundjalung woman from Northern NSW and her family is from Cabbage Tree Island/Ballina area. She is a mum, a potter and works in health.

Employed as the Academic Lead for Aboriginal Health Education at the University Centre for Rural Health, University of Sydney based in Lismore, her role involves working with medical and allied health students visiting the Northern Rivers area from around Australia to understand the Aboriginal health environment, effects of past government policy and the current health status of Aboriginal people. Working with people to help them to identify their own attitudes and behaviours when working with Aboriginal People is a passion, and my way of being part of a better future.

She was also involved in developing and implementing an Aboriginal health careers program for high school students called “Baribunmani Wanyi Ngay – I dreamed of you – Health Careers for young Aboriginal People”.

Emma has over 16 years’ experience in the Aboriginal and mainstream not-for-profit sectors in the Northern Rivers in both health and community organisations.

She was also engaged as the Manager for Aboriginal Health at the North Coast Primary Health Network and was involved at the beginning of the life of Bullinah AHS where she subsequently managed the service as 2IC/Practice Manager for over six years.

Emma is also passionate about the health of our people and is really excited to be a part of Bullinah again in her role as a Board Director.

Nancy Walke - Director

Nancy is a Bundjalung woman who comes from the first group of people to settle on Cabbage Tree Island. Her grandfather was Benjamin Bolt. Nancy has spent many years working in the health sector and is passionate about Aboriginal people being able to access a wide range of health services. Bullinah Aboriginal Health Service is a friendly and efficient health service that will continue to grow.

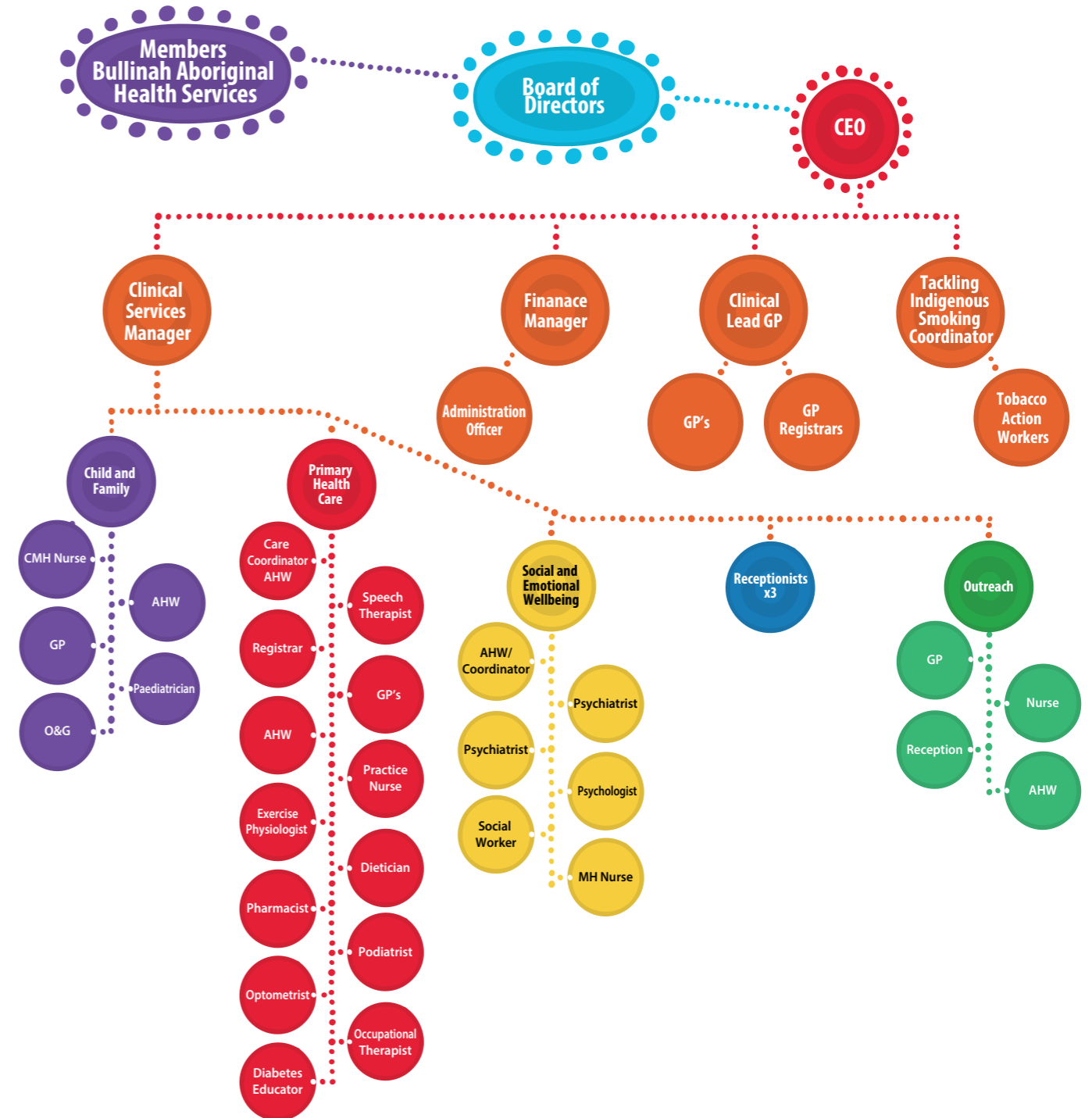
Wendy Knight – Director

Wendy is a results driven and accomplished senior community services executive with 15+ years' experience working on complex socioeconomic issues. She has extensive experience with child protection, out of home care (OoHC), and service sector contract management in both government and non-government roles. Her proven success to date includes, providing effective management of human, financial and physical resources, high level strategic and operational leadership, and organisational change support to ensure the achievement of strategic goals, financial sustainability and positive child protection outcomes.

Wendy is a confident and articulate communicator with the ability to build productive working relationships in complex and difficult situations with broad ranging NFP's, government agencies, and external organisations at state and national level.

A resourceful problem solver and innovative change manager with an ongoing commitment to excellence and best practice, her personal attributes include honesty, sincerity, integrity and empathy. Wendy is a proud Aboriginal (Barkindgi) woman, a strong advocate for the rights of Aboriginal people, with an unwavering commitment to helping others, and ensuring the promotion of an indigenous perspective on the various issues that are affecting our children and families in today's society.

Organisational Structure



Strategic Framework

Bullinah Aboriginal Health Service (BAHS) was established in March 2008, for Goori People in and around the Ballina, Byron Bay, Mullumbimby, and Evans Head areas of NSW.

BAHS is an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service, which means it is owned and operated by Aboriginal People.

BAHS services are available for all Aboriginal People and their families, to assist in closing the gaps that exist between Aboriginal People and other Australians.

Our Vision

Is for **A strong, empowered and healthy Goori Community.**

This is an enduring statement of BAHS' reason for existence.

Our Overarching Purpose

Bullinah, is a leading Aboriginal organisation, working together with our communities and partners to achieve better health and wellbeing by delivering sustainable and holistic outcomes.

Guiding Principles

The Vision will be achieved through the following Guiding Principles that will remain cognisant of the needs, health, wellbeing and development, and aspirations of Aboriginal Peoples.

- Aboriginal strengths
- The impact of history in trauma and loss
- The need for cultural understanding
- Recognition of human rights and social justice
- The impact of racism and stigma
- Equitable needs based funding
- Recognition of the centrality of kinship
- Universal access

Adopted from the National Aboriginal Health Strategy of 1989

Delivering 'Holistic' Comprehensive Primary Health Care to Aboriginal Communities in the Ballina, Byron Bay, Mullumbimby and Evans Head areas of NSW.

BAHS Recognises and Values

- Self Determination through Aboriginal Ownership and Control
- Holistic, comprehensive Primary Health Care approaches
- Trust, Loyalty, Respect, Courage, Listening, Leadership, Collaboration
- Accurate History from an Aboriginal Perspective
- Integrity of Aboriginal People
- Cultural Diversity
- Aboriginal strength and Resilience

Our Domains of Work

The key domains of work for BAHS include:

- Heath and health related services/programs
- Continuous Quality Improvement
- Partnerships and Community Participation
- Health Information and Data
- Research

Our Strategic Priorities

The **five** strategic priorities for the next three years are:

One | Governance and Culture | By 2020, we will have embedded excellent governance practices within a culturally appropriate environment.

Two | New Building | By 2020, we will be operating in our own 'fit for purpose' building which we own on a single site in Ballina.

Three | Staffing | By 2020, we will have developed and implemented comprehensive human resource practices within an Aboriginal Community Controlled Framework and Service.

Four | Services | By 2020, our services will be delivered under a "whole of life" preventative health strategy that is delivering on the Bullinah Vision.

Five | Funding | By 2020, we will be widely acknowledged as a financially strong, sustainable and independently controlled Aboriginal Community health organisation.

Our Ultimate Aim
All Goori Peoples enjoy the same level of health as other Australians'

Chairperson's Report



On behalf of the Board of Bullinah Aboriginal Health Service Limited, I am proud to present this Annual Report for the 2019/2020 year.

Firstly, I would like to thank my fellow Directors for another year of leadership, commitment and contribution to Bullinah. The role of the Board of Directors is governance and strategic direction and I believe we have achieved this whilst upholding the vision and values of the organisation.

The annual report provides us with an excellent opportunity each year to reflect on the successes of the year and to review our accomplishments in terms of the commitments we have made to our members and communities. The progress we have made in expanding our services and increasing access to a broad range of health care services has been strong over the course of this

year and we anticipate continued growth into the future which will also result in increased employment opportunities for our community. The Bullinah Board, together with the Bullinah team have also worked hard this year to build a stronger more self-sufficient service and have worked to implement strong business systems that allow us to deliver quality services to our community.

Our Bullinah team are a passionate, highly skilled and supportive group of people and our achievements of growth in health services (including the addition of NDIS services) are a testament to their hard work and dedication. The Board would like to extend our thanks and appreciation to the Bullinah team who serve our members and community so well, we thank our team at all levels for your commitment and leadership.

The Board would also like to acknowledge our partners and funders both established and new. We have worked to build new relationships this year whilst maintaining strong and respectful relationships with our long-term supporters. We would like to acknowledge these vital partnerships

that help us work towards our vision and goals, partnerships with people, organisations and government.

The 2019/2020 year also brought some significant changes and challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Sector responded rapidly to work to try to protect our communities and with great success to date. The Bullinah team are to be commended for their response, large changes to our models of care were implemented very quickly and we commend both the staff and the community for embracing these changes, many of which are still in place today. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the community for their understanding, patience and support for the many COVID-19 measures and changes that have occurred at Bullinah, it is together that we can continue to do our best to prevent COVID-19 outbreaks in our communities. COVID-19 outbreaks remain a significant threat to the health of our community members and we value and appreciate the ongoing support as COVID-19 pandemic measures continue for an unknown amount of time.

Despite the difficulties of the year, we continued to implement the strategic plan and as a result 2019/2020 has been a very successful year for Bullinah. We turn now, to this year, and to the development of our new strategic vision for the coming 3 years, 2021-2024.

Finally, thank you to our members and clients for continuing to place your trust in us to deliver your health service.

The Bullinah Aboriginal Health Service Board of Directors proudly commends this Annual Report to you. We look forward now to the year ahead, working with and for the Aboriginal people of Ballina and surrounds to enjoy the best of health and wellbeing.

Brenda Holt
Chairperson



Message from the CEO



2019/2020 has been a year of growth in several areas at Bullinah. Overall, Bullinah has increased our revenue through Government grants and via income generated through Medicare, a goal which we intend to continue into future years as we work to increase services and embed sustainability for the organisation. In this year we have successfully become a registered NDIS service provider and expanded our health services to include therapeutic support services for NDIS approved clients. We are intentionally building this part of the organisation slowly and carefully to ensure both its sustainability and to ensure clients receive the best service provision possible.

In this year we have also been awarded grants which will see Bullinah implement increased

Social and Emotional Wellbeing Services (SEWB) with a particular focus on building on community resilience through connection to culture and country. Additionally, we were awarded a grant which will enable us to complete a significant refurbishment of one of our Tamar Street properties providing a purpose built space for service delivery to the community, including many of Bullinah's group activities.

We worked hard to cultivate and strengthen new and existing partnerships with organisations, governments and communities working towards an integrated and holistic approach to health and I thank our many partners for their contributions towards our successes this year. We participated in and hosted a number of community events and activities and our team members enthusiastically engaged in a range of training and professional development opportunities.

Our team members remain our most valuable asset and this could not have been more obvious and important than during the COVID-19 pandemic, where our team have led the way in ensuring our health services could continue at all stages, albeit in different ways than we have been

used to. Words cannot express the gratitude and respect I have for every member of Bullinah's team who have shown true commitment and professionalism throughout (and continuing) our response to COVID-19. To each of you I say my most heartfelt thanks and I honor both your past and your ongoing contributions, all Bullinah achievements belong entirely with you as a team. Together is always better and it is a privilege to walk together with the Bullinah team as we serve the community together.

Thank you to our members and clients for continuing to entrust us to deliver health care for you and your families, and finally, I would like to thank the Board for their leadership, their vision, and support, your strong guidance and oversight ensures we hold true to our vision of a "strong, empowered and health Goori community".

Jody Irwin
CEO



Finance Report

Significant Changes in State of Affairs

The company has adopted all the new accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ('AASB') that are mandatory for the current reporting period, as detailed in Note 1(l) to the financial statements. The adoption of AASB 1058 Income of Not-for-Profit Entities has had a significant impact on the company's financial position and performance for the year ended 30 June 2020. Due to the changes in timing of revenue recognition under the new accounting standards, the Company has recognised \$415,033 of revenue in the current financial year relating to grant funds that are required to be expended in future periods. If the Company does not expend these funds in-line with the relevant funding agreements, there may be a requirement to repay these funds in future reporting periods.

Revenue

Bullinah Aboriginal Health Service received major funding from the Department of Health (DoH-Commonwealth Government), NSW Ministry of Health (MoH), NSW Rural Doctors Network (NSW RDN), North Coast Primary Health Network/Healthy North Coast (NCPHN) and Australian HealthCare Associates during 2019/2020. One off funding was also received from the NSW Department of Education, NACCHO and AH&MRC.

Department of Health \$1,853,102

Recurrent funding of \$1 827 572 from the Department of Health supports the Indigenous Australians Primary Health care, New Directions (Child and Maternal Health) and Tackling Indigenous Smoking programs. An additional \$25 530 was received in a one-off Service Maintenance grant for minor improvements at the main site at 120 Tamar St, Ballina which will be completed late in 2020.

Ministry of Health \$234,000

MoH funding supports healthy lifestyles to prevent and manage chronic disease.

NSW Rural Doctors Network \$304,729

RDN funding provides medical specialist's services for outreach programs; these include Pharmacist, Psychiatrist, Social Worker, Diabetes Nurse, Nurse, Health Worker, Speech Therapist, Occupational Therapist, Dietitian and ENT Services.

North Coast Primary Health Network (Healthy North Coast) \$230,551

NCPHN funding provides support for patients with chronic care and the social and emotional wellbeing program.

Australian Healthcare Associates \$20,278

Provides funding to purchase Webster packs for some patients.

NSW Department of Education \$164,562

To develop an NDIS model of care including: clinical practice framework; culturally safe therapeutic services; IT systems; financial systems; and referral pathways.

National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation \$110,000

NACCHO provided 2 grants, \$60 000 for COVID-19 response and \$50 000 for mental health support to those affected by the bush fires.

Aboriginal Health and Medical Research Council \$20,000

AH&MRC provided COVID-19 Stay Safe funds for the purchase of protective clothing and hygiene products.

Medicare Income (Self-Generated) \$918,216

The Medicare income includes Practice Incentive and Nurse Incentive Payments and supports the funded programs and is expended to some staff wages, programs and events, Cabbage Tree Island clinics, business planning and Board Governance expenditure.

GP Synergy, the training provider for the GP Registrars also made wages reimbursement and practice subsidy payments of \$196 611. This contribution greatly reduces our wages expense and is a major factor in the overall profit for the organisation.

In addition to the major funders listed, we received minor grants for one off specific programs.

Rental Property Income \$56,329

Rental income is from the properties on the corner of Tamar and Grant Streets Ballina. Whist one property remained vacant during the past year, this property will undergo a major renovation in the coming months and return a high rental yield for the organisation.

Overall, Bullinah AHS recorded a net profit of \$888 353, this includes \$415 033 of grant funding carried forward to be expended in 2020/2021. The Statement of Profit and Loss, Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Cash Flows at 30 June 2020 from the Audited Financial Statements follows.

Jill Campbell

Finance Manager

BULLINAH ABORIGINAL HEALTH SERVICE LIMITED
ABN 32 309 494 532

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
Revenue	2	4,093,713	3,515,839
Interest revenue calculated using the effective interest method		11,214	10,241
Other income	3	194,596	139,263
Administration costs		(245,945)	(283,233)
Depreciation expense		(128,373)	(110,189)
Employee benefits expenses		(2,206,644)	(2,345,970)
Occupancy expenses		(297,287)	(289,542)
Other expenses		(9,751)	(20,258)
Services and supplies		(523,170)	(505,136)
Surplus before income tax expense		888,353	111,015
Income tax expense	1(b)	-	-
Surplus after income tax expense		888,353	111,015
Other comprehensive income, net of tax		-	-
Total comprehensive income for the year		888,353	111,015

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
Page 5

BULLINAH ABORIGINAL HEALTH SERVICE LIMITED
ABN 32 309 494 532

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 30 JUNE 2020

	Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
ASSETS			
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	1,414,564	1,032,561
Trade and other receivables	6	18,328	165,284
Other assets	7	14,909	10,898
Financial assets	8	1,154,809	405,000
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		2,602,610	1,613,743
NON CURRENT ASSETS			
Property, plant and equipment	9	2,094,579	2,138,225
Right-of-use assets	10	27,906	-
TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS		2,122,485	2,138,225
TOTAL ASSETS		4,725,095	3,751,968
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	11	220,740	198,766
Contract liabilities	12	29,924	-
Employee benefits	13	106,506	97,170
Other liabilities	14	-	155,623
Lease liabilities	15	25,917	-
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		383,087	451,559
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Employee benefits	13	130,762	115,489
Lease liabilities	15	2,196	-
TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES		132,958	115,489
TOTAL LIABILITIES		516,045	567,048
NET ASSETS		4,209,050	3,184,920
EQUITY			
Accumulated funds		4,209,050	3,184,920
TOTAL EQUITY		4,209,050	3,184,920

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
Page 6

BULLINAH ABORIGINAL HEALTH SERVICE LIMITED
ABN 32 309 494 532

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2020

Note	2020 \$	2019 \$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Receipts from customers	4,748,576	3,837,817
Payments to suppliers and employees	(3,564,066)	(3,629,616)
Interest received	13,545	12,845
Interest paid	(1,237)	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities	<u>1,196,818</u>	<u>221,046</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Payments for plant and equipment	(63,479)	(1,922,685)
Proceeds from sale of plant and equipment	23,636	-
Proceeds from/(payments for) investments	(749,809)	(405,000)
Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities	<u>(789,652)</u>	<u>(2,327,685)</u>
CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Repayments of leases	(25,163)	-
Net cash provided by/(used in) financing activities	<u>(25,163)</u>	<u>-</u>
Net increase in cash held	382,003	(2,106,639)
Cash at the beginning of the financial year	1,032,561	3,139,200
Cash at the end of the financial year	<u>1,414,564</u>	<u>1,032,561</u>

5

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.
Page 8



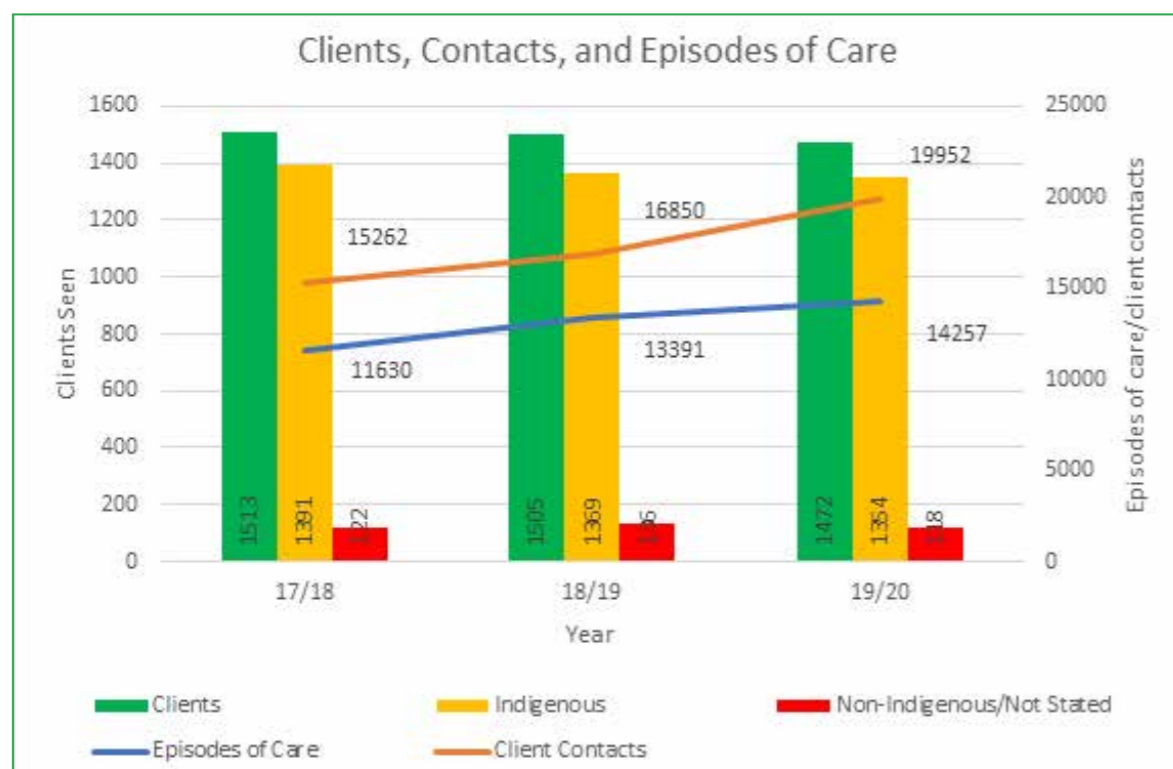
Health Services Report

This year saw the team continue to facilitate Bullinah's vision of a strong, empowered, and healthy Goori community, demonstrating an outstanding level of commitment, resilience, innovation, and adaptability to continue providing high quality comprehensive primary health care to our communities.

Covid-19 threw in some unforeseen challenges, but it was great to see everyone from the Bullinah community (staff and clients) pull together to keep each other safe as we continue to provide high level care, albeit with a slightly different look.

Primary Health Care

Our focus on quality service and some additional team members saw our episodes of care increase by six percent despite the number of clients seen during the year decreasing by two percent compared to last year, bringing the average number of visits per client to around ten this year compared to nine last year. COVID-19's impact on the service as we adjusted has seen a slight decrease in performance across a number of our KPI's, particularly health assessments which saw a decrease of almost ten percent.



One of the long-term goals of our service is to achieve true self-determination when it comes to the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our communities, one of the strategies in place to achieve this is to maximise the Medicare revenue generated through our service provision. Increasing our self-generated funding will enable us to respond to community need without as much reliance on government grants and we are making solid progress in this regard with the amount of Medicare revenue claimed for services increasing by twenty eight percent.

Mum's and Bubs

Our child and maternal health service is now operating four days per week compared to two days last year with the aim to reach five days per week in coming years, the team currently consists of two GP's, an Aboriginal Health Worker, and Child & Maternal Health Nurse.

Key Information;

- 65% of pregnant clients with an Antenatal care visit recorded this year
- 96% of Indigenous regular clients <5yo Immunised
- 41% of eligible clients with Cervical screening recorded in the past 5 years
- 63% of pregnant women recorded as current smokers
- 42% of indigenous clients under 4 years of age with a health check recorded in the past 12 months

Outreach

We were able to reliably return the Cabbage Tree Island outreach clinic operations to two days per week, each day with a team consisting of a GP, Nurse, Aboriginal Health Worker, and Receptionist. In addition to the GP clinics we have established monthly Paediatric clinics with the Paediatrician, Child & Maternal Health Nurse, and Aboriginal Health Worker; members of the allied health team also visit Cabbage Tree Island as needed.

Healthy Kids Day

Health assessments for the children of Cabbage Tree Island continue to be a high priority for Bullinah, once again holding a 'Healthy Kids Day' at Cabbage Tree Island school, enabling thirty eight students to receive health assessments in the first school term of 2020, enabling early detection and treatment of concerns that may impact their learning.

Allied Health and Specialist Services

We continue to increase the amount and quality of services offered to Bullinah clients, this year adding an additional Psychiatrist, an Occupational Therapist and new Optometrist to the team; our allied health and specialist providers delivered 2286 episodes of care this year (increase of fourteen percent on last year), providers currently

offering services at Bullinah include;

- Pharmacist
- Occupational Therapist
- Dietician
- Aboriginal Health Workers
- Exercise Physiologist
- Child and Family Psychologist
- Optometrist
- Clinical Psychologist
- Podiatrist
- Mental Health Nurse
- Diabetes Educator
- Social Worker
- Renal Nurse
- Psychiatrists
- Paediatrician
- Liver Clinic Nurse
- Obstetrician & Gynaecologist
- Speech Therapist

Prevention and Promotion

The team implemented and participated in several health promotion and prevention activities this year, including; Cooking Groups, Women's Health Days, Exercise Groups, a Cancer Prevention Project, the WoMB Project (community led women's group), Elders Groups, and more. We aim to increase our prevention and promotion services early next year through Men's cultural groups and regular health promotion activities.

Integrated Health Care

We continue to build and strengthen partnerships with various services in our footprint to improve our ability to provide wholistic care and advocate on behalf of our clients in areas where we currently

do not provide services. These formal and informal partnerships include organisations such as;

- Community Transport
- Yarrabee Community Aged Care
- Juvenile Justice/ Justice Health
- Centrelink
- Department of Communities and Justice
- Integrated Aboriginal Chronic Care
- Northern NSW Local Health District
- Cabbage Tree Island School
- St Andrews
- Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council
- Healthy North Coast
- Bunjum Aboriginal Corporation
- St Vincent's Hospital Lismore
- Social Futures
- Brighter Futures
- Northcott
- The Family Centre
- Jarjum Bugal Nah

We also implement the Integrated Team Care Program with funding from Healthy North Coast which allows us to assist clients with allied health and specialist services, medical equipment, and supports which would be otherwise inaccessible.

Continuous Quality Improvement

Bullinah has an ongoing commitment to continuous quality improvement, using feedback from clients, community, and staff to improve our service provision and operational efficiency. This year we developed a two-year operational improvement project which will enhance the

effectiveness of our service delivery through several incremental improvements in all areas of the organisation. We continue to welcome feedback from all clients and stakeholders as we continue to improve and innovate.

Social and Emotional Wellbeing

Social and emotional wellbeing (SEWB) is, and will continue to be a major focus for Bullinah as an organisation, this year we have increased our SEWB capacity with an additional psychiatrist and increased Mental Health Nurse hours. Additional funding is being sought to further increase our SEWB services and explore strength-based services aimed at resilience building through connection to culture and country.

GP Education

Bullinah has a positive reputation when it comes to training GP registrars in Aboriginal Health, several doctors who have trained with Bullinah over the years have returned to work as GP's once they achieved fellowship with the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. We continue to work in partnership with GP Synergy to provide training placements to GP registrars in addition to our partnerships with the Universities of Western Sydney and Wollongong training medical students.

Bullinah's health and wellbeing services have

grown again this year, with such a highly skilled and dedicated team we will continually work with our clients and community members to achieve our vision of a strong, empowered, and healthy Goori community.

Payden Samuelsson
Clinical Services
Manager

Eric Sambaiew
Clinical Lead GP

NDIS Services

In June 2019, Bullinah AHS was successful in obtaining a “Making It Our Business (MIOB)” grant from the NSW Department of Industry. The MIOB grant, developed by the NSW Government, was established to assist Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations to maximise the economic opportunities created by the roll out of the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). Bullinah AHS was awarded the grant through MIOB to improve accessibility to Aboriginal people with disability in the Ballina LGA, Evans Head, Mullumbimby, Byron Bay and Ocean Shores areas. This grant was pivotal as it had been recognised that there was a major gap, as well as numerous barriers, for the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander community accessing the NDIS as well as utilising and navigating their NDIS plans. Some barriers include: recognising NDIS eligibility, obtaining appropriate evidence for access, understanding the NDIS administration process, as well as engaging and receiving culturally safe NDIS services and supports.

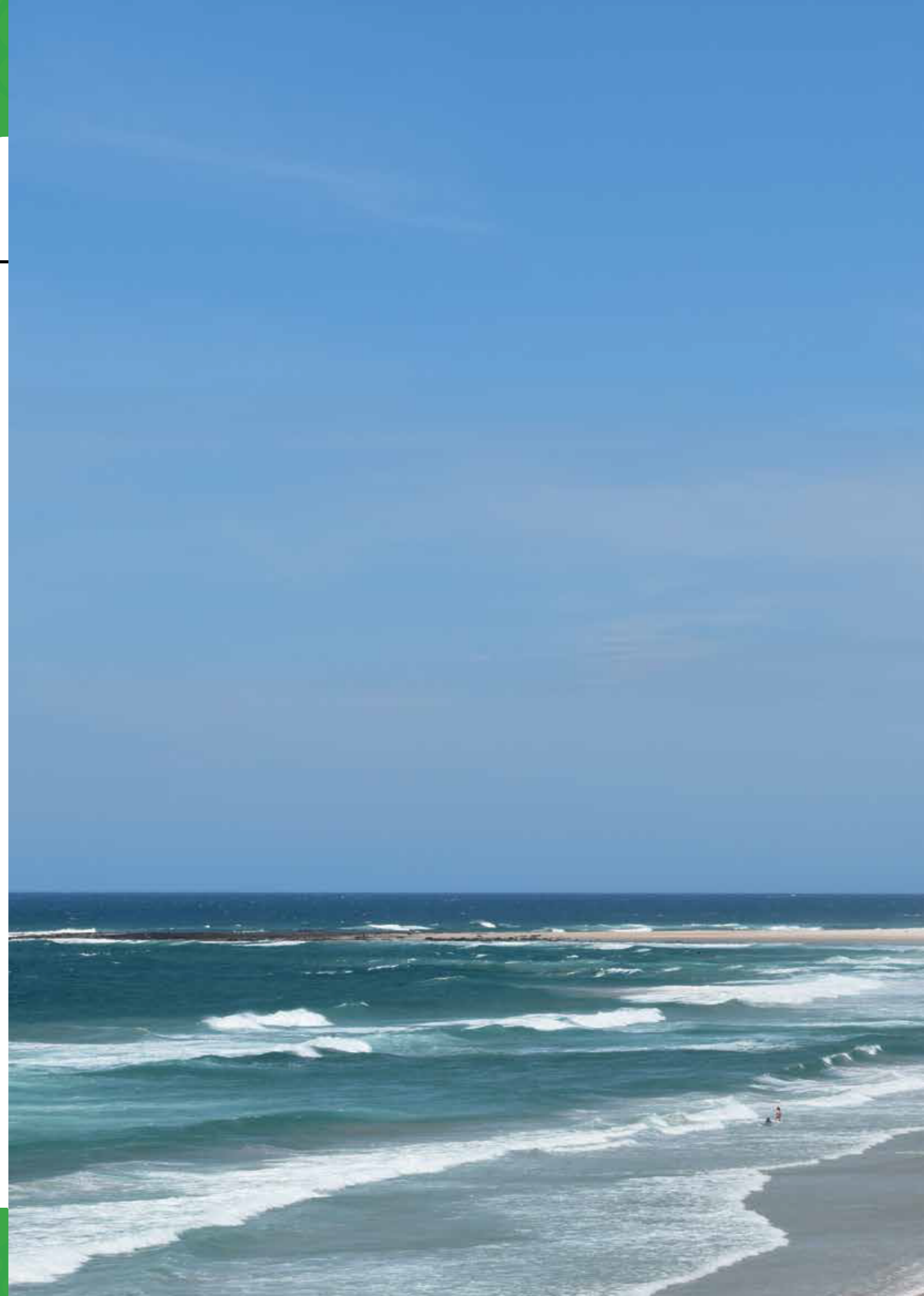
Upon receiving the MIOB grant, Bullinah employed an NDIS Project Lead to develop an NDIS Model of Care, including: an NDIS clinical practice framework, culturally safe NDIS supports service model, IT systems, financial systems and referral pathways. The NDIS Project Lead also worked with Bullinah’s management team, as well as numerous consultants, to develop and establish appropriate policies and procedures for Bullinah to become a registered NDIS provider. In June 2020 Bullinah successfully passed a comprehensive two-staged NDIS audit to become a registered NDIS provider for the following registration groups: Early Intervention Supports for Early Childhood; Therapeutic Supports; and Exercise Physiology

and Personal Training. This means Bullinah is able to deliver Allied Health supports to children and adults with active NDIS plans who are Agency, Plan or Self-Managed.

Bullinah’s NDIS Allied Health team includes an Occupational Therapist, Speech Pathologist, Psychologist, Exercise Physiologist and Dietitian. To date, Bullinah has delivered 120 NDIS Allied health support hours to 14 Active NDIS participants. Eight of these participants are receiving Early Intervention supports, which are critical for these participants reaching developmental milestones and improving overall functional capacity. Further to this, Bullinah has recently employed an NDIS Access Coordinator, who supports the local Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander community in accessing and navigating the NDIS, as well as upskills other clinicians.

Moving forward, Bullinahs NDIS goals include:

- (1) To maximise outcomes for its NDIS participants, including NDIS plan utilisation and participants reaching their established goals;
- (2) To increase Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people eligible for the NDIS actually accessing the NDIS;
- (3) To increase its NDIS participant load by five new participants each month;
- (4) To increase NDIS support hours delivered by 20 hours each month;
- (5) To increase the capacity of its Allied Health team to increase access and reach for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people living with a disability;
- (6) To be a leader in NDIS support delivery to Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people.

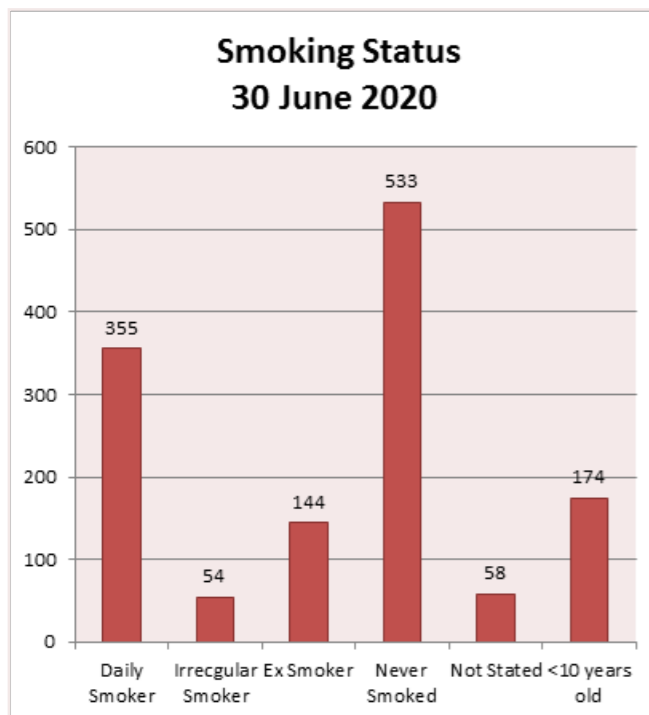


Tackling Indigenous Smoking Report

Bullinah Aboriginal Health Service has hosted the Tackling Indigenous Smoking program (commonly known as Solid Mob) for eight (8) years. Solid Mob programs aim to educate, encourage and empower our Aboriginal communities to reduce their smoking behaviours and make healthy lifestyle choices.

The Solid Mob team continues to attend regional schools, community events and host programs and activities designed to support smoking cessation and tobacco control initiatives to reduce the uptake of smoking among younger Aboriginal people.

As at the 30th June 2020, the smoking rates for Bullinah Clinic are as follows:



Highlights of 2019/2020

Putting Out The Fires program

The aim of the program was to strengthen and support the efforts of tobacco resistance and control at the local community level for Aboriginal women who play rugby league.

One of the projects main aim was to support eight (8) women's rugby league teams which were from Muli, Ballina, Tweed Heads, Clarence, Coraki, Tabulam, Casino and Lismore to compete in the Deadly Dubai Knockout at the Lismore Aboriginal Rugby League Knockout Carnival on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd September 2019.

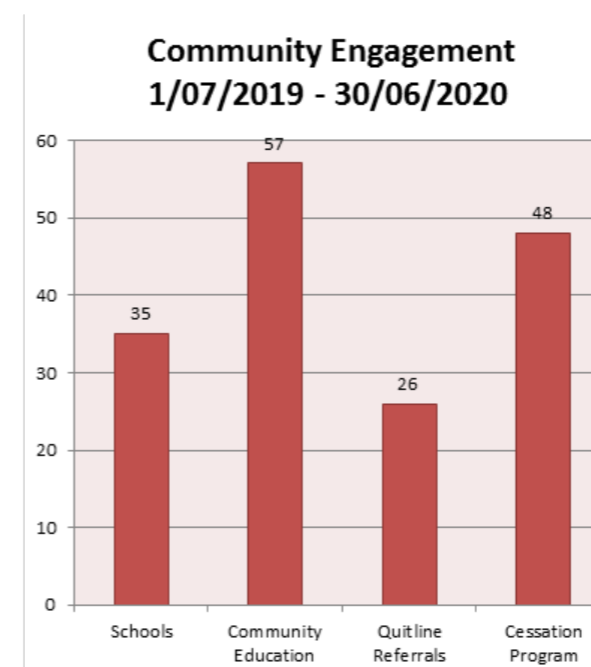
The 2-day population health activities were well attended by the Aboriginal spectators and their families which resulted in successful outputs for the TIS team and our stakeholders.

Youth Ambassadors

An initiative for the 2020 World No Tobacco Day theme - Protecting Our Youth From Big Tobacco has been implemented to engage Indigenous youth (max. 20), aged between 13 - 25yrs from across the region to act as WNTD Ambassadors and promote the key tobacco messaging in their community. Locations include Lismore, Evans Head, Coraki, Grafton, Casino, Murwillumbah, Maclean and Ballina.

Community Engagement

The Solid Mob program continues to further develop its program quality and reach for community engagement to support Aboriginal people who want to stop smoking throughout the Northern NSW region.



The COVID-19 health pandemic restrictions were a key challenge during the second half of the 2019/2020 financial year. The government regulations resulted in no face-to-face access; no population health promotion activities and no community events or engagements with the target groups in the TIS region, which contributed significantly to the delivery of the regional program. The Solid Mob team used this time as an opportunity to increase skills and continue to

work to develop new ways of using technologies to continue our community engagement and share our messages.

Bullinah Solid Mob continues to develop a strong working relationship with the National TIS Coordination team, National Best Practice Unit, SA, to explore innovative methods of success and how we can apply the methods to enhance our approach to tackling smoking in our communities.

A solid mob is a smoke-free mob...

Gail Turnbull

Regional Tobacco Coordinator



