

# Bullinah

Aboriginal Health Service

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# Annual Report

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2021-2022





## 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.

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# Our Board

## **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 needs a space. 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

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



**Brenda Holt**  
Chairperson



**Nancy Walke**  
Director



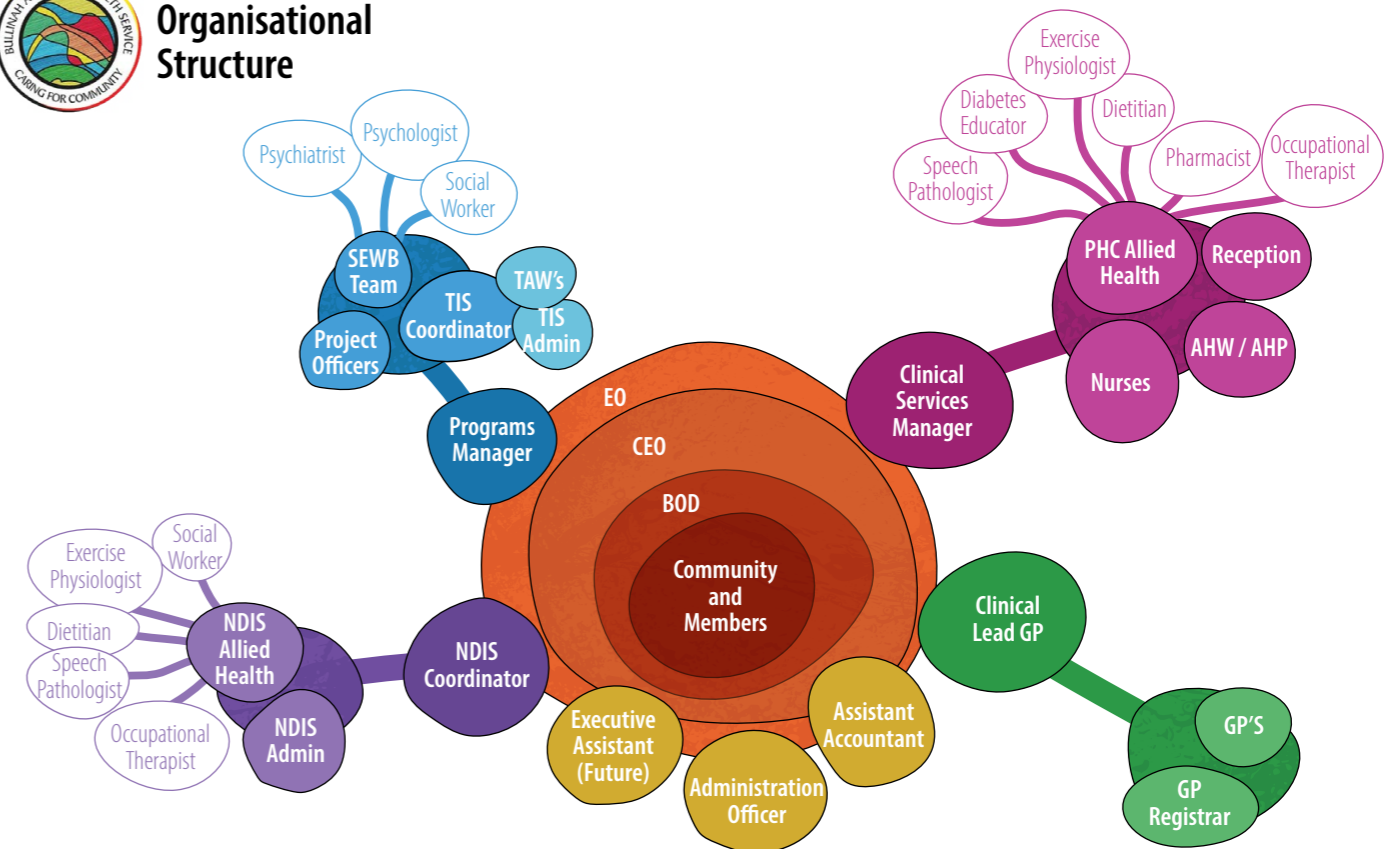
**Emma Walke**  
Vice Chair



**Wendy Knight**  
Director



## Organisational Structure





# Strategic Framework

The 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 wholistic 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 need for cultural understanding
- The impact of racism and stigma
- Recognition of the centrality of kinship
- The impact of history in trauma and loss
- Recognition of human rights and social justice
- Equitable needs based funding
- Universal access to basic health care, housing and education

Adopted from the National Aboriginal Health Strategy of 1989

## 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:

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

### Our Ultimate Aim

*All Goori Peoples enjoy the same level of health as other Australians'*

## Our Strategic Priorities

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

**One Governance and Culture** | We respect, honour and celebrate Aboriginal culture and Identity. We respect the Aboriginal holistic view of health that includes physical, spiritual, cultural, emotional and social wellbeing. We continuously embed excellence in governance practices within a culturally appropriate environment.

**Two Community** | We listen to and work in partnership with our community. We are a fierce and powerful advocate for our community's wellbeing.

**Three The Bullinah Team** | We are a collaborative, compassionate and professional service driven team, we value our team's wellbeing and for this purpose, we ensure we develop and implement, caring and comprehensive human resource practices within an Aboriginal Community Controlled Framework and Service.

**Four Services** | Our services are delivered under a "whole of life" preventative health strategy that is delivering on the Bullinah Vision. Our strengths-based services focus on individual, family and whole of community wellbeing.

**Five Sustainability** | We continually grow our financial power, business skills and emotional intelligence, ensuring long term sustainability to support organisational growth to meet community need.

**Six New Building** | We strive to build and deliver our services from our own 'fit for purpose' facility on a single site in Ballina, ensuring additional capacity to meet the growing needs and emerging priorities of community

# Chairperson's Report



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

*"I respectfully acknowledge the past and present traditional custodians of this land on which we are meeting onto day. It is a privilege to be standing on local Bundjalung country. We recognise the strength, resilience and capacity of our Aboriginal community and have the utmost respect for their Elders past, present and future.*

On behalf of the Board of Bullinah Aboriginal Health Service Limited, I am proud to present this Annual Report for the 2021/2022 year.

Firstly, I would like to thank my fellow Directors for another year of leadership, commitment, and contribution to Bullinah and I particularly acknowledge all of our Directors for the strength of leadership and support provided to Bullinah through the devastating and ongoing impacts of the floods we experienced across our region in early 2022.

This annual report is heavily influenced by the floods which caused damage beyond what any of us could ever have imagined and impacted our communities more deeply than ever before. None of us are untouched by this catastrophic natural disaster and I'd like to acknowledge

those within our community who have lost so much, along with acknowledging our entire community who are experiencing the immense grief and loss collectively. We know the healing and recovery process will take many many years and our Board and Bullinah team are committed to walking together with our communities along this journey providing the best possible primary health care and supports possible to aid recovery.

This year was also marked with significant COVID-19 outbreaks and I commend the Bullinah team on quickly adapting service delivery to respond to and provide high quality care to COVID-19 patients in community.

Despite the many challenges this year the Bullinah Board of Directors commend the Bullinah team for their many achievements

and their continued commitment to service. Some of the key highlights include the post flood response where Bullinah's team provided primary health care in all evacuation centres in Ballina and Lennox Head for several weeks after the disaster and continue to provide an outreach service to the Cabbage Tree Island community despite the loss of the clinic to the flood. As a Board we are extremely proud of the response, care and support provided by the Bullinah team during this time.

Throughout this very difficult year Bullinah has again experienced growth however our ability to expand to deliver more services is limited by our space and building constraints. It has truly come time for Bullinah to be housed in a single purpose built centre and this will be our strong focus ahead as we do all we can to secure the funding to build a beautiful new centre. We will continue to fight hard for this until this dream is realised.

So through a very tough year, on behalf of the Board of Directors I would like to thank our community for supporting Bullinah, I thank you wonderful Bullinah team for their ongoing service and commitment to great primary care and health promotion and as a Board we look forward to the year ahead where we see Bullinah moving ahead in leaps and bounds for our vision "A strong, empowered and health Goori community".

**Brenda Holt**  
Chairperson



**GET UP!  
STAND UP!  
SHOW UP!**

**3-10 JULY 2022**



# Message from the CEO



As we reflect on the year past the words that come to mind are; “We can do hard things”

This has been our mantra at Bullinah because hard things just keep on coming and what we have learnt again this year is that we are a strong, compassionate, professional and focused team... and we CAN do hard things!

On the back of two years of COVID-19 we wished for a better 2021/2022, and in many ways we are a stronger team and service, but there is no denying that the 2022 floods, and what we have experienced alongside community has been the biggest challenge we have endured so far in our 14 year history. Whilst we still have a long road to walk to recovery, we are on the journey together and we vow to come out of this dark period better than ever before.

Acknowledging the difficulties of the past year, I am really proud to report on this year's achievements, Bullinah continues to grow and as our services expand, we continue to keep clear focus on our vision of a “Strong, empowered and healthy Goori community”. I would like to firstly

thank the Bullinah Board of Directors whose professional and skilled governance together with their experience and passion continue to guide our organisation and keep us strong. We thank you for your leadership and advocacy for the community and for the Bullinah team, and for ensuring our services continue to be delivered with respect and in line with our organisational values.

Whilst floods have dominated the story of Bullinah in 2022 the second part of 2021 was dominated by COVID-19 vaccination and care for people with COVID in the community efforts. At first, hampered by very small vaccine supply Bullinah quickly scaled up once supply increased and delivered many hundreds of vaccines in a matter of weeks. Our partnerships with our other local AMS' and the Northern NSW Local Health District ensured we were also able to increase our reach to ensure access where there was demand for vaccine. I'd like to thank the hard-working Bullinah team for their efforts in quickly switching to provide this service and I especially acknowledge Dr Eric Sambaiew for his leadership during this time. In addition to the vaccination clinics our commitment to ensuring the safety of staff, visitors and clients has been at the forefront of operations during this financial year with Bullinah regularly reviewing our COVID safe practices and implementing processes in line with both government advice and community need with the aim of finding a balance that works for all as much as is possible. I take this opportunity

to thank the community for your patience and support throughout the many changes to service provision due to both the pandemic and floods.

I could not have been more proud of the Bullinah team's response both during the flood emergency in February and March this year but also of the ongoing response and commitment to continuing service delivery despite the complete loss of the Cabbage Tree island Clinic building and damage to all Ballina buildings for Bullinah. The initial response saw our Bullinah team in all Ballina and Lennox Head evacuation centres on a daily basis for a sustained period of time proving care to all who need it during the crisis. The continuation of the Cabbage Tree Island outreach service has come with many barriers for both staff and clients however the commitment to this service from our team despite the barriers is worthy of recognition and whilst many people have ensured this service continues I want to acknowledge specifically Dr Natalie Lindsay and Lawraye Anderson who have not shied away from these challenges even for a minute and instead ensured the best possible access to hundreds of displaced people and families.

Despite the challenges the Bullinah team have again achieved increases in episodes of care across our services and as you will see this report showcases much of the good work and many of the achievements for the year. Our Solid Mob program continues to go from strength to strength delivering exciting programs across the Northern Rivers region and our Programs team include the

Wadjee Banaam program continue to grow to bring together more of our community for health, wellbeing and connection activities. We also have an exciting year ahead which we hope includes a successful major capital works grant. The growth of our service is now only hampered by our lack of suitable infrastructure, and we have a strong plan in place for this as we urge funders to invest in this urgently. On this note, we await the outcome of a submission we made earlier this year and hold great hope that 2023 will see us well on our way to building a beautiful new facility for health and wellbeing in Ballina.

Our Bullinah team continues to do amazing work in such a beautiful and caring way. We are a team that cares for community as well as caring for each other and I am personally proud to work alongside this group of people. I want to thank the full Bullinah team for all you do and especially for doing more over this year than anyone could ever have expected, you continue to inspire me with your passion and commitment, and I am incredibly grateful to be part of this team. Thank you!

Thank you also to our members, clients and community for continuing to entrust us to deliver health care to you and your families, we value being able to walk alongside you on your health journey and look forward to continuing this for many years to come.

**Jody Irwin**  
CEO

# Finance Report

## Significant Changes in State of Affairs

The COVID-19 pandemic and major flooding events during the 21/22 financial year (FY) caused major disruptions to Bullinah's service delivery and ability to deliver several programs throughout the year.

There were no other significant changes to the state of affairs of the Company during the financial year.

## Revenue

Bullinah Aboriginal Health Service received funding from the following sources in 2021/2022.

### Department of Health (DoH)

Recurrent funding of \$1,876,818 from the Department of Health supports the Indigenous Australians Primary Health care and Tackling Indigenous Smoking (TIS) programs, \$214,857 was brought forward from 2020/21 for the TIS program.

The DoH funded service expansions for Cabbage Tree Island and our Outreach Aboriginal Health Practitioner received \$50,447 and \$74,429 respectively in addition to underspends of \$36,388 and \$32,902 brought forward from 20/21

### NSW Ministry of Health (MoH)

\$244,600 was received to support the delivery of core public and preventative health initiatives aimed at reducing the impact that chronic conditions may have on some of our community members.

\$288,266 from the of Building on Aboriginal Communities' Resilience Suicide Prevention program was received to support our 'Culture

as Therapy Programs' which included 'Wadjee Banaam' (Speak Brother).

\$205,000 from MoH was received to support the COVID-19 vaccine rollout and workforce support

Bullinah carried forward \$250,000 of minor capital works funding and \$173,767 of Building on Aboriginal Communities' Resilience Suicide Prevention Funding from 20/21.

### NSW Rural Doctors Network (RDN)

RDN funding of \$331,313 was received which directly funded a number of our allied health and specialist providers in 21/22 who are engaged to contribute to the prevention, detection, and management of chronic disease, as well as the detection and management of hearing and speech issues. \$8,741 was carried forward from 20/21.

### Healthy North Coast/North Coast PHN (HNC)

Bullinah's Social and Emotional wellbeing program was supported by \$140,000 from HNC; \$98,884 was received for Chronic care coordination and Supplementary services, and \$46,400 was received to support Bullinah's provision of COVID-19 care and support following floods.

### Australian Healthcare Associates

Supplied \$10,397 funding to support the quality use of medications.

### National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO)

NACCHO supplied \$20,000 to further support Bullinah's establishment of NDIS services for the 21/22 financial year. Funds bought forward from last FY amount to \$58,728.36 for COVID vaccine, and mental health support.

Bullinah also received \$175,000 from NACCHO to be carried forward to the 22/23 financial year for Mental Health Support and Winter Preparedness.

### Department of Communities & Justice (DCJ)

New funds of \$13,000 were received for technology, business improvement, cyber security and online engagement with \$39,481 carried forward from last FY for same.

### Self-Generated revenue (SG)

Medicare revenue generated of \$756,460 also includes Practice Incentive Payments and Workforce Incentive Payments. This supports the funded programs and is expended to some staff wages, programs and events, Cabbage Tree Island clinics, business planning and Board Governance expenditure.

Income from NDIS services provided amounted to \$70,287 whilst GP Synergy, the organisation who supports GP training placements into Bullinah made wage reimbursements and teaching payments of \$80,274

### Aboriginal Health & Medical Research Council (AH&MRC)

AH&MRC provided \$26,000 to support the replacement of infrastructure lost during the floods, \$7,000 for the purchase of client consumables to support smoking cessation, and \$50,000 for public health and workforce support to be used in 22/23 FY.

### Australian Health Care Associates (AHA)

Under the Indigenous Health Services Pharmacy Support program, AHA provided \$10,397 to support the quality use of Medications for Bullinah clients.

### James Cook University

Bullinah received \$13,766 from James Cook University for the Women's action for Mums and Bubs (WOMB) Mothers Group program, \$26,681 was also carried forward from last FY.

### Other Revenue

Other revenue of 104,439.07 includes recoupments and reimbursements, rental income, and interest earned.

We expect our rental income to cease in the 22/23 financial year as the demolition of our rental properties to make way for future capital works is planned.

We also received \$14,000 in donations in the 21/22 FY with \$10,000 received from Teacher's Mutual Bank.

Overall, the company shows a net surplus of \$938,263, noting that a significant part of that surplus reflects grants in advance for use in the 22-23 FY; or is tied to underspends across several programs that may be recalled in the 2022/23 Financial year if carry-over is not approved. The net surplus for self-generated income (which isn't tied to grant agreements) is \$250,216. The statement of Surplus and Loss, Statement of Financial Position, and Statement of Cash Flows as of 30 June 2022 from the audited Financial Statements follow.

**Payden Samuelsson**  
Executive Officer



**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 2022**

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
Revenue	2	4,866,338	4,093,367
Interest revenue calculated using the effective interest method		5,666	7,859
Other income	3	16,272	152,993
Administration costs		(207,362)	(237,047)
Depreciation expense		(160,911)	(174,938)
Employee benefits expenses		(2,658,935)	(2,531,392)
Occupancy expenses		(239,159)	(264,596)
Other expenses		(30,830)	(29,573)
Services and supplies		(652,816)	(610,711)
<b>Surplus before income tax expense</b>		<b>938,263</b>	<b>405,962</b>
Income tax expense	1(b)	-	-
<b>Surplus after income tax expense</b>		<b>938,263</b>	<b>405,962</b>
Other comprehensive income, net of tax		-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>938,263</b>	<b>405,962</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.  
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**BULLINAH ABORIGINAL HEALTH SERVICE LIMITED**  
**ABN 32 309 494 532**

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**AS AT 30 JUNE 2022**

	Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	5	4,387,849	2,482,605
Trade and other receivables	6	86,988	18,762
Other assets	7	21,473	16,493
Financial assets	8	-	1,161,306
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>4,496,310</b>	<b>3,679,166</b>
<b>NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	9	1,947,172	2,008,309
Right-of-use assets	10	56,668	191,572
<b>TOTAL NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>2,003,840</b>	<b>2,199,881</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>6,500,150</b>	<b>5,879,047</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	11	255,277	299,388
Contract liabilities	12	81,371	8,742
Employee benefits	13	215,164	154,858
Lease liabilities	14	57,797	81,270
Other liabilities	15	243,251	466,342
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>852,860</b>	<b>1,010,600</b>
<b>NON CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Employee benefits	13	94,015	142,366
Lease liabilities	14	-	111,069
<b>TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>94,015</b>	<b>253,435</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>946,875</b>	<b>1,264,035</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>5,553,275</b>	<b>4,615,012</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>			

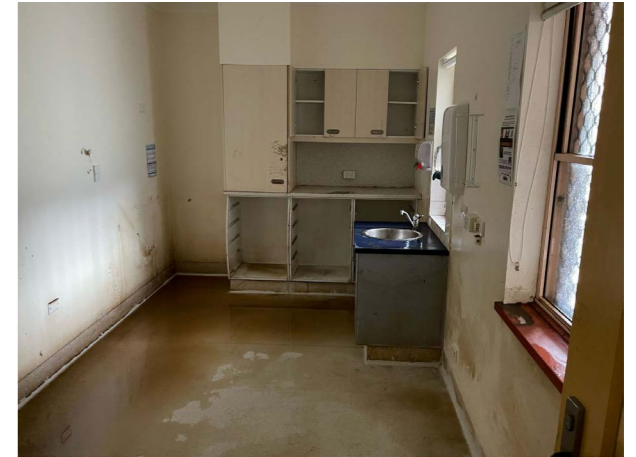
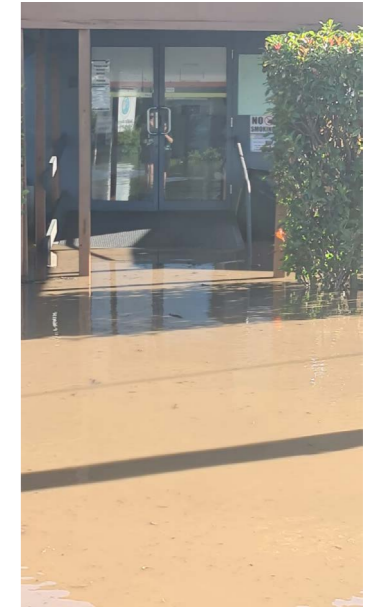
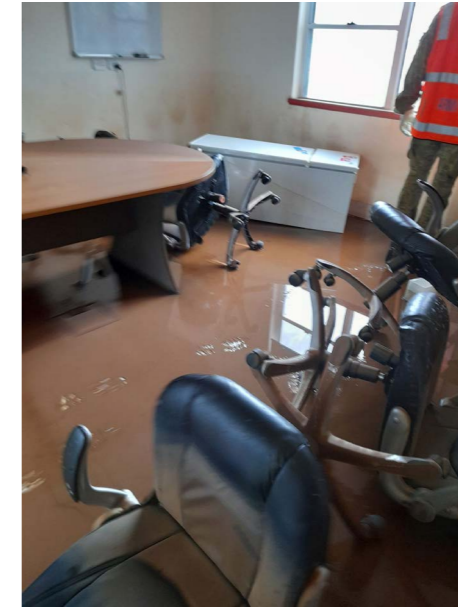
The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.  
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**BULLINAH ABORIGINAL HEALTH SERVICE LIMITED**  
**ABN 32 309 494 532**

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2022**

Note	2022 \$	2021 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Receipts from customers	5,103,168	5,041,152
Payments to suppliers and employees	(4,241,739)	(3,894,255)
Interest received	4,788	6,893
Interest paid	(2,236)	(1,921)
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>863,981</u>	<u>1,151,869</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Payments for plant and equipment	(38,306)	(57,670)
Proceeds from sale of plant and equipment	(30)	61,818
Proceeds from/(payments for) investments	1,161,307	(6,497)
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>1,122,971</u>	<u>(2,349)</u>
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Repayments of leases	(81,708)	(81,479)
Net cash used in financing activities	<u>(81,708)</u>	<u>(81,479)</u>
Net (decrease)/increase in cash held	1,905,244	1,068,041
Cash at the beginning of the financial year	2,482,605	1,414,564
Cash at the end of the financial year	<u>4,387,849</u>	<u>2,482,605</u>

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The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.  
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# Health Services Report

I would like to start by praising our health services team who was called on to demonstrate extraordinary levels of resilience, adaptability, and innovation, to continue providing a high level of care during a quite difficult year for the team and our community.

Not only did the team work to support the COVID-19 vaccination effort, but they were also called upon to provide care to clients who were in isolation and/or tested positive to COVID-19 in addition to their regular service delivery.

Our team, like many, many members of our community were, and continue to be, impacted by the catastrophic floods early in 2022. During a time of great difficulty and uncertainty, with limited access to resources, this team pulled together an amazing response with one thing in mind: supporting our community members through this tough time.

## COVID-19

During the 21/22 financial year (FY) a portion of the team's efforts were directed to the COVID-19 response, including vaccination, community education, and supporting clients who tested positive for COVID-19 or were required to self-isolate.

The team provided more than 1700 doses of COVID-19 vaccines to over 900 clients during the Financial Year. The team also supported a number of mass vaccination days in West Ballina and Cabbage Tree Island in partnership with the Rural Flying Doctor Service and Northern NSW LHD.

The team provided care to more than 100 clients who had tested positive to COVID-19 and many more who were required to self-isolate, this included weekend care on some occasions.

## Flood Response

In early 2022, the Northern Rivers experienced catastrophic flooding events, unlike any the region had experienced previously. Much of the infrastructure that supports our Primary Health Care service delivery was damaged, including the loss of use of the Cabbage Tree Island outreach health post for years to come, and damage to all of our sites in Ballina.

During this event, the team responded swiftly, and with the wellbeing of our community members front of mind, during the early days of floods, we had team members who were displaced themselves acting as remote Receptionists from evacuation centers (whilst there was still a level of phone reception).

We had other team members including Doctors, Aboriginal Health Workers, Nurses, and Allied Health providers coordinating and delivering services in evacuation and recovery centres. The coordination and service delivery included:

- forging relationships with pharmacies on higher ground to source medications for clients who had lost everything
- locating and purchasing equipment such as dressings and diagnostic equipment to put together treatment bags
- compiling lists of our client's locations and their needs by visiting multiple evacuation and

recovery centers multiple times a day when water levels allowed

- scheduling and executing face-to-face meetings multiple times a day when phone lines were down to collate information and plan supports, and in some cases
- transporting clients to evacuation centres

The catastrophic impacts of this flood are still being felt by many of our community members who have been displaced long term, especially those community members from Cabbage Tree Island who lost their homes, their school, and their clinic.

The team continues to support upwards of 200 clients who are still displaced following the floods through outreach services provided at temporary accommodation in Caravan parks within the area using a clinic motorhome and caravan.

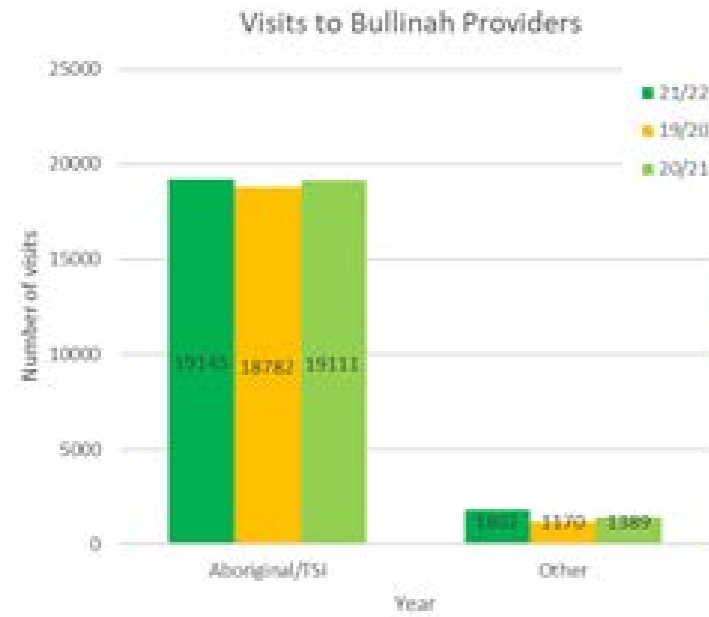


Main Clinic front entrance



Water Level in CTI clinic room

## Primary Health Care



Our Primary Health Care team consists of GP'S, Aboriginal Health Workers, Nurses, Receptionists, Allied Health and Specialist providers all coming together to support culturally safe, team based, client centered comprehensive health care in a manner unique to Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services.

The team also runs a number of programs including exercise groups, cooking groups, elders' groups, and other group focused activities, these groups were quite restricted during the year but were kept in contact through digital means such as Facebook and other messaging apps.

Considering the difficulty endured this year, the team were still able to provide a high level of health care to a number of our clients, 17,473 Episodes of care (an increase of 10% on the previous year)

were provided to over 1800 clients (increase of 24%) across the year. Understandably, we saw a decrease in the number of health assessments and care plans during the year as acute care became a priority, there was a more than 10% increase in the number of mental health plans and consults delivered by our GP's.

### Child and Family Health

A key aspect of our primary health care is our child and family health team which consists of General Practitioners with additional training in child and family health, a Child and Family Health Nurse, an Aboriginal Health Worker, and a visiting Paediatrician. The child and family health team provided more than 3100 episodes of care to over 850 clients during the year.

Age breakdown of regular Aboriginal/TSI clients(%)



### Allied Health/Specialist Services

Allied Health and Specialist services offered by Bullinah during 2021/22, supported by partnerships with NSW Rural Doctor's Network, Healthy North Coast, Ministry of Health, Brien Holden Vision Institute, and Northern NSW LHD include:

- Mental Health Nurse | Podiatrist | Optometrist | Renal Clinical Nurse Consultant | Pharmacist
- Diabetes Educator | Dietitian | Psychologists | Exercise Physiologist | Psychiatrists
- Paediatrician | Social worker | Speech Pathologist

In the 21/22 FY our Allied Health and Specialist teams provided more than 3500 consults to over 540 clients. These services allow Bullinah to collaborate with clients towards overall wellbeing from a holistic mind, body, spirit and community approach.

I would again like to acknowledge the team, our service and funding partners, and most of all the community members for making this service one that we can all take pride in as we work together towards Bullinah's vision of a Strong Empowered and Health Goori Community.

**Payden Samuelsson**  
Executive Officer



## NDIS Services

Bullinah Aboriginal Health's NDIS Services have been operating as a registered NDIS provider for more than 3 years. Under our current registration we have continued to deliver supports through the following registration groups: Early Childhood Early Intervention; Exercise Physiology; and Therapeutic Supports. Our NDIS Team has grown in the last 12 months, with the addition of an Occupational Therapist, Male Psychologist, and Social Worker, joining our Exercise Physiologist, Dietitian and Speech Pathologist. As we become more established with the NDIS arena, and our NDIS participant load grows, Bullinah AHS plans to grow both the capacity of the NDIS Allied Health team, as well as its NDIS providers. In the last financial year, Bullinah Aboriginal Health has delivered more than 400 hours of NDIS supports, to 28 active NDIS participants. Of these participants, 17 are seen through Early Intervention Program (Under 7's).

The participants are seen onsite at BAHS, in their homes, at child-care and school settings, as well as at Bullinah outreach clinics. On top of the NDIS supports delivered, Bullinah has provided extensive supports to a large number of community members by assisting them in accessing the NDIS. Access support, led by the NDIS Officer includes, completion of NDIS Access request forms using correct NDIS Language, reviewing, and gathering documents and evidence before lodging request forms, as well as communicating and supporting community members throughout this journey.

Over the past two years, delivery of NDIS supports have been hindered by COVID-19, as well as the more recent floods that affected our Ballina Shire

region. Some of the impacts from these events included displacement of NDIS participants from their homes, restriction of face to face support delivery, restriction from school and home visits, as well as impacts on access to transport.

In recent months, Bullinah has reinstated its NDIS Access Clinic days, which involves an in-reach service including local Early Intervention Services (Northcott) and Local Area Coordinators (Social Futures). These clinics are delivered fortnightly and provide a space to support local Aboriginal community members in accessing the NDIS.

In the near future, Bullinah plans to expand its NDIS services to include support coordination, support workers and group programs. Bullinah's current NDIS workforce continue to upskill their knowledge and skills within the NDIS, to increase their knowledge capacity as well as grow alongside the NDIS.





# Tackling Indigenous Smoking Report

Solid Mob Tackling Indigenous Smoking program continues to deliver key messages and education around the health impacts of Smoking tobacco and Vaping, to improve health outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people within the Northern Rivers region.

The team worked across the region again this year, here are some of the highlights:

## Highlights of 2020/2021

### Clarence Valley Closing the Gap – Community Event

The Solid Mob team worked in partnership with Mudyala Aboriginal Corporation to deliver a community event at Maclean Showgrounds on 2nd June 2022. National Close the Gap Day is a Federal Government Initiative to improve Indigenous people's health, education, and employment. The day was aimed to be inclusive of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people as the purpose of the event was to increase and spread awareness, as Closing the Gap IS everyone's responsibility. The event was well attended with approximately 1200 community members participating in the activities, with successful outcomes for the TIS team.



*Pictured above and left: Clarence Valley Closing the Gap, Maclean Showgrounds*

## Protect you home, make it a Smoke Free Zone doormat program

The TIS team continues to engage with community members and families to raise awareness around the health impacts of smoking and vaping, and exposure to second, and third hand smoke in the home. The aim of the program is to encourage and educate families to live smoke and vape free lives. This is a very successful program and the TIS team continues to reach out to families to participate in the program.



*Tashaya Roberts and her children*

## Community Engagement

The TIS team have been active out in the community delivering face to face health promotion activities and programs to students within schools, and during youth, community,

and sporting events. The team continues to develop strong community partnerships with stakeholders including Northern NSW Local Health District, working collaboratively with Aboriginal, Maternal Infant Health Services to support pregnant women quit smoking during pregnancy, and post-natal.



*Sabina Anderson – Yaegl women from Yamba*



*Tabulam Turtle Divers RLFC Community Event*



