



ABOUT THIS REPORT

Welcome to the Gurriny Yealamucka Health Service Aboriginal Corporation's (GYHSAC) Annual Report 2022 – 2023.

This report comprehensively summarises the performance and services delivered by GYHSAC from July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023.

This Annual Report is guided by the Strategic Plan as adopted by the Gurriny Yealamucka Board.

The Strategic Plan provides the key strategies and priorities for the health service in partnership with the Yarrabah community and major stakeholders.

Gurriny Yealamucka's focus is to Close the Gap through progressing quality care services that are underpinned by gold standard governance and business practices.

The theme for the 2022 – 2023 Annual Report is Yarrabah's public health is in good hands.

The past year has been an exciting one for our community and health service.

For much of the past year, the focus of our health service has been re-engaging with our community from a social and emotional Aboriginal health in Aboriginal hands, respecting and providing Culturally Safe Care

perspective. With the passing of the COVID threat, we have needed to reinstate many of the programs and events that were placed on hold during the previous year.

This report presents and celebrates the exceptional achievement of our community and our staff. We have combined in harmony with our community to deliver a high standard of health care, with a strong focus upon the health, social and emotional wellbeing of our community – at all times we have focused upon the delivery of 'culturally safe care'.

The Annual Report 2022 – 2023 meets the statutory reporting requirements, and informs all GYHSAC stakeholders, including clients, staff, businesses and community, as to our activities, directions and financial management of our business in accordance with our Strategic Plan.



Please direct any feedback about this annual report to our Communications team, by email: comms@GYHSAC.org.au



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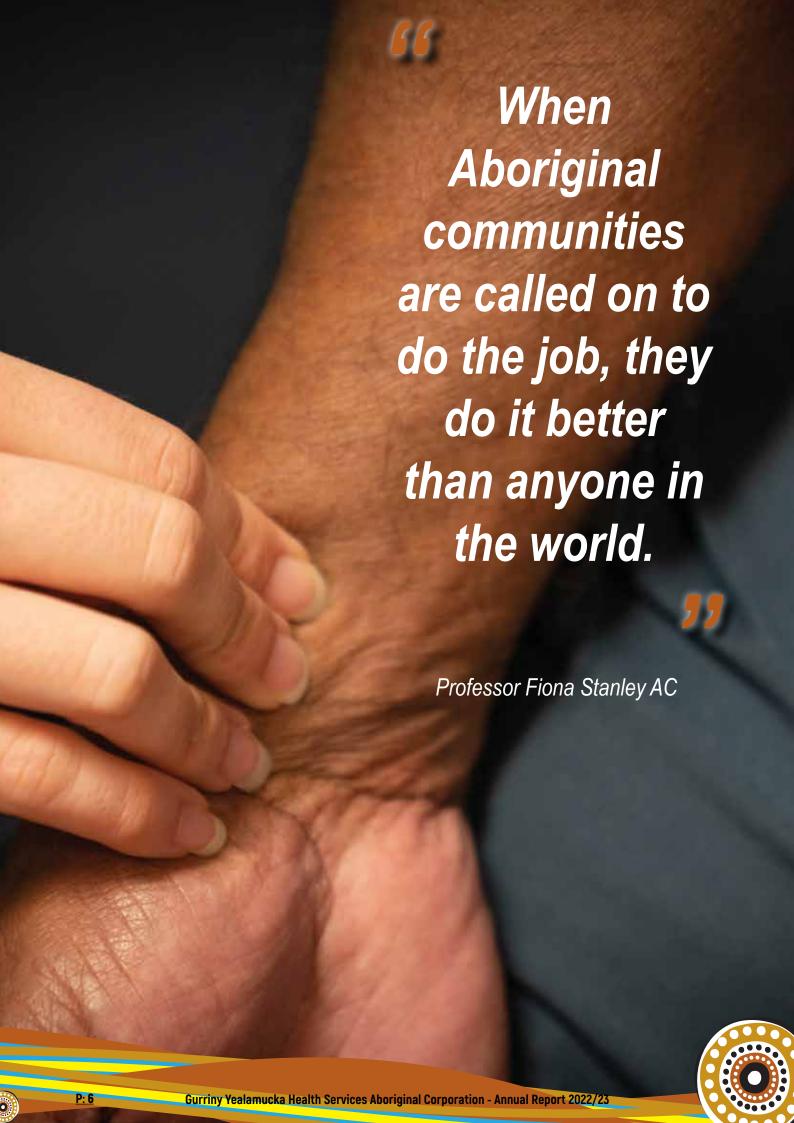
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OUR home is on the traditional lands of the Gunggandji people at Mission Bay on the Cape Grafton Peninsula.

Yarrabah was named in 1892 on these lands just south of Cairns, when European influence began in earnest with the establishment of an Anglican Mission.

More than 110 year before Reverend Gribble established his mission, Captain James Cook had briefly anchored the Endeavour in Mission Bay in 1770.

Although his diaries do not record any contact with the Gunggandji Peoples, rock paintings in the shire depict Cook's visit from a Gunggandji perspective.

The township (Mission) has a complex history, stemming from the early state administrations which forcibly relocated Aboriginal and some South Sea Islanders from different groups to Yarrabah.

As a consequence, most local residents can claim both Traditional and Historical ties to the area.

The first Aboriginal Council in Yarrabah was established in the mid-1960s, principally as an advisory body.

In 1986 Yarrabah received status as a Deed of Grants in Trust (DOGIT) community and the Yarrabah Council was established under the *Community Services (Aboriginal) Act* 1984.

Today, Yarrabah Shire lies to the east of Cairns and by road is placed approximately 60 kilometres from Cairns CBD.

Geographically, our land area is described as a long slender shape, bounded in the west by the Murray Prior Range and the Coral Sea to the east.

The coastline runs from False Cape in the north around Mission Bay, past Cape Grafton and south to Palmer Point.

The Shire has an everall length of approximately 30.

The Shire has an overall length of approximately 30 kilometres and is 2.5 kilometres wide in the south,

but broadens out to almost 8 kilometres in the north and covers a total area of approximately 159.4 square kilometres.

OUR COMMUNITY

ABS 2021 Figures

Population 2505
Male 48.7%
Female 51.3%
Median Age 25
Private dwellings 521

GYHSAC Figures:

Registered and current patients 4192 On average each client has 8 touchpoints per year with Gurriny

Cairns Hinterland Hospital Health Services figures

2847 residents – (2022) 50% unemployment 50% of households have no access to internet



OUR STORY

Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services was born out of Yarrabah's desire to have a community focused and controlled Indigenous Health Service.

During the 1980s, when Yarrabah community members were fighting for self-determination, they saw the need for Aboriginal health to be in the hands and care of their own people, and the concept a community-controlled health organisation was born.

This push resulting in significant community discussion and support, led to the commissioning by the Yarrabah Aboriginal Council of a community health assessment and the development of a 5-year plan in 1989.

Several years later, (1991) the Health Committee was incorporated, and then became the Yarrabah Health Council (YHC). The Health Council attracted funding from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) whilst operating under Yarrabah Aboriginal Council (YAC).

From those early days, with one full-time and two part-time health workers, delivering its own Rheumatic Fever Project, a community-controlled health service developed.

In 2000, the Yarrabah Health Council became Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services Aboriginal Corporation. The next 5 to 6 years saw a rapid growth in Gurriny, as programs and services grew to meet the needs of the community.

In 2006 a Deed of Commitment was signed between Gurriny, Yarrabah Aboriginal Council, the Gunggandji People, the Department of Health and Ageing, and Queensland Health to progress the vision of building a new primary health care facility for the Yarrabah people.

At this time, clinical health services were being delivered primarily by Queensland Health and a local GP practice.

In 2009 Gurriny became the first community-controlled health organisation in Australia to

deliver primary health services in an Aboriginal community. Operating from the old community health building in Workshop Road, the site of the new Gurriny Clinic, this new health service employed an Indigenous Health Worker, a Clinic Practice Manager along with their first General Practitioner.

A short 12 months later, Gurriny co-located with Queensland Health into a new facility at Bukki Road.

It was inevitable that all health care services would soon be the first across to Gurriny. On July 1, 2014, the vision for a community-controlled health service was realised. This meant that Yarrabah residents could be better involved in the strategic direction and decisions for improved healthcare and how it was going to be delivered in our community. This movement also came off the back of Yarrabah having the highest rate of suicide in a short timeframe compared to anywhere else in the world at the time.

Since the successful transition, Gurriny has grown in size, services as well as facilities, to what we see today; a very successful and community focused health service. More than 110 employees spread across three campuses, employing and training more than 70 local community members.

Gurriny has established a reputation for meeting and exceeding the needs of the community whilst at all times respecting the cultural sensitivities of community. All Gurriny employees take pride in the delivery of world-class Culturally Safe Care.



OUR Board





















David Baird - Chair

David has served as CEO for both Gurriny and also Gindaja, acquiring valuable knowledge and skills in governance, executive management and service delivery.

Linda Sexton - Director

Linda has served as Board Director on Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services and Yarrabah Aboriginal Corporation for Women. She is currently employed as the CEO of Mutkin Residential and Community Aged Care Indigenous Corporation.

Ailsa Lively - Director

Ailsa is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Gindaja Treatment & Healing Indigenous Corporation. Ailsa has experience in Indigenous Community issues, leadership and governance.

Fr Leslie Baird - Director

Leslie Baird is an experienced Indigenous community development researcher, recognised for his extensive research on the effects of the Aboriginal Family Wellbeing Program.

Rob Schrieber - Director

Robin was involved with Gurriny since inception. Robin has a solid background in management and HR management, and is a supporter and advocate for primary health care service in the community.

Kenneth Jackson - Director

Kenneth serves the Yarrabah community as an elected local councilor as well as serving as a Police Liaison Officer.

Mikaela French - Director

Mikaela is a proud Wagadagum (Mabuiag Island) Torres Strait Islander woman. Mikaela holds a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) degree from the QLD University of Technology.

Rob Giason - Director

Rob bring more than 45 years experience to Gurriny.

Rob is a Director of multiple boards and not for profit organisations, serving on Ports North, charity and development sectors such as COUCH

Katie Pope - Director

Katie is a registered tax agent and CPA. She is also an inaugural board member of Mackillop Catholic College in Mount Peter.

Tamilyn Brennan - Company Secretary

Tamilyn is an experienced advisor and senior manager, with a proven track record in economic and community development encompassing strategic planning, policy and program development and implementation.



WE VALUE

Here at Gurriny Yealamucka we commit to providing **Quality of Service** with a high standard of care.

We value strong **Leadership & Innovation**, along with a total **Commitment** to our service and our community.

We believe we should always be **Accountable**, dedicated to lifting the community, reflecting their needs and protecting their right to manage their health futures.

We work as a **Team**in Partnership with
our community and
all stakeholders,
dedicated to
delivering a great
service, compassionate
and culturally safe, at all times
in a fair and equitable manner.



OUR MISSION

Gurriny will be influential innovators delivering quality holistic health outcomes.

OUR VISION

Gurriny will be a holistic health centre of excellence supporting a strong and healthy community.



OUR STRATEGIC PLAN

As an Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Organisation (ACCHO) we remain committed to the highest levels of service to our community, along with seeking community feedback and involvement in the directions and decisions of our service.

To this end, we commit to, and review our Strategic Plan to ensure it meets and continues to meet our needs and aspirations.

To maintain sustainable, high quality, & safe clinical & wellbeing outcomes for our community 1.1: Continuously improve the holistic model of care 1.2: Strengthen & embed community control of our health service To build & maintain a business & Infrastructure platform to support service delivery & to enhance compliance with all relevant legislation & standards 2.1: Evolve the sustainable community-control model 2.2: Infrastructure growth is aligned to service and workforce development 2.3: Maintain professional business systems to compliance standards 2.4: Business operations are efficient and effective 2.5: Implement environmentally safe practices Ensure that Gurriny continue to build an appropriate & effective workforce 3.1: Attract and retain quality staff 3.2: Develop and increase the skills of the workforce 3.3: Foster career progression pathways and organisation capacity to deliver services **Build & ensure the long-term financial viability of Gurriny** 4.1: Maintain effective financial management practices 4.2: Generate income and attract funding Grow & promote the organisation's reputation as an innovative Aboriginal holistic health care provider 5.1: Expanding partnerships for purpose 5.2: Promote and market organisation achievements





A life spent in service

For Adelaide Sands is a matter of faith. Faith in God as well as faith in her community.

"If we have faith in our lord, we also need to have faith in our people."

In 2014, Adelaide started working at Gurriny, she was a Health Care Worker and finished working on March 2022.

Although she was born outside of the community (Cairns). She was raised with family in Yarrabah.

Life has changed greatly since the 70s, however Adelaide remains upbeat and positive about the future for Yarrabah today.

"Weekends were spent camping and fishing, we learnt to hunt and fish, traditional skills were passed down to us by our Elders."

When it comes to the health care today, Adelaide believes the focus has to be firmly upon educating and empowering her community members.

"We need to stay on the right track, eat properly and to do the simple and traditional things that will be led to a happier and healthier life.

"It can still be good today if we just put our minds to it, I have faith in my people and I feel good about what we are doing and where we



we need to
focus on
empowering
our community



are going".

After almost 10 years working for Gurriny, Adelaide decided in 2022 that it was time to take a break from the pace and pressure of working in community-based health care.

Although retired Adelaide found that life can still be busy. She spends her time with family as well as committing herself to continue to work with community on a weekly basis.

"I take my granddaughter into town (Cairns) once a month for treatment at Cairns Base, other days I fill in doing church work and attending women's group once a week.

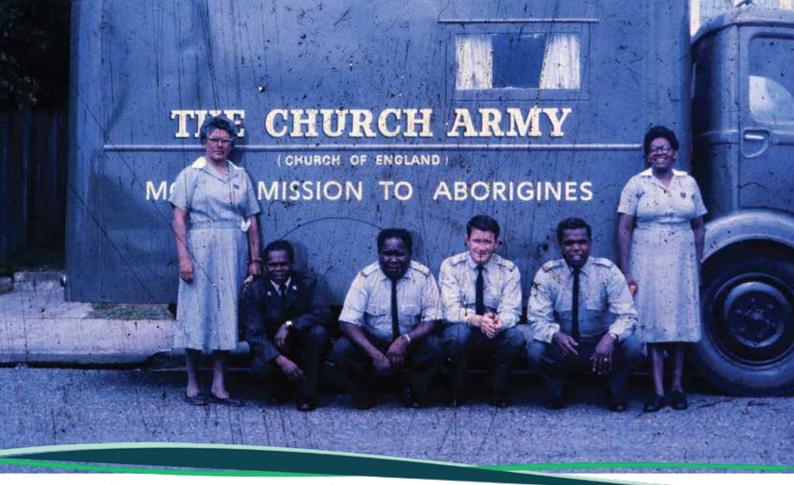
"I will be doing volunteering work for the courthouse in Yarrabah and I'll be making clients tea when they come in."

"Yes, I'm enjoying retirement"

"I miss following up with clients with their medications and I miss the staff there and miss loving what I did at Gurriny."

Adelaide's amazing contribution to community is by no means unique and can never be diminished, within Gurriny and similar organisations there are teams of Adelaide's who live and breathe with one outcome in mind, improving the health and well-being of all community members.





Sister Muriel Stanley: a true pioneering woman

For the past 30 years Gurriny Yealamucka have been providing primary health services to the community of Yarrabah, however almost 80 years ago a young Yarrabah community member Muriel Stanley embarked upon her a bold adventure that would take her half way around the world and firmly cement her as a pioneer in the health care indigenous health industry of Australia.

Muriel Stanley was an Indigenous role model, during her period of Australian history, when indigenous Australians had very little rights and were not even classed as Australian citizens.

She was born April 6,1918, in Yarrabah, Queensland. Muriel was born to Aboriginal parents Luke Stanley and Jessie Ross nee Kepple. Educated at the Yarrabah Anglican mission, and by 1937 she became an assistant teacher, she travelled to Newcastle in New Souths Wales in 1938, to attend the training college of the Church Army.

After graduating she started working at the Church Army Children's home in the Hunter

a role model to Aboriginal women seeking training as a nurse or midwife Valley and Armidale, she later left to become a matron of an orphanage in Hobart.

Muriel had such drive and motivation to help her Aboriginal brothers and sisters at a time where they faced prejudice and injustice, that's why she decided to become a nurse.

At first, Muriel struggled to achieve her goal, because of people's prejudice ways against her skin colour, until she was finally accepted by the South Sydney Women's Hospital in 1943.

After 18 months of studying to become an obstetric nurse, she passed the final exam in November 1944 and by March 1945 she was trained and registered, she was a pioneer of Indigenous nurses qualifying in Australia and a forerunner role model to Aboriginal women seeking training in nurses and midwives.

After completing her studies, Muriel returned back home to Yarrabah, where she was appointed Matron of the hospital. Her Head Matron R.M. Keable was impressed by Muriel's 'character and determination', declaring it had been a privilege to train her. On top of



her duties as Matron, she also began visiting frequently ill individuals in their homes, and led the St. Mary's Girls Guild. Muriel Stanley served as Matron at the Yarrabah Mission Hospital from 1945 to 1959.

Muriel was exempted from the Queensland Aboriginal Preservation and Protection Act (1939), an act which allowed the Director of Native Affairs to control any money or property belonging to an Aboriginal person. Many Aboriginal people sought such exemptions however, may were denied. In order to apply for an exemption, the person would accompany their request with affirmations from others which confirmed that the individual seeking exemption was "of good character and did not associate with other Aborigines".

In 1959 she travelled to England with the Church Army to undertake a two-year course in moral welfare before returning to Australia to work throughout the Indigenous communities in Queensland. Upon returning to Queensland, Muriel became a social welfare officer, working with Aboriginal families in Cairns.

Muriel was the only person supported by the Anglican Church working full-time with the Aboriginal people of Queensland. She was an inspiration to her community and within the Indigenous health care.



In 1967, Muriel was based at the Woorabinda mission, south – west of Rockhampton working as a liaison officer with the Queensland Department of Aboriginal and Islander Affairs.

In 1970, Muriel met and married Norman Underwood who was a canecutter and widower. Sadly, she passed on the 18th of May 1979.

Sister Muriel Stanley continues to have a strong legacy in Yarrabah, as members of her family continue to work in the health industry.

The Fagan family from Yarrabah, always thought of sister Muriel Stanley "as a pioneer and a rare woman who paved the way for our generation, so that we would have greater opportunities in life.

Today our family is working and studying in the areas of health just like Aunty Muriel. There is no doubt in our minds that her influence in the family generations before us has impacted on our lives and our children's lives.

A strong sense of pride as Indigenous woman and strengths drawn from the stories that are passed down about the lives of others like aunty Muriel Stanley inspire them today."

Due to her determination, Muriel was able to overcome prejudices against her and better her own life, as well as the lives of aboriginal people she helped.





Helping Community and Making a Difference

After more than 20 years working with community, the thought of leaving behind her team as well as her clients is perhaps the hardest challenge for Gurriny Yealamucka's Family Intake Officer, Kayleen Jackson.

She celebrated 20 years of service in April 2023, and still remains undecided as to when she will eventually retire and step back from her demanding and very rewarding career.

"The hardest part (about retiring) would be leaving my ladies, my women's group and my work colleagues and the new relationships I've

Wanting to work for and with her Community and family, has been the drive and motivation for Kayleen over the past 20 years, however the prospect of retirement looms large for Kayleen, and the prospect of having greater time to spend with family.

"I do look forward to spending more time with family and just getting back to doing my arts



I really felt I could do more and wanted to... forth the dream of a Comm health service in Yarrabah.

and crafts and my paintings."

As to when Kayleen will actually achieve this remains uncertain, but the thought is always present in her mind.

In the early 2000's Kayleen felt the calling to step up and do more for her community.

"I was a single mum, looking after my children and my mother before I started with Gurriny as a Family Wellbeing Assistant, but felt I could do more," she said.

Kayleen was one of the founders of bringing forth the dream of a Community-controlled

This dream was for a holistic health service approach that fits with Yarrabah Community's world view; their identity around physical, mental, spiritual wellbeing.

Kayleen had the opportunity to attend one of the first Family Wellbeing Sessions facilitated by Komla Tsey.





That was a turning point in her life. With the encouragement and mentoring from Senimelia Kingsburra, Gurriny's first Family Wellbeing Officer, Kayleen completed the Family Wellbeing course and has continued her journey of studying and has never looked back.

"Knowing I can help my Community and make a real difference, that's what gets me up each morning and motivates me to come to work."

"It has not been easy. We are really finding it tougher than ever before after COVID.

"The cost of living, the overcrowding in houses in Yarrabah, the lack of real employment is impacting on Community and thus making our jobs within the Social and Emotional Teams (SEWB) more challenging.

"Luckily, I work with a great team within SEWB and we rally together supporting each other, helping each of us get through the tough times when we are hearing everyday about people's hardships."



There have been many highpoints in Kayleen's career spanning two decades. A highpoint was being invited to attend the National Apology Celebrations this year in Canberra.

This event features strongly with Kayleen as she knew she had her ancestors beside her at this event. Kayleen had the opportunity to sit across the table with government Ministers, and advocate strongly for the social emotional and spiritual wellbeing of her Community.

"We have achieved so much in the past 20 years, but the job is not done until we have better health and wellbeing outcomes for our community as well as access to many of the essentials that the rest of Australia take for granted. Such as, affordable and appropriate housing, employment opportunities as well training and education for our kids. I'm pleased to have worked for my Community for the past 20 years and proud of the changes we have created."





A rich history of service and care

"Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach him how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime:" philosopher Lao Tzu.

Nothing captures better the essence and drive of Gurriny Yealamucka's now retired Training and Development Officer, Vickie Tamwoy.

Gurriny Yealamucka was fortunate to secure Vickie's services, be it only for a two-year period, however Vickie bought to Gurriny a lifetime of service, knowledge and experience that helped our Indigenous health workers study and upskill, taking them on perhaps the most important personal and professional journey of their life.

For Vickie, the path that led her to Gurriny started 40 years earlier, in the early 1980s in Bathurst, as a hospital trained nurse. Working after graduating in regional New South Wales, Vickie heard about the wonderful opportunities available as a nurse in Thursday Island.

She had just been accepted to study midwifery

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health workers are the face of Indigenous health

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in Edinburgh Scotland, but elected to take a short 12-month contract on Thursday Island to 'save the money required for Scotland.'

Vickie never made it to Scotland, instead falling in love with the Torres Strait, the people and communities, and discovering how rewarding it can be professionally and emotionally to work in Indigenous health.

Her time on Thursday Island as well as Torres Strait opened her eyes to the disparity in health facilities and services.

Whilst nursing on Badu island, where they had a doctor visit once every six to eight weeks for face to face patient appointments, the balance of the time the nurses needed to communicate with the doctors by phone or radio.

During that period in the Straits, Vickie realised the true value of the Indigenous Health Workers.

"They commit themselves 24/7 to their career





and their community, but did not have the formal training qualifications they deserved, as well as a defined career pathway".

With several other health professionals Vickie worked as a team in the early 1990s, laying the initial foundations for the formal training and qualifications required for what we now have as our Certificate 3 and 4 in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care.

"I wanted all our Indigenous health workers to see the bigger picture and understand the incredible options available to them, they could become a health worker, and use that as the springboard to further their studies and career to become a nurse, doctor, physio, pharmacist, the options are unlimited.

"My career aim throughout 40 years of nursing in Indigenous health was to ensure that health workers were seen as the face of health, the conduit between community and the health service, and to bring those cultural and intrinsic needs of Indigenous peoples to the forefront and to advocate for those needs.

Whilst serving at Gurriny, Vickie worked as a mentor and guide alongside many of our health workers as they progressed through their Certificate 3 and 4 qualifications.

"It is important that community members

see Gurriny Yealamucka as not the end goal, but somewhere they can receive first-class training and the best hands on experience, laying the platform for a career that can take them anywhere in the world."

It has been a career with a rich history over forty years, that led Vickie Tamwoy from Bathurst Hospital in the early 1980s through to Thursday Island and the Torres Strait to eventually come to Yarrabah and Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services.

Gurriny has benefited from her knowledge and experience, and our health workers acknowledge the incredible contribution that Vickie Tamwoy made to their professional career and their studies.

Bessie Patterson, an Indigenous Health
Worker now with Queensland Health is very
appreciative of the assistance given to her
by Vickie whilst studying for her Certificate 4
encouraging and supporting her to "Go out and
follow your dreams."





A Cuppa and a Yarn: Perfect!

Yarning has always had a very important role within Indigenous culture. Yarning is the way to pass on cultural knowledge and stories from one generation to another. For Mary Kyle, yarning is a way to connect, to care, share, listen and to support others.

Yarning is what Mary enjoys most, and fortunately yarning was an essential part of Mary's role as a Life Promotion Officer with Gurriny Yealamucka.

"I like yarning with people, I've noticed with people who are really troubled, if you yarn with them they're OK.

"I've never left them on their own, I like to take the time, yarn with them and let them know they are important, and that people do listen to them and do care.

"I used to really love the community yarning days, where we would just sit in the park, we did this every 2 to 3 months.

"We'd sit there with food and water, anyone could come along and just yarn, unfortunately COVID put an end to that, but these community days were really valuable for Yarrabah."

"The community yarns were very successful, people loved a cuppa tea and a yarn."

Whilst the pandemic may have stopped the

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yarning, you
will be amazed
as to the
difference it
can make



community yarning days, Mary does see some genuine positives coming from COVID.

"We saw things start to freshen in the families. We saw families coming together.

"We saw all the families going out to the bush to get away, together. Not the husband and his mates going hunting, but families all together. Families and extended families had to stick together and do things together."

In early 2023, Mary retired from Gurriny. It was hard to walk away completely after spending the past ten years working with community. She now spends her time with family, her church and spending a few hours each day working for an NDIS service provider.

As always, Mary is there to help her family, friends and community and is always quick to reach out when someone is in need.

"If you are feeling flat and low, reach out, start a conversation with someone you like and trust. Start yarning, you will be amazed as to the difference it can make, there is someone there, just reach out."

The SEWB Team run weekly activities with the Men's Group and Women's Group, supporting community members and always being there if they need.





Aboriginal Health in Aboriginal Hands

This marks my second term serving on the Gurriny Board, but it is my inaugural role as Chairperson. Leading this organisation alongside my dedicated Board of Directors is a tremendous honour, and I am grateful to them for entrusting me with this position. Stepping into the role of Chairperson, I embraced the challenge, and I found it seamless due to the organisation's strong business foundation and effective governance.

Gurriny benefits from a well-established and proficient Board of Directors, each bringing a diverse set of skills and expertise to contribute significantly to the governance of this vital healthcare service in the community.

The organisation continues to thrive and stands as a leading healthcare service in the nation, excelling in health outcomes, financial stability, and being the preferred employer for the local community.

Annually, the Board, in collaboration with the senior management team, engages in an off-site strategic planning workshop. During this event, we review the strategic plan and chart the course for Gurriny over the next 12 months.

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A community comtrolled health service: our strength are our staff

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This year the Board took a deep dive into our Strategic Plan, streamlining it and reassessing our strategies to ensure we remained firmly focused on our core objective: Aboriginal Health in Aboriginal Hands.

I am proud to present this year's Annual Report, noting the considerable contribution of our staff to the achievement of our Mission and Vision. I am particularly pleased that our report this year celebrates and recognises the amazing contribution made by five of our women from this community, Sister Muriel Stanley, Adelaide Sands, Kayleen Jackson, Mary Kyle and Vickie Tamwoy.

I extend my gratitude to CEO Suzanne
Andrews, the senior management team, and
the dedicated staff of Gurriny Yealamucka
Health Service. Their tireless efforts,
dedication, and unwavering commitment
contribute significantly to the success of the
service and its positive impact on the Yarrabah
community.

Robin Schrieber



We Serve to Protect, Educate and Safeguard our people

Gurriny Yealamucka is a local Gunggandji name which means "Good Healing".

Gurriny Yealamucka Health Service is located on the lands of Traditional custodians, the Gunggandji people of Yarrabah and pays its respect to the elders past and emerging.

It is because of the vision of the Elders to see a community-controlled health service that is responsive to the desires of the Yarrabah people, that Gurriny continues to strive for better health outcomes.

The Board of Directors set the strategic direction for the coming 12 months, they continue to focus on service delivery, organisation effectiveness, people and culture and financial performance.

A reflection of the year has seen many sorry businesses in Yarrabah, and I want to thank our staff who work in the Social Emotional Wellbeing team for their continued support with families during this time, let us all support each other, as our whole community is grieving.

This year has seen Gurriny secure further

employees are
encouraged
and supported
in their pursuit
of additional
qualifications
and experience

Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services Aboriginal Corporation - Annual Report 2022/23

health funding specific to primary health care with exploring a commitment to 5-year funding terms, thanks to NACCHO and QAIHC for advocating for this and our staff at Gurriny achieving funding obligations requirements as part of compliance.

Since our early days, the focus of Gurriny Yealamucka has been the building of a world class health service where Aboriginal health was in Aboriginal hands.

This was the driver behind the creation of a community-controlled service here in Yarrabah. We work in, and with our community, to protect, educate and safeguard our members, and where possible we have always provided employment and training opportunities to our community members.

Already in this report you will have seen profiles on some of the incredible women, who have underpinned our successes, from Sister Muriel Stanley in pre-Gurriny days through to Kayleen Jackson and Mary Kyle, we have been blessed with dedicated staff,



GYHSAC Indigenous Staff Qualifications

No Formal Cert 3 or Diploma Degree or Higher

24%

33%

20%

24%

Three quarters of GYHSACs Indigenous employees have formal qualifications pertaining to their area of employment.

GYHSAC Non-Indigenous Staff Qualifications

No Formal Cert 3 or Diploma Degree or Higher

0%
0%
14%
86%

Unfortunately Indigenous Clinicians are not the norm within the health system in Australia. GYHSAC has 2 Indigenous identified doctors on staff.

GYHSAC Indigenous Staff Currently Studying

Cert 3 or higher Diploma

Degree or Higher



8%

8%

Our Indigenous workforce are motivated to advance their career through additional studies with 38 per cent currently undertaking additional studies.

GYHSAC Non-Indigenous Staff Currently Studying

Cert 3 or higher Diploma

Degree or Higher



5%

33%

Many of our non-Indigenous employees are currenlty advancing their qualifications with Masters or degree studies.

committed to delivering quality healthcare, and also committed to advancing their career through education and serving as inspiration for so many within our community.

In the preparation of this report we have taken the opportunity to review our workforce and recognise the tremendous contribution and commitment all our employees make to the success of Gurriny Yealamucka.

As a health service we rely heavily upon our clinicians. It is reality that Indigenous doctors and nurses are not the norm in our health systems throughout Australia. However, we do pride ourselves on number of our Indigenous employees who have formal qualifications as health workers, nurses and or doctors.

More than 75 per cent of our indigenous employees have formal qualifications, and more than one third of all our Indigenous employees are actively engaged in additional studies to further their career.

As an organisation we value and

commit to building an appropriate and effective workforce, and in particular developing and increasing the skills of our employees.

This can be achieved several ways, we can actively recruit Indigenous employees, and train our workforce to fill particular positions, which we do with specifically identified positions, and we can build a culture within our health service where employees are encouraged and supported in their pursuit of additional qualifications and experience.

Looking forward, it is the intention of the board to foster and encourage greater opportunities for community to launch a successful career within Gurriny, in addition to assisting our employees to extend their boundaries and achieve their full potential through training, mentoring and employment opportunities.

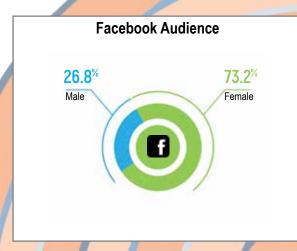
The People and Culture team have been very busy with recruitment and as we continue to employ the specialist skills need to deliver a comprehensive primary care service.

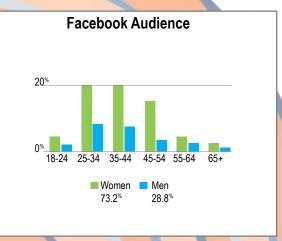
Our Public Health and Sexual health teams completed two Young Person's Health and Wellbeing Check programs in the past year. November 2022 and in late June 2023 we positively engaged with our youth completing more than 350 health checks as well as lifting our vaccination rate. It was a great opportunity to work directly with our youth, assisting them to build strong health habits and lay the foundations for a healthy and strong life ahead.

In September our Family Healing team launched our very own SIStember. A concept unique to Yarrabah where we engage with and build the resilience of our community-based women. From Zumba to Church Services and health checks, SIStember had it all. Well done to our teams for such an exciting and innovative program.

Our Women's Gathering in May 2023, took a particularly pleasing direction. Gurriny was able to partner with the Yarrabah Arts Precinct and Aunty











Facebook Page Visits

Philomena Yeatman to produce beautiful hand printed shawls fro the women attending, plus we have a few extra as corporate gifts. They were very handy on our recent visit to Canada, where they were gifted to international delegate, creating a lasting legacy and memory of Yarrabah and Gurriny.

Gurriny continue to use social media as a platform to engage and inform community about our health service. We are active on Facebook to inform our community as well as using Twitter (X), LinkedIn and YouTube to engage with and inform our stakeholders on the work we are doing.

We continue to remain financially committed to the Yarrabah community. This commitment includes the employment of community members where possible and also sourcing services and products locally where appropriate. Our financial contribution over the past 12 months to the local Yarrabah economy is just under \$4 million.

The Board is now second year into the 3-year strategic plan and continue to have growth and success across all areas Gurriny all the while having the mindset of Gurriny continue delivering a service that meets the needs of the community.

Our team have consulted and created a design for a New Men's space building and we continue to source funding to build this infrastructure. In the meantime, Gurriny is looking at redesigning the current space to create a more modern building that is user friendly and better access for our community.

Gurriny three-year ISO recertification happened in August and we are pleased to inform community that we have passed accreditation, a credit to the team at Gurriny. Accreditation is very important as a requirement of our funders and a way to ensure we have good business systems and processes built into the organisation. Next 6-month surveillance audit is due in the new year 2024.

I am honoured to lead the Gurriny team and am proud of my staff who have worked so hard this year to achieve better health outcomes for our mob, but ensuring that we delivered a quality service.

It is always important that I formally recognise and acknowledge the people of Yarrabah, thank you for having the trust and confidence in our health service & our staff.

Lastly, I want to thank the Chair and Gurriny Board of Directors for having the confidence in me as the CEO and Gurriny Senior management and staff for their hard work, dedication and support over the past year.

I am excited and express my hope for another successful upcoming year while also acknowledging the challenges and disappointment as a result of the Voice to Parliament Referendum vote.



Knowing our Community

The key to being an effective Primary Health Service is knowing your community.

Gurriny and the community of Yarrabah have faced many health challenges over the years, and key moments where this understanding was the defining factor in our success.

Mumps in 2018, APSGN in 2019, COVID19 in 2020 and beyond. Population statistics can tell a rich story and gives a health service like Gurriny the opportunity to plan and deploy resources efficiently.

A population pyramid is one way to visualise such data, showing a breakdown of various age groups and further separated by sex. At a glance you can see the changes across different ages groups and start to postulate the impacts of the various social and health issues might have on a community like Yarrabah.

As you can see with the population pyramid of Yarrabah a broad base in the

0-4 and 5 to 14-year age brackets tells a story of relatively high birth rates (around 18 per 1000) compared to the national average (12 per 1000).

We soon see however the beginnings of certain patterns with a drop in the early 20s and again a separate drop in the early 40s

This broad-based pyramid is typical of those found in Aboriginal communities, although Yarrabah's shows some stabilisation that sets it apart from the most severe forms of population distribution.

Those two age related changes also show a sex separation with drops for males being more marked than females. This raises the question around the cause.

As we know the changes in life after school the choice to attend to an individual's health is thrown into the mix with several competing demands – employment, further education, family

and cultural demands. These drops represent well known points in life where the loss of life can be traced back to risk taking behaviour, mental health and self-harm alongside the emergence of early chronic disease.

We all see and know this within our community and Gurriny strives to meet this head long and be a trusted source of care for those who might be struggling. The Men's Forum this year highlighted the need once again for after-hours access and as a result, a trial for extended clinic hours is being assessed with plans to launch before the end of 2023.

In addition, we continue to provide a deeply integrated model of care with all aspects of health being addressed across the life cycle in a culturally safe fashion to ensure Yarrabah can continue build on its successes of the past and see the gains needed to close these gaps into the future

GURR MALTO SE	INY YEALAMUCKA Pres redifference estrolesion	CAI	RE
86	Male 65+ years	Female 65+ years	103
61	Male 60-64 years	Female 60-64 years	73
71	Male 55-59 years	Female 55-59 years	98
89	Male 50-54 years	Female 50-54 years	94
73	Male 45-49 years	Female 45-49 years	76
90	Male 40-44 years	Female 40-44 years	113
92	Male 35-39 years	Female 35-39 years	102
118	Male 30-34 years	Female 30-34 years	160
130	Male 25-29 years	Female 25-29 years	160
112	Male 20-24 years	Female 20-24 years	170
155	Male 15-19 years	Female 15-19 years	163
169	Male 10-14 years	Female 10-14 years	158
162	Male 5-9 years	Female 5-9 years	173
184	Male 0-4 years	Female 0-4 years	187
`	Yarrabah GYHSAC Clier	nt breakdown by age group	

Data July 1 2022 - June 30 2023



Community Health by the Numbers



Total Patients

(Current and Transient) - AIHW definition.



Regular Male Patients

3 or more visits in past 2 years



Regular Female Patients

3 or more visits in past 2 years

Occasions of Care

Regular Patients

3 or more visits in past 2 years



Clinical Appointments

Scheduled and Walk-in appoinments

ARF / RHD Patients



All patient contacts, clinical in addition to followups and wellbeing contacts

Diabetic Patients

Patients currently under diabetes management

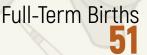


Patients currently under treatment for



Dialysis Patients

Yarrabah patients currently receiving dialysis in either Yarrabah or Cairns





Births in Community

Birth in community records the number of births to community-based mothers. This figure does not reflect where the birth occurred.

Births With a Healthy Birth Weight





Total 715 Health Checks



Total Male 715 Health Checks



Total Female 715 Health Checks



222

183

Youth 715 Checks 338 Male 715 Checks 140 Female 715 Checks 198 Aged 15 - 24

Child 715 Checks 405 Male 715 Checks Female 715 Checks

*Aged 0 - 14





A Year Spent Building After The Pandemic

It was with a feeling of anticipation and excitement that we took our first steps into the 2022-2023 period.

As we all experienced, the previous three years saw us face down the challenges of a global pandemic and emerge on the far side having seen such seismic changes to the health landscape.

With the COVID-19 Pandemic exposing some of the key inefficiencies in the broader health system Gurriny sought to take this challenge as an opportunity and take the lead in terms of health.

Moreover, the lessons we learned over those years have buoyed us, allowing us to build on our demonstrated capacity to operate successfully in the broader public health sphere.

This is an innovation that predates the pandemic however, having been on the strategic agenda for Gurriny and its board for many years.

Innovative proposals need a time and a place along with the resources to fund them, and so it is out of the confidence, built on our success that we have forged ahead with the new Public Health Unit within the service.



The challenge though is to take an approach that has been infused in our service, elevate it and continue to draw on the success of the entire service.

Service integration like this is no easy task but if we align with our core principles of community control, Aboriginal health in Aboriginal hands and Culturally Safe Care we will reap the rewards tenfold

The alignment of the new Public Health unit with our broader health outcomes is paramount to its success and the new team have performed admirably in this endeavour, creating linkages between all arms of the service, being front and centre in a proactive fashion at all major events and further strengthening stakeholder relationships for many areas.

Our teams across the entire service have been walking this journey for a long time however, with public health approaches integral to their plans for a very long time.

Formalising this now allows us to take the next steps on this journey with a wider and deeper reach into the future of the health of Yarrabah.





A youth haven at the Hub

It has been a stellar year for Gurriny's Youth Wellbeing team. In spite of many challenges facing us, resources as well as social, our team continues to set high goals and expectations for our youth outreach programs here in Yarrabah.

Our Youth Hub continues to be the focal point for our Youth Wellbeing team, along with special youth related events and outreach programs designed to engage youth in a meaningful and productive manner.

For the year, we engaged with 2,745 youth at our Workshop Road Youth Hub facility. The youth-friendly environment along with a wide variety of activities, both structured and informal continues to entice our youth to come in, relax in a safe space, where we can engage in an appropriate manner, free from judgement and worry.

Engaging with as well as building the capacity of our youth are key pillars for the Youth Wellbeing program. Our Hub has a fully functioning kitchen, bathroom and laundry, creating opportunities to engage with our members as well as provide a 'safe-home' environment.

Activities offered at the Hub have been



determined by our youth. A broad selection designed to encourage group interaction along with personal development are available for our clients on a weekly basis.

Video games, computer resources, free Wi-Fi, board games, arts and craft as well as self-esteem building tools from make-up and hair products to yarning circles are regular activities for our youth at the Hub.

Throughout the year, the Youth Wellbeing team have been actively involved in many outreaches and special events, including the energising of the Yarrabah Leisure Centre, with a satellite youth program extending our engagement further in to the community.

Key events and outreach

- Youth Festival December 7, 600 participants
- Youth Leisure Centre 200 youth: pool table, video games, barbeque, afternoon activity sessions, ping pong
- Youth Forum 117 Attended 93 youth/ 24 adults/ staff and guests
- Outreach barbeque and activities 500 youth and community members





Building better futures

For more than two decades, the Family Wellbeing (FWB) empowerment program has provided a trauma-informed approach to healing for more than 5,400 program participants across 80 First Nations communities and organisations in all corners of Australia.

From Far North Queensland, to New South Wales, South Australia, and across to Northern Territory the community-driven program has developed a national network of researchers and organisations that are working to empower First Nations communities.

The program delivers workshops that enhances participants' capacity to exert greater control over factors that influence their social and emotional wellbeing.

As a result, Family Wellbeing participants have reported positive outcomes, including a 13 per cent increase in family functionality, a 74 per cent increase in higher cultural participation, and 21 per cent improvement in levels of participation in local decision making.

The program has facilitated stories of transformation and change, with positive improvements in participants' wellbeing

every dollar invested in FWB produces \$4.80 in benefit for community

99

and increased capacity for communities to achieve collective goals, including community-controlled health care and reduced suicide.

In Yarrabah Aboriginal community, for example, for every dollar of investment in delivering FWB between 2001 and 2021, \$4.80 of benefits were produced for participants and the community.

The largest benefit of FWB is through the reduced prevalence of suicide in the community, representing approximately half (\$8.67 million) of monetised benefits captured in the period.

The actual return of the program is expected to be higher if important community and cultural impacts of the program were to be included in the monetisation. The aim of our presentation is to:

a) share the Yarrabah Family Wellbeing experience and

b) argue for more sustainable or ongoing funding for First Nations SEWB programs, such as FWB, that works.



Culturally supporting our men's health and wellbeing

Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services Social and Emotional Wellbeing Team (SEWB) works closely with other Gurriny teams; Family Healing Service, Youth Wellbeing and Family Wellbeing to focus on reducing the impacts of trauma, promote wellbeing, positive behaviour and living.

The Wellbeing Team works with both internal and external service providers, this is to ensure our services are culturally sensitive and suited to community need.

Community support with counselling and follow-up is a primary focus for our teams.

To achieve this outcome, we meet regularly to discuss referrals for at risk individuals and or families and refer and support pathways to enhance social and emotional wellbeing and any clinical follow-up.

Wellbeing activities focuses are to promote life and to support community resilience providing and imparting information to broaden community knowledge and understanding to make informed decisions

Key Achievements

Men's Forum June 2023

87

community based men attended

Movember '22

22

men's health checks

for better outcomes.

The Men's Health Program is developed and implemented to align, where relevant, with the National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People's Mental Health and Social Emotional Wellbeing and other important initiatives such as Gurriny's Men's Forum.

Activities are offered to support and empower men to take care of their social emotional wellbeing and make choices for better outcomes.

During the year, SEWB Men's Health program supported men by helping develop important resources that enable employment opportunities to be pursued such as development of resumes, encouragement to attend appointments as a requirement of employment service provider and even transport to Cairns for a requirement to gaining employment.





Good Health Starts Early

Good health starts early – the Child and Youth Health Team are committed to providing a culturally informed service centered around the physical, emotional, spiritual health of young people and their families.

In December 2022 there were approximately 1191 young people aged 0 – 16 years (35 per cent of the total population) residing in Yarrabah.

Key programs run by the Child Health Program include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Queensland Childhood Immunisation Program
- The Well Baby Check program
- Paediatric Outreach Clinic
- Paediatric Cardiology Outreach Clinic
- Healthy Ears Program
- O Child Development Program
- School Based Health Check Program
- O Clontarf Health Check Program
- O Deadly Kindies Program
- O School Engagement Program

Between July 2022 - December 2023 The Child



Health Team achieved an immunisation rate of 94.1 per cent (higher than the national average) for infants and children aged 0-5 years. This rate dropped during the second half of the reporting period (87.5 per cent), this is directly related to having a staffing deficit of FTE 1.0 Registered Nurse.

Strong engagement with our Queensland Health services has improved access to specialist healthcare for young people who need to see a Paediatrician (children's doctor) or Paediatric Cardiologist (children's heart doctor).

Over the reporting period our visiting cardiologist saw 41 (over 3 clinics) clients and our pediatrician saw 122 clients (fortnightly visits). The Child Health Team plays a pivotal role in coordinating the ongoing care for all of these clients.

To improve the experience of children travelling to Brisbane for cardiac surgery, Queensland Children's Hospital selected GYHSAC as a pilot site for the Paediatric Cardiology Telehealth Program.





Three young people have used this service to prepare for their cardiac surgical journey. In addition to the telehealth program RHD Queensland selected GYHSAC for the 'Entonox (Happy Gas) Program' this program. The goal of this program is to improve access to the service by decreasing anxiety and pain associated with painful procedures for young people.

Hearing Australia continued their partnership with the Child Health Team through the 'Hearing Assessment Program – Early Ears'. Over the reporting period they saw 72 children under 5 years of age.

The Child Health Team continues to be a key agency in the Yarrabah Early Childhood Community'. This partnership aims to ensure all agencies serving Yarrabah are working collaboratively to improve early childhood activities to ensure children aged 0 – 5 years have services they need to thrive when they



transition into school.

A key event highlighting the benefit of this community, was the launch of the Deadly Kindies Program at the Kindy.

This program was coordinated by the GYHSAC Child Health Team with the aim of encouraging kindy aged children to attend GYHSAC for a Health Check and enroll in Kindy. A total of 26 Kindy aged Children presented to this program.

Our school engagement program has continued through the School Based Health Check and the Clontarf Health Check. These two health check programs have helped to target young people who are often hard to reach, which hopefully leads to better health outcomes and health literacy.

Over the reporting period 40.3% of children aged 0 – 16 years have up to date health checks (the state target is 30%).





A strong focus on our women's health

The women's health umbrella at Gurriny is juggled between GP care and the Maternal Health team, providing care and follow up in the areas of cervical screen testing, contraception options, investigation of pelvic pain for women of all ages, fertility care and polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS), nutrition support, mammograms and breast checks, and referral into specialist services in Cairns.

Gurriny continue to have a long-standing relationship with Dr Rebecca Wright at Cairns Hospital, as she attends Yarrabah quarterly for 'FROGS' – outreach Gynaecology and Obstetrics visiting services.

The women cared for under the FROGS team have access to specialist services to follow up abnormal results or investigations associated with all components of Women's health; cervical testing and investigating abnormalities, fertility difficulties and reproductive health, long-term contraception options, medical imaging either at Cairns Hospital or other service providers in Cairns.

The team looking after women's health aim to provide continuity of care, by following



through with the same service providers and providing comprehensive handover between clinicians to ensure a woman's care plan is addressed and supported.

Earlier this year, clinicians working in the women's health space were successful in the grant application for Self-Collect Cervical Screen Test funding, which will be utilised for health promotion activities and resources to boost a significant portion of cervical screen tests into the next twelve months.

Dr Jason Agostino collated the data from 2020 into 2023 which demonstrates rise from 35 to 48 per cent of women who are up to date with their cervical screening.

This figure is only set to increase with the funding and health promotion campaigns that will be implemented into the Yarrabah community for women's health, as well as a consistent team of clinicians working in this space.



Health Worker Led Model Of Care

The Adult Health Team aims to assist our clients and community members to better understand and manage their chronic health conditions, and to have better access to a range of health care services, community services and health care aids.

Working closely with our clinicians, they facilitate the health care for more than 60 per cent of our clients.

With ten full time Indigenous Health Workers in the team and for the majority of the year led by Jai-Lee Titasey, along with team of registered and enrolled nurses the Adult Health team serve as our front line delivering an Indigenous Health Worker led Model of Care.

With a focus at all times on upskilling our team along with regular in-service training opportunities, our Adult Health Team has flourished over the past year under the guidance of Jai-Lee Titasey.

Several of our team completed Phlebotomy and Spirometry training during this time Phlebotomy and spirometry training were



conducted during the past year, resulting in a number of our Indigenous Health Workers receiving accreditation in both the collection of bloods as well as testing and recording lung capacity and function.

One of our Trainee Health Workers, Rodderick Duncan completed and passed his Certificate 3 in Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Primary Health Care, whilst Maureen Cedric and Bessie Patterson both competed and passed their TAFE based Certificate 4 in Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care.

Bessie, Maureen and Rodderick's success in studying as inspired three of our other health workers to enrol and study for their Certificate 4 as well.

In early 2023 the team was bolstered with the appointment of 3 additional community-based health workers, Kiarni Sexton, Leshonta Lyons, and April Thomas.





The Next-Gen Team

Many factors that impact upon us as adults are traced back to what happens in the womb and even before conception. Our Maternal Health team work closely with our women and young girls in community, covering not just maternal health but encompassing all areas of women's health.

The last 12 months have been a season of change in Maternal Health at Gurriny, with the appointment of two new midwives, Caroline George and Brittany MacDougall, both making the leap from hospital-based practice into community life, to embrace the Continuity of Care model through Gurriny.

In April 2023, an Indigenous Maternal Health Worker and Yarrabah community member, Jilara Murgha was appointed to the team. Having a familiar community face working with the team provides a sense of cultural safety for our women.

Jilara has accelerated in her clinical knowledge for the pregnancy journey, and also been actively involved in sexual health, contraception follow-ups and addressing our cervical screening program.

Research supports that an early antenatal engagement (before 14 weeks) with our team will lead to a stronger, healthy pregnancy and newborn baby. This approach to maternity



Births in Community

55

Full Term Babies

51

Babies born with a healthy birth weight

46

care should result in improved quality and accessibility of routine antenatal care, improved nutrition in pregnancy, addressing maternal smoking and drinking in pregnancy, and overall provide better monitoring of maternal and foetal health.

Early antenatal engagement presentations are lifting:

- O June to December 2022 saw 33% antenatal presentations before 13 weeks, and
- January to June 2023 saw a rise to 42%.

Subsequently, we have seen low birth weights reduce from 15% down to 4% in that same time period.

Our service is not restricted just to our clinics. Our outreach work allows us to visit families at home where parents and their new baby are adjusting to life together. We attend their homes for weekly baby weighs and wellbeing checks.

This engagement has encouraged a comfortable and communicative nature with health services: we visit our mums and bubs for six weeks following birth. The extended postnatal care period is in line with recommendations from the First 1000 Days Program, a nationwide program committed to improving health outcomes for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander children and onto the next generation of strong, healthy individuals.



A New Focus For Our Team

Since moving Sexual Health under the Gurriny Yealamucka Public Health Unit umbrella, we have made some further changes to the way we run our Sexual Health program. This year, we have invited one of our dedicated GPs and Maternal Health members to join our team.

By expanding our team, we now have several health professionals with differing expertise working together. This enables us to offer an improved and more comprehensive service.

Our aim, is not only reduce the number of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and blood born viruses (BBVs) experienced in community, but work towards creating the conditions required to have a sexually healthy community.

We want our community to be having consensual, pleasurable, good quality, sex. However, in order to be able to achieve this, it is important that we are actively creating an environment whereby community members feel safe, to be in touch with their true authentic selves.

By approaching sexual health through a human rights lens, we are better able to see where our program strengths and areas in need of improvement or development are, in



context with our community.

So far, by taking this approach we have already been able to implement the Yarrabah Barrier Protection Program, annual State of Origin Jersey Competition and our girls 'Art Classes' at the Yarrabah Secondary School.

We have also been able to offer catch-up immunisation services, dental 'yarns' and Yarrie's Juice Bar to our annual Young Persons Health and Wellbeing Checks.

All these programs, aim to broaden mindsets, increase sex positivity, confidence, knowledge, access to services and acceptance of each other as we truly identify.





Supporting our Families

The Family Healing and Family Wellbeing Team is made up of dedicated professional counsellors and community support workers who are people focused, advocating strongly for families, individuals and the wider Yarrabah Community.

Our service provides confidential support and counselling for community people going through hard times, grief and loss, trauma, mental health and wellbeing problems. The family Healing Service have two new counsellors who are enthusiastic in their new roles.

Our service has received one hundred and forty-nine new referral and completed over two thousand counselling sessions with community members.

Some of the completed Feedback forms:

'Counselling helped me to express myself. I feel happy now that I have worked through my problems. I am now working on making my relationship more positively'.

'I like coming to counselling as I'm able to talk about the sadness that I am dealing with.'

Our service is not just counselling as we love to get involved with actives that support the community with their overall wellbeing encouraging laughter and fun. The Women's New referrals for assistance.

149

Counselling Sessions

2000+

sessions conducted
with community
members

group has been a huge success through connecting women within their community where they share everyday issues and the ways they get through hard times.

This year Family Healing Service in conjunction with the Social & Emotional team and Family Wellbeing focused on a holistic health model and came up with the grand plan to organise a month of health and Wellbeing activities for the women of Yarrabah. We named this event SIStember 2022.

The focus was on Women's Business in relation to cervical cancer and the importance of Pap Smear testing. We held specific women's clinics and we had an amazing amount of interest from women. Community women spoke out about the importance of self-care and looking after their health. We held events that nurtured the mind and spirit by creating a space for the needs of Mind stimulation, curiosity, wonder and creative expression throughout the month.

The Women's Gathering had nearly 300 women attend and the draw card was Comedian; Karen Edwards a Deadly Aboriginal women from Charleville. This was an event where women shared their stories of health and wellbeing.



Good Health Can Be Fun

Over the last 12 months, Gurriny Yealamucka's Public Health Team have been working on planning, developing and implementing several fun, innovative and effective programs which promote good health and instill healthy habits within community.

We are aware that there are significant inequities and poor health outcomes experienced by community members. However, the Public Health Team aims to address these using a strengths-based and asset-building approach, with priority given to preventative strategies, not the treatment of symptoms.

Planning, developing and implementing programs through a strengths-based lens, enables us to focus on all the positive attributes community has to offer and build upon them. This is a method our team feel strongly about, as it changes the negative health narrative which is often prescribed and fed to community, to a positive one.

Building trusting, strong and responsive relationships, with not only our own



community but our stakeholders, is essential to the work that we do. It is through these quality connections, that we are able to apply pressure, using our successes achieved to re-write our narrative and change the way we do business

In just twelve months, we have been able to achieve great success across abroad range of program areas.

Programs include;

- Yarrabah Soap Program
- O Love the Skin You're In
- Art Class'
- O Nutrition Support Program
- Barrier Protection Distribution Program
- O Young Persons Health and Wellbeing Checks
- O State of Origin Jersey Competition
- O Vaccination Support Program
- Period Positivity Program

Revitalised engagement strategies include;

- Yarrie's Juice Bar
- O Binna-N Wanngi, Health Promotion Music Clip





Making Better Choices

Men's and Women Health and the Bringing Them Home programs are services which deliver Social Emotional Wellbeing.

The Team works closely with the Family Wellbeing, Family Healing and Youth Wellbeing Teams to provide wellbeing services and programs that promote Life and self-care.

Services are provided through core business and include Case conferencing client care and management, tending home visits for client contact and follow-up and delivering events to promote wellness.

Aims of annual events is to impart knowledge and information to encourage community empowerment, better choices and feedback. 2022

Men's Forum an annual event which provides a safe space for the community to learn and provide feedback.

Sistember (September) and

Movember (November) a program to promote Holistic care and encourage community to present for an health check.

RUOK Day a promotional event delivered by the whole of the Wellbeing Team.

This event promotes suicide prevention and encourage community "it's Okay not to be

impart
knowledge
and encourage
community
empowerment



Okay and to Seek help".

This event also acknowledges and highlights the work of the Community Volunteer Crisis workers and the importance of the work they do.

Mental Health Week an awareness on individual and community mental health a "healthy mind is a healthy body".

Suicide Prevention day is to increase individual and community capacity and resilience to seek help.

2023

Womens' Gathering an annual event which provides a safe space for the Women to learn and provide feedback.

Highlights

2023 welcomes Roshetta Stafford as the Social Emotional Wellbeing Women's Health Officer.

May 2023 Gurriny acknowledged all Mother's and Community Female Elders 65 and over.

- O Mother's received a flower for Mother's Day
- Elders received a basket of goodies.



Keeping Community Mobile

Whilst it may be true that the 'public face' of Gurriny are the Indigenous Health Workers, the unsung heroes of our service would have to be the Transport and Facilities team.

Our team are responsible for the maintenance and cleaning of our five facilities as well as the safe transportation of thousands of community members to their medical appointments both here in community as well as Cairns.

The past year we expanded from our usual 4 campuses, Bukki Road, Workshop Road Clinic, Youth Hub and Men's Space in Noble Drive to also include the Yarrabah Leisure Centre. Five facilities that require cleaning and maintenance in addition to safety checks, audits and compliance as well as external yard general upkeep.

This year we have also undergone AGPAL accreditation on our new Workshop Road clinic. The AGPAL accreditation involved processes procedures as well as facility compliance. I am pleased to report that we passed, and will remained accredited for the balance of this three-year cycle.

Vehicles in Fleet

23

Busses in Fleet

3

Cairns Transport runs

76,350

Fleet Kilometres

800,000

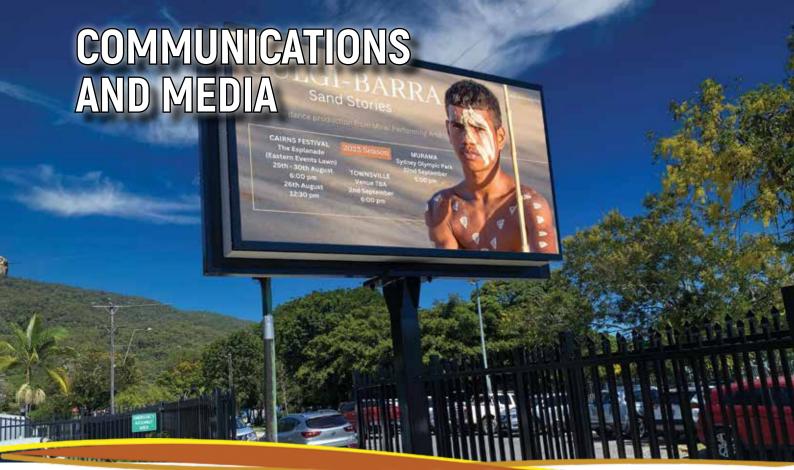
Our team comprised of up to 15 staff members, all residents of our community. Four full time cleaners along with 4 casual cleaning staff, two drivers as well as two casual staff, 2 security officers and a manager.

In March 2023, our long serving Manager, Paul Munn accepted a contract working in Cairns. Kevin Neal was appointed to the acting manager role and has navigated the team successfully for the past 6 months.

Transport, or more importantly a lack of transport should never be an obstacle to accessing our healthcare services. We run a fleet of 20 vehicles as well as three buses, providing transport to and from healthcare appointments for our community members.

Our transport drivers also work 6 days a week with their dialysis transport services. We have 14 dialysis clients here in Yarrabah, needing to access services at Bukki Road Monday to Saturday.





Strengthening Relationships **Through Better Communication**

Effective and transparent communication and engagement with our community and stakeholders is the essential principle that drives GYHSAC's Communication and Marketing strategy.

To facilitate this a comprehensive Communication Strategy was written and approved by the Gurriny board in March 2023.

Our key messaging has never been clearer:

- We are a culturally safe healthcare provider
- Gurriny has a strong community focus O We provide a voice for our community
- O We fearlessly advocate for change health and social wellbeing for Yarrabah
- Gurriny provide a unique model of care tailored to reflect the needs of the community
- We practice innovative, community driven healthcare, staffed by leading professionals in their field
- We respectfully create a platform for the collective voice of Yarrabah to be heard

Our messaging incorporates main stream



media, digital social media, community based digital billboards as well as traditional brochures, flyers, posters and publications.

Engaging with, and communicating with our community remains the primary focus of our marketing and communication strategy. Keeping our community informed and educated has been our drive in the past 12 months.

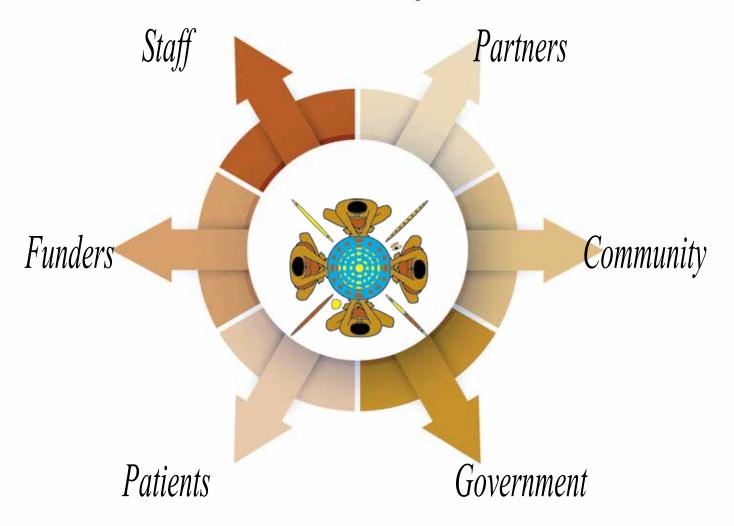
Our primary digital social media platform Facebook continues to reach large numbers (79,224 people), although this is down significantly from the previous year, this decrease is due to heightened messaging and awareness created during the COVID outbreak, January 2022 - June 2022.

In June 2023, our total number of followers on Facebook tipped over the 2000 number. Our audience on Facebook continues to have a heavy female skew (72.9% female) with a strong coverage woman 25 - 64 years of age.

In October 2022, we installed 4 digital billboards in our community. Three of these billboards operate 7 days a week from 7am



Who are we talking with



- 7pm. A combination of static imagery and video are scheduled on these billboards.

Announcements are scheduled via a web based digital dashboard, allowing weekend special announcements to be broadcast into community. The billboards have quickly become an essential platform to communicate with our community, and adds additional 'bite' to our communications messaging.

Gurriny's communication objectives are tied to our values and strategic goals. It is important that our conversations build awareness, knowledge, and most importantly trust.

We need them to facilitate capacity building and increase health literacy in our community and educate mainstream health about culturally appropriate care.

We need our partners and funders to understand what we are doing to meet our obligations as an Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Service.

Over the last year, our communication goals have been to:

increase engagement and awareness

Increase community engagement

We have done this through events, social media, our website, Digital billboard in addition to a community newsletter and in-clinic activities.

O Increase awareness of what we do

Our awareness campaigns have leveraged engagement activities to share information about services, achievements, and good news stories.

O Strengthen relationships with partners and stakeholders

We work with our partners across the healthcare sector to collaborate on events, programs and initiatives

Build internal communication and engagement with our staff

We endeavour to keep staff informed on developments, promotion and activities. Many of our staff are from community, further increasing the importance of keeping them informed and building their confidence in advocating on our behalf.





Optimising health ensuring safe and effective use of medicines

Here at Gurriny we have been pioneering integrating high level medicines support via our on-site pharmacist for over a decade. However, this kind of service remains unusual within other health services across Australia – something our own clinical pharmacist Pippa Travers-Mason is trying to change.

As a credentialled consultant clinical pharmacist with additional qualifications in public health and medical education, our pharmacist Pippa Travers-Mason specialises in ensuring medicines (including supplements) used for our clients are the safest and most effective options that are best suited to each person's specific needs.

Where possible we aim to ensure our clients are on the least number of medicines taken in the easiest way to maintain good health today and prevent problems in the future. Its personalising their healthcare.

In addition to this clinical role providing medicines advice to the clinical team, contributing to case conferences and outreach home visits into Yarrabah community with our health worker and nursing team, we have been heavily involved in research into demonstrating the value of this service, and increasing opportunity for funding.

Gurriny's credentialled clinical consultant pharmacist has also been contributing content and design of the new Pharmaceutical Society of

Key Achievements

- O Over 100 community members received a home visit from the pharmacist last year
- Follow up visits
 and clinical review
 provided to a
 further 150 clients
- Over a dozen education sessions provided in clinic to support our medical teams

Australia's 'deadly pharmacists' training program which aims to better prepare other pharmacists to take on a similar role as they slowly become available throughout Indigenous health service Australia -wide.

A home medicines review is a specialty review of a client's treatment. This will not only include their medicines, but also look holistically at the other pillars of health such as movement, and nutrition.

This program allows our specially trained and

credentialled pharmacist the ability to go out in community supported by health workers and nurses to visit people in their homes (or wherever they prefer) and have a good yarn bout their health, their medicines, and other treatment options. We can include the support of family members and carers where needed, answer all your questions about medicines and explain the best way to use them.

Medicine is always changing, and staying up to date is a challenge for all health professionals. At Gurriny we provide regular clinical updates on therapeutic areas, management strategies, and of course what's new and different in medicine management. In addition, our pharmacist is available to answer clinical queries, such as the best treatment for a condition, medicines interactions, and access to certain therapies. We also assist with transitions of care between other clinics, specialists and the hospital.



AGPAL Accreditation for Workshop Road Clinic

The Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) Yearly Report for the year 2022/2023 provides a comprehensive overview of organisational efforts and outcomes in promoting a safe and healthy work environment.

Throughout the year, a steadfast commitment to WHS policies and practices was evident, resulting in significant achievements.

In November 2022, our Workshop Road Clinic underwent AGPAL Accreditation. Processes, procedures and our facility were reviewed and we received this essential accreditation covering a 3-year cycle through to 2025.

General practice accreditation with AGPAL provides acknowledgment that a general practice or Aboriginal Medical Service has reached a high standard of safety and quality in their practice, while demonstrating a commitment to sustainable and effective quality improvement processes and initiatives.

A new WHS manual has been designed and is currently in draft form.



committed to effective quality Secondly, it enhances legal compliance by improvement



Having a workplace health and safety manual has numerous benefits for us as an organisation as well as all employees and visitors.

Firstly, it helps create a safer work environment by outlining protocols and procedures for identifying and mitigating Sustainable and hazards, reducing accidents, and protecting employees' well-being.

> ensuring that we adhere to local, state, and federal safety regulations, reducing the risk of fines and lawsuits.

Thirdly, it promotes consistency and clarity in safety practices, fostering better communication and understanding among all employees.





Employing, retraining and upskilling the best

The stories in this year's Annual Report about our work and how we're succeeding are all made possible by the dedicated, hard-working people that make up our health service.

Our 100-strong workforce includes administration staff (23%), support staff (17%), and our team of health care, wellbeing, nursing and medical professionals (60%).

Most of our staff are female (62%) and are employed fulltime (64%). The average age of our workforce has grown to 43 years, with the over-53 cohort on the rise.

Importantly, nearly three quarters of us identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, the majority of whom call Yarrabah 'home'.

Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Workers support delivery of holistic health services that recognise the linkages encompassing body, mind, spirit, culture and country. They are among just a few roles within the Australian health workforce exclusively occupied by First Nations peoples.

Together, Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Workers make up nearly one third [29%] of our workforce and are instrumental in the achievement of our mission to provide whole-of community, culturally safe, accessible primary health care.



72% of our team identify as Indigenous



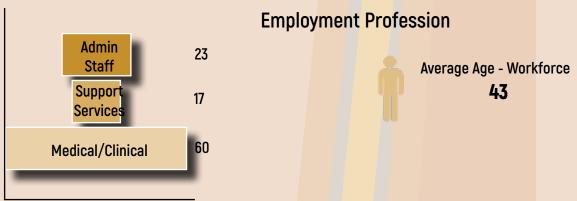
In the 12 months to July 2023, our workforce grew by a quarter. Over the period, 70 per cent of new appointments were to our growing, multidisciplinary primary healthcare team – including 7 Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Workers - and the remainder, to our administration team.

Gurriny recognises that the quality of its workforce is linked to the achievement of its mission and strategic goals. It is committed to providing a supportive environment in which employees are motivated to improve their skills to achieve their best results.

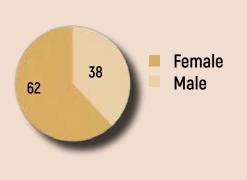
Upskilling and enabling employees is a priority and not only do we aim to recruit the best and brightest, but we also commit to developing and training our people.

Of our Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Workers, 44 per cent are advancing their careers by undertaking higher-level qualification courses. Either independently of Gurriny or under a traineeship agreement, Indigenous Health and Wellbeing Workers are applying themselves to primary healthcare qualifications including Diploma and Advanced Diploma in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care.

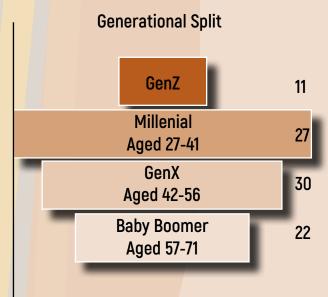
GURRINY YEALAMUCKA by the numbers



Employment Breakdown

















The Board of Directors wish to acknowledge the following staff for loyalty and service to Gurriny and our community

5+ years as at June 30, 2023

Nara Crotty	5 years	Peter Roach	7 years
Clevanna Messer	5 years	Russell Barlow	8 years
Jason King	5 years	Paula Burns	8 years
Belita Kynuna	5 years	Jannali Neal	9 years
Maunrre Cedric	5 years	Clifton Burns	9 years
William Mossman	6 years	Paul Munn	9 years
Sheanah Ludwick	6 years		

10+ years as at June 30, 2023

Kevin Neal	10 years	Darren Miller	13 years
Mary Kyle	10 years	Agnes Neal	13 years
Paul Neal	12 years	Lucresia Willett	13 years
James Creed	13 years	Tamar Patterson	14 years
Edward Murgha	13 years		

15+ years as at June 30, 2023

Katrina Connolly 15 years Suzanne Andrews 16 years

20+ years as at June 30, 2023

Kayleen Jackson 20 years







Giving our youth a voice for today and tomorrow

Our History, Youth's Future was the theme for the 2023 Yarrabah Youth Forum, that was held on an April evening during the Easter Holiday which also ending the 2023 Youth Week.

93 Youths were in participation for this annual event with 24 networks, parents, special guests and staff completing the night's audience. The event was catered with a plated setting of spit roast and sides to satisfy the 117 strong attendees.

The evening started with a Welcome to Country and opening prayers before MC and Youth Wellbeing Coordinator, Paul Neal kicked off the event with the Opening Address to the youth.

Special guest speaker on the night Gurriny Yealamucka CEO Sue Andrews spoke on the importance of the Youth of our Community.

We were honoured when the Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health, Emma McBride not only spoke but engaged with the Youth both on the microphone and going table by table to hear from them on how our the Local, State and Federal Government can help with the Youth.

The Assistant Minister posed one important question to our youth; If you could meet the Prime Minister, what would you like to say to him about

Key Achievements

- Over 100
 community
 members received
 a home visit from
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 last year
- Follow up visits and clinical review provided to a further 150 clients
- O Over a dozen education sessions provided in clinic to support our medical teams

Yarrabah and the Youth of the community?

The Youth answered with such depth and passion towards issues and goals surrounding their peers as well as themselves. This was a great impact as Assistant Minister McBride while on ABC's Q&A days after, spoke on her journey to Yarrabah and highlighted many of the answers that was given from the Yarrabah Youth.

The night was not only to speak on daily Issue and resolution as we also celebrated the individuals of our community with youth shouting out their peers, who have achieved throughout the year, which led the night into the important individual piece of self-inspiring works to themselves in a letter that would be written for their future-self.

Before sealing the letters that would hopefully be reopened in a decade from the day, a few brave youths had been encouraged to read out aloud their letter to their future self. The incredible thought that went in to the letter was by word, simple yet powerful, with some Youth speaking on achievements, change of oneself and willingness to get out of their comfort zone to breakout and travel the world. The audience were truly blessed by the bravery and passion of the youth.





Using art to educate, inform and create discussion

Gurriny Public Health and Maternal Health Teams are working in collaboration with the Yarrabah High School, providing regular interactive yarning opportunities with the girls at lunch times.

These drop-in sessions use the creation of art, to facilitate conversations about important health related issues and concepts and aim to empower girls, build their individual assets and create safe spaces.

Creating art can be used as a visual thinking strategy, which helps to externalise internal thinking processes, making them clearer, explicit, and actionable.

Using this method can help organise the participants thoughts and improve their ability to think and communicate. It can also help to convey complex or potentially confusing information.

These sessions take a strengths-based perspective, focusing on building and strengthening a broad range of individual assets, a store of value which an individual can use to reduce vulnerabilities and expand opportunities.



Asset-building in this context can have a positive effect on outcomes such as, school completion rates, delaying sexual debut, reducing gender-based violence, reducing exposure and transmission of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and reducing early or unintended pregnancies.

Thus far, "Art Class" sessions have worked on developing a positive body image, understanding consent, creating period positivity, understanding female anatomy (aka "Lady Science"), identifying risky and healthy behaviour and finding our voice to say "no".

Sessions support the girl's social assets by creating a girls-only safe space, providing mentorship, building trust and increasing negotiating power.

Support the attainment of cognitive assets, by improving confidence and strengthening communication skills and human/health assets, through the sharing of sexual and reproductive health knowledge, developing greater levels of self-esteem and autonomy.





Lights, Camera, Action on Public Health

Every day we are confronted by thousands of messages and advertisements. Social media, television and print are all vying for our attention, selling us, informing us, and ultimately entertaining us.

Health promotion messaging can be difficult, it's not really exciting and many times it lacks variety and sometimes creativity.

The Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services Aboriginal Corporation (GYHSAC) Public Health team needed to engage with the youth in Yarrabah and promote the important vaccination and healthy lifestyle messages.

In collaboration with North Queensland Primary Health Network, the GYHSAC Public Health team embarked upon an ambitious project to have the youth in Yarrabah, plan, compose and star in their own public health music video.

The project commenced with a song-writing workshop conducted at the Yarrabah Primary School, directed by Mau Power, with a selection of primary school students, David Mundraby, Normey Jay and the Gurriny Public Health Team. After the lyrics were written, rehearsals and recording of the song took place onsite, also



directed by Mau Power.

The spectacular Yarrabah landscape was the perfect vista for the filming of the song clip. The stars of the clip, Normey Jay and the Yarrabah school children enjoyed the experience.

Renee Grasso, Gurriny Yealamucka's public health coordinator was excited by the opportunity of working on such an ambitious project.

"Our program goals for this project are to help improve the health and wellbeing of our Yarrabah community, by raising awareness about the concepts of good health in a holistic and locally identified manner.

"The strategy we took was to do this through the development of a health message music video with a group of Yarrabah children and local artists.

"This was a project that all of community can enjoy for generations to come," she said.

Connecting with community and keeping culture alive was important in this project. The video clip featured local children and Normey Jay singing in local language in addition to promoting local bush tucker.





Everyone's a winner

The State of Origin Jersey Competition is a part of a growing collection of health promotional activities, designed by the Gurriny Public Health Unit to break down the stigma and shame experienced around sexual health issues.

It also, aims to raise awareness of the importance of regular screening for Blood Born Viruses (BBVs) and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) in the Yarrabah community.

This competition provides a fun and interactive option for introducing topics of sexual health between client and health professional and wider community.

Conducted annually, during the three months leading up to the first State of Origin game, eligible Gurriny clients are urged to participate in the competition for their chance to win either a Queensland jersey or a New South Wales jersey.

Willing and eligible entrants are required to place a guess on how many barrier protective items are within a jar, which sits on display in the clinic's reception areas.

The closest guess or correct guess wins, on



completion of the completion, just prior to the first Origin game.

The Gurriny health professional (health worker, nurse or doctor) responsible for initiating the highest number of entrants, wins a \$200 gift voucher.

By making fun and interactive activities which promote positive and accurate conversations around sexual health issues, we begin to normalise this sensitive topic area.

Normalising sexual health issues can begin with health service staff, collectively demonstrating that they are open and comfortable to talk about sexual health with their clients in a respectful, confidential and situationally appropriate manner.

This is another initiative which works on building enabling environments, whereby respect, protection and fulfilment of human rights can be enjoyed by our clients.





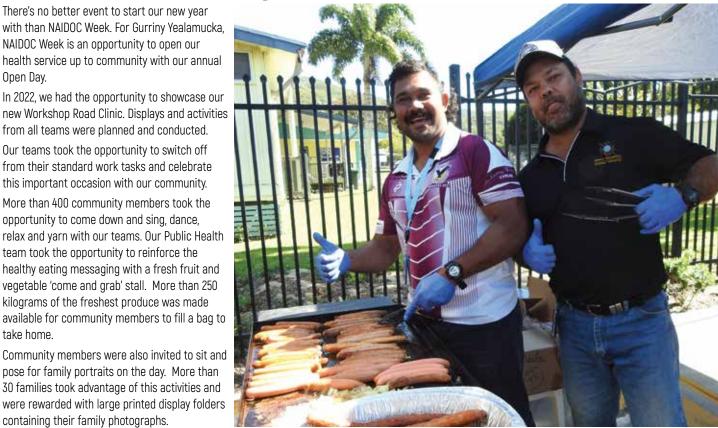
Celebrating NAIDOC

There's no better event to start our new year with than NAIDOC Week. For Gurriny Yealamucka, NAIDOC Week is an opportunity to open our health service up to community with our annual Open Day.

new Workshop Road Clinic. Displays and activities from all teams were planned and conducted. Our teams took the opportunity to switch off from their standard work tasks and celebrate this important occasion with our community. More than 400 community members took the

opportunity to come down and sing, dance, relax and yarn with our teams. Our Public Health team took the opportunity to reinforce the healthy eating messaging with a fresh fruit and vegetable 'come and grab' stall. More than 250 kilograms of the freshest produce was made available for community members to fill a bag to take home.

Community members were also invited to sit and pose for family portraits on the day. More than 30 families took advantage of this activities and were rewarded with large printed display folders containing their family photographs.







Cultural Safety in the hands of the good doctor

Consistent with Gurriny Yealamucka's commitment to Culturally Safe Care, we initiated mandatory Cultural Heritage Workshops for all Gurriny Yealamucka staff to attend.

The workshops are an opportunity for all staff to learn about the archaeological and anthropological history of the land that we work, live and play on, the traditional lands of the Gunggandji and Yidinji People.

Dr Darryl Murgha is a Gunggandji Elder from Yarrabah. He shares is extensive knowledge of Yarrabah and our immediate surrounds. In addition, he brings with him the many artefacts he has collected over his long, distinguished career.

Each workshop has a mix of local Aboriginal staff, who are also traditional custodians of the land; Aboriginal staff who are not from the community and non-Indigenous staff. This was deliberately done and has worked so well.

The richness of the conversations during the workshop cannot be understated. Uncle Darryl has a unique presentation style, one



that tells you the history of the area while inviting others to share their story and their connection to community. Without the local Aboriginal staff being part of the workshop, we would not have heard from them what it means to provide culturally safe care in Yarrabah.

Through these workshops we have been able to gain a deeper understanding of who we are as individuals, which enables us to be more sensitive and empathetic to the needs of those who access all of our programs and services.

We have all become more mindful, sensitive and understanding of our individual cultural differences. More importantly, gained greater insight on how we can provide the best care to the community of Yarrabah.

In April this year, Uncle Darryl welcomed the Honorable Emma McBride MP to Yarrabah, her first visit in a remote Indigenous community in her capacity as Assistant Minister for Rural and Regional Health.





When Community Speak, We Hear!

SIStember is an event created by Gurriny Yealamucka in direct response to feedback from the women in our community.

The Gurriny Yealamucka Social and Emotional Wellbeing teams saw the need for a month dedicated to women's health and wellbeing, modelled along the lines of Movember for the men of community.

"Our women appeared to be invisible" stated Gurriny's Social and Emotional Wellbeing's Manager Tamar Patterson.

"In our families, the mother often puts everyone first, we needed to give them a month where they could treat themselves to personalized health checks with female doctors, join in events that specifically targeted women in community.

Lucresia Willet, Grace Drahm and Tamar Patterson were the driving forces behind the establishment of SIStember – A celebration of sisterhood in Yarrabah.

The first SIStember was held in 2022, with a mind, body and soul focus. Women's



Cervical
Screening Tests

Attendees -SIStember '22



health checks along with cervical cancer screening, Mindfulness sessions, Zumba along with social events in partnership and connection with the women of the Church and community.

SIStember was a huge success, not just from the sheer number of women who engaged with the Health Service in the month, but also the number of community based organisations who embraced the opportunity to participate during the month: Gindaja, Wugu Nyambil, Mutkin, Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council, Yarrabah State School and Queensland Indigenous Family Violence Legal Service.

Throughout the month more than 30 events were staged and hosted, almost 90 health checks conducted, more than 1000 attendees at the events and for the month of September, the women of Yarrabah celebrated and supported each other.

What became loud and clear through the voices of Women in Community was: 'they are We, they are I and they are Us'!



Good Health For Community Men in Movember

The Yarrabah men embraced Movember with real purpose in 2022. Events were held throughout the month for a focus upon raising awareness surrounding men's health along with also highlighting the importance of our men taking the time to yarn about their health as well as engaging with their local health worker or GP.

Activities throughout the month included the weekly men's Space gatherings, Men's Health Checks, conducted at our Workshop Road Clinic by Dr Takehiro Ichikawa and culminated in late November with a Kup Muri at one of our community beaches, (Djildji).

The Men's Health Checks were conducted on four consecutive Tuesday's commencing November 8. We completed a total of 22 men's health check during November.

Whilst this number may appear low, our population analysis reveals that adult males represent approximately 44 per cent of the Yarrabah population (922



males aged 20+).

Issues identified with our health checks related to availability of GP services at times that allowed working males to attend. This issue is being addressed during Movember in 2023.

Our Movember celebrations culminated with a men's community Kup Muri attended by more than 50 community-based men.

It was a very relaxed afternoon with honest and very open yarning and sharing by our men, along with a valuable presentation to all attendees on the importance of looking after not just our minds, but our souls and our physical health.

Movember 2022 also serve to lay the foundations for our very successful Men's Forum held in 2023. The feedback from our men was for greater focus and opportunity to come together, share and build. This feedback has underpinned much of the focus of our Men's Health activities in 2023.





Inspiring the next generation of health professionals

As one of Australia's leading Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Organisation (ACCHO), Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services commits itself to working with, and facilitating the development of health professionals not just in far north Queensland, but throughout Australia.

The key to attracting and retaining quality staff (Strategic Intent 3.1) is to actively work with the industry to develop pathways that facilitate and reward learning and development.

Throughout the year, Gurriny Yealamucka has worked with TAFE and Anglicare North Queensland to facilitate vocational experience for students completing their Diploma in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care.

With 60 per cent of our work force coming from our local Yarrabah community, the opportunity to attend and promote health care industry as a career option for our community members was the motivation to exhibit at the 2022 Yarrabah Employment Expo.

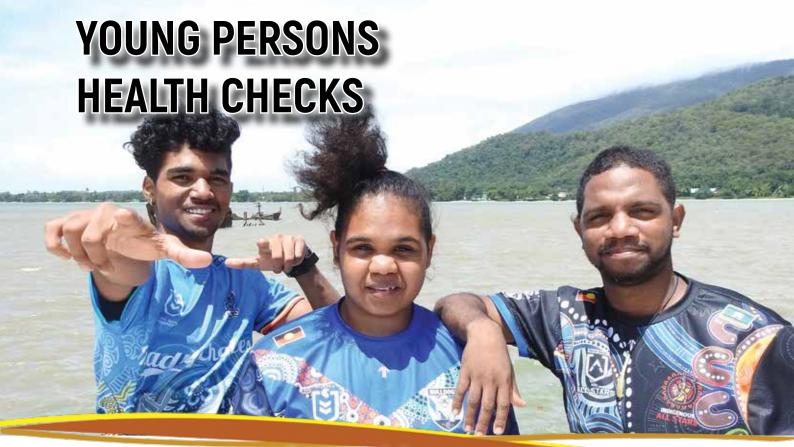


During the event more than 500 community members and school students attended the expo. Gurriny joined with community-based organisations in addition to employers and organisations based throughout Cairns and the far north Queensland region to showcase, inspire and inform attendees as to the many and exciting employment options available for them both here as well as the wider region.

Inspiring the next generation of health professionals has also been high on the priority for our health service. Throughout the year we have facilitated work experience, VET placements for 19 students from four of the major schools and colleges in our region.

Our work experience program allows aspiring students the opportunity to view, interact and 'test-drive' a career as a health professional. This program lays the foundation for many students to view first-hand the amazing work our health professionals do, inspiring the students to pursue their dreams perhaps embark upon a life changing journey as a health professional working for an ACCHO in a regional centre of Australia.





Just the shot: Young Person's Health and Wellbeing Checks

The June school holidays in Yarrabah took a new direction this year, with the newly formatted Young Persons Health and Wellbeing Checks (YPC) being conducted.

These annual health checks are an important event within the public health and youth wellbeing teams at Gurriny.

After a comprehensive review of the YPC in 2022, one key recommendation was to change the timing from October annually to coincide with the June/July school holidays in 2023.

Along with the change in timing, the branding and focus would also change to Young Persons Health and Wellbeing Check, creating a more inclusive event and avoid any perceived negative imaging.

The event commenced in late June 2023 with 3 weeks of clinical appointments scheduled.

This years' Young Person's Health and Wellbeing Checks have been hailed a success by Gurriny Yealamucka's GP, Dr Takehiro Ichikawa.

"Out of all the health checks completed in the first 6 months of 2023, 73.5 per cent were

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conducted in the 3 weeks period of YPC, as well as administering flu, COVID and HPV vaccinations.

"For the past ten years our youth have been attending the YPC (Young Persons Health and Wellbeing Check). The annual health check is important as we can identify health issues early before it becomes more serious issues." With the support of NQPHN Gurriny were able to this year offer COVID and flu vaccinations, in addition to their standard HPV and meningococcal vaccinations.

The results of the vaccination drive were staggering. Of the 180-youth attending 34 COVID vaccinations were administered, including 3 youth receiving their Pfizer COVID 1 shot, and 22 receiving their PF3 Booster.

Flu vaccinations were also available with more almost 53 per cent of youth receiving their flu vaccination, along with 27 Meningococcal and 26 HPV vaccinations administered during the screening period.





Listening without judging

Connecting with our community youth is an important function within our Youth Wellbeing program. To support this objective Gurriny appointed a specialist Senior Youth Caseworker in October 2022.

"Youth Yarns with Zee" was one of the first initiative, Zhaun Lee-Hong instigated after a comprehensive review of the needs and opportunities within community.

These structured yet relaxed sessions provide a comprehensive support service for young individuals seeking guidance. The sessions offer job search assistance, help with obtaining driver's licenses, future planning, and attending appointments.

In addition to this, Zhaun provides one-onone therapy sessions tailored to last up to 50 minutes or more, allowing youths to engage in board games, PS4 games, or painting while discussing various topics confidentially.

Subjects covered include work-life balance, managing negative thoughts, early suicide prevention, addressing loneliness, grief, substance use, understanding relationships, providing court support, and anything essential to them.

Youth Yarns has proved to be successful with many of our young, leading to additional opportunities to engage with youth in



fostering
an inclusive
environment for
our youth



situations that allow open and very honest sharing and trust building. We have been successful in securing additional funding to allow for the launch of "Fishing Yarns with Zee", a relaxed recreational activity fostering trust, sharing as well as cultural development.

The service sits within the Youth Wellbeing Team and includes actively participating in events, barbeques, and various activities that enhance our young community members' well-being.

Collaborating with Paul Neal (Youth Wellbeing Program Coordinator), our efforts complement each other, fostering an inclusive environment for youths in both programs and clinical aspects, leaving a positive impact on our community.

Our results for the first nine months are heartening. Counselling support was provided to 45 individual clients and extended assistance to 50 more through unofficial counselling sessions, supported 26 community members such as families and friends worried about their youth.

A further 20 individual clients were engaged with through case management activities and I joined in 50 unique group activities promoting mental health and overall wellbeing.



Empowering and lifting our women

In September 2022, as a major event within our inaugural SIStember celebrations, we ran our annual Women's Gathering.

More than 150 community women gathered, shared, supported each other and celebrated during this powerful and very successful day.

The day featured inspiring and uplifting addresses from leading Indigenous women of our region, Pat O'Shane and Elverina Johnson, with Indigenous comedienne Karen Edwards providing a light-hearted banter throughout the day to ease pressures and help our community members to relax and open up during group discussions.

With the launch of Gurriny's very success SIStember, participants expressed a desire to hold the 2023 Women's Gathering earlier in the year, creating even greater focus on many of the issues community women are dealing with on a daily basis.

The 2023 Women's Gathering was scheduled and staged in early May. The program attracted a star-studded lineup of



leadership, empowerment & self-determination



Indigenous speakers, including Bino Toby, Cheryl Buchanan, Ailsa Lively and Gracelyn Smallwood. Karen Edwards returned as our guest comedienne giving our community members the opportunity to once more laugh at many of the unique situations our community members find themselves in.

Key to the success of the Women's Gathering is its strong connection with community and its focus on women's health and wellbeing through strong leadership, empowerment, self-determination and leadership.

The 2023 Gathering recognised two incredible women from community. Sister Muriel Stanley who was a pioneering Indigenous nurse almost 80 years ago and Aunty Philomena Yeatman. Aunty Philomena is a leading Australian Indigenous artist from Yarrabah. Her Yealamucka design and artwork was used as the design for the shawls presented to all the women attending the 2023 Women's Gathering.





Fresh Fruit Has Never Tasted So Good

The unfortunate reality in community is that for many residents the first drink of choice is a surgery carbonated drink. With high rates of diabetes, poor oral health, combined with a lack of confidence in the quality of the local drinking water, there is a need to change first choice of drink from a soft one to a healthy one.

The Yarrie Juice Bar is an initiative of Gurriny's Public Health Team. The Juice Bar offers considerable benefits not just to community, but also creates an opportunity and environment where our Public Health team can engage with community as they wait for their freshly juiced fruit creation.

Yarrie's Juice Bar provides a fun and interactive opportunity for community to come try wide variety of juiced fresh fruit, vegetables and lush leafy greens, prepared and served by our vibrant Yarrabah youth. With time, we hope it helps community move away from nutrient deficient, artificial sugary drinks.

The Juice Bar was launched during our recent Young Persons Health and Wellbeing Checks



program in June 2022.

Our teams were kept busy creating exotic and very mouth-watering 'fruit mocktails' using a wide variety of fruits and vegetables. For many of the youth who attended the checks, the opportunity to order and taste a freshly squeezed juice combining apple, orange, ginger, and carrot or to combine their own flavors to create a taste sensation was the ideal time to stop and engage with our teams.

Maximising on opportunity to promote healthy habits, Yarrie's Juice Bar also comes with its own 'wash hands station', promoting good hand hygiene practices and worm farm for juice pulp. The worm farm is used as an educational tool, to help children understand how food waste breaks down as opposed to plastics and metals.

Gurriny's Public Health Team receive regular requests for this fabulous juice by community members and local organisations! Popularity is proving, that this revitalised engagement strategy is a real success and the team look forward to the busy year of Yarrie's Juice Bar bookings ahead.





Ways you can keep your home and family safe and healthy



Wash your hands and bodies #GetYourMooGooOn



Healthy Housing Program

The Healthy Housing Program is a joint initiative between, Queensland Health (Tropical Public Health Services) and the Department of Housing, in collaboration with Energy and Public Works to identify and support improvement of domestic health hardware, environmental health issues and healthy living practices to help improve the health outcomes of First Nations peoples.

The overarching objective of the program is to reduce the prevalence of communicable diseases in participating households and communities.

A community advisory group made up of representatives from Gurriny Yealamucka Health Service Aboriginal Corporation, Yarrabah Shire Council (building services, housing, environmental health) and other identified stakeholders, Yarrabah Leaders Forum & Yarrabah State School have come together to co-design the program for their community.

Yarrabah has 414 houses within community, with the vast majority built in the 1980s. With 4000 plus residents all squeezed into these 414 houses, combines with a poor state of disrepair for many of the houses, it was timely for the key stakeholders to launch the Healthy Housing program here in Yarrabah.

The program has inspected 98 houses in

Key Achievements

- Bathrooms requiring functional improvements 78
- Toilets requiring functional improvements 38
- O Kitchens requiring functional improvements **19**
- Laundries requiring functional improvements 39
- o 13% of Households reviewed reported the presence of skin conditions in their households in the past 30 days.

Yarrabah to date. Based on the numbers of houses inspected, 607 adults and children have been involved in the program. During the inspections, 5087 maintenance items have been identified by the inspection team with 63 per cent of those jobs completed to date.

Currently one-on-one "Healthy Living Practice" (HHP) visits are occurring with houses on the program. The HHP team have been sharing information with the tenants on the 9 Healthy Living Practices and how these practices tie into the health of the home and the tenants living there.

It is hoped that the remainder of these visits will be completed during the next quarter (July-September), however is dependent on the delivery of repairs and maintenance in the home to align the sequencing for the most benefit. Gurriny Yealamucka's Public Health unit have been developing and delivering health promotion lessons throughout the community. The lessons incorporate the 9 Healthy Living Practices that the program is based on and have been providing these lessons to children at the PCYC, Yarrabah Primary and other opportunistic locations.

Tenants' feedback so far has been very positive as we continue to provide this pilot program in Yarrabah.





Ngali Wadudja Bandu Nyinan -Us Men Sitting Down Together

After extensive feedback from our men during Movember 2022, seeking greater opportunities to focus on men's related topics, we planned and conducted our Men's Forum in 2023.

Our Yarrabah forum was held Wednesday June 14, during Men's Health Week. This allowed us to leverage of the heightened focus on men's related health and wellbeing and plan for a wide-reaching forum with a focus upon many of the issues raised previously with us, including at significant events such as Movember.

Staged at the Yarrabah Community Hall on the esplanade, our forum was a relaxed yarning format incorporating a wide range of topics for open and honest discussion.

The looming Voice to Parliament was an issue for many of our community. Mr. Leon Yeatman chaired a very open and frank presentation and discussion as to the virtues and processes attached to the Voice.

Education and training traditionally have been a topic of conversation for our men in previous forums, as we do wrestle with employment and training opportunities here



building strong
bonds for our
men, fathers and
their sons



n Community.

Brian Connolly of Anglicare, one of the major training organisations who work closely with community walked our men through the opportunities available within this space, also with the essential steps that community can take to avail themselves of these opportunities.

Uncle Darryl Murgha, Gurriny Yealamucka's Cultural Heritage Specialist led an important discussion on our culture, heritage and took a deep dive into the richness of our culture and traditions here in Yarrabah.

Building stronger bonds between our men, fathers and their sons and family relationships was the focus of Mr. Adrian Geary's presentation on the Strengths Fathers Program.

More than 80 community men attended on the day. It was good to see so many of the younger men attending, with a number of elders in attendance as well, to share, listen and take that important step, sitting down as men to openly yarn and build a better community.





A Hot Topic in a Cold Setting

In early 2022 the liquidation of Youpla, Aboriginal Community Benefit Fund (ACBF) delivered a devastating blow to more than 800 policy holders in Yarrabah.

Yarrabah with a little over 400 households was perhaps the hardest hit community in Australia. Australia-wide it was estimated there were almost 30,000 policy holders who had paid millions to ACBF to cover costs when a loved one passed.

Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services took up the fight on behalf of the community-based policy holders.

Two members from the Yarrabah community travelled to Canberra in August, Brian Underwood and Agnes Neal joined the "Save Sorry Business" representation to ASIC, Treasury and federal members.

Over a 3-day period, both Brian and Agnes attended countless meetings to tell their story, conducted radio interviews and fronted a national press conference, where they gave a very public face to this financial injustice inflicted upon some of the most disadvantaged people in Australia.

Agnes Neal was devastated upon learning of the collapse of ACBF/Youpla. "It was a real kick in the guts for us when we heard that



Youpla had shut down. They took advantage of me and my family. We thought they were from Mob, but they tricked us.

"Paying for three policies by auto debit each fortnight was not easy, especially when things were tight, but we kept paying because we thought it was the right thing to do, and also we thought they were Indigenous owned and would do the right thing by us, she said".

Gurriny Yealamucka's Health Worker, Brian Underwood carried the concerns of his family and community, when he met with government officials.

"We thought they were an Indigenous corporation and they would do the right thing by us, but we were so wrong. Now we felt so betrayed by them."

Gurriny's very public support for all ACBF policy holders included the coordination of media before the event, representation to the Assistant Treasurer Stephen Jones whilst campaigning in Cairns along media coverage in Cairns and nationally for the "Save Sorry Business" campaign.





Targeting the cause of RHD

The Yarrabah Soap program is a community-based initiative, which aims to support Yarrabah community members reduce their risk of acquiring Strep A infections and other health outcomes, including gastrointestinal disease and respiratory tract infections. This program ensures that products which promote the attainment of healthy and strong skin are readily available throughout the Yarrabah community.

Washing People', is one of the nine Healthy Living Practices (HLPs) identified by the Nganampa Health Council, as what people need to live healthy lives within their homes. The Yarrabah Soap Program, offers community members an opportunity to obtain and enjoy personal hygiene, skin and hair care products, easily, frequently and sustainably.

It is an initiative, which seeks to enable community members to wash with soap and care for their skin and hair more frequently, thus creating positive behaviour change and reducing the risk of acquiring infections such as Strep A.

The program has partnered with MooGoo, an Australian made and owned skin care company. Community members have free



access to the following products under this program:

- Milk Wash (Body Wash)
- O Milk Shampoo
- O Cream Conditioner
- Nick off Nits Cream (Head Lice Treatment)
- Tail Swat (Insect deterrent)
- Hydrating Lotion (Skin Moisturiser)

Community members were supplied initially with a recyclable refillable bottle, enabling them to visit any of the 19 bulk refill sites throughout community to refill their supply.

The uptake within community has been tremendous. In the first 12 months of this program:

- Milk Wash 25 x 20L refill = 2420L
- O Shampoo 13 x 20L refill = 800L
- O Conditioner 13 x 20L refill = 800L
- Hydrating Lotion = 6 x 20L = 440L

The Yarrabah Soap program represents a significant initiative designed to improve skin health through access to quality skin hygiene products, removing the access and cost barriers. To date this program has supplied more than \$116,000 in product to our community members.





No Barriers to Protection

Provision of free Barrier Protection products (internal & external condoms, dams) and lubricant through the Yarrabah Barrier Protection Distribution Program (YBPDP), facilitates access and increases availability of these products within the community.

The YBPDP aims to result in an increased use of barrier protection products, community-wide acceptability of the products and has the potential to reduce transmission of bloodborne viruses (BBVs), sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and unintended pregnancies.

In 2022, Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services Aboriginal Corporation (GYHSAC) commenced the YBPDP as a Public Health initiative. The program commenced in May 2022 with 11 plastic condom dispensers being installed into GYHSAC run facilities and 2 stainless-steel 24/7 access Condom Dispensers installed outside on council owned buildings.

In July 2023, internal condoms (female) and dams were incorporated into the program.

To assess the suitability, acceptability and uptake of condoms and lubricant in Yarrabah, the GYHSAC Public Health Team audit, refill and manage the YBPDP.

Each plastic condom dispenser holds 50

condoms and approximately 16 lubricants. The stainless-steel dispenser holds 35 specifically made boxes containing 2 condoms and 2 lubricants.

The dispensers located inside GYHSAC run facilities have been utilised frequently and appropriately. Litter associated with these dispensers has been very minimal and community and organisation feedback positive.

However, community feedback and organisational reporting on the stainless-steel 24/7 access condom dispensers indicated that mostly young children have been taking these.

This has been evident from the large amounts of litter dispersed around community, consisting of mostly boxes, lubricants and burst condoms which have been made into water balloons.

Due to the high level of litter, negatively impacting on the environment caused by children playing with these products, has led to the discontinuation of the 24/7 access condom dispensers.

Given the success of the YBPDP run inside the GYHSAC facility, this program will continue to be supported and strengthened.





Festival Time in Yarrie for the Youth

In early December 2022 the Youth Wellbeing Team hosted the 2022 Youth Festival. The event was planned with two distinctly different components designed to engage youth in a fun and age appropriate manner.

The first of which was the start of the Festival which allowed community based services to set up and promote to the Youth with fun activities, prizes and job opportunities on the cards.

During this time there were plenty of fun activities away from the promotion tents with the Youth Wellbeing Team providing the event with three inflatable amusements to support a fun filled day.

Youth and parents could enjoy the afternoon while continuing to engage with the festival with a nice snow cone manned by the Youth Wellbeing Team.

As the event continued, local young talent began to lead the event into the next stage of the Youth Festival.

Network support for the event were extremely supported and stayed longer than



planned to capture more youth and give away prizes and tickets to main prizes called out later in the evening.

The transiting from youth promotion and activities went well with our community youth getting to centre stage to showcase their talents and welcome more participants in the Festival.

Meals and music started the flow for the evening with Yarrabah Seahawks Junior Rugby League support with catering, cooking 300 hotdogs and 300 mince rolls to assure the community was well feed with a fruit juice or bottled water to go with their meals.

With a dedicated team staying behind to oversee the event, getting youths and parents to fill out the online survey and cleaning as the community enjoyed the Youth Festival.

Youth were also privileged to have a local business in beauty working to making sure both men and women looked extraordinary, feel better and lift their self-confidence about their appearance.





Taking it To The Streets

Meeting and engaging with youth in an environment that builds trust and opens communication channels underpins much of the activity of the Youth Wellbeing Team.

Throughout the past year whilst much of our activity has been within the confines of the Yarrabah Youth Hub, when situations present, we have taken our team on the road, into community to meet, engage and build stronger relationships with our community youth.

For a period of four weeks in late October, our team engaged with community youth at Reeves Creek in Yarrabah.

Reeves Creek had become a focal point for many of the youth leading to a series of incidents and repeated anti-social behaviour.

Our engagement came as a result of community concerns raised regarding youth activity in the area.

Mobilising our team, we structured games activities, yarning, peer to peer engagement, chillout zones and healthy eating and positive lifestyle choices displays.

Each Friday afternoon, commencing early



engaging and building stronger relationships with our youth



afternoon running for several hours through to early evening we creating a positive diversion environment for up to 60 youth from the area.

The really positive outcome we achieved was the 'rebranding' of an area with a negative image into a positive, fun environment where youth could meet and engage in activity without negatively impacting on residents and passing motorists.

The outreach exercise also paid dividends for your Youth Hub, as many of the youth we engaged with became regular visitors to our Monday to Friday Youth Hub activities, allowing for ongoing engagement and increased opportunity to participate in the many social activities we run at the Youth Hub.

Throughout the year, we have engaged in several different outreach projects, designed to engage community youth in a non-threatening environment, their own or a public space. These outreach programs have been highly successful for our team.





Hands on Public Health

"Love the Skin You're in" is a program developed by the Gurriny Public Health Unit, which provides a series of Healthy Living Practice lessons for children in Yarrabah.

This program has been developed in alignment with the nine Healthy Living Practices (HLPs) developed by the Nganampa Health Council, which describe and define what people need to live healthy lives.

The program also seeks to strengthen and support the work and messaging that is currently being covered by the Healthy Housing Program in community.

This program takes an asset-building approach, recognising and building upon the strengths, gifts, talents and resources of individuals and community.

Lessons are highly interactive, incorporate room for healthy discussion and are created to fit the Yarrabah community context. They are designed to be delivered on a regular basis, facilitating positive behaviour change and healthy habit building, at different partnering locations within community.

Lessons Delivered

"Dolly Wash"- Using first aid for minor injuries and routine washing of bodies to reduce the risk of acquiring Strep A skin infections

Dolly wash is one of communities favourite and



most frequently delivered lessons from the "Love the Skin You're In" Program. A lesson designed to create awareness, learn and practice important skills and create healthy habits which support the attainment of healthy and strong skin.

Healthy Living Practice focus: Washing People "Glitter Bug" - Kids personal hygiene and hand washing lesson

Glitter Bug is a lesson which enables discussion with children about the importance of personal hygiene and stopping the spread of infection through washing ourselves.

Healthy Living Practice focus: Washing People "Litter Bug" - Keeping our homes and community

"Litter Bug"- Keeping our homes and community free of litter

Litter Bug raises awareness and teaches kids about the impacts litter can have on their environment, animals and each other.

Healthy Living Practice focus: Reducing hazards that cause trauma

"Dental Jeffery" -Kids dental hygiene lesson

Dental Jeffery teaches children about the importance of good dental hygiene for good health. This lesson incorporates discussion around the need for routine brushing, good brushing techniques and teeth friendly and unfriendly food choices.



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Gurriny Yealamucka (Good Healing) Health Services Aboriginal Corporation ABN 31 210 982 991 ICN 1297

Annual Financial Report For year Ended 30 June, 2023



Directors' report

The directors present their report together with the financial statements of Gurriny Yealamucka (Good Healing) Health Services Aboriginal Corporation (the "Corporation") for the financial year ended 30 June 2023 and the auditor's report thereon.

Operating and financial review

The net surplus from ordinary activities after tax amounted to \$553,331 (2022: deficit \$520,918).

State of affairs

There were no significant changes in the Corporation's state of affairs during the financial year.

Principal activities

The principal activities of the Corporation during the course of the financial year were the provision of health care services to indigenous persons in the Yarrabah community. On 1 July 2014 the responsibility to deliver Primary Health Care Services in the Yarrabah community was officially handed over to the Corporation by Queensland Health.

There were no significant changes in the nature of the activities of the Corporation during the year.

Events subsequent to reporting date

There has not arisen in the interval between the end of the financial year and the date of this report any item, transaction or event of a material and unusual nature likely, in the opinion of the directors of the Corporation, to affect significantly the operations of the Corporation, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Corporation, in future financial years.

Likely developments

The directors envisage that the Corporation will continue its existing operations, subject to the receipt of future funding from government and other sources.

Environmental regulation

The Corporation's operations are not subject to any significant environmental regulations under either Commonwealth or State legislation. However, the board believes that the Corporation has adequate systems in place for the management of its environmental requirements and is not aware of any breach of those environmental requirements as they apply to the Corporation.

Distributions

The Corporation's constitution precludes it from distributing any surpluses to members. Accordingly, no distributions were paid, recommended or declared by the Corporation during the year.



Directors

The directors of the Corporation at any time during or since the end of the financial year are:

Name and qualifications	Evperience	and	enecial	responsibilities
Name and qualifications	Experience	and	Special	responsibilities

Robin Schrieber Chairperson – elected 18 November 2021, appointed Chairperson Dec 2022

 Leslie Baird
 Director – re-elected 9 November 2022

 David Baird
 Director – re-elected 9 November 2022

 Mikaela French
 Independent Director – appointed 9 June 2021

 Robin Giason
 Independent Director – appointed 1 December 2014

Kenneth Jackson Jr. Director – elected 19 October 2021 Ailsa Lively Director – elected 20 October 2020

Katie Pope Independent Director – appointed 28 January 2022

Linda Sexton Director – elected 22 November 2011

Secretary

Tamilyn Brennen was appointed to the position of secretary on 14 June 2016.

Directors' meetings

The number of directors' meetings and number of meetings attended by each of the directors of the Corporation during the financial year are:

Director	No of meetings attended	No of meetings held*
Robin Schrieber	7	8
Leslie Baird	5	8
David Baird	7	8
Mikaela French	6	8
Robin Giason	8	8
Kenneth Jackson Jr.	6	8
Alisa Lively	8	8
Katie Pope	8	8
Linda Sexton	8	8

^{*}Reflects the number of meetings held during the time the director held office during the year.

Proceedings on behalf of the Corporation

During the year, no person has made application for leave in respect of the Corporation under section 169-5 of the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 (the "Act").

During the year, no person has brought or intervened in proceedings on behalf of the Corporation with leave under section 169-5 of the Act.



Auditor's independence declaration

At no time during the financial year ended 30 June 2023 was an officer of the Corporation the auditor, a partner in the audit firm, or a director of the audit company that undertook the audit of the Corporation for that financial year.

The lead auditor's independence declaration is set out on the following page and forms part of the directors' report for the financial year ended 30 June 2023.

This report is made out in accordance with a resolution of the directors:

Director

Date





Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd Cairns Corporate Tower Level 13 15 Lake Street PO Box 7200 Cairns QLD 4870

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Auditor's Independence Declaration

To the directors of Gurriny Yealamucka (Good Healing) Health Services Aboriginal Corporation

In accordance with the requirements of section 339-50 of the *Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander)*Act 2006, as lead auditor for the audit of Gurriny Yealamucka (Good Healing) Health Services Aboriginal

Corporation for the year ended 30 June 2023, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- a No contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006 in relation to the audit; and
- No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd Chartered Accountants

Grant Thornton

H A Wilkes

Partner - Audit & Assurance

Cairns, 24 October 2023

www.grantthornton.com.au

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Statement of comprehensive income

For the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023	2022
Income	\$	\$
litonie		
Revenue and income	12,226,547	11,794,753
	12,226,547	11,794,753
Expenses		
Advertising	22,144	7,249
Audit fees	16,778	25,000
Cleaning	31,081	26,208
Clinic supplies	105,551	109,419
Computer support and equipment hire	484,643	247,201
Conference fees	36,684	4,693
Consulting and professional fees	585,316	777,589
Donations	2,246	7,856
Electricity and water	75,991	70,205
Employee expenses	8,151,142	8,144,989
FBT expense		8,679
Grant funds transferred	100,000	166,830
Grants repaid	87,338	389,329
Hire of equipment and facilities	61,547	69,693
Insurance	105,323	75,355
Licences and permits	68,611	106,030
Meeting expenses	6,698	389
Motor vehicle expenses	257,346	305,306
Printing and stationery	75,614	47,030
Program expenses	549,039	905,300
Repairs and maintenance	87,735	65,978
Telephone and fax	84,841	47,770
Training	11,733	41,448
Travel and accommodation	156,986	147,335
Sundry expenses	176,944	123,859
oundly expended	11,341,331	11,920,740
Results from operating activities	885,216	(125,987)
Finance income	81,191	1,460
Finance income Finance costs	(2,638)	(6,100)
	78,553	
Net finance income (costs)		(4,640)
Results from operating activities after finance costs	963,769	(130,627)
Depreciation and amortisation expenses	(0.47.075)	/0E0 707
Property, plant and equipment	(317,875)	(252,787)
Right-of-use assets	(92,563)	(137,504)
Net surplus/(deficit) before tax	553,331	(520,918)
Income tax expense		
Net surplus/(deficit)	553,331	(520,918)
Other comprehensive income		
Total comprehensive income	553,331	(520,918)



Statement of financial position

As at 30 June 2023

A3 at 00 bane 2020		
	2023 \$	2022 \$
Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	8,477,568	6,663,207
Trade and other receivables	47,594	135,185
Current assets	8,525,162	6,798,392
Property, plant and equipment	3,780,634	3,905,627
Right-of-use assets	15,432	68,291
Non-current assets	3,796,066	3,973,918
Total assets	12,321,228	10,772,310
Liabilities		
Trade and other payables	4,762,437	3,613,257
Loans and borrowings	15,034	82,852
Employee benefits	127,898	196,462
Current liabilities	4,905,369	3,892,571
Loans and borrowings	583	8,342
Employee benefits	159,404	101,139
Non-current liabilities	159,987	109,481
Total liabilities	5,065,356	4,002,052
Net assets	7,255,872	6,770,258
Equity		
Retained surplus	7,255,872	6,770,258
Total equity	7,255,872	6,770,258



Statement of changes in equity

For the year ended 30 June 2023

Retained surplus

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Balance at 1 July	6,770,258	7,291,176
Opening balance adjustment	(67,717)	-
Total comprehensive income		
Net surplus/(deficit)	553,331	(520,918)
Total other comprehensive income		
Total comprehensive income	553,331	(520,918)
Balance at 30 June	7,255,872	6,770,258



Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Cash flows from operating activities		
Cash receipts from grants and customers	14,631,834	13,149,181
Cash paid to suppliers and employees	(12,546,888)	(13,426,690)
Cash generated from operating activities	2,084,946	(277,509)
Interest received	81,181	1,460
Interest paid	(2,638)	(6,100)
Net cash from/(used in) operating activities	2,163,489	(282,149)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	(260,599)	(372,533)
Net cash from/(used in) investing activities	(260,599)	(372,533)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Payment of lease liabilities	(88,529)	(105,315)
Net cash from/(used in) financing activities	(88,529)	(105,315)
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	1,814,361	(759,997)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 July	6,663,207	7,423,204
Cash and cash equivalents at 30 June	8,477,568	6,663,207









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