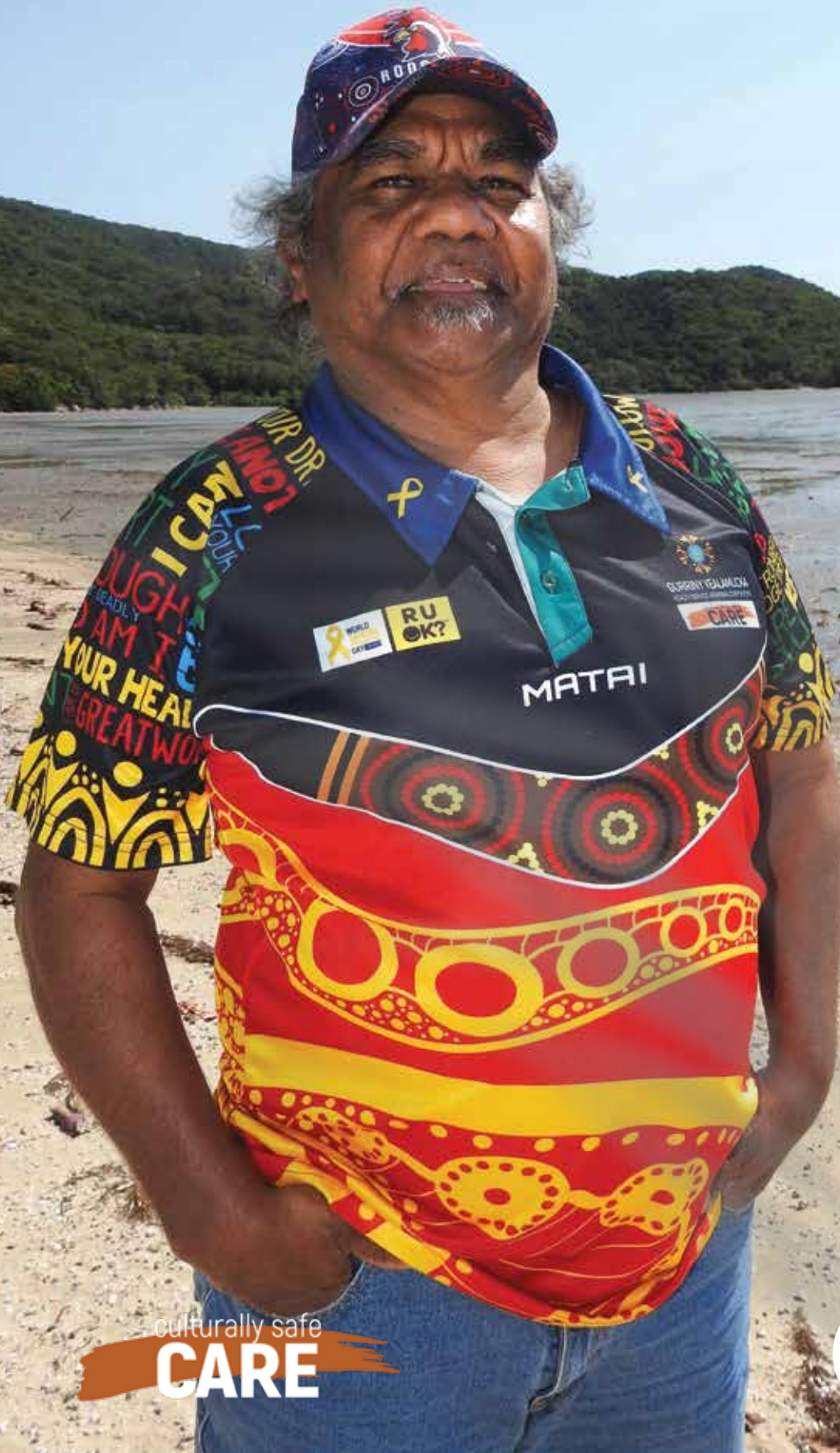
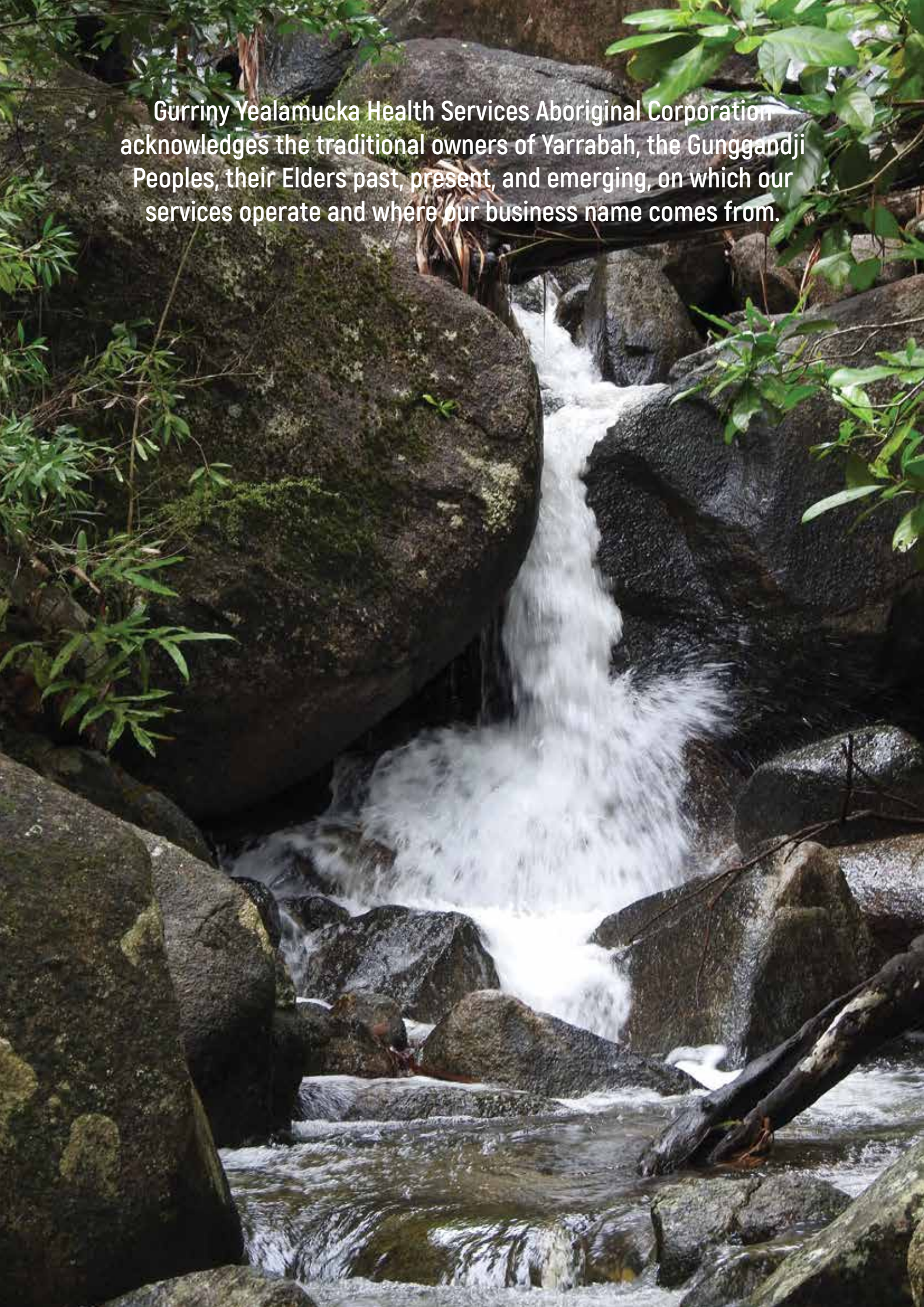


# 2023/24 ANNUAL REPORT





Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services Aboriginal Corporation acknowledges the traditional owners of Yarrabah, the Gunggandji Peoples, their Elders past, present, and emerging, on which our services operate and where our business name comes from.





# ABOUT THIS REPORT

Welcome to the Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services Aboriginal Corporation's (GYHSAC) Annual Report 2023 – 2024.

This report comprehensively summarises the performance and services delivered by GYHSAC from July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024.

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 2023 – 2024 Annual Report is 'Through the years, we have served our community'.

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 reacting to

**“  
Aboriginal  
health in  
Aboriginal  
hands,  
respecting  
and  
providing  
Culturally  
Safe Care  
”**

numerous public health outbreaks along with the continued building of our proactive early intervention health care.

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 2023 – 2024 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.

## FEEDBACK

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

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# PART A WHO ARE WE



“

*To us, health is about so much more than simply not getting sick.*

*It's about getting a balance between physical, mental, emotional, cultural, and spiritual health.*

*Health and healing are interwoven, which means that one can't be separated from the other.*

”

*Dr Tamara Maclean*



# OUR COMMUNITY



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 years 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 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 4199  
On average each client has 8 touchpoints per year with Gurriny Yealamucka

### Cairns Hinterland Hospital Health Services figures:

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

### Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council figures

388 social houses (YASC)  
2 houses purchased as 99-year leases (private)  
12 Government Employee Houses (Education)  
Estimated 20 privately owned homes some are built on block-holder leases



# 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 our health service, as programs and services grew to meet the needs of the community.

In 2006 a Deed of Commitment was signed between Gurriny Yealamucka, Yarrabah Aboriginal Council, the Gungandji 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 Yealamucka 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 Yealamucka 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 Yealamucka 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 Yealamucka. 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 Yealamucka 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 Yealamucka 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 Yealamucka 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 Yealamucka and Gindaja, acquiring valuable knowledge and skills in governance, executive management, and service delivery.



## Sam Bann - Director

Sam Bann has spent the past 36 years working with youth and community organisations, as both a teacher and board representative. Since graduating from university in 1988 as a secondary school teacher, Sam has dedicated his career and life to his community and sport.



## 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.



## Errol Choikee - Director

Errol is a qualified Indigenous Health Worker with more than 9 years' experience working in the health services industry in Yarrabah. He brings a wealth of experience, having served previously on the Gurriny Yealamucka Board along with experience working with other health peak bodies in Far North Queensland.



## Kenneth Jackson - Director

Kenneth has served the Yarrabah community for a number of years. Kenneth currently works with Gindaja within the Justice Support team and served previously as a Police Liaison Office and as a local councillor.



## 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 brings more than 45 years' experience to Gurriny Yealamucka. 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.



# CORE VALUES – MUNDU GUMAN

## **Quality of Service – Gurriny wiwi-N бага-L Mundu bama**

Valuing the responsibility of providing a quality of holistic health service and will maintain a high standard of care across all levels of the organisation.

*Mundu gurriny wiwi-N gula bama mundu gnabi bandu*

## **Leadership – Mundu Buyal**

Strong Leadership ensuring the delivery of innovative holistic health solutions.

*Mundu buyal Wiw-N bandu gnabi*

## **Commitment – Bara-N бага-L mundu wayway daba**

Strong leadership drives commitment to all levels of the organisations business and in its capacity to support the Yarrabah Community.

*Mundu byal bara-N wanggi gnabi bandu yingu Erriba bulmba*

## **Accountability – Wiwi-N buyal gurruna yundu, ngyu wangga-L mundu gurriny**

Enacting the self-determination principles of governance and sovereignty guided by the Yarrabah community & stakeholders.

*Yingu Erriba bulmba bandu wangga-L bara-N gurriny gurruna buluru*

## **Innovation – Baga-L**

Welcomes and fosters creative ideas to deliver highly effective holistic health solutions.

*Gaddan gurriny wiwi-N wangga-L gurruna*



# OUR MISSION – GABUY WAWAL

Gurriny Yealamucka will be influential innovators delivering quality holistic health outcomes.

*Gurriny kawal Nyang-gaajin balga-L bara-N wi-wi-N gurriny mundu bidi*

# OUR VISION – KAWAL JILLI WAWAL

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

*Yingu bulmba Gurriny*

*Balga-L banda Irriba bama gula, wiwi, mundu.*



**GURRINY YEALAMUCKA**  
HEALTH SERVICES ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

culturally safe

**CARE**



# A man of value

## Rev. Edward Murgha

Worlds away from Yarrabah, more than a century ago German born physicist Albert Einstein was recognised as a revolutionary intellectual for his work covering energy and matter.

But it's not physics that connects him with Yarrabah, but his insights into human behaviour and personal growth that link him strongly with some of this community's best men and women.

"Strive not to be of success, but rather to be of value," is a quote attributed to Albert Einstein.

A simple statement, but so relevant when we sit down to review the contribution of many here in our community.

There are many who have been of great value to our community, and Gurriny Yealamucka has been blessed to have so many good workers dedicated to community and committed to improving the life and health of all community members.

Reverend Edward Murgha spent 14 years working with us, for community as a Life Promotion Officer. It's a polite and positive position title, that hides a deeper and darker role.

A Life Promotion Officer works actively and tirelessly with two main goals in mind; and reduce of suicide. They also support family and friends of those impacted by suicide.

Edward's contribution can never be understated, his success is the value he brings to his community. Lives changed, saved, and families supported throughout a career spanning more than 40 years here in Yarrabah.

In 2010 Edward joined the Gurriny Yealamucka team, after almost a decade serving as a community police officer.

Remembering his time in this role, Edward witnessed the tremendous impact that suicide had in Yarrabah, "I saw a lot during that time with the Police, I saw how pressures affected our people and this experience shaped me and inspired me to go into the Church and also Gurriny Yealamucka.

"Back in the 80's we had 3 to 4 funerals a week, due mainly to suicides. It was not easy, with so many people affected by suicide, the pressure was intense."

From adversity and tragedy, change is inevitable. The change in Yarrabah was the drive for the establishment of a community-controlled health service, and a burning desire within a young Edward to step up and help his community.

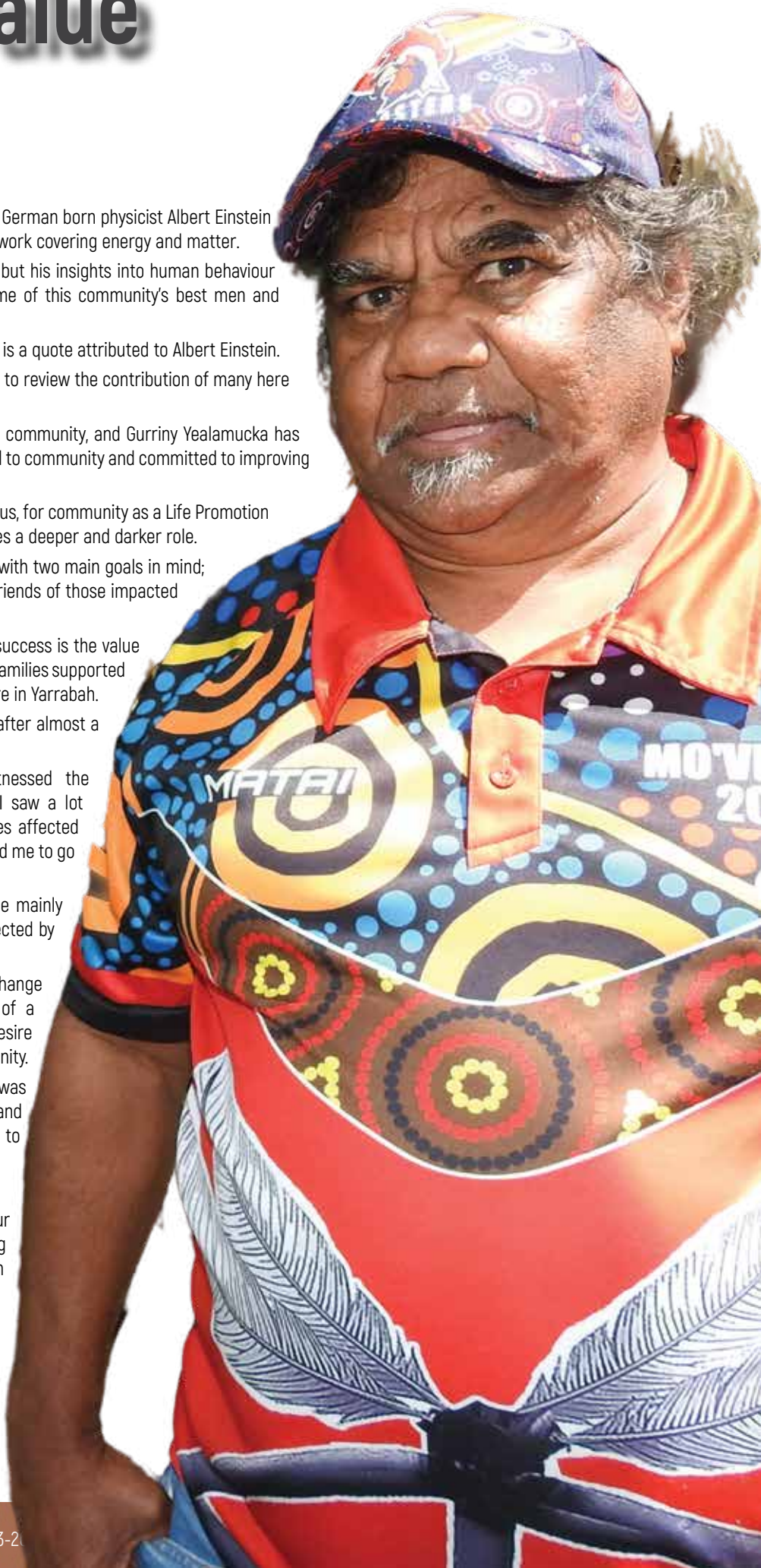
When Edward joined the Gurriny Yealamucka team, it was a small, but passionately committed team. Mary Kyle and Edward worked tirelessly as Life Promotion Officers to support and protect their community.

"When I started it was twenty-four seven.

"We had so many suicide deaths and attempts, our program was just what the community were looking for, someone working 24 hours 7 days a week, even weekends. I loved my job and my community.

"We had a small team Mary Kyle and me, and we were always on call, dealing with families as well as those who were unsuccessful in their attempt.

"It was not easy, with so many people affected by suicide, we were always working."







Progress was difficult due to deep seated cultural and gender issues, but Edward refused to be defeated by these issues.

"Our people did not want to sit down and talk about what was affecting them. It was difficult, without the support and programs we have today, but back then we were still building our program and supports whilst dealing with a tremendous workload.

"Everyone thought it was a matter of toughening up and getting on with life, but it required much more.

"Our program was about being on call, sitting down with family and sufferers and supporting them. It was a fine line between intrusion and being a support for them.

"We would ask family, or their support person as to what they needed our how we could be of support.

"Many time it was just transport to appointments with doctors. This was a simple way to open conversation, on the way we were always having a yarn, what's happening, weather, fishing, anything, it was a one-on-one yarn and that's where we built the trust and opened communication.

"This was good way to build trust and confidence in one another."

Although we have come along way with our Family Healing program, Edward still feels we have a lot more work to be done.

"We need a wider focus, geographically and also community-wise, to go out and work with all community, where they are, and when they need.

"We are more visible today than we were when we started. People are more aware of what support there is, but the workload is still too large for the team.

"What we need today to help all community, is more employment opportunities for community, both inside Yarrabah and over the hill.

"In the 70's we had the CDP (Community Development program). Yarrabah was really clean, everyone had a job, with less issues, and the effects were more than just a few extra dollars in pockets.

"People enjoyed going to work. People got up in the morning to go to work, we could share some of our troubles with our work mates. You were talking to one another about many of your issues."

After 14 years working ceaselessly with his community and Gurriny Yealamucka, Reverend Edward called time on his formal service. Although the page has turned, the book has not ended. Reverend Edward still serves his community as a Community Crisis volunteer, providing support and assistance to those who reach out looking for support.

"There's still much to be done, we have so many issues here in Community, and we still need to do more to lift the men of community.

"I could see when I was growing up that the men in community were leading the way, but the last 20 or 30 years, I see the ladies are more involved and taking a greater role in community.

"I think the time is right for our men to take a more active and leading role."

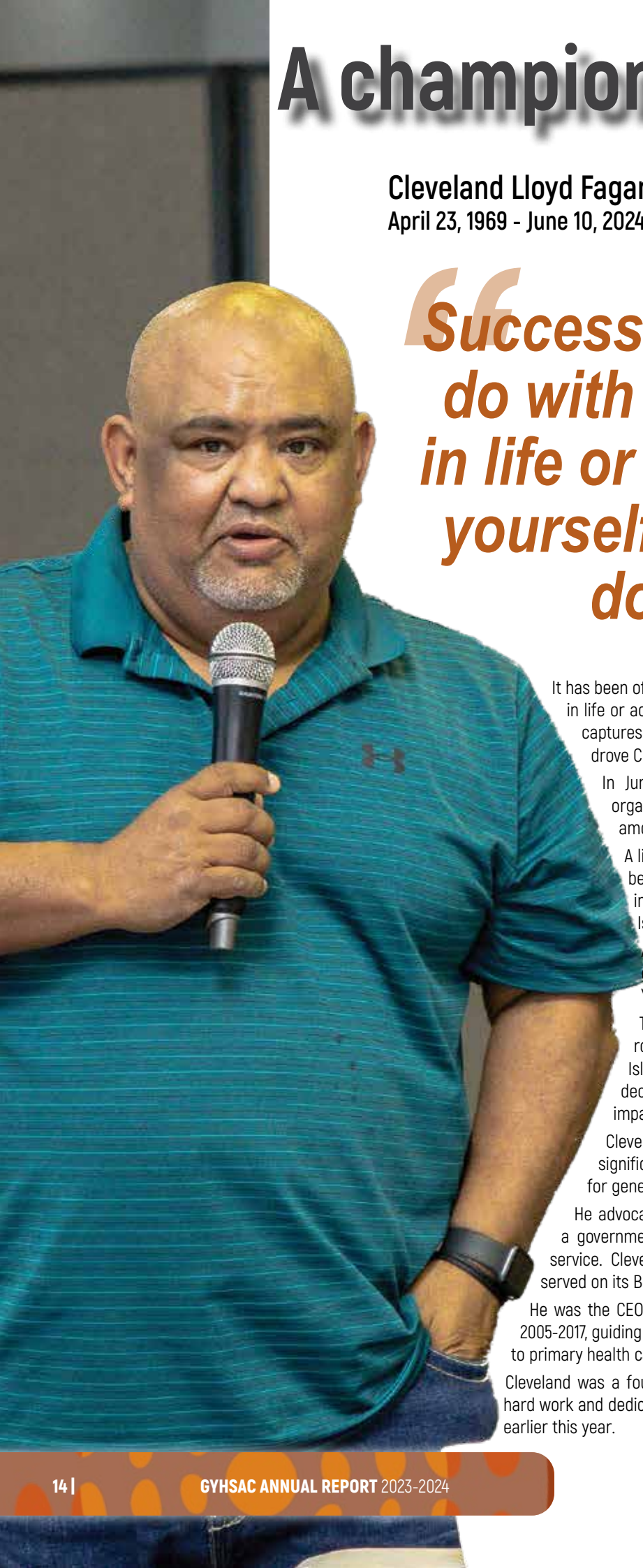
In reflection no life and contribution to Gurriny Yealamucka could have captured the essence of Albert Einstein's famous quote better than the life and time of Reverend Edward Murgha, "Strive not to be of success, but rather to be of value."



# A champion for change

Cleveland Lloyd Fagan

April 23, 1969 - June 10, 2024



*Success has nothing to do with what you gain in life or accomplish for yourself. It's what you do for others*

It has been often said that "Success has nothing to do with what you gain in life or accomplish for yourself. It's what you do for others," and this captures so succinctly the underlying motivation and passion that drove Cleveland Fagan.

In June 2024, Gurriny Yealamucka, along with all Indigenous organisations and individuals mourned the passing of a giant amongst men, Cleveland Fagan.

A lifetime spent in service and advocacy, Cleveland will forever be remembered for his deep passion for health equity and improving the health outcomes of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

A proud Djabugay man with traditional and historical connections to Cairns, Yarrabah, Kuranda, Mareeba and Cape York, Cleveland always knew he wanted to make a difference.

Throughout his career, Cleveland played an instrumental role in championing the cause of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, including empowering communities to share decision-making with governments on health matters that impacted them.

Cleveland's achievements in reshaping the health system were significant and will benefit Aboriginal and Torres Islander peoples for generations.

He advocated for Gurriny Yealamucka in Yarrabah to transition from a government-run entity to a community-controlled managed health service. Cleveland also helped revise Wuchopperen's constitution and served on its Board.

He was the CEO of Apunipima Cape York Health Council for 12 years from 2005-2017, guiding the organisation's transition from an advocacy organisation to primary health care provider.

Cleveland was a founding member of the Yarrabah Leaders' Forum (YLF); his hard work and dedication recently paid off, with the YLF becoming incorporated earlier this year.



# *Cleveland was a statesman who did everything for the common good of the people he represented*

He was the CEO of QAIHC from 2021-2023. During his tenure, Cleveland worked tirelessly on initiatives like Making Tracks Together, the Queensland Government's strategic framework aimed at driving health equity, eliminating institutional racism across the health system, and achieving life expectancy parity for First Nations people by 2031.

His leadership was also instrumental in partnering with Queensland Health to design a joint response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its First Nations health reform agenda.

Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services past Chair and current Board Member, Father Les Baird saw Cleveland as true gift and statesman, "I believe Cleveland was a gift from God to all Indigenous people.

"His ability and drive have been inspirational and productive, sowing the seeds for a strong and prosperous harvest, mentoring those around him, how they too can lift, and join with his voice and actions to create a stronger, healthier and more prosperous future and tend the bumper harvest this year and for years to come.

"Cleveland was a statesman who did everything for the common good of the people he represented.

"He was at ease and skillful at all levels of advocacy, from the government boardroom through to community yarning. Cleveland was a man driven by, and committed to improving the health, social and economic futures for all."

Cleveland's proudest achievement; however, was his family. He was a beloved husband to Ruth, father to Clevanna and Sara, and his grandchildren. Cleveland was also son to Dr Uncle Bernie Singleton Sr and brother to Jason, Royden, Louise and Bernie.

His profound impact on the sector and unwavering compassion, dedication and gentle nature will be remembered and missed by all who knew him.





# PART B OPERATIONAL REPORTS





# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

David Baird



On behalf of the Board of Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services, I am pleased to present the annual report for 2023-24.

Firstly, I want to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the lands on which we live and work, the Gunggandji Peoples of Yarrabah, and pay our respects to our Elders.

As a Board, we continue to be impressed by the professionalism and commitment of our workforce, especially during the challenging circumstances this year. The community faced significant "sorry business," and our dedicated staff provided essential support through times of grief and sorrow.

I would like to honour the memory of our dear friend and colleague Cleveland Fagan. His legacy of true leadership and commitment to our people's health was profound. Cleveland was instrumental in supporting the transition of health service from government control to community control of which become the first in the country. His passion for including the local community as decision-makers, particularly in men's health, greatly influenced our direction.

This year, we completed our three-year strategic plan and endorsed a new one. Our focus for the next three years will be on workforce development, service delivery, environmental sustainability, and innovation.

In reflecting on our own performance in 2023-24, the Board sought independent advice on governance and culture, and we aim to build on our strong performance and positive culture to achieve Gurriny Yealamucka's strategic objectives.

We also acknowledge the resignation of long-serving independent Board member Rob Gaison. We thank Rob for his dedication and commitment during his time on the Board and wish him well in his future endeavors; he will be missed.

I want to congratulate our CEO, Suzanne Andrews, and her team for their continued dedication to serving our community. We look forward to collaborating with Sue and the team over the next 12 months.

**David Baird**

Chair, Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services Aboriginal Corporation



# CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S MESSAGE

**Suzanne Andrews**  
Chief Executive



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

Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services 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 Yealamucka continues to strive for better health outcomes.

The past 12 months has proved to be challenging not just for our health service but also the Yarrabah community in general.

The failed referendum in October 2023 left many of us to ponder what will be the pathway forward as continue our quest to improving our health outcomes as a community.

The inconvenient truth is unfortunately we will struggle to make significant and lasting inroads to improving the health of our community whilst we continue to live in overcrowded and inappropriate housing with inadequate access to modern first world telecommunications and struggle to educate our young and provide genuine and lasting economic and job prospects for our community.

The impact that these social determinants have upon the health and social emotional wellbeing of our community cannot be underestimated.

But it is not all doom and gloom. Our programs and staff continue to prove resilient and committed building a dynamic and very responsive primary

health service here in Yarrabah.

We have been tested on numerous occasions over the past 12 months. Our Public Health, Child Health and full clinical teams have battled numerous public health outbreaks in the past 12 months, ASPGN in November 2023, Whooping Cough (March 2024) and more recently Meningococcal (May/ June 2024).

Three major public health emergencies in the past 12 months, along with our ongoing efforts as a health service to reduce the instance of, and devastating impact of RHD and ARF in our community.

As a health service we have committed considerable resources to our public health endeavours in the past 12 months. Our Yarrabah Soap Program provides community with access to quality hand and body care products, combined with Public Health programs in our schools educating and improving the skincare knowledge of our young.

In association with these public health programs, we run very a successful 715 Health Check program in community. Back to School Health Checks, Young Persons Health and Wellbeing Checks, Women's Health Checks and Cervical Screenings in September along with our very successful Men's Health Check campaign during November.

Our program focus has been strongly upon preventative health care. This focus continues to deliver strong and lasting health benefits for our community. Our SisTember program this past year identified 6 abnormal test results in cervical screenings during the month. Early detection is important in the management and treatment of and disease, allowing greater options in treatment along with a better chance for successful treatment and recovery.





*| We are proud to be a Health Worker led health service, and we continue to be an advocate for improving the qualification and skills of Indigenous Australians, from Yarrabah and the wider community. Our Health Workers play an essential role in providing culturally safe care.*

As a community we continue to experience high numbers of Sorry Business each year. Our Social Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) teams continue to work closely with our community during these difficult times. I wish to thank our SEWB staff for their incredible work, supporting community and our families during this time. For many of our SEWB staff, Sorry Business can be very difficult for them personally, as our workforce are primarily community based and they too have personal relationships affected at that time.

On behalf of Gurriny Yealamucka I would like to take this opportunity to mention one passing this past year that has had a profound impact upon us as an organisation and upon me personally. In June we lost Cleveland Fagan, a staunch advocate and champion for Yarrabah and Indigenous health. Cleveland played a major role in the planning for a successful transition from government-run to community-controlled health service here in Yarrabah, and his passing is a loss to Yarrabah and all Indigenous communities throughout Australia.

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.

We have a strong focus upon providing employment and training opportunities for Indigenous Australians. More than 77 per cent of our

workforce identify as Indigenous and 87 per cent of our Indigenous employees have a Certificate 3 or higher qualification supporting their employment.

We continue to remain financially committed to the Yarrabah community. This commitment includes the employment of community members where possible, and sourcing services and products locally when appropriate. Our financial contribution over the past 12 months to the local Yarrabah economy is more than \$4.2 million.

I am honoured to lead the Gurriny Yealamucka 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 and our staff.

Lastly, I want to thank the Chair and Gurriny Yealamucka Board of Directors for having the confidence in me as the CEO and our 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 we face and the resolution and commitment of our team to deliver better and lasting health outcomes for all Community.



# CLINICAL SERVICES



## An enthusiastic advocate

This year, Gurriny Yealamucka's clinical teams have strengthened their strong connection with the Yarrabah community, delivering responsive, culturally appropriate care, tailored to the needs of all age groups.

A standout achievement has been the swift and coordinated response to the recent meningococcal outbreak. In close partnership with the Cairns Public Health Unit, our teams identified and treated direct contacts quickly, minimising transmission and ensuring the health and safety of the community. This reflects our commitment to providing high-quality care during both critical events and routine service delivery.

Throughout the year, Gurriny Yealamucka has continued to engage with the diverse needs of the population through targeted programs. The Young Person Checks (YPC) engaged a record 210 youth aged 15-25, addressing mental health, sexual health, and substance use.

Our "Back to School" health checks prepared children for a healthy school year, while SisTember promoted wellness and regular check-ups for women. In November 2023, our Men's Wellbeing team hosted Movember, focusing on men's physical health and mental wellbeing through community engagement and early detection initiatives.

A key focus has been the establishment of our dedicated Acute Rheumatic Fever (ARF) and Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) program. This program takes a comprehensive approach, spanning from primordial prevention, addressing the social factors that influence health, to advanced care for individuals living with ARF or RHD.

Our clinical teams provide education, early diagnosis, treatment, and long-term management to reduce recurrences and improve quality of life.

Despite these successes, the Yarrabah community continues to face significant challenges. Overcrowding, limited access to healthy food options, lack of public transport to Cairns, and scarce employment opportunities contribute to ongoing health inequalities.

These social determinants of health require systemic change, and Gurriny Yealamucka remains an enthusiastic advocate, working with government and stakeholders to bring these long-standing concerns to the forefront of policy discussions.

Together, through collaboration, advocacy, and innovative care, Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services is building a healthier, more empowered future for the people of Yarrabah.



# OUR COMMUNITY

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

Gurriny Yealamucka 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 Yealamucka 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.

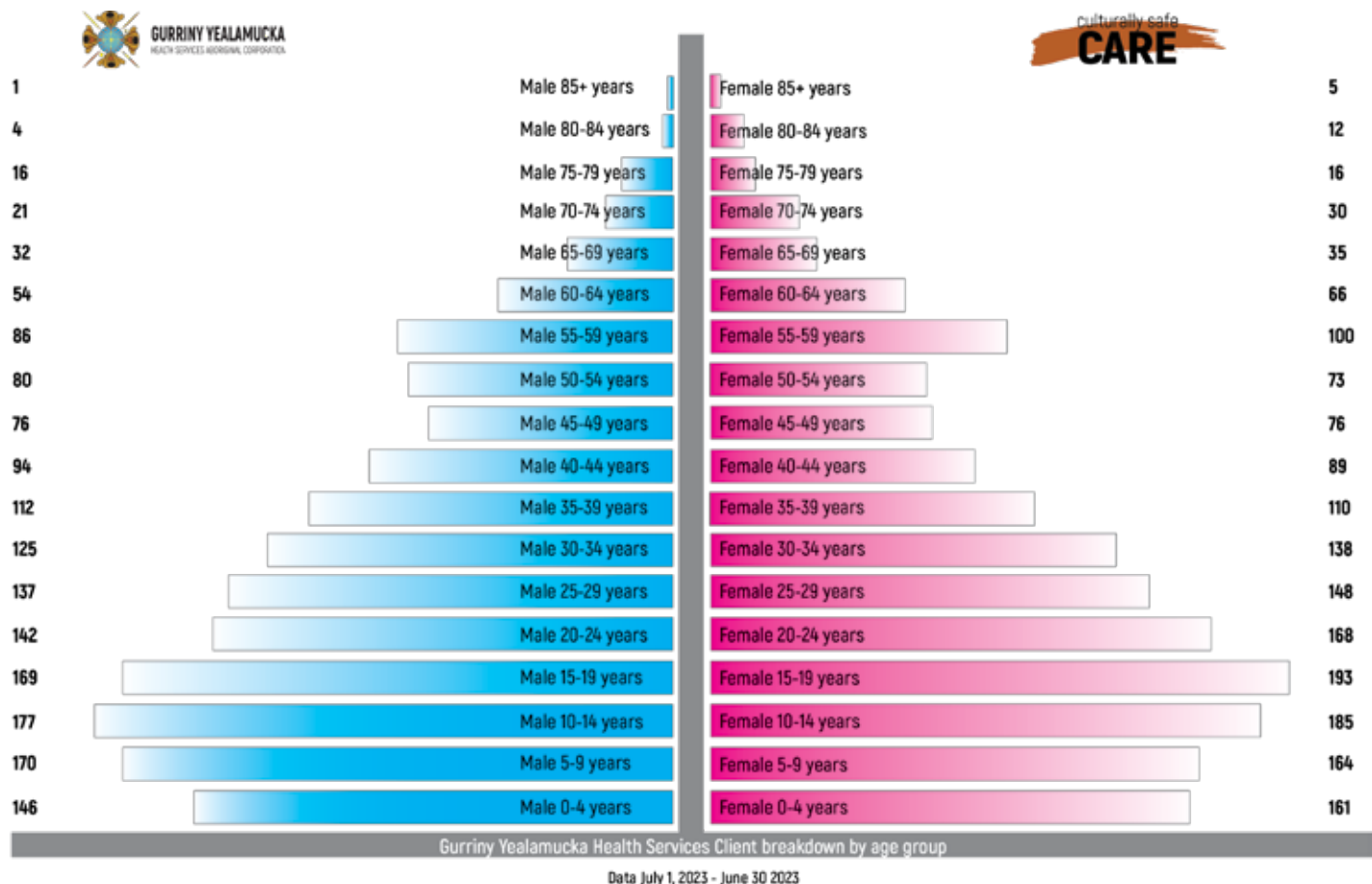
This broad-based pyramid is typical of those found in Aboriginal communities, although Yarrabah's shows some stabilisation that sets it apart from the most severe forms of population distribution.

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 we strive to meet this head long and be a trusted source of care for those who might be struggling.

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.



# Community Health by the Numbers



Total Patients

**4,199**

(Current and Transient) - AIHW definition.

Regular Patients

**3,413**

3 or more visits in past 2 years



Regular Male Patients

**1,643**

3 or more visits in past 2 years

Regular Female Patients

**1,770**

3 or more visits in past 2 years



Clinical Appointments

**14,632**

Scheduled and Walk-in appointments

Occasions of Care

**36,133**

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



ARF / RHD Patients

**265**

Patients currently under treatment for ARF / RHD

Diabetic Patients

**351**

Patients currently under diabetes management



Dialysis Patients

**19**

Yarrabah patients currently receiving dialysis in either Yarrabah or Cairns

Full-Term Births

**56**



Births in Community

**62**

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

**50**



## HEALTH CHECKS - 715

\* Number of GYHSAC Clients with a current 715 Health Check

Total 715  
Health  
Checks

**1178**

Total Male  
715 Health  
Checks

**573**

Total Female  
715 Health  
Checks

**605**

Youth 715 Checks

228

Male 715 Checks

110

Female 715 Checks

118

\*Aged 15 - 24

Child 715 Checks

328

Male 715 Checks

163

Female 715 Checks

165

\*Aged 0 - 14



# MATERNAL HEALTH

The Maternal and Women's Health team in 2023 comprised of team leader midwife/nurse Brittany, midwife Caroline, midwife/nurse Nara, and Health Worker Jilara Murgha.

The Maternal Health team continues to deliver antenatal, postnatal, (and at times intrapartum!) care for women in Yarrabah whilst collaborating with Child Health and Public Health team to address the First 1000 Days of life for babies, women, and their families.

The Maternal and Women's Health team oversees and coordinates the Breast Screen bus that comes every second year. In 2023, Breast Screen Queensland performed mammograms on 133 women in total, which is well above the average of our usual quota of 120.

Additionally, Gurriny Yealmucka GPs and Midwives facilitated more Cervical Screening Tests than ever before, with an increased uptake of self-collect cervical screen tests, and almost 50 per cent of eligible women in community participating in the National Cervical Screening Program.

Services provided by the Maternal Health team involve the following:

- Prenatal counselling
- Planning for parity; contraception and sexual health screening
- Pregnancy care from first presentation (6-7 weeks) until transfer to Cairns hospital for delivery
- Postnatal care for women and babies up to 6 weeks
- Mum and bub group – with Ngamumu
- Breast Screen Bus with Breast Screen Queensland – October 2023
- Women's health program through FROGs (Obstetrics and Gynaecology team from Cairns Hospital providing quarterly outreach at Gurriny Yealamucka)
- Ongoing support and maintenance of Cervical Screening Program
- Collaborating with Public Health team for 'Girls Group' at Yarrabah high school

Coming into 2024, the number of births for Yarrabah has exceeded the previous year! We have already zoomed past 2023 birth numbers and are projecting almost 80 births by the end of the year.

## At A Glance

Births registered to Yarrabah Community members



Babies born with healthy birth weight (between 2.5-4.5kg)



Babies born at term gestation (>37 weeks)





# YOUTH WELLBEING

# Ensuring youth feel seen, heard, & cared for!

Gurriny Yealamucka's Youth Wellbeing team take pride in working together with others to create and deliver services to the youth of Yarrabah.

During the 23-24 financial year we focused on support youth in various way to make our service more available. Our scope was to ensure every youth in the community were afforded an opportunity to be a part of our programs, events, or any service we provide.

Our annual Youth Forum this year has seen 76 Youth attending the event and with youth daily attendance to our Youth Hub recorded 1334 youth engagement during the year.

The Youth Wellbeing Team also provided the following:

- support youths and Health workers in clinic with 715 health checks,
- Bicillin injections,
- home visits support and transportation
- ongoing referral support with counseling
- Wellbeing checks
- supporting youth in the courts - provided continuous sessions to support matters and requirements.

## Preparation and development of programs

Youth Wellbeing are constantly trying to innovate new programs to capture the youths in many different areas and continue to get information from our youths to cater to their needs and wants.

This year the team are a part of developing our own Youth Council. A major part of this work was to take on decision making and support The Youth Team in implementing strategies and planning to develop programs, promotion, education and events to best service the youth of community.

Other programs build from the youth and Senior Youth Case Manager, consulting over ways youth may feel safer to talk and build rapport, while making a cultural connection to country, from these conversations, it led to the Fishing Yarns Project.

Fishing Yarns is a sub-service of Youth Yarns with Zee, developed by Zhaun to address youth mental health in Yarrabah. This program provides a safe space for youths to share stories, engage with each other, and connect with their cultural heritage.

The Youth Wellbeing Service is committed to a holistic approach, providing comprehensive, wrap-around support that addresses the diverse needs of our youth.

By integrating social emotion wellbeing, cultural practices, and mental health support, we ensure that every young person feels seen, heard, and cared for in a way that respects their whole being.

Our team would also to acknowledge the networks and support we had the privilege to work with as we help to deliver programs, education, promotion and support to the community.





# YOUTH WELLBEING

As our team embarks on the new year and challenges, we thank all who were a part of many programs, events and support for the year.

- Survival Day event
- Youth Outreach BBQ
- RSAS Promotional Days
- Yarrabah Youth Forum
- Team Bond facilitation
- Sorry Day Event
- Young Persons Health Check
- Yarrabah High School Leadership Program
- Yarrabah Leaders Forum
- Church Youth Group
- CQU Research of the systems integration project
- Elders Group
- OSAT Organisational Trauma Workshop Deliver
- Youth Justice
- Gindaja Events
- Mo'vember
- Sis'tember
- YPC
- Men's Group
- Woman's Group
- Healthy relationship Young People Committee
- Yarrabah High School Lunchtime Activities
- Home Visits
- Launch of the Fishing Yarns program
- Support work
- Youth Yarns
- SEWB Intake Meeting
- General Staff Meetings
- Cultural Awareness

## At A Glance

Youth Daily Attendance  
Total for year

**1334**

Wellbeing Support  
Total for year

**255**

Youth Forum  
Attendees

**76**



# Our kids in safe hands

## CHILD HEALTH



The Child Health Program is dedicated to delivering comprehensive health care services to children aged 6 weeks to 16 years old. Our aim is to provide culturally safe care, including the spiritual, mental, and emotional needs of children and their families.

The past 12 months have not been without its challenges.

### Staffing Shortages:

Like many health clinics in Cairns, we faced significant challenges due to short staffing, particularly among Indigenous health workers and nurses. We also have limited rooms as our second clinic Workshop Rd is currently closed. This staffing shortage and limited room resulted in a drop of our immunisation rates and a temporary pause of outreach programs.

### New Staff Recruitment:

We are pleased to report that we have recently recruited additional nurses and health workers, which has enabled us to resume several of our key programs:

- **Deadly Kindies Program:** Focusing on early childhood development and education.
- **School Engagement Program:** Enhancing the health and wellbeing of students through school-based initiatives.
  - **Healthy Ears Program:** Addressing ear health issues in children to ensure they can get treatment, able to hear, talk and learn in school.
  - **School-Based Health Checks:** Providing comprehensive health assessments to school-aged children.
  - **Child Development Program:** Supporting developmental milestones and early intervention.
  - **Queensland Childhood Immunisation Program:** Ensuring all children are up to date with their vaccinations and protected from diseases like meningococcal or pertussis.
  - **Paediatric Outreach Clinic:** Providing specialized care to children in various medical conditions, behavioral issues, developmental delay and learning needs. We have been teaming up with schoolteachers to assist with their treatment during school and its effectiveness.

### Immunisation Clinics:

With the new staffing, we have introduced dedicated walk-in immunisation clinics on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. This initiative has been well-received by the community and has significantly improved our immunisation rates, aligning with national targets.

Our team collaborated with Tropical Public Health Team, Gurriny Yealamucka's media, and public health teams in response to a meningococcal B outbreak. We have immunised children and young adults to ensure that they are up to date with their immunisation and protected from meningococcal B.

We have rolled out RSV vaccines for children under the age of 8 months. RSV immunisation is a safe and best way to protect our bubs and keep them safe, healthy at home and staying out of hospital.

- Forward planning is looking at speech therapy to help children with speech delay.

### Conclusion

Despite facing significant challenges, our team's resilience and dedication have enabled us to continue delivering care to our children.

The recent improvements and program resumptions reflect our commitment to enhancing child health and wellbeing in our community.



# APSGN Public Health Outbreak

## CHILD HEALTH



Acute post-streptococcal glomerulonephritis (APSGN) is a form of kidney disease that can occur 1 – 6 weeks after a young person has a group A streptococcus (GAS) infection of the skin or throat.

In November 2023 the Tropical Public Health Service (TPHS) declared an APSGN outbreak after 3 cases of APSGN were diagnosed in a 2-week period.

Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services (GYHSAC) responded immediately to the outbreak to firstly identify any further cases of APSGN, and to secondly identify and treat any GAS infections (e.g. skin sores or sore throats) to ensure further cases did not arise.

Led by GYHSAC, over a 4-week period the Healthy Housing Team from TPHS, GYHSAC Public Health, and Child Health Teams visited every region in Yarrabah to educate community members about APSGN and identify and treat any skin/throat infections, or possible cases of APSGN.

The Queensland Health Yarrabah Emergency Department also played a critical role in alerting the Child Health Team about any possible cases of APSGN and played a pivotal role in screening and treating children with skin sores.

By the end of November, 313 young people aged 1 – 16 years had been screened for evidence of GAS infections and/or APSGN. A total of 62 young people had a GAS infection treated with a penicillin injection, a total of 95 households were screened, and 7 young people were diagnosed and treated with APSGN.

The prompt and coordinated response from GYHSAC and Queensland Health meant the outbreak was over within a month. This demonstrated the importance of a community driven approach to public health outbreaks.

### Washing your bed linen can help protect you from APSGN

Acute Post-Streptococcal Glomerulonephritis



**The Orange Sky  
Laundry Truck is in  
community  
every Friday,  
8.30am - 11.30am**

*This is a laundry facility NOT a laundry service.  
Its FREE to use, so bring your washing down, have a  
yarn whilst you wait for your washing to dry*

culturally safe  
**CARE**



**GURRINY YEALAMUCKA**  
HEALTH SERVICES (INDIGENOUS CORPORATION)



# ARF | RHD REPORT

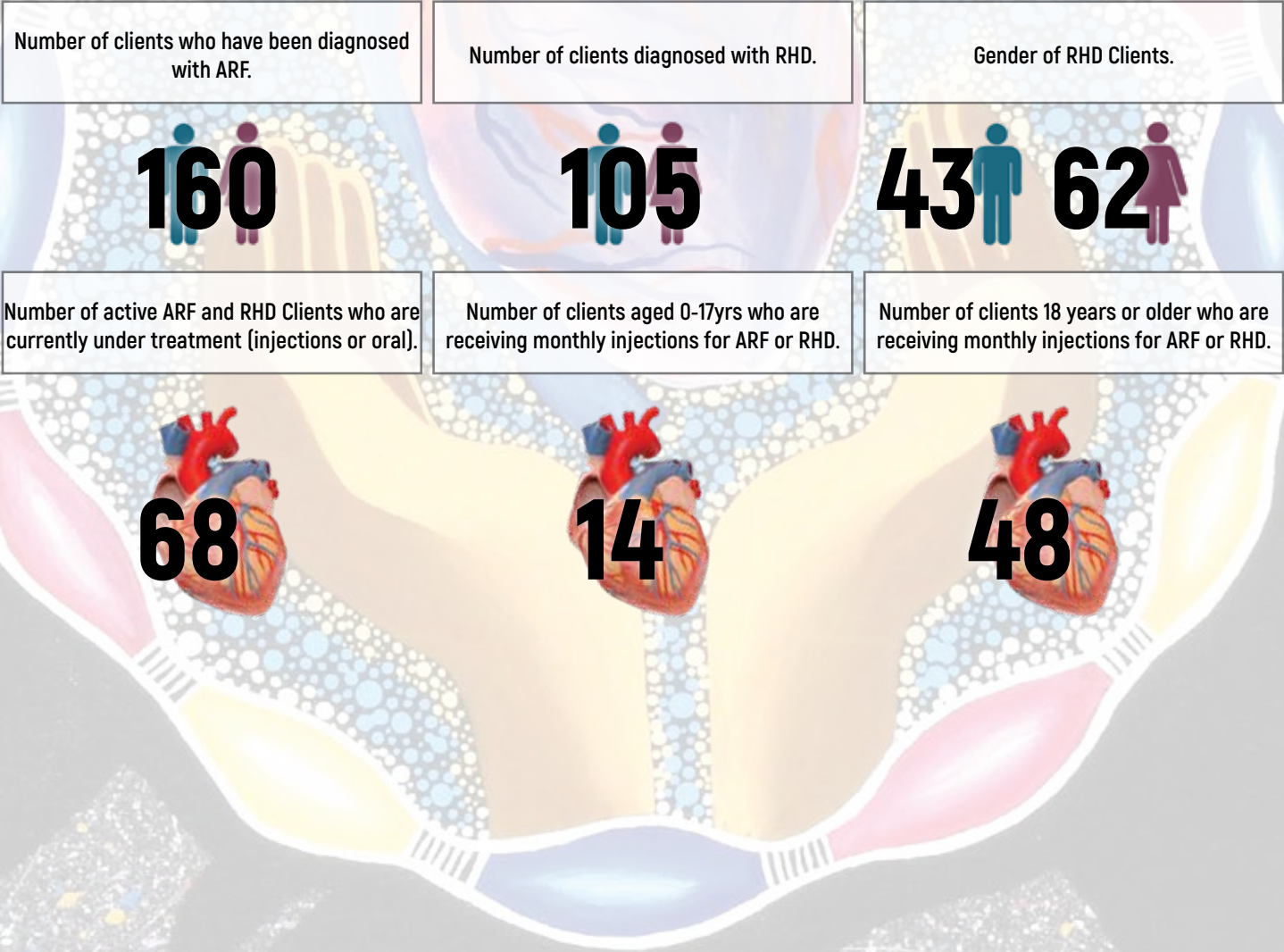
Acute Rheumatic Fever (ARF) and Rheumatic Heart Disease (RHD) are diseases of the heart valves. ARF and RHD was once common across the world, including Australia.

First Nations people living in regional and remote areas are disproportionately affected by these diseases; and have one of the highest recorded rates of ARF and RHD in the world.

ARF and RHD are preventable and treatable conditions, and occur as a result of disadvantage and poverty, where the social and cultural determinants of health are not equitably addressed.

Recommendations to prevent and reduce the incidence ARF and RHD include monitoring Group A Streptococcus (GAS) diseases, the development of a GAS vaccine, long-acting penicillins, and improvements in social and environmental factors, along with improved housing and better access to health care.

Gurriny Yealamucka continue to work with the people of Yarrabah, by advocating for better access to health care and supporting initiatives to prevent the incidence of ARF and RHD.





# ARF | RHD REPORT

Number of Bicillin LA (ARF/RHD) administered

**486**

Bicillin LA injections are important to prevent further damage (secondary prophylaxis) to the heart valves of people living with ARF or RHD.

To get the full benefit of protection, people are required to receive monthly Bicillin LA injections (13 injections per year). Secondary prophylaxis treatment length depends on age of diagnosis, and severity of the disease. Treatment can range from 2 years to 10 years.

Number of Stat Doses of Bicillin LA administered for treatment of impetigo, infected scabies, sore throats etc.

**224**

Impetigo, scabies and sore throats may be caused by infection with Strep A.

Bicillin LA is used as a primary prevention treatment to interrupt Strep A infections and prevent an autoimmune response to Strep A.

Total Number of Cardiology Referrals (ARF/RHD and non-ARF/RHD related matters) issued by GYHSAC GP's.

**195**

Early identification of cardiac issues and ongoing cardiology monitoring are important to help prevent worsening of cardiac conditions and to determine when cardiac interventions (e.g. valve replacement or repair) may be necessary.

Our clinical team (Medical Officers, Nurses and Indigenous Health Workers) work closely with Qld Health Cardiology Teams and QLD Health RHD Teams to provide early identification and going cardiology monitoring for people living with ARF or RHD.

Number of Cardiology Clinics – Adults (made up of ARF/RHD and non-ARF/RHD Clients)	8
Number of Clients who attended	97
Number of Referrals made to Yarrabah Visiting Cardiology Clinic (Adult)	125

Number of Cardiology Clinics – Paeds (made up of ARF/RHD and non-ARF/RHD Clients)	3
Number of Clients who attended	34
Number of Referrals made to Yarrabah Visiting Cardiology Clinic (Paeds)	24

Number of Sonographer Clinics – Adults (to complete ECHO's only – Cardiologist not present) (made up of ARF/RHD and non-ARF/RHD Clients)	7
Number of Clients who attended	8

## Number and Types of skin infections

Skin Infections	Type of Infection	Number
Financial Year 22/23	Scabies	80
	General	150
	Impetigo	43
Financial Year 23/24	Scabies	112
	General	87
	Impetigo	48
Financial Year to date	Scabies	38
	General	50
	Impetigo	12

## Number of RHD clients who had a surgical intervention FY24/25

1 (late 2024)

2 x clients waiting for valve replacement (managed by Nurse Navigator and GYHSAC).  
1 x client has passed away before surgical intervention.

ARF and RHD are preventable diseases and are diseases of disadvantage due to the socioeconomic and political factors that influence people's lives e.g., lack of regular access to hot water, power; and/or overcrowded living conditions.

As a Primary Health Care Service, Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services Aboriginal Corporation actively supports the youth of Yarrabah to understand how germs are spread (Chain of Infection) and how skin health is important (Yarrabah Soap Program and Love the Skin Your In) to reduce their risk to Strep A infections through improved washing of the skin.

It is important for health promotion, screening and early identification activities to run concurrently to improve health literacy and enable the youth of Yarrabah to take control of their health.





# Reconnecting Community with Wujal Wujal

The Bringing Them Home program is an important program here in Yarrabah.

This program recognises the impact of current, past, and intergenerational trauma, to those families that were forcibly removed from their traditional country and separated by Government policies.

The program strengthens the social and emotional wellbeing by providing support through counselling, healing activities and education.

In 2023, we worked closely with 19 community members and Elders culminating with a two-day Back to Country trip to our sister community in the Cape, Wujal Wujal.

That trip proved to be a very emotional and uplifting time for the 14 community members and staff who attended.

Our group visited the communities of

Cooktown, Hopevale and Wujal Wujal, revisiting and making many family connections and discovering the rich cultural heritage of our Yarrabah Community.

Whilst in Cooktown our Elders visited the Cooktown Museum where they were able to identify and make connections to many photos on display and the stories attached to those photos.

After a very emotional revisiting of history at the Cooktown Museum, our party moved north to the Hopevale Arts and Crafts Centre.

Key to the success of this trip was the emotional reunion of long-lost family members and in some cases family members they did not know existed.

Connecting with Country and culture was assured, when we visited Elim Beach, where we feasted on traditional tucker, pigeon soup

and damper, after our Elders joined with locals to hunt and gather.

Day two we drove south to our ultimate destination, Wujal Wujal, spending the day meeting the Wujal Wujal Elders and visiting the local rodeo.

It was a very emotional and personally uplifting day for both our crew as well as the Wujal Wujal locals. Connections were made, stories shared, and a common history strengthened.

Our goal was always to help of Yarrabah Elders understand the impact of disconnection, to explore their identity and gain a greater appreciation of our shared histories and help our Elders move beyond the pain of forced removal and in the process heal.



## Public's health, in good hands

Since its creation in February 2022, the Public Health Program at Gurriny Yealamucka continues to strengthen and increase its capacity to respond to a broad range of issues.

In the short time we have been running, we have proven to not only be able to mount and run effective public health responses to infectious disease outbreaks in community but produce high quality programs to meet the needs of our community and strengthen our position as a community-controlled health service.

Highlights for our program over the last 12 months have been the success of our "Love the Skin You're In" Program and Yarrabah Soap Program as RHD Primordial Prevention Programs. 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 has played an essential part within our public health campaigns during the whooping cough, APSGN and more recently our meningococcal outbreaks.

Our school-based program, "Love the Skin You're In" is a program developed by our 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. This 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.

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

Healthy Skin Heroes is one of community's favourite and most frequently delivered lessons from the "Love the Skin You're In" Program. A lesson designed to create awareness, understand and practice important skills and create healthy habits which support the attainment of healthy and strong skin.



## Supporting families & Community

The term social and emotional wellbeing (SEWB) is used to describe the social, emotional, spiritual, and cultural wellbeing of a person.

The term recognises the connection to land, sea, culture, spirituality, family, and community which are important to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and impact their wellbeing. It also recognises that a person's wellbeing is influenced by policies and past events.

Wellbeing encompasses a person's physical, emotional, social, and mental health, a truly holistic approach to health care.

Mental health is a term that has been used to describe how we think and feel, and how we cope with and respond to crisis and stress and take part in everyday life.

Underpinning our wellbeing program are the following core values and principles:

- health care should be approached from a holistic perspective.
- our community has right to health self-determination
- the need for cultural and historic understanding of our community
- the impact of history in trauma and loss
- the impact of racism and stigma
- recognition of the importance of kinship and family
- recognition of cultural diversity and the role it plays in wellbeing
- recognition of Indigenous strengths

Our wellbeing programs encompass the following teams:

- Family Healing
- Family Wellbeing
- Bringing Them Home in Yarrabah
- Culture Care Connect
- Youth Wellbeing
- Men's health and Wellbeing
- Women's Health and Wellbeing
- Maternal and Child Health and Wellbeing.

Throughout the year our teams work collaboratively to build and support our community. The past 12 months we have experienced an increased number of Sorry Businesses here in Community. The impact of Sorry Business cannot be understated.

Due to the historic nature of the Yarrabah community we are impacted not just by Sorry Business here in Yarrabah, but also throughout Far North Queensland, with direct family connections to the numerous Indigenous communities in the north.

Yarrabah Community Residents		Non-Community Residents	
Males	26	Males	17
Females	25	Females	19
Total	51	Total	36

Supporting Community members during Sorry Business exacts a toll upon our team, our team are supporting community whilst also observing Sorry Business themselves.



# Working with community



Throughout the year our teams have joined with community and run a diverse number of events and special programs. These events and programs are designed to increase engagement and understanding of our community, it's needs and aspirations.

Key highlights throughout the year include:

- Women's Gathering
- SisTember
- Movember
- RU OK Day
- Youth Forum
- National Sorry Day

Our Bringing Them Home Program hosted another successful Women's

Gathering. This year's theme "Living Without Fear" focused on Family & Domestic Violence. The Gathering is generating a very positive reputation and creating a safe and engaging space for women to come together to share, learn and enjoy each other's company.

The keynote speaker this year was Nova Peris who spoke about her upbringing and how she now uses that learning to raise her own children.

Our Youth Wellbeing team conducted their 10th Youth Forum in April 2024. This event continues to be well attended by the youth of community and this year included capturing the needs and aspirations of the youth as they were challenged to explore "What makes a better Yarrabah?"

One of our greatest strengths rests with our whole-of-service approach to the social, emotional wellbeing of our clients.

Key to this are our twice a week intake meetings. The intake meetings are where referrals are assessed, and initial assistance is collaboratively planned.

Referrals can come from a variety of sources:

Internal incoming referrals, from our Wellbeing Teams and also clinicians

External incoming referrals, from

organisations external to Gurriny Yealamucka who have clients in need of our specialised wellbeing services, e.g. Education QLD

External outgoing referrals, where we refer clients to more specialised services external to Gurriny Yealamucka.

Self-referrals and community-based referrals, (direct inquiries from kin or other family members, Elders and other community leaders.

The Wellbeing program promotes the importance of self-referrals and community-

initiated referrals.

These referrals represent the most effective way for community to access any wellbeing service, on their term and with their immediate consent.

Our service is a welcoming and safe space in which families and individual feel confident that their privacy is respected, and they are always culturally safe.

They will create an environment that families and individuals can access without judgement.

## At A Glance

Internal Incoming Referrals

421

External Incoming Referrals  
Including Self referrals

29

External Outgoing referrals

22



# FAMILY WELLBEING EMPOWERMENT



## Empowering and healing - Creating better futures

The Family Wellbeing Program has now been operating in Yarrabah for more than 20 years, changing lives and creating a stronger more positive future for all community members.

The program focuses strongly upon empowering members, their family and the broader community. Family Wellbeing Empowerment has been successful in empowering participants, in particular vulnerable groups like the long-term unemployed and incarcerated individuals.

In the past 20 plus years we have seen more than 500 community members participate in the Family Wellbeing Empowerment training. With significant engagement within their community after undertaking the training.

Participants are building supportive networks, improving their wellbeing and showing interest in further training and employment as Family Wellbeing facilitators and taking the message of community strength through Family Wellbeing to other communities throughout Australia.

There will always be challenges with the delivery of the training.

Community and service partners value the Family Wellbeing program, they can readily see the benefit of the program, however some are hesitant to undertake

the facilitator training as they see this as the domain of educational institutions due to the complexity and responsibility involved with training facilitators.

With this in mind it is essential to integrate the Family Wellbeing program into mainstream tertiary education systems, understanding the challenges this will face due to bureaucratic hurdles and its non-vocational nature, with impacts upon its eligibility for VET sector funding.

Community change momentum was slowed within our community, 2020-2023 due to the lasting impact of COVID. With the lingering impact upon economic growth, educational disruption and COVID associated health issues, we have struggled as a community to leverage fully the significant benefits Family Wellbeing Empowerment brings to our community.

Despite the obstacles and hurdles we encounter the Family Wellbeing Empowerment program offers genuine and lasting benefits to our communities and all communities throughout Australia.

The challenge in the coming years will be to keep up with the demand we are experiencing with a significant number of requests from similar community-focused organisations seeking to leverage Family Wellbeing within their community and realise the full benefit this exciting program can deliver for their community.



# Stronger men

## MEN'S HEALTH

Indigenous men's physical health is tied closely to their social and emotional wellbeing.

Gurriny Yealamucka's Social Emotional Wellbeing (SEWB) Men's Health Program works collaboratively with both clinical and other SEWB teams to support community members and their families.

Our regular Intake Meetings serve an important role in our collaborative approach to men's health and wellbeing.

Gurriny Yealamucka's Wellbeing teams, SEWB, Family Healing, and Family Wellbeing teams meet twice weekly to discuss and allocate referrals according to our Wellbeing Model of Care.

We then follow-up with each individual referral, conducting home visits, offering support, and building trust through open and confidential yarning before introducing clients to other programs and services offered by Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services as well as other relevant external services.

The majority of our weekly interaction with clients is conducted through our Men's Space located on Noble drive in the Mission. Our Men's Space was the original site established for Gurriny Yealamucka more than 30 years ago and serves today as a great venue for regular contact and engagement with the men in Community.

It features a communal drop-in space for wellbeing yarning, tea, coffee, art and crafts and Mayi (food).

We are currently developing a community garden at the rear of the Men's Space, allowing our members an opportunity to yarn whilst gardening. It is also designed to improve the healthy food options for our community members.

Throughout the year, we have staged many small events, broadened our engagement and strengthening our bonds in community. Firelight Yarns was an initiative designed to connect with and strengthen relationships. We conducted two sessions in 2023, attended by 8 community men, gathered around a fire, yarning, and sharing.

On ongoing project is our containers for change project. Our members collect recyclable containers, the proceeds finance a Men's Dinner each year in Cairns. It's incredible just what a difference this small project can make. We take greater pride in community as well as see a tangible reward for a small effort. The dinner this year was attended by 18 men, with Gurriny Yealamucka providing the transport and the driver needed for the evening.

We continue to network closely with other community-based organisations and external stakeholders to strengthen and support our men.

- Gindaja (Warriors Program)
- Mission Australia
- Corrective Services Qld
- Qld Health, Mental Health Program Staff
- Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council
- Support with organisation of consultation meetings with men about the following initiatives:
  - Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council Microgrid Project
  - Yarrabah Seahawks Book
  - Wugu Nyambil – employment and training opportunities
  - Anglicare Cairns
  - Australian Training Works Cairns, regarding promotion and information of employment and training opportunities
  - Mimosa Supports (NDIS Support Service)
  - Qld Ambulance Service to assist with promotion of their recruitment program to men that attend Men's Health Program in Noble Drive
  - Brisbane Youth Justice Program – promotion and information of program



# CHILD AND MATERNAL HEALTH SEWB



## Caring for our new families

The Maternal and Child Health Social Emotional Wellbeing Program is a new program within Gurriny Yealamucka. This program is based within the Social Emotional Wellbeing team, and we also work closely with the Maternal and Child Health team. We provide a bridge between the Maternal and Child Health team and the Social Emotional Wellbeing team when our families need care and support.

Our team is made up of a coordinator and an officer. Both have clinical backgrounds in both maternal and child health and have worked with both teams previously. That experience has provided further knowledge and background to assist in navigating across teams to implement our program. This year, in September, both staff will have successfully finished studying their Certificate 4 Primary Health Practice.

Our program focusses on delivering culturally safe care using a holistic approach. Our attention is not centred on mums and babies but also on dads and other male figures that

will be helping raise the child/children.

To assist with achieving this objective, we engage with the Men's SEWB Team, as they can help support our dads and encourage them to attend our groups and activities.

Another focus of the program is supporting and helping mums engage in healthy outcomes, starting from pre-conception and to babies first 1000 days.

Our support also includes encouraging mums and dads to attend their antenatal or other specialised appointments. If they are not engaging with clients, we also serve as advocates and support for the community in situations where parents might not feel confident approaching themselves.

We also work closely with other internal and external teams and service providers, networking and building professional relationships to ensure we can offer the appropriate care and support when needed.

### At A Glance

Occasions working with internal and external service team



Programs activities provided in first 5 months



Families supported during this period, Feb – June 2024







## SEXUAL HEALTH

# A new approach

Our Public Health Team has a goal, that goal is to deliver one of the most progressive, innovative, and wholistic Sexual Health Programs running from an ACCHO in this country.

This goal is driven by our want to create the conditions for a sexually healthy community, where our community members can experience safe, consensual, and pleasurable sex, free of stigma or discrimination.

Evidence of our progress towards this goal over the last 12 months, has been demonstrated on several occasions over the past 12 months.

In September 2023, our team was invited to present our Sexual Health Program at the well renowned Australasian Society for HIV, Viral Hepatitis and Sexual Health Medicine (ASHM) conference, then again in April at the 2024 Kimberly Sexual Health Forum held in Broom.

Work presented included our annual Young Persons Check Program (YPC), comprehensive Barrier Protection Program, our art based sexual education classes and our art exhibition, we held at the Yarrabah Arts and Cultural Precinct late last year.

Feedback received from the work we have presented and workshopped has been overwhelmingly positive. We have now received several reports from other ACCHOs within Australia who are now taking on our methods of teaching sexual education, implementing comprehensive Barrier-Protection Programs and run YPC programs just like ours.

What we have done differently to most sexual health programs run in similar contexts, has been to move away from the disease focused model of care and follow the World Health Organisations recommendations for sexual health programming, putting sexual rights at the forefront of everything we do.

By taking this approach, we understand, value, and bring focus to the importance of building self-esteem and loving our bodies, experiencing pleasure, learning how to communicate and understand consent, our desires, how we identify and why it is important to take time to explore our sexual relationship with ourselves and others.



# TRANSPORT & FACILITIES

## Keeping community connected

Whilst it may be true that the 'public face' of Gurriny Yealamucka 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.

Some of the key areas include:

- Safety checks, audits and compliance
- Repairs and maintenance
- Cleaning services and external yard general maintenance
- Courtesy transportation for patients to all our local clinic sites which provides access to medical treatment and pharmaceutical supplies/medications.
- Courtesy transport for clients to Cairns for specialist medical appointments
- Management of all Gurriny Yealamucka external building areas which include Bukki Rd, Noble Dr

Our team comprised of up to 15 staff members, all residents of our community. Four full time cleaners along with 3 casual cleaning staff, two drivers as well as two casual staff, and a team leader.

One of the key factors to improving our people's health is to provide access to health services. A common thread within our teams at Gurriny Yealamucka is that our competent staff are always deadly at ensuring that all necessary requirements as set by our operational plan are achieved.

We are now an Accredited Transport services and our drivers all hold a Queensland Driver Authorisation Licence and Restricted Driver

Authorisation to transport our local community members.

Throughout the year we continued to face the challenge of the increased workload and continue to do so at an excellent standard.

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.

Throughout the past year we have completed more than 950 Cairns transport runs, supporting our community members who are required to access specialist health services in Cairns.

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.





# Our Workforce

In our training and development efforts, we are dedicated to enhancing the skills of our current workforce and creating new career pathways in health.

We have welcomed a fresh group of trainees to the GYHSAC team, focusing on youth work and primary health care.

Moving forward, Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services will implement an annual intake of trainees to further strengthen our local workforce.

We are also reviewing our clinical workforce skills to identify areas for development and to promote greater diversity within our services.

A key component of this review involves aligning the position descriptions of our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers with the new national scope of practice.

Our aim is to support health workers in advancing to registered health practitioners with AHPRA, ensuring they continue to provide culturally safe care in our clinics.

**77.5%**

Employees Identify as  
Indigenous

**87%**

Indigenous Employees  
have Cert 3 or higher  
qualifications

**94%**

Non- Indigenous  
Employees have Cert 4 or  
higher qualifications

**89%**

Employees have a  
Certificate 3 or higher  
qualification

**42%**

Employees undertook  
workplace training in the  
past 12 months

**24%**

Indigenous employees  
engaged in formal  
training to improve their  
level of qualifications

**28%**

Non-Indigenous  
employees engaged  
in formal training to  
improve their level of  
qualifications

**29%**

Employees have a degree  
or higher qualification



# PEOPLE AND CULTURE

## Building a strong team

In the 12 months to June 2024 staff turnover has shown a promising downward trend settling at an annualised rate under 20 per cent, well below the sector average. While this result is a strong indicator of stability, improving the employee experience of the 28 appointments made in 2024 (making up nearly one-third of the workforce) is necessary to sustain this positive trend and maintain quality of our health care services.

Fostering support for its growing workforce including continuity of performance reviews, prioritising training and development opportunity and optimising pay and benefits will sustain the expertise necessary to uphold our quality objectives.

As we look ahead, our workforce planning is being carefully aligned with the strategic goals outlined in our 2024-2027 plan. A key component of this strategy is a 'talent pipeline' initiative targeting difficult to fill critical roles, such as Health Workers, Nurses, General Practitioners and Mental Health Clinicians.

Our Model of Care is led by our team of Indigenous Health Workers and strengthens our engagement with Community, so developing emerging talent from within Community is a cornerstone of our strategy.

A roadmap for strategically upskilling new and existing employees will identify the skills most needed, the people capable of gaining those skills, and the training needed to support them in their professional development.

Our 'talent pipeline' initiative aims to build a sustainable human resourcing framework and is enhanced by working in partnership with local educational institutions, including James Cook University (JCU), TAFE, and the local schools. Together, we will continue to support scholarship and work-experience programs, as well as adult and school-based traineeships.

Our commitment to workforce development also extends to promoting medical training among Indigenous students, as well as enrolled medical students and doctors-in-training ensuring a diverse of future healthcare professionals.

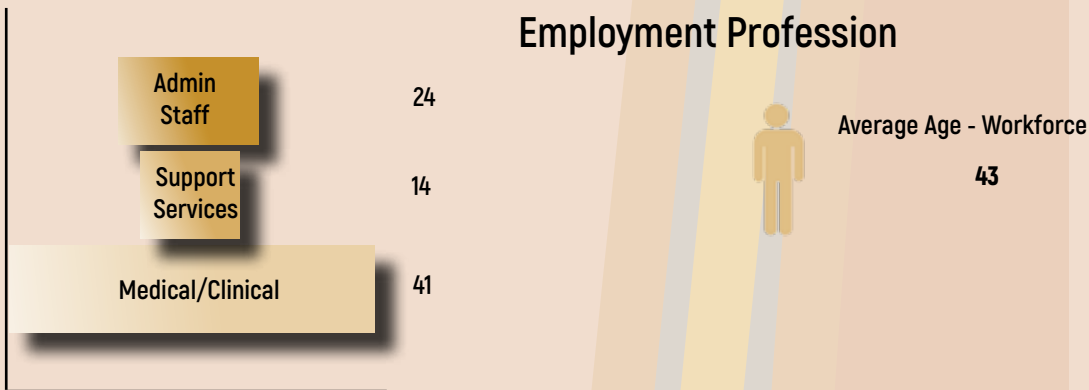
We continue to maintain our involvement in General Practitioner Specialist Training programs (AGPAL) and undergraduate training partnerships with JCU. Additionally, we are proud to participate in post-graduate training opportunities like the John Flynn Prevocational Doctor Program (JFPDP), where GYHSAC has the distinction of being the only Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation in Queensland invited to collaborate with the Cairns & Hinterland Hospital & Health Service (CHHHS).

Through these efforts, we aim to continue building a robust and capable workforce that not only meets the needs and preferences of our community but also reflects our commitment to fostering local talent and ensuring high-quality healthcare for the Yarrabah.

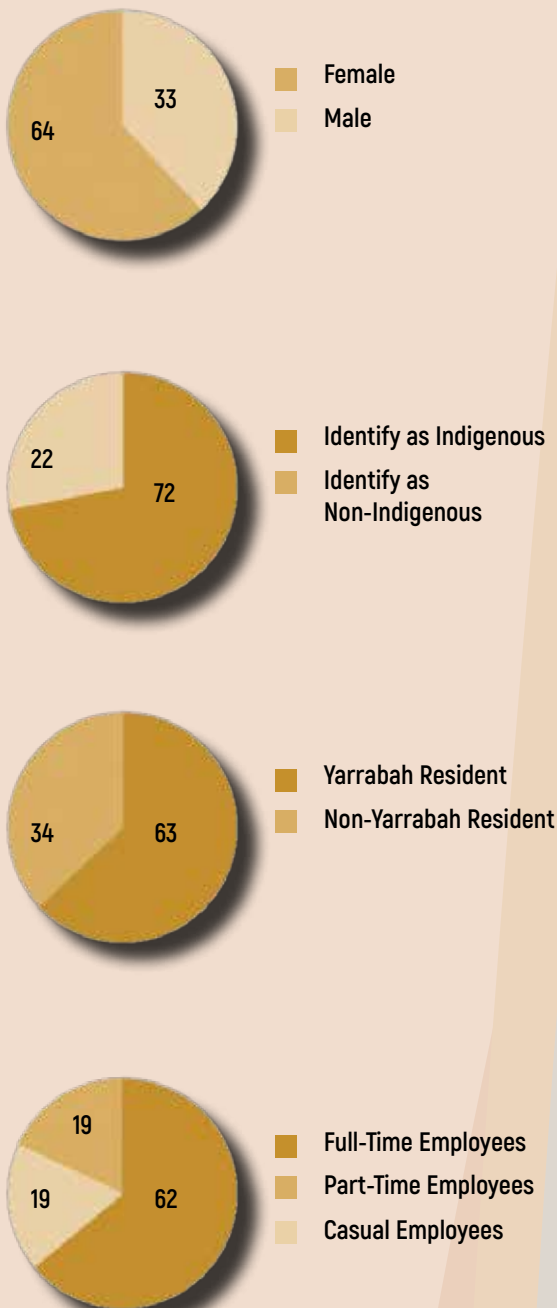


# GURRINY YEALAMUCKA by the numbers

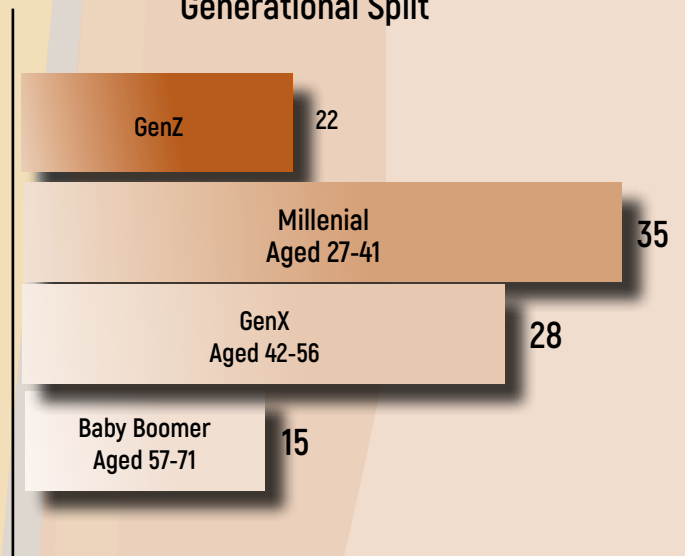
## Employment Profession



## Employment Breakdown



## Generational Split





# COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING



The challenge today in an increasingly disrupted communications and media environment is to maintain or grow message cut-through, simply put, we need to keep abreast of, if not ahead of the constantly changing platforms as well as the evolving consumption patterns of our audience.

Fortunately, the driving force that underpin social media today is the premise up which it functions. Social media is just that social. It's too easy to fall into the trap that social media is there for the purpose of building brand recognition within a community.

Social media should be viewed as a platform that allows a community to access information in real time, connecting with and building their social community. With that in mind we have carefully created a strong community driven face to our social media with essential messaging woven through our messaging.

Social media continues to play an important role within our communications strategy, despite its fragmentation and continued technology access issues here in Yarrabah.

We embrace a promotional strategy of using community based social influencers to build the strength and cut through of our social media messaging. This strategy is carried across all associated marketing and communications to our community.

The effectiveness of our social media messaging is measurable, and reflects the focus upon presence, content, and social influencers.

Our communications strategy has focused upon 4 key objectives:

#### **Increasing community engagement.**

- This is achieved primarily through events, social media messaging, our website, digital billboard in addition to in-clinic promotions.

#### **Improved awareness of what we do.**

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

#### **Strengthening relationships with partners and stakeholders**

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

#### **Building communications and engagement with our staff.**

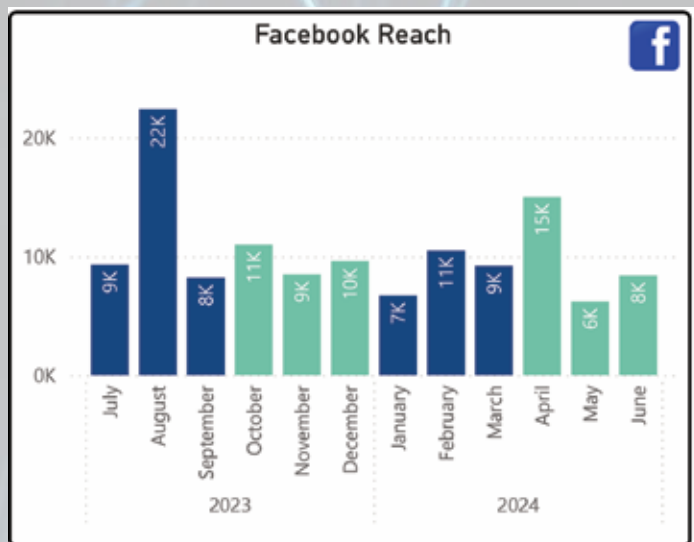
- We endeavour to keep staff informed on developments, promotions, and activities. Many of our staff are from community, further increasing the importance of keeping them informed and building their confidence to advocate on our behalf.

To engage fully with our primary market, clients, and community here in Yarrabah, we use the following platforms:

- Social Media.
- Electronic digital billboards.
- Posters and promotional materials.
- Community engagement events.



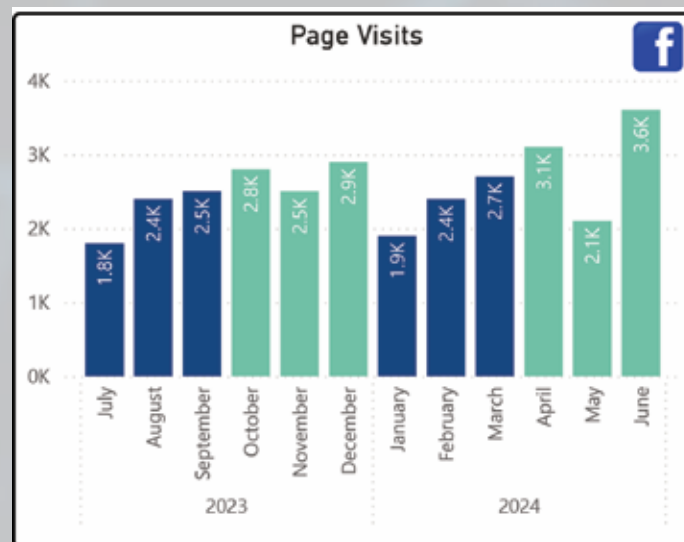
# Communications & Marketing



Our Facebook presence is constant, delivering an excellent return upon the time invested. Relying solely upon organic growth and a strong reliance upon native posts our Facebook page achieved an accumulative reach of 125,000 people during the year.

Our reach varies on a monthly basis and is very reflective of special event promotion and seasonal timing.

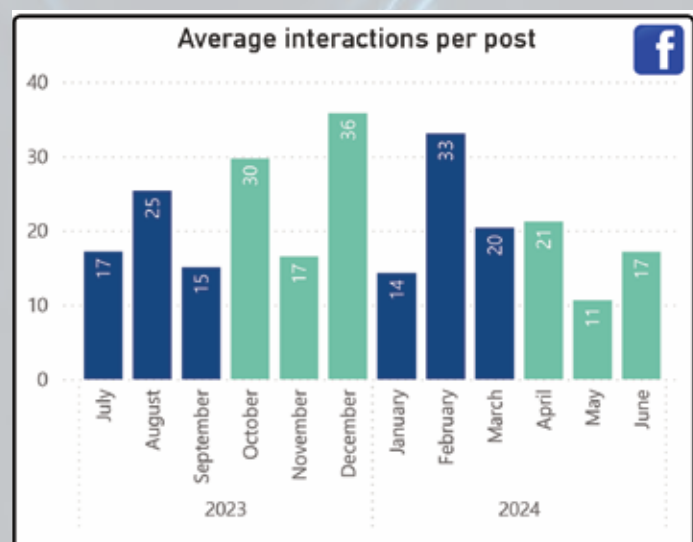
Unfortunately it is not possible to identify with any degree of science our unique reach for the geographical region of Yarrabah and southern Cairns.



We evaluate the success of our social media based upon a simple matrix. Interactions, likes, shares and comments as well as click through and visitations to our Facebook page.

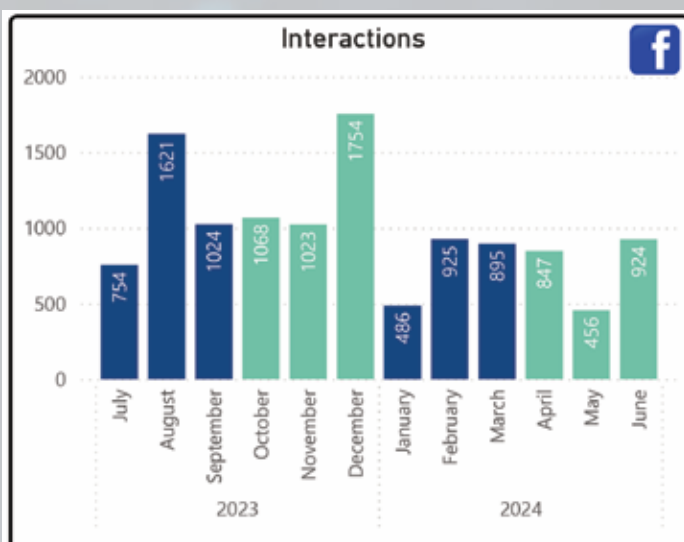
Throughout the year we have seen almost 31,000 visits to our page. A number of these would be a result of clicking through from a website link or external promotional link, in addition to clicking through from a Facebook post on a follower's feed.

On average, we receive more than 2,500 visits to our page each month.



The effectiveness of our Facebook posts will vary dependent upon many factors: content, timing, relevance as well as creative design.

Community enjoys seeing community on social media, further reinforcing our social media strategy. Our Facebook posts this past year averaged more than 20 interactions per post.



During the year we scheduled more than 550 native posts to our Facebook page, creating a constant and relevant presence for our very loyal followers. In turn these posts generated almost 11,700 interactions, (likes, comments, and shares).



# YEAR IN REVIEW



| In April we launched our Tackling Indigenous Smoking Program. The launch was attended by Deadly Choices Ambassadors Petro Civoniceva and Willie Tonga



# 2024 WOMEN'S GATHERING

## Living without fear

Nationally, First Nations women and children are disproportionately impacted by family and domestic violence. They are 34 times more likely to be hospitalised due to violence than non-Indigenous women and six times more likely to die as a result of family violence. The unfortunate reality is that domestic violence is a too-common fact of life here in Yarrabah.

Empowering community women and breaking free from many of the inhibitors on the quality of life has been one of the driving forces behind the very successful Women's Gathering in Yarrabah.

Yarrabah families have for generations lived with threat of domestic violence due to over-crowding, economic disconnect as well as limited opportunity for education, training, and development.

This year's Yarrabah Women's Gathering tackled the important issue surrounding domestic violence "Living without Fear".

Headline guest presenter for the day was Olympic champion and ex-federal senator, Nova Peris. Yarrabah community member and Female Domestic and Family Violence Officer, Katrina Stafford was joined by Amanda Stephen from the Department of Child Protection worked with more than 180 community ladies, regarding options, strategies and what supports are available to protect, strengthen and build family resilience.

Since its launch in 2018, the Yarrabah Women's Gathering has grown into a true community driven event that empowers and enriches our families and community.

Feedback from the participants was not only inspiring for the Gurriny Yealamucka team, but also showed the profound effect events of this nature can have on our community.

*As a young leader myself, being part of today's conference has empowered me to be better..*

*"(It) Filled my cup, great networking and hearing from everyone.*

*Would be great to have more youth – senior age students for the luncheon to hear the session."*

*"I thoroughly enjoyed listening to Maggie and Nova's stories.*

*They have both inspired me to continue to make a difference when and wherever I possibly can."*



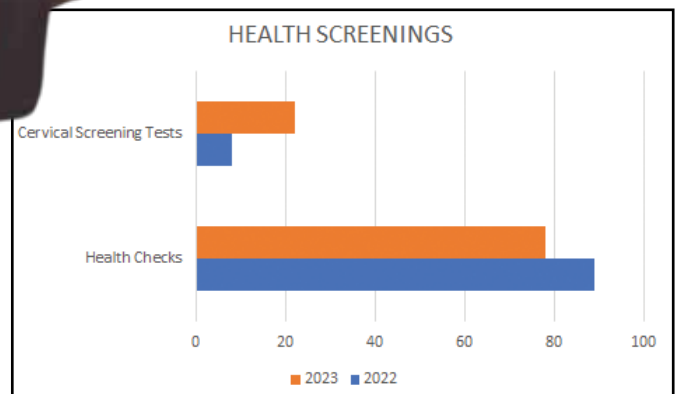
# Celebrating Sisterhood

## SISTEMBER 2023

After a very successful launch back in 2022, SisTember 2023 continued to grow and encompass more community-based organisations, creating greater excitement and a true month of celebration for all community women.

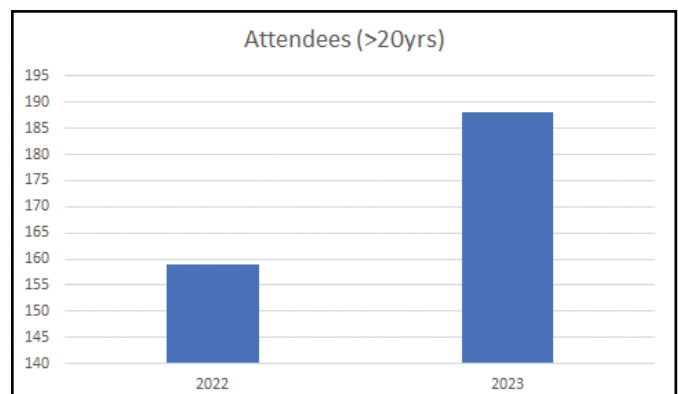
Staged and coordinated by the Gurriny Yealamucka Wellbeing Team, SisTember '23 presented a program packed with wellbeing activities, health check clinics, dental health checks and education, various education and health promotion sessions, physical activity, as well as space and time for coming together, sharing and yarning. In true Yarrabah fashion, community and community-based organisations all combined to create a month worthy of it's focus, Celebrating Sisterhood in Yarrabah.

- Yarrabah Anglican Church
- Gindaja Treatment & Healing Indigenous Corporation
- Yarrabah State High School students
- Wugu Nyambil
- GYHSAC Clinical teams
- Mirriki Dancers
- James Cook University Dentistry



SisTember has a strong focus on the health of our women in community.

Health Checks along with Cervical Screening are a major part of our monthly program. 2023 saw a significant lift in the number of Cervical Screenings in the month.



The second year of the SisTember program saw a considerable growth in attendees. This represents a heightened acceptance of this month-long program by our community.



# Our youth, our future

## 2024 YOUTH FORUM



Youth Wellbeing hosted another annual Yarrabah Youth Forum in early April during Queensland Youth Week. The evening event saw 72 participants register to the event with 64 youths, 4 Elders, and 4 special guest speakers.

The Theme of the night chosen by the Youth Workers supported the NAIDOC Theme for 2024, *Keep the fire burning, Blak, Loud and Proud*.

Our Slogan was *Buri Gumin, One Fire*, which comes from the Gunggandji Language of Yarrabah.

As said in the opening speech delivered by Youth Coordinator Paul Neal, "Our Youth Forum theme this year is Buri Gumin – One Fire. To us, Bama people, the fire represents many things, the fire is a place of gathering where we share stories and trade, it is our light in the darkness, our blanket when we're cold, it's our stove and our oven to cook and prepare our meals.

"From the fire, we burn off old growth to sprout out the new, we use the smoke to cleanse our spirits and the charcoal to clean our teeth, heal wounds and crushed to create black ochre.

"To us, the Fire is a deep symbol, tonight we will hear from our current leaders who hold the torch of fire, give a message to our youth, as it will be passed down to you for you to carry on and one day share, we will speak of empowerment and drive that creates pathways or opportunities, whether in jobs, studies or in life."

The Youth Forum engaged our youths, hearing about pathways for self-business opportunities with guest presenter Joanne Walters from Yarrabah's Wugu Nyambil's Business Accelerator and Incubation Hub speaking about On Country Young Entrepreneurs Project.

The event also asked two questions to the Youths that we asked 10 years ago during our first forum.

*What Makes and Better Yarrabah for Youths, and How do we as services Provide make a better Yarrabah?*

Overall night was a success and the Youths really engaged in great conversations. With this being 10 years of the Yarrabah Youth Forum, next year could see the event go into a two-day conference to offer more to the Youth of our community.





# What makes a better Yarrabah?



What makes a better Yarrabah represented a major engagement exercise at this year's Yarrabah Youth Forum. The goal was to hear directly from our emerging generation of leaders as how they wanted to transform Yarrabah and create a stronger and more sustainable future for them and future generations.

Working in small teams, five to six youth at each table, they were collectively asked, "What Makes a Better Yarrabah?"

Their responses could be broken into 8 distinct themes:

1. Environment and a clean Yarrabah
2. Respect and support
3. Youth activities
4. Community infrastructure and services
5. Community, culture, family & people
6. Sports
7. Education
8. Employment

The results were not surprising, as our youth are no different to youth from any community throughout Australia. They are environmentally aware, exhibiting a high level of social awareness and capable of thinking both locally and globally,

The following tables summarise the feedback and provide clarity and confidence in our emerging leaders.

Area /Theme	What Makes a Better Yarrabah? Youth's responses	What can service providers do to support "Making a Better Yarrabah"?
Respect and support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* when we come together as one</li> <li>* support</li> <li>* no fighting</li> <li>* no gambling – ping – cubbo</li> <li>* limit the music</li> <li>* no little kids smoking spread</li> <li>* kindness</li> <li>* support in our community (networks hearing us out)</li> <li>* supportive leader to focus on our young people</li> <li>* respect yourself, respect your Elders and others/ respect will go a long way/ if you respect them, they will respect you.</li> <li>* Tolerance</li> <li>* less crime</li> <li>* less party on weekdays</li> <li>* more support</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* listening to our inputs</li> <li>* working together</li> <li>* be a role model/to them</li> <li>* #respecting your appearances</li> <li>* Men's group involvement/ women's group</li> <li>* networking all organisations</li> <li>* more respectful people</li> <li>* no fighting</li> <li>* no breaking in or stealing</li> <li>* no damaged property</li> <li>* no graffiti</li> <li>* acknowledgement/respect</li> <li>* gain encouragement and support</li> </ul>

A strong positive for our community is the depth and understanding of the importance of community and an appreciation of the need for responsibility, to ourselves, our family and our community.

Area /Theme	What Makes a Better Yarrabah? Youth's responses	What can service providers do to support "Making a Better Yarrabah"?
Environment & a clean Yarrabah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* when the community is clean – clean environment</li> <li>* when it's clean</li> <li>* cleaner community</li> <li>* stop overkilling seafood</li> <li>* clean environment</li> <li>* more bins</li> <li>* cleaner creeks</li> <li>* cleaner beaches;</li> <li>* clean-up Yarrie day</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* no rubbish on the floor</li> <li>* more picnic spots</li> <li>* gardening/yard pride</li> <li>* surroundings</li> <li>* safer creeks/beaches</li> <li>* clean community</li> </ul>





# Youth should be seen, heard, & cared for!



Area /Theme	What Makes a Better Yarrabah? Youth's responses	What can service providers do to support "Making a Better Yarrabah"?
Youth activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* high school disco – PCYC</li> <li>* more activities</li> <li>* more programs for our youths activities (outdoor)</li> <li>* organise camping on land with rangers</li> <li>* organise movie nights painting and activities at the museum</li> <li>* more cultural learning open the youth hub bit later</li> <li>* more youth forums</li> <li>* more community events</li> <li>* more culturally appropriate programs</li> <li>* facilities for youths (PCYC, youth hub)</li> <li>* creeks/swimming</li> <li>* jetty, fishing</li> <li>* re-open public pool &amp; make it free!</li> <li>* more camping trips fishing club</li> <li>* 24 hrs youth hubs</li> <li>* youth leadership engagements</li> <li>* PCYC</li> <li>* dancing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* youth forum isn't enough, more youth stuff</li> <li>* more activities</li> <li>* more activities – camping, fishing/crabbing/ bushwalking/mountain biking</li> <li>* staying fit and active</li> <li>* #outdoor activities</li> <li>* bbq stands on beach</li> <li>* bring back pool hosting events (e.g. movie nights)</li> <li>* #pcyc sporting events</li> <li>* holiday programs – service providers all work together</li> <li>* night program – (place for youth to go late at night)</li> <li>* Clontarf for all ages</li> <li>* engaging with youth often</li> <li>* more involvement/ participation/engagement</li> <li>* more time with Elders</li> </ul>
Community Infrastructure & services		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* transport from our services</li> <li>* more safe space youth</li> <li>* expand youth hub</li> <li>* yarrabah public transport</li> <li>* drinking fountains</li> <li>* community garden with fresh produce</li> <li>* agriculture</li> <li>* provide services for fresher food (butcher)</li> <li>* IGA – owned &amp; run by Yarrabah people</li> <li>* more options shop wise (variety – haircuts, clothes)</li> <li>* health – local hospital</li> <li>* bus local services</li> <li>* bus service for pick-ups/ drops</li> <li>* ranger partnership</li> <li>* 24hr drop-in</li> <li>* 24hr youth hub/bus service</li> <li>* carwash</li> <li>* more shops</li> <li>* more homes</li> <li>* more transport</li> <li>* local business (pet/vet)</li> <li>* fishing farm</li> </ul>

Area /Theme	What Makes a Better Yarrabah? Youth's responses	What can service providers do to support "Making a Better Yarrabah"?
Community, Culture, Family & People	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* family</li> <li>* catching up with friends &amp; family</li> <li>* people</li> <li>* youth</li> <li>* family</li> <li>* friends</li> <li>* culture</li> <li>* horses</li> <li>* pets</li> <li>* weather</li> <li>* jetty</li> <li>* creeks</li> <li>* Aboriginal flags</li> <li>* families</li> </ul>	
Sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* netball team for girls</li> <li>* community gym</li> <li>* gym programs/trainer</li> <li>* more sporting facilities</li> <li>* community gym</li> <li>* cricket pitch</li> <li>* sporting events/opportunities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* exercise program</li> <li>* more sports</li> <li>* gym</li> </ul>
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* teach them basic life skills;</li> <li>* better education (good education/attending school all the time to be able to apply for better jobs);</li> <li>* library – access to books, computers, resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* more promotions</li> <li>* building TAFE in Yarrie</li> <li>* more promotion of what they offer</li> <li>* provide training for our young people – basic life skills</li> <li>* be more involved in schools</li> <li>* health promotion better suited for youths</li> <li>* education</li> </ul>
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* job networks providing career pathways (push for opportunity)</li> <li>* more young people employed</li> <li>* more work experience</li> <li>* more job opportunities</li> <li>* entrepreneurship opportunity (Yarrabah people owning)</li> <li>* jobs for youths</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* more jobs – opportunities</li> <li>* more of our young people working</li> <li>* local employment, traineeships</li> <li>* more jobs</li> <li>* work experiences expos</li> <li>* more job opportunities</li> <li>* training services</li> </ul>





# Keeping youth healthy

Once again Gurriny Yealamucka ran their annual Young Persons Health and Wellbeing Checks Program for the year. The aim of this program is to encourage as many of our 15 to 24 year old's in for a health check as possible.

Eager to continue to improve the quality of our service for our young people, we built on past years and provided the most comprehensive program to date, despite the challenges we faced.

This year we held our program at the Gurriny Yealamucka Bukki Road facility.

Whilst this facility is not as centrally located as our Workshop Road facility, we worked hard to ensure our community knew exactly where to find us and managed to deliver more youth health checks than we have in the past 2 years.

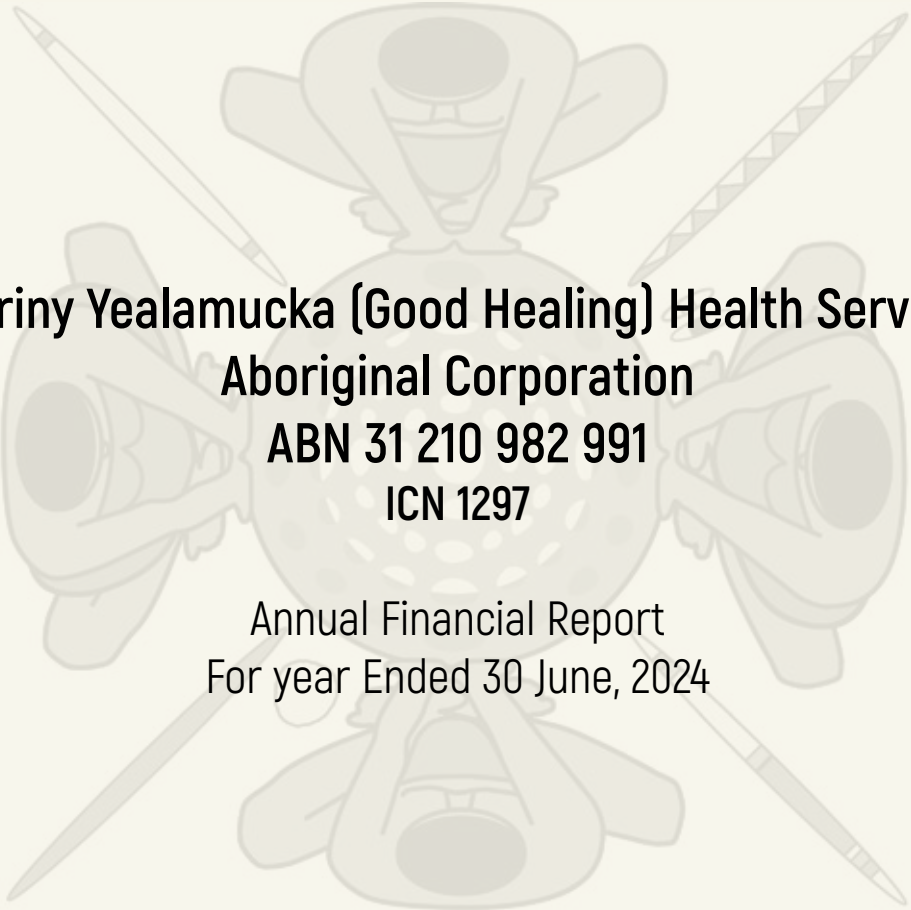
Our 2024 Program consisted of a range of people from different specialty areas and experience who came together to deliver a cohesive and collaborative service appropriate for our youth.

This included the employment of four youth community members, Social Emotional Well-Being team (SWEB), Oceana for immunisation support, Aboriginal Health Workers (AHW), reception staff, Queensland Health Dentistry Services, Doctors and a Program Coordinator.

Youth attending our program this year were offered:

- well-being check with our SWEB team
- an opportunity to check their immunisation records on the Australian Immunisation Register and be given any missed immunisations from the childhood program, COVID and annual influenza vaccines
- health screening with our AHWs
- doctor's consult
- dentistry consult
- fresh juice from Yarrie's Juice Bar and healthy snacks
- arts and craft session
- dress-ups and make-up art with polaroid photos
- basketball games

# FINANCIAL REPORTS



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

Annual Financial Report  
For year Ended 30 June, 2024



## 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 2024 and the auditor's report thereon.

### Operating and financial review

The net surplus from ordinary activities after tax amounted to \$561,644 (2023: \$553,331).

### 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	Experience and special responsibilities
David Baird	Chairperson (appointed 28 November 2023) - re-elected 9 November 2022
Kenneth Jackson Jr.	Deputy Chairperson (appointed 28 Nov. 2023) – elected 19 October 2021
Leslie Baird	Director – re-elected 9 November 2022
Samuel Bann	Director – appointed 3 August 2023
Errol Choikee	Director – elected 1 November 2023
Mikaela French	Independent Director – appointed 9 June 2021
Robin Giason	Independent Director – appointed 1 December 2014 – resigned 30 April 2024
Sonja Johnson	Director – appointed 28 May 2024
Ailsa Lively	Director – elected 20 October 2020
Katie Pope	Independent Director – appointed 28 January 2022
Linda Sexton	Director – elected 22 November 2011, term ended 1 November 2023

## 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*
David Baird	5	5
Kenneth Jackson Jr.	5	5
Leslie Baird	4	5
Samuel Bann	4	4
Errol Choikee	2	3
Mikaela French	5	5
Robin Giason	4	4
Sonja Johnson	-	-
Alisa Lively	5	5
Katie Pope	4	5
Linda Sexton	2	2

\*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.



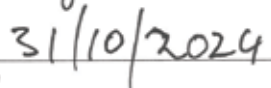
### Auditor's independence declaration

At no time during the financial year ended 30 June 2024 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 2024.

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

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Director

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## 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 2024, 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
- b No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

Grant Thornton

Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd  
Chartered Accountants

Helen Wilkes

H A Wilkes  
Partner – Audit & Assurance  
Cairns, 31<sup>st</sup> Oct 2024

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## Statement of comprehensive income

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024	2023
	\$	\$
<b>Income</b>		
Revenue and income	13,216,330	12,226,547
	<u>13,216,330</u>	<u>12,226,547</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Advertising	21,950	22,144
Audit fees	35,826	16,778
Cleaning	31,003	31,081
Clinic supplies	164,057	105,551
Computer support and equipment hire	268,611	484,643
Conference fees	24,480	36,684
Consulting and professional fees	446,486	585,316
Donations	16,219	2,246
Electricity and water	84,977	75,991
Employee expenses	9,096,625	8,151,142
FBT expense	573	-
Grant funds transferred	20,000	100,000
Grants repaid	265,358	87,338
Hire of equipment and facilities	70,097	61,547
Insurance	130,266	105,323
Licences and permits	47,301	68,611
Meeting expenses	-	6,698
Motor vehicle expenses	167,782	257,346
Printing and stationery	114,572	75,614
Program expenses	862,010	549,039
Rent	11,968	-
Repairs and maintenance	84,200	87,735
Telephone and fax	38,525	84,841
Training	33,562	11,733
Travel and accommodation	231,110	156,986
Sundry expenses	180,394	176,944
	<u>12,447,952</u>	<u>11,341,331</u>
<b>Results from operating activities</b>	<b>768,378</b>	<b>885,216</b>
Finance income	129,424	81,191
Finance costs	(263)	(2,638)
<b>Net finance income (costs)</b>	<b>129,161</b>	<b>78,553</b>
<b>Results from operating activities after finance costs</b>	<b>897,539</b>	<b>963,769</b>
Depreciation and amortisation expenses		
Property, plant and equipment	(324,780)	(317,875)
Right-of-use assets	(11,115)	(92,563)
<b>Net surplus/(deficit) before tax</b>	<b>561,644</b>	<b>553,331</b>
Income tax expense	-	-
<b>Net surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>561,644</b>	<b>553,331</b>
Other comprehensive income	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>	<b>561,644</b>	<b>553,331</b>

## Statement of financial position

As at 30 June 2024

	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	10,391,188	8,477,568
Trade and other receivables	302,390	47,594
<b>Current assets</b>	<b>10,693,578</b>	<b>8,525,162</b>
Property, plant and equipment	3,684,190	3,780,634
Right-of-use assets	-	15,432
<b>Non-current assets</b>	<b>3,684,190</b>	<b>3,796,066</b>
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>14,377,768</b>	<b>12,321,228</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Trade and other payables	6,310,292	4,762,437
Loans and borrowings	-	15,034
Employee benefits	146,557	127,898
<b>Current liabilities</b>	<b>6,456,849</b>	<b>4,905,369</b>
Loans and borrowings	-	583
Employee benefits	103,403	159,404
<b>Non-current liabilities</b>	<b>103,403</b>	<b>159,987</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>6,560,252</b>	<b>5,065,356</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b>7,817,516</b>	<b>7,255,872</b>
<b>Equity</b>		
Retained surplus	7,817,516	7,255,872
<b>Total equity</b>	<b>7,817,516</b>	<b>7,255,872</b>

This statement should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements.



## Statement of changes in equity

For the year ended 30 June 2024

### Retained surplus

	2024 \$	2023 \$
Balance at 1 July	7,255,872	6,770,258
Opening balance adjustment	-	(67,717)
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>		
Net surplus/(deficit)	561,644	553,331
Total other comprehensive income	-	-
Total comprehensive income	561,644	553,331
Balance at 30 June	7,817,516	7,255,872

## Statement of cash flows

For the year ended 30 June 2024

	2024 \$	2023 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Cash receipts from grants and customers	13,807,558	14,631,834
Cash paid to suppliers and employees	(11,793,017)	(12,546,888)
Cash generated from operating activities	2,014,541	2,084,946
Interest received	129,424	81,181
Interest paid	(263)	(2,638)
<b>Net cash from/(used in) operating activities</b>	<b>2,143,702</b>	<b>2,163,489</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Acquisition of property, plant and equipment	(228,336)	(260,599)
Proceeds of sale of property, plant and equipment	13,871	-
<b>Net cash from/(used in) investing activities</b>	<b>(214,465)</b>	<b>(260,599)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
Payment of lease liabilities	(15,617)	(88,529)
<b>Net cash from/(used in) financing activities</b>	<b>(15,617)</b>	<b>(88,529)</b>
Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	1,913,620	1,814,361
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 July	8,477,568	6,663,207
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at 30 June</b>	<b>10,391,188</b>	<b>8,477,568</b>



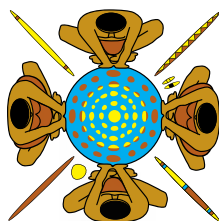
# GURRINY YEALAMU GOOD HEALING











# **GURRINY YEALAMUCKA**

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**CARE**

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Gurriny Yealamucka Health Services  
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