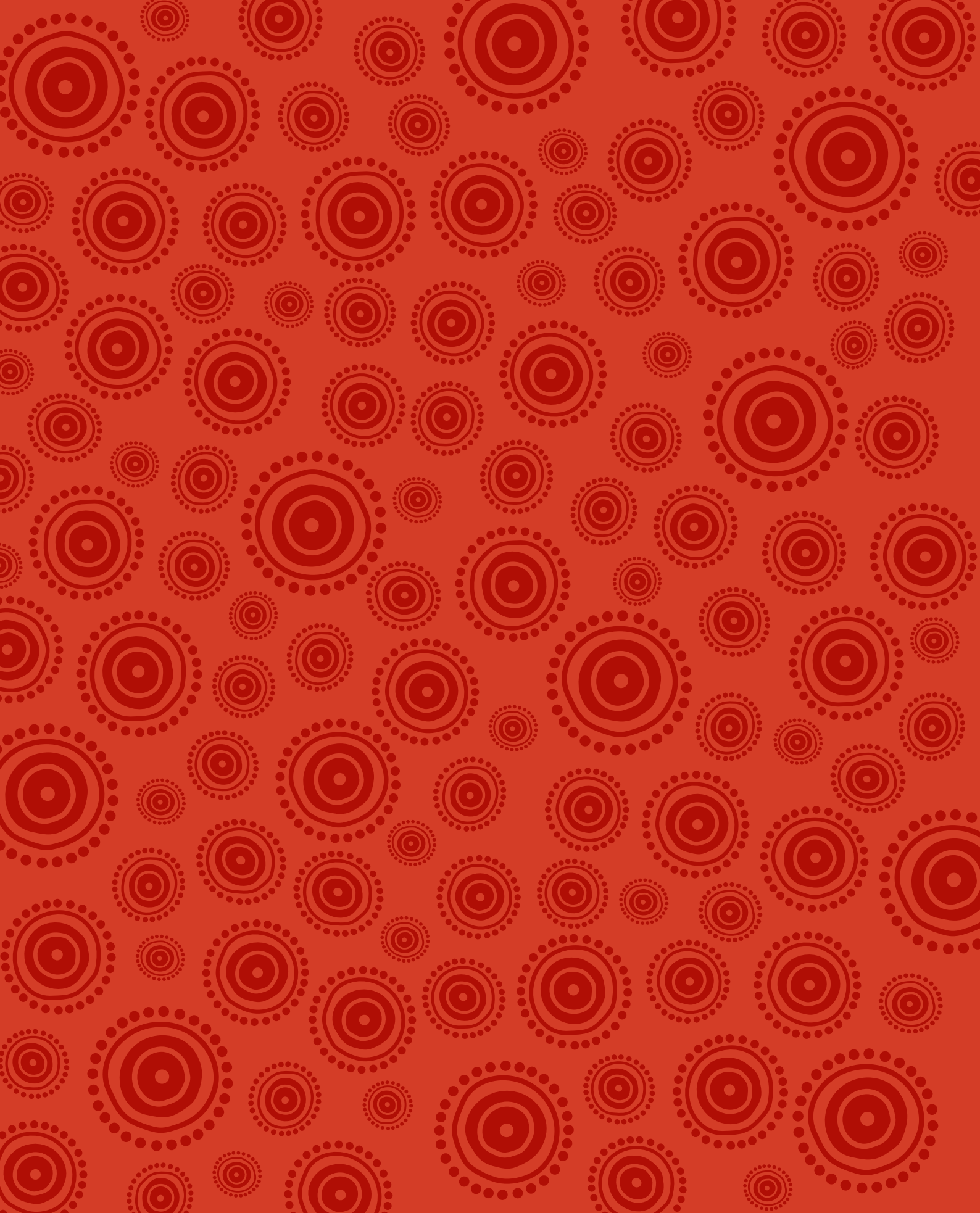




MDAS
MALLEE DISTRICT ABORIGINAL SERVICES



MALLEE DISTRICT ABORIGINAL SERVICES
ANNUAL REPORT 2016



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ABOUT US

We wish to acknowledge the land and river systems of the Mallee District and pay our respects to the traditional custodians.

We are the proud and strong descendants of the oldest living culture in the world.

Mallee District Aboriginal Services (MDAS) is a proud Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisation that has a 30-year history of delivering sustainable, democratic, grassroots services and providing the local community with a vehicle for self-determination.

SYMBOLISM OF OUR LOGO

Our logo is based on a design by Sharon Kirby

OUR VISION

Generations of vibrant, healthy and strong Aboriginal communities.

OUR VALUES

Our values drive our culture, are central to how we make decisions and ensure services are delivered in a socially-responsible way.

OUR FOUR VALUES ARE

Optimism

Community

Respect for Culture

Compassion

OUR OFFICES

Our Mallee communities are serviced by MDAS offices in Mildura, Swan Hill, Robinvale and Kerang.

Mildura (administration)

120 Madden Avenue, Mildura
PO Box 5134 Mildura 3502
Phone (03) 5018 4100

Swan Hill

70 Nyah Road, Swan Hill
Phone (03) 5032 5277

Kerang

9 Nolan Street, Kerang
Phone (03) 5450 3019

Robinvale

Lot 1, McLennan Drive, Robinvale
Phone (03) 5026 1848

Mallee District Aboriginal Services wishes to pay tribute to all community members who have passed away in the Mallee this year, as well as those in other communities with a family connection to MDAS members, staff or community as a whole.



Setting our sights on the future...

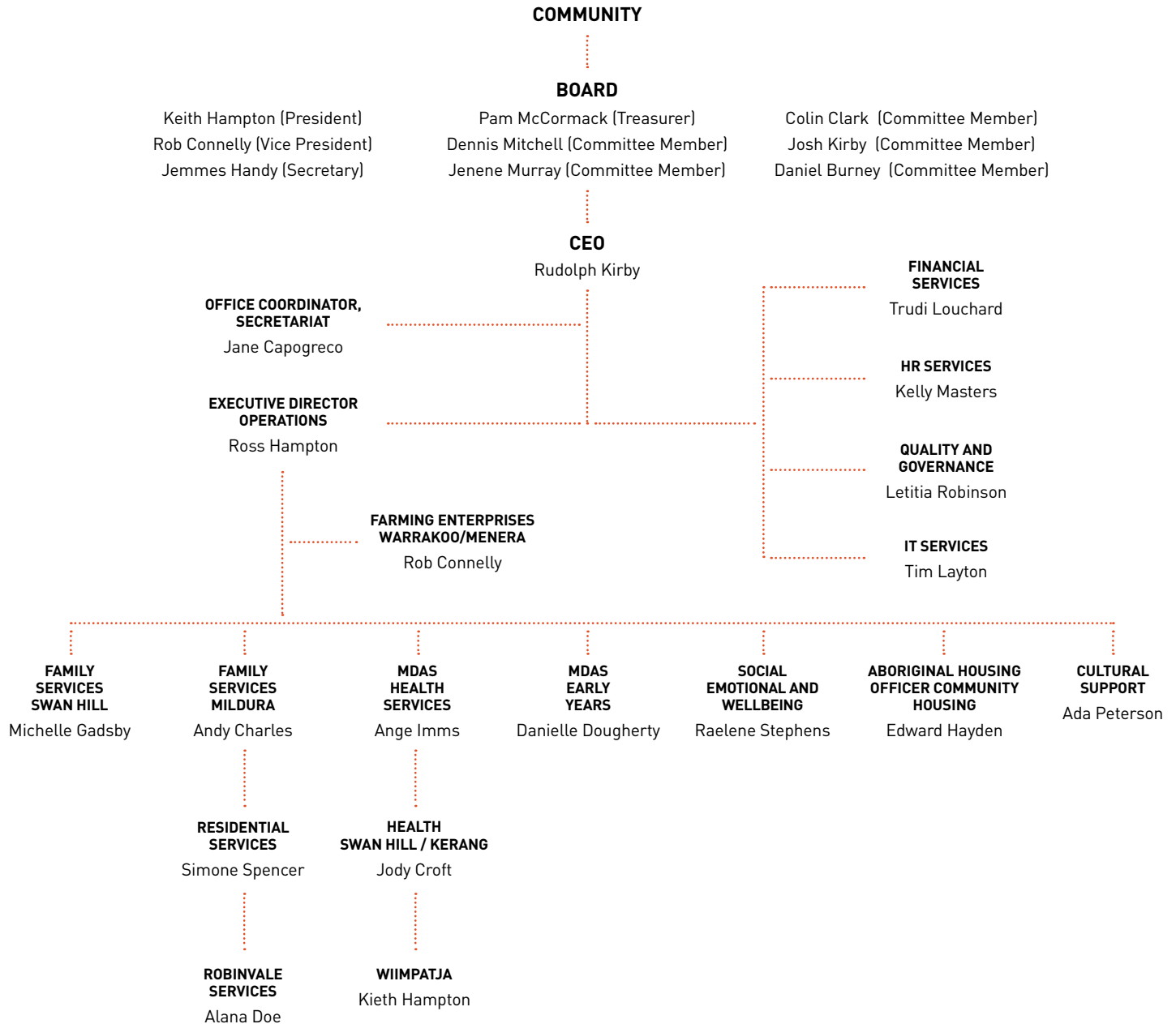
MDAS is a proud Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO) that has a 30-year history of delivering sustainable, democratic, grassroots services and providing the local community with a vehicle for self-determination. We believe the imposition of structures without community control as a central tenet will fail.

As Aboriginal Australians, we are best-placed to decide and implement the programs and services that work for our communities.

With MDAS and the community working together, we know we can positively enrich the lives of all Aboriginal people living and working along the many river systems across the Mallee District.

OUR ORGANISATION

Mallee District Aboriginal Services (MDAS) delivers health, family and community services to a potential client base of nearly 5000 Koori people. MDAS services are provided from offices in Mildura, Swan Hill, Kerang and Robinvale under the following organisational structure:



OUR COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT



KEITH HAMPTON
Chairman



ROB CONNELLY
Vice Chairman
Committee Member Swan Hill



JEMMES HANDY
Secretary



PAM MCCORMACK
Treasurer



DENNIS MITCHELL
Committee Member



JENENE MURRAY
Committee Member



COLIN CLARK
Committee Member



JOSH KIRBY
Committee Member



DANIEL BURNEY
Committee Member Kerang

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2015

.....

JULY

.....

Koori people managing chronic health conditions will have simpler and more streamlined care under a Federal Government program being rolled out by MDAS. The Care Coordination and Supplementary Services (CCSS) program became available to all Aboriginal people living in the Mildura, Swan Hill, Kerang and Robinvale areas, regardless of which GP or health service they use. Chronic disease is a major factor in the life expectancy gap and accounts for about two thirds of premature deaths in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

A new partnership between two Mallee family support agencies will intensify efforts to combat family violence in the local Koori community. Mallee District Aboriginal Services has formed a new partnership with the Mallee Sexual Assault Unit and Mallee Domestic Violence Services. The collaboration was formalised with a memorandum of understanding, and focuses on improving service delivery and ensuring all responses are culturally appropriate and sensitive.



Record crowds attended NAIDOC celebrations across Mallee communities in July and August. The large calendar of events in Mildura, Swan Hill and Kerang to celebrate Indigenous culture now draws large numbers of Koori and mainstream community members, particularly to the NAIDOC opening ceremonies in each community.



Sunraysia's football, netball and Indigenous communities came together to enjoy the atmosphere of SFNL's first Indigenous Round. Cultural celebrations and ceremonies were a feature in all of the league's games as a fitting finale to NAIDOC celebrations in the Mallee.

AUGUST

Our Koori Elders are becoming a familiar presence in several local primary schools in an effort to grow the understanding of Aboriginal culture and community structures. The Elders are from the MDAS Planned Activities Group and in addition to their usual community, social and activity programs, are now also having regular morning tea sessions with teachers and students at local schools. Although all of our district schools have Koori students and the services of a Koori Education Support Officer, there's often only a limited understanding about Aboriginal culture and how Koori communities work. The Elders are speaking to staff and classes about Aboriginal Culture and their role – what an Elder is, and their role as a mentor within the Koori community.

An eight-week healthy lifestyle challenge confirmed that the key ingredients to weight loss and improved health are motivation, commitment and support. The third Challenge run by the Tackling Smoking and Healthy Lifestyle Team, this year involved nearly 90 participants from Mildura, Robinvale and Swan Hill.

SEPTEMBER

A new Youth Hub opened its doors in Mildura's CBD, with a focus on connecting, challenging and creating opportunities for young people. The MDAS Youth Hub in Pine Avenue delivers after school programs, skills development and projects for young people as well as providing a base for the existing MDAS Koori Night Patrol. The focus is on engaging and positive activities to involve and challenge young people.

OCTOBER

More than 30 people from MDAS signed up to the national "Try for Five" Challenge – which aims to encourage people to enjoy more fruit and vegetables every day and to share their success online. Dietitian Jade Klæbe handed out vegetable baskets to participants to kick-start their healthy-eating inspiration. The challenge was for people to eat five serves of veges a day for seven days.



NOVEMBER

A \$2.9 million redevelopment of the MDAS Administration and Family Services was officially opened. The redevelopment centralised core operations and linked them more closely to the MDAS health building, opened in 2013. It transferred MDAS's main reception area into Tenth Street, created new and better client intake and consultation rooms for Family Services and created a new community hall with catering and training facilities. The opening of the new building rejoined MDAS's administrative operations and service delivery areas into the one location, which has been a long-term goal.

DECEMBER

MDAS was approved to continue delivering key family services programs to Robinvale's Koori community for another year. MDAS took up the provision of family services in the Robinvale area in March 2013, and has operated from the Murray Valley Aboriginal Cooperative's Time Out Service building in Latje Road. The partnership with the Robinvale community filled the void in terms of services provided under contract from the Department of Human Services.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2016

JANUARY

An experienced senior manager has been appointed to a new leadership position created in response to the continued growth of MDAS.

Niyampaa/Wiradjuri man Ross Hampton was appointed as the MDAS Executive Director for Operations. Mr Hampton was previously Zone Director of the NSW Aboriginal Land Council Western region and the former Chief Executive Officer Murdi Paaki Regional Housing. He has also previously worked at a senior level within the NSW Government as an Executive Director in Aboriginal Affairs and director at the State Aboriginal Housing Office.



FEBRUARY

A surge in attendance figures is evidence of stronger community engagement with its health services and programs at Swan Hill and Kerang. There are now more than 650 regular health clients on the MDAS books in the two centres, with both recording strong increases in attendances and ongoing engagement in health programs. At Swan Hill, MDAS has recorded 8941 attendances at its clinics so far this financial year and for the same period in 2013-14 attendance was 6557 – a rise of 35 percent. At Kerang, the growth is even stronger, with 1418 people attending so far this financial year, compared to 504 in 2013-14 – up 180 percent.

MARCH



MDAS came on board again to put Mildura's favorite fundraiser in the spotlight. MDAS has been a passionate sponsor of Relay for Life for three years.

Residents of Mildura's East End began developing their own community calendar as part of a growing partnership aimed at building community engagement and addressing issues of concern in the area. The project was an initiative of the East End Community House and MDAS aimed at offering the community opportunities to get on board in addressing local issues.

The Australian Childhood Foundation's Safeguarding Children Program formed a ground-breaking partnership with Mallee District Aboriginal Services – the first formal partnership of its kind in Australasia. It aims to improve programs protecting and healing Aboriginal children from the trauma of abuse, violence and neglect.



APRIL

A registrar, Dr Josh Crase, began working from MDAS Mildura clinic, in response to increasing community demand for Aboriginal health services. It's the first time the clinic has had the service of three medicos and approval for registrar training is a major milestone for MDAS health. The Swan Hill and Kerang clinic also had three doctors sharing a growing workload.

MAY

A new Cultural Awareness Training program being offered by MDAS, with more than 100 people completing the program in its first six months.

JUNE

The "I Pink I Can" breast screening luncheon was hosted by the Murray PHN and Mallee District Aboriginal Services (MDAS) and was attended by more than 30 women.

It included a tour of the breast screening centre, natural therapy pampering, guest speakers and lunch at Mildura Private Hospital.

"Emergency packs" of food and clothing were delivered to district kindergartens to help ensure all children have the opportunity to get the most out of their pre-school days.

MDAS delivered the packs as a community gesture to district kindergartens. They contained healthy snack foods, warm clothes and supplies of underwear for the "inevitable pre-schooler emergencies".

Two independent assessments delivered a healthy endorsement of the quality of MDAS services. Accreditation agency Quality Improvement Performance (QIP) carried out reviews of MDAS Human Services Standards and governance and found that "robust structures, mature systems and rigorous monitoring" are key elements in the success of MDAS.

NAIDOC AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR 2015-16

MILDURA

LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT & HONOUR ROLL

(Murray PHN)

Sandra Stewart

YOUTH AWARD

(Local Aboriginal Network LAN)

Travis Philp

TRAINEE / APPRENTICE AWARD

(Sunraysia Community Health Services)

Jennifer Laurie

VOLUNTEER AWARD

(One Idea)

Taya Thomas-Philp

SPORTS AWARD

(Mallee Sports Assembly)

Derek Eggmolesse Smith

PARTNERSHIP / ORGANISATION RECOGNITION AWARD

(Australian Bureau of Statistics)

Chaffey Secondary College Koori Education Team

AUNTY BEV PETER AWARD (For Community Excellence)

Patsy Doolan

*Swan Hill/Kerang NAIDOC Awards are made every two years



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Keith Hampton Chairman



I AM PROUD TO PRESENT THIS CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON A YEAR WHEN WE HAVE AGAIN ACHIEVED SOME GREAT PROGRESS AS AN ORGANISATION AND AS A COMMUNITY.

We are continuing to reach milestones and achieve goals in our vision, as an organisation, of achieving “generations of vibrant, healthy and strong Aboriginal communities” in the Mallee region.

The structures we now have in place underpin good governance and good decision-making and are allowing us to generate the progress we are making.

Two independent assessments this year delivered a healthy endorsement of the quality of services provided by MDAS. The accreditation agency Quality Improvement Performance (QIP) carried out a review of our Human Services Standards and governance structures, finding that “robust structures, mature systems and rigorous monitoring” are key elements in our success as an organisation.

This review examined our performance against nationally-recognised benchmarks and found we were exceeding required standards in all areas. It was an opportunity to measure how we stack up industry-wide, as well as against other human services organisations in the Koori sector. As an organisation and, more importantly, as a community, this is independent assurance that our performance is measuring up and in many cases it surpasses those of some of the recognised best operators in the sector.

But for MDAS and for our community, it's not enough to simply keep “doing a good job”. We also need to keep setting the bar higher and looking to the future.

Setting our sights on the future has been a real focus for the MDAS board this year. We have welcomed four new members to our board, Jenene Murray, Colin Clark, Josh Kirby, and Daniel Burney. These directors have added not only to the mix of communities at the board table, but also to the depth of our knowledge and experience as a group.

As a board we have put systems in place that encourage us to look at the big picture. Our strategic planning days are now held at least annually. They are an opportunity to move away from the month-to-month responsibilities of the board and to look at the long term.

One of our priorities, as a board, is setting ourselves on a path to greater financial independence. Developing enterprises – well-considered, well-run profitable businesses – are the key to practical self-determination, but helping set us on the path to less reliance on public funding in future.

We have already established a successful private sector medical clinic, that is generating healthy returns to the organisation. We are also considering further opportunities in health and other sectors such as child care, which benefit community both through service provision and profitability.

A successful vision for our future must also take into account succession planning within our organisation and within the board, and the board has set this as a priority. Without strong succession planning, we put our stability as an organisation at risk in the long term. With this in mind, we are developing initiatives and ideas such as a Junior Board, to nurture the talented young leaders emerging in our community.

Community members are always welcome to approach any member of the board if they have ideas, concerns or questions. As well, we hold regular community meetings in Mildura and Swan Hill to allow people to ask questions, put up ideas or find out about services and activities. We know from feedback on these sessions that they are helpful both to community members and to the board and staff.

This is a stable and committed board that is working not only for the organisation and community of today, but for the generations who follow. I am proud about how we are shaping as a community and an organisation. The pathway ahead is challenging but exciting in terms of improving outcomes and opportunities for our mob.



CEO'S REPORT

Rudolph Kirby Chief Executive Officer



THE THING I LOVE MOST ABOUT THIS JOB IS THAT EVERY DAY IS A NEW CHALLENGE. THERE'S NOT A DAY GOES BY WITHOUT SOMETHING NEW TO WORK ON, A NEW IDEA TO THINK ABOUT OR A NEW CURVE-BALL TO NEGOTIATE.

It's the same for everyone working in this great organisation of ours. We work in an environment that, by its nature, is difficult and trying, but I am continually amazed by how our people find new ways to get positive results and help drive changes that will help make a real difference in our community.

The 2015-16 year has been one of the most productive at Mallee District Aboriginal Services since I took up this role four years ago. I am proud to present this annual report and outline some of our many achievements, both as an organisation and as a community in the past year.

As an organisation we have been in a state of almost constant rebuilding and refinement amid rapid growth. However, I am pleased to say this year has been one of consolidation and the organisation is humming.

Although we are focused as an organisation on meeting the goals we set ourselves, it is not only our own self-assessment that counts. This year MDAS has met and exceeded significant external assessments of our day-to-day performance. Meeting the Department of Health and Human Services and QIP National Standards further endorses the great work our staff are doing every day. These assessments are done every three years and are a meticulous and exhaustive assessment of every aspect of our operations.

The most important assessment of our performance, though, comes from community. Our continued growth across the whole organisation, is underpinned by new faces coming through our doors on a daily basis. It shows we are providing the right services to our communities in the right way – and community members are voting with their feet, and coming through the doors in record numbers.

Innovation and the delivery of culturally-appropriate services is central to this result and the MDAS Early Years Team is continuing to lead the way in this space. The team this year began rolling out the ground-breaking program “Wondering from the Womb: Antenatal yarning from bub’s perspective”. The program, was developed as an extension to the award-winning MDAS Bumps to Babes and Beyond program. “Wondering from the Womb” was presented at two major conferences by the program’s developers, Kathy Crouch and Danielle Dougherty – at the 15th World Congress of the World Association for Infant Mental Health (WAIMH), Prague (Czech Republic) as well as the national Childhood Trauma Conference in Melbourne.

The importance of the cultural connection is being recognised as a key component in the success of the work that we do within community. Broadening mainstream understanding and respect for culture is also an important element of what we do. We were proud to introduce our own Cultural Awareness Training program this year and we are excited by the huge interest this is generating. More than 100 people have already completed the training program, which is an encouraging sign for strengthening the role of culture and in building reconciliation in our region.



As mentioned, this past year has been one of consolidation, and this is due, in no small measure, to the reorganisation and streamlining of our senior management structures. The establishment of the Executive Director, and the work of Ross Hampton, has enhanced our service delivery to our communities. It has focused on removing silos with our organisation and working in a more integrated wrap around service model.

In reality, our work as an organisation cannot be successful in a "silo", either. We are focused on developing strong partnerships within the Mallee region to ensure there is 'no wrong door' for community members who need support. Partnerships, such as those we have established with the Murray Primary Health Network, the Loddon Mallee Aboriginal Reference Group, Mildura Base Hospital and headspace, ensure the best outcomes for our community.

One of the most notable partnerships forged in this past year has been with the Australian Childhood Foundation's Safeguarding Children Program. It is the first formal partnership of its kind in Australasia and aims to improve programs protecting and healing Aboriginal children from the trauma of abuse, violence and neglect. The partnership is recognition by one of the lead organisations in the sector that MDAS is leading the way on this issue.

Services introduced to support Koori people in Robinvale continued to consolidate this year. We stepped in to deliver key family services programs for Robinvale in March 2015, and the client list has grown to 50 in the space of a year. We are pleased ongoing funding has now been secured for these important services.

As an organisation, we are continuing to build the strength of our Koori workforce. More than 54 percent of MDAS employees are indigenous (a 75% increase since 2012), with Koori staff now in key senior management positions across the organisation. Our focus is on supporting new employees making the transition into our organisation and developing opportunities for advancement and professional development of our staff.

A key milestone was celebrated in November 2015, with the opening of the redeveloped MDAS Mildura Administrative and Family Services areas. The work marks an end to what has been an ongoing series of major infrastructure tasks. It centralizes our core operations and, for the first time, links our entire Mildura administrative and program delivery staff geographically.

This year MDAS has celebrated 30-plus years of service to our community. I am pleased that with hard work and foresight we have now positioned ourselves to begin realising the benefits of what has been a long, and sometimes difficult, period of consolidation and renewal.

Thank you to everyone who has been part of the journey over this year. I am proud of what we have achieved together and look forward to continuing our development into the future.

HEALTH SERVICES REPORT

Angela Imms Manager Health Services



THE RIGHT TO HEALTH IS NOT THE SAME AS A RIGHT TO BE HEALTHY.

WHAT WE KNOW IS THAT A RIGHT TO HEALTH CANNOT BE GUARANTEED BY GOVERNMENTS. A HUMAN RIGHTS BASED APPROACH TO HEALTH IS ABOUT PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES TO BE HEALTHY, IT'S ABOUT PARTICIPATION AND PROGRESSIVE REALISATION.

This is the philosophy that continues to underpin MDAS health service provision, and which has continued to build on our successes in the 2015-16 year. Health care needs to be accessible, acceptable and affordable.

The MDAS health service contributes to positive health outcomes by tailoring the health focus to community needs. Where needs are complex, health care needs to be clinically effective, culturally safe and integrated into an overall system of care.

- As an organisation, our mission is to provide a high quality, culturally appropriate health service working with the local community. Working in line with Koolin Balit strategic directions for Aboriginal Health 2012 – 2022 and MDAS Strategic plan 2013 – 2017 to:
- Close the gap in life expectancy for Aboriginal people.
- Address and reduce the risk factors such as smoking, obesity.
- Promote health life style choices.
- Foster a whole -of- life engagement beginning with a healthy start to life, healthy childhood, transitioning to a healthy adulthood and providing care for older people.

- Wrap the service around the community, prioritising MDAS programs such as Wiimpajta, Resi Care, Youth, Aged Care.

For community, we know that a health service that will work to achieve these goals looks like this:

- Providing services locally
- Wrap around service
- Access to transport services
- Flexible appointments
- Options to provide care in different locations, using the clients home to engage in services.
- Provide choice
- Employment Aboriginal Health professionals – promoting culturally safe care.
- No co-payment

I would like to thank the very many staff in the health team who work hard at ensuring that MDAS is regarded by community as a safe place – a place where clients feel valuable and we continue to work with them to manage their health needs.

That hard work is undoubtedly having results. We now have three doctors working at MDAS Mildura and two at Swan Hill-Kerang. During the year, MDAS was accredited to train GP registrars, and a registrar is now in place at Mildura.

The number of health checks we are doing has more than doubled over the past two years. We have engaged with more than 600 new clients in the 2015-16 year alone, and we have provided more than 53,000 individual episodes of care.

In addition, we have:

- Increased our numbers re specialist appointments – Paediatrics by 60%
- The transport service does an outstanding job, transporting clients to the health service and onto specialist services and we have increased the number of clients by 25%
- Increased our health check data by 25% promoting the concept of preventative health care.

It's also great to see a healthy lifestyle being adopted by community members in increasing numbers. Boot camp numbers are up and the MDAS gym is a hive of activity, becoming a hub for the community to socialise, stay fit and be healthy – a recipe for positive physical and emotional health in the long-term.

SHINING A LIGHT ON MDAS

A notable achievement this year has been the increase in our specialist services, with the Ear, Nose and Throat Service commencing. This allowed the Aboriginal community to have priority access and referral to a consultant who could provide ongoing care and treatment for conditions associated with ENT. From this, we were able to send eight paediatric clients to Melbourne for surgery. These children would have had prolonged periods away from school due to their conditions, in turn, impacting on their learning. Through the MDAS process, they were able to be fast tracked, with MDAS supporting the travel and assisting with accommodation in Melbourne. Surgery was performed in each case, and all clients returned to Mildura.

How are we going?

| Services/Year | 2013/14 | 2014/15 | 2015/16 |
|--------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| New clients | 478 | 460 | 601 |
| Transport | 5518 | 5934 | 6683 |
| Prescription count | 7030 | 10641 | 11702 |
| CTG sign up | 4095 | 7441 | 7500 |
| Episodes of Care | 40,816 | 45,197 | 53,745 |
| Health checks | 398 | 648 | 802 |

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

Andy Charles Manager Family Services



THE YEAR 2015-16 HAS BEEN ONE OF CHALLENGE AND ACHIEVEMENT, MEASURED BY INCREASING SERVICE DELIVERY FOR MDAS FAMILY SERVICES.

We have experienced significant restructure during the year as we continue working to move forward and support all Koori families within the Mallee region. This year we faced a number of complex tasks, including bedding down a new service for the Robinvale community, which has been highly-successful. Our intention is to provide case management services that reflect and address the complex and evolving needs of vulnerable families. Staff have also had the opportunity to receive intense training to best assist and support families culturally and appropriately. All staff have had the opportunity to gain further knowledge with support and determination, Family Services have accomplished countless goals identified by families creating positive outcomes.

A summary of the 2015-16 year:

Childrens' Placement Services

- Having a large number of carers still a struggle for Out of home care program.
- Implementation of a new culture club for OOHC kids to support links with culture has received positive feedback.
- Main focus moving forward into 2016-17 is on building capacity of recruitment assessment of potential carers/ respite options to help increase the numbers and support/training provided within MDAS.

Residential Care Unit

- A number of young people transitioned out of the residential unit into various placements such as family, boarding school or independent living.
- Plans – New focus on having a more culturally safe model within the TRC. Implementing more cultural programs and activities. Also, introducing more art, crafts and stories within the unit.
- A number of young people successfully reunified with family throughout the past year.

Housing

- MDAS was included on the allocation panel last year and is still on the allocation panel for homelessness services in the Loddon Mallee Region.
- The Referral and Advocacy Program program at MDAS has been relatively successful with assisting clients in securing long term accommodation through 17 people being housed with permanent housing spread over Office of Housing, Aboriginal Housing Victoria and also private rentals.
- Seeking emergency accommodation has been difficult at times through varied and changing conditions at motels and caravan parks, particularly with increased rent. This in turn makes it hard for clients to sustain until a more suitable housing option becomes available.

Family Support Services

- F.S.S has collaboratively supported strong numbers of families within the Integrated Family Services, Aboriginal Stronger Families and Family Preservation programs.
- Through ongoing support provided over the 2015-16 year there have been many positive outcomes achieved for our families engaged within the programs.
- Family Preservation have made huge improvements in working towards providing successful outcomes through increased numbers, gained support and involvement from external services.

Koori Youth Night Patrol

- MDAS were fortunate enough to secure and extend the Koori Youth Night Patrol program for a further 3-years.
- Over the past 12 months Koori Youth Night Patrol has positively supported underage outings/youth events and patrolled Mildura streets to ensure that all youth presenting were transported home safely.
- Night Patrol continues to operate Thursday nights 7pm – 11pm and Friday and Saturday nights 8pm – 12am.

Youth Services

- The MDAS Youth Hub had recently celebrated being open for 12 months and continues to provides activities for Mildura Koori youth in community.
- MDAS has secured funding to provide additional Youth Support services to Koori youth who are at risk of entering the criminal justice system.
- Volunteers recruitment is still a big priority in further extending opening hours of the hub during weekdays and weekends.

Robinvale Family Services

- Throughout the year there has been good engagement and growing numbers from the local Robinvale community gaining support within all program areas.
- Housing remains critical in Robinvale and whilst we had a small number of families housed.
- The men's programs have been very successful in Robinvale with not only the men's Behaviour Change program to help address Family violence, but also through the implementation of a Men's Shed program. It has proved popular for local men with MADEC partnering with MDAS to assist with training programs.

GOVERNANCE AND QUALITY REPORT

Letitia Robinson Manager, Governance and Quality



**LETITIA ROBINSON – MANAGER, GOVERNANCE AND QUALITY
THE YEAR 2015-16 HAS BEEN A HIGHLY CHALLENGING BUT
REWARDING PERIOD, WITH SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS AND
MILESTONES REACHED BY MDAS WITHIN ITS GOVERNANCE
AND QUALITY FRAMEWORK.**

Among the highlights were assessments under the Year 2016 Accreditation Action Plans in which the organisation met all standards. These achievements were further underpinned by the Clinical Governance annual cycle review. The MDAS Continuous Quality Improvement Accreditation action plans and strategies are also all on track.

Other notable milestones to underpin MDAS's Governance and Quality performance in this reporting period include:

- Operation of Compliance Legal and Regulatory, Policy/ Procedure/Register
- Quality Audit program consolidated
- Risk management structures consolidated
- Knowledge management structures consolidated
- Working groups established (led by CEO) for all standards with lead managers working towards accreditation
- Adoption of a community consultation and engagement strategy

The Governance and Quality unit has worked systematically towards building a quality organisation. Governance and Quality processes and policies set the foundations for future growth and ensure the systems and processes meet best practice. The Governance and Quality unit has worked at an organisational level to streamline service delivery across the whole of MDAS. Our vision is to create a Quality Culture in line with the MDAS strategic vision for “Generations of vibrant, healthy and strong Aboriginal Communities” and working towards “Closing the Gap”.

To meet Compliance, Regulatory and Accreditation standards, the Governance and Quality unit has implemented the following:

- Governance strategies for all sectors (Clinical Governance)
- Building Quality organisation (Quality auditing program)
- Intake and Assessment to improve access
- Knowledge management (Document Control)
- Risk management systems / Risk Register
- Injury Management / OHS (Business continuity / ERPT plans)
- Feedback mechanisms (Complaints and Service user feedback)
- Compliance (Legal & Regulatory compliance /Service Agreements)
- Quality / Continuous Improvement (auditing program)
- Community Strategy and Engagement.

Accreditations

- A significant number of rigorous accreditation processes in the 2015-16 year presented an opportunity to showcase the amazing work MDAS is doing and our vision for the future.

Accreditations completed were as follows:

- QIP (QIC, DHHS) Accreditation with Commendations
- QIP AGPAL (Mildura) Accreditation completed site visit with full accreditation status
- QIP AGPAL (Swan Hill) Accreditation completed site visit with full accreditation status
- OneHealth Accreditation AGPAL accreditation

OTHER TASKS COMPLETED

Building a Quality Organisation

- Developed a Quality, Risk and Safety framework that was adopted by MDAS organisation
- Developed a Quality Plan that was endorsed and circulated by CEO

Clinical Governance

- Streamlined service delivery by developing care plans
- Care plans placed in Communicare to increase Medicare rebates, and MBS Items
- Staff training and support

Knowledge Management

- Document register
- Plan developed to review all documents in a structured manner.
- Style Guide approved endorsed by CEO
- Document Control Working group
- QRS committee developed and ratifying document
- All Policy documents endorsed by CEO.

Risk Management

- Quality, Risk management and Safety framework endorsed by CEO
- Risk Management Policy, procedures and Plan endorsed CEO

Feedback mechanisms

- Feedback Framework, Policy and procedure endorsed CEO.
- Training for use of feedback mechanisms to all staff
- Feedback surveys completed on clients, community, business partners and staff with report findings to CEO

Contingency Plans

- Contingency plans including business continuity and disaster recovery plans endorsed by CEO
- Emergency Response Planning tools (ERPT) all sites

The future

- Governance and Quality Management has designed and created an internal management system to assist MDAS managers to navigate through this complex environment.
- This management tool has been programmed by the Manager of Social Enterprise and is currently under trial. It includes strategic goals and direction, compliance, risk, incident reporting, feedback, safety, accreditation and quality.

EARLY YEARS REPORT

Danielle Dougherty Manager Early Years



2015-16 has been another big year for the baby of the MDAS family with the great work of the Early Years team being showcased on the world stage twice this year with “Wondering from the Womb” Antenatal Yarning Program being presented at the World Congress for Infant Mental Health in Prague and the International Childhood Trauma Conference in Melbourne. Development of a best-practice model for Indigenous Early Years Service delivery has been at the forefront of the work being done in the MDAS Early Years in the past year and has led to innovation in Maternal and Child Health service delivery and our Family Support Services.

Maternity Services

The MDAS Maternity Services Team, made up of our Midwives, Aboriginal Maternal Health Workers and our visiting GP obstetrician has cared for 56 pregnancies across the Mallee this year to date and welcomed 34 babies into our communities in the first half of 2016. The team has been involved in writing the state-wide Koori Maternity Services Guidelines which will guide Maternity care for Indigenous families across Victoria. The team will also host the Koori Maternity Services Women’s Business Forum in November this year.

Maternal and Child Health Services

MDAS has successfully expanded its Indigenous-specific Maternal and Child Health program to the Swan Hill and Kerang areas over the past year and is now delivering health and developmental care to 0-5 year olds across the Mallee and beyond. 635 health and developmental checks were completed to date ensuring Koori kids are getting the best health care through Aboriginal Child Health Checks and the Victorian Best Practice model “Key Ages and Stages” checks.

Family Support Services

The MDAS Family Support Team is at the centre of what is widely recognised as a highly successful, evidence-based, family-centred program for intensive case management in the Early Years. The MDAS Early Years Model has been showcased at the Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare Research Symposium and presented to both the Aboriginal Children’s Forum and the Secretaries Group.

Early Intervention and Early Learning Services

Over 300 families have participated in one of our early learning groups this year across Mildura and Swan Hill with participants describing their involvement in playgroups and other parent groups as a way to build a connection with peers, community and culture in a way that they had never experienced before.

HIPPY (Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters)

HIPPY has had its highest number of participants since it started at MDAS with 11 5 year olds set to graduate this November and 25 4 year olds to enter their second and final year of the program in 2017.

Koori Preschool Assistant Program

Our KPSA program reached 46 Aboriginal children and many non-Aboriginal children in the first half of 2016 ensuring children have a connection to Aboriginal culture in their Early Learning years. The KPSA launched the ongoing Kinder Emergency packs this year and are committed to continuing this important service for children attending Preschool into the future.

Thanks to everyone in the team for their fantastic work and commitment this year.

OUR PEOPLE

“I’m passionate about working with the community, working with my culture and embracing and sharing our culture, and doing this with the wider community.”

Indi Clarke

Indi has represented his people on many panels including the Racism and Suicide Panel Discussion at the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention Conference in Alice Springs 2016 and the Self Determination Forum Victoria held at the Exhibition Centre Melbourne 2016. He has facilitated Youth workshops at the Aboriginal Justice Form in October 2015 at the Korin Gamadji Institute in Richmond and facilitated a Youth Workshop at the Koori Youth Summit in 2016 at Melbourne. Indi is an emerging leader and role model for our local community and his achievements are hugely significant for our Aboriginal youth.

“I completed Year 11 and 12 by VCAL studies at Sunraysia Institute of TAFE and after finishing Year 12 I undertook a traineeship with Optus Mildura. I progressed to being a store supervisor before I was fortunate to join MDAS.

“It was January 2014 when I began my journey with MDAS as a Trainee within Corporate Services. It was a positive start and gave me a good understanding of all the areas across the organisation including budgets and the MDAS’s business diversity. I think the grounding I received completing the Traineeship within Corporate Services contributed greatly to the way I’ve been able to progress within the organisation and the community.

“I went on and completed my Certificate IV in Business through Sunraysia Institute of TAFE and also undertook the Northern Mallee Leaders Program in 2015.

“While I was doing my traineeship I worked closely with the People and Culture team and got heavily involved in the establishment of the MDAS Cultural Safety and Cultural Respect Facilitated Learning Program. I found my passion

for community engagement and moved into the new role of Youth and Community Facilitator for MDAS.

“I’m passionate about working with the community, working with my culture and embracing and sharing our culture, and doing this with the wider community.

“I see MDAS as in the forefront of service delivery and a unique and amazing establishment. In future I think we will continue to take great steps towards our vision of vibrant, healthy and strong Aboriginal communities. With the staff that MDAS has and the leadership that is leading the way anything is possible.

“I am a strong believer in the now and I live in the moment. I’m passionate and driven about my work and find coming to work every day to be rewarding. Every day my drive is to give back to community. I want to work with my community and grow with it, and five years from now I see myself still doing community work and working within my culture.”



MEMINAR NGANGG GIMBA A HEALING PLACE

.....

Estelle and her two teenage children came to Meminar Ngangg Gimba to escape physical abuse – Estelle had previously had issues with an emotionally-abusive partner.

MEMINAR PROVIDES A RANGE OF SUPPORT SERVICES, INCLUDING 24-HOUR CRISIS SUPPORT AND ACCOMMODATION FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN ADDRESSING FAMILY VIOLENCE. TWO OF ESTELLE'S ARTWORKS, COMPLETED DURING ART THERAPY SESSIONS AT MEMINAR, ARE NOW ON DISPLAY AT THE REFUGE.

"I had experienced emotional abuse before, and had needed help with that, but this time it was different. Before my partner isolated me from my family, especially when they needed me. This time it was physical abuse – he took to me with a baseball bat.

"Emotional abuse makes you sick from the inside out. Physical abuse makes you sick from the outside in. Either way it's bad and I knew I had to do something for myself and my family.

"I have six children, but only two living with me at home. I found Meminar and it was exactly what I needed to be safe, to have time to heal and to get stronger.

"You have a choice to go back to that, or to start again, and I have started again.

"Meminar is a place that helps you to make the best decision and keeps you focused at different stages. And I was more motivated this time.

"While I was here I got back into my art and that has really helped. When you come here, there are different stages. I call it 'lockdown' when you come in, you are appointed to a unit and the staff here are working around the clock to help you.

"Then there is keeping focused on yourself and your children. This is a healing place for women and their kids to get their spirit back. I got back into my art in the Art Therapy Program and that has really helped.

"I did artworks to show the different stages you go through. My first painting is 'the lockdown' and it shows Meminar from an aerial point of view. It shows the help and support Meminar staff offer to women and children as well as women living in the refuge, mixing, sharing stories, learning and building strength to move forward in the world.

"If I wasn't here I don't know what would have happened to me. I hope my artwork will help to keep women who come after me focused on themselves and their children and their future path."









BUILDING THE RESILIENCE OF YOUNG PEER LEADERS – MDAS ‘GO’ PROGRAM

.....

A primary-school-based program that builds the capacity of students to make positive life-choices is continuing to expand its reach.

Raelene Stephens – Manager, MDAS Social and Emotional Wellbeing

THE “GO” PROGRAM WAS DEVELOPED BY MDAS’ SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL WELLBEING UNIT AND HAS BEEN RUNNING FOR THREE YEARS. IT AIMS TO IDENTIFY AND NURTURE POTENTIAL PEER LEADERS, AND STRENGTHEN THEIR RESILIENCE TO PRESSURE ON ALCOHOL AND DRUGS IN THE FUTURE.

“It’s all about fun and activities – but the underlying aim is to build the skills of these children so they can become leaders in their peer groups. The activities aim to build awareness and confidence in making better life-choices and building their resilience to managing the challenges they face.

“But we’re also aiming for these children to feel they can encourage others in their peer group to make the right choices too, when it comes to things like mental health, school, drugs and sexual health. That takes a lot of self-confidence, so that is what we focus on building.

“Protective factors for young people are a supporting family, building and maintaining good relationships with appropriate peers and to have at least one trusted adult who is actively involved in the child’s life. So a program aimed at preventing drug use among children and young people needs to look at having influence in as many of these areas as is possible.

“Activities like school participation, good social skills and involvement in sports and social activities are all important in reducing the risk of alcohol or drug use. The research that we base the program on shows that the most effective approach to preventing drug and alcohol problems is to strengthen family relationships and build opportunities for success in school.

“So the program can’t be successful without the backing of the schools and organisations such as Mildura Police, Ambulance Victoria and headspace which the group visit during the program.

“We get fantastic support from the organisations who welcome and engage the children during our visits and for the kids the visits are an absolute highlight”.



Students of Ranfurly Primary School were keen participants in the GO Program

HEARING THE VOICE OF THE CHILD “WONDERING FROM THE WOMB”

.....

“‘Bumps to Babes and Beyond’, which we now call the MDAS Early Years Program, began out of the realisation that we needed to revisit how we were addressing the needs of vulnerable parents and their babies.

Danielle Dougherty – MDAS Early Years Manager

AN INNOVATIVE PROGRAM AIMED AT STRENGTHENING ANTENATAL CARE FOR INDIGENOUS FAMILIES IN THE MALLEE IS DRAWING NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION. THE PROJECT, “WONDERING FROM THE WOMB: ANTENATAL YARNING FROM BUB’S PERSPECTIVE”, WAS DEVELOPED BY THE MDAS EARLY YEARS TEAM AND WAS PRESENTED AT TWO MAJOR CONFERENCES DURING 2015-16. THE PROGRAM’S DEVELOPERS, KATHY CROUCH AND DANIELLE DOUGHERTY WERE INVITED TO SPEAK AT THE 15TH WORLD CONGRESS OF THE WORLD ASSOCIATION FOR INFANT MENTAL HEALTH (WAIMH), PRAGUE (CZECH REPUBLIC) AS WELL AS THE NATIONAL CHILDHOOD TRAUMA CONFERENCE IN MELBOURNE. “WONDERING FROM THE WOMB” WAS DEVELOPED AS AN EXTENSION TO THE AWARD-WINNING MDAS BUMPS TO BABES AND BEYOND PROGRAM, WHICH WAS ALSO SHOWCASED AT THE WAIMH WORLD CONGRESS IN 2014.

“Bumps to Babes and Beyond’, which we now call the MDAS Early Years Program, began out of the realisation that we needed to revisit how we were addressing the needs of vulnerable parents and their babies.

“Perinatal death rates are 1.6 times higher for Aboriginal babies, and maternal mortality rates are five times higher for Aboriginal women. Koori babies are twice as likely to be born with a low birth-weight.

“If we really wanted to change outcomes we realised that we needed to start well before childbirth and we needed to be innovative and more inclusive of cultural considerations.

“A focus on “yarning” and its place in Koori culture was a key element in developing the program.

“Australia’s first people used ‘yarning’ to share wisdom, history, morality and social boundaries across the generations. It’s been an important element in strengthening antenatal care for Indigenous families already, but often it’s been shaped by adult perspectives.

“‘Wondering from the womb’ extends that discussion to include the perspective of the yet-to-be-born child.

“We are finding that developing the capacity to listen to the voice of the child inside is really powerful in shaping how expecting family members can get to know their baby.

“Resources for the program which create discussion points for antenatal yarning were created with the input of an Indigenous advisory group and focus on helping vulnerable parents to establish strong relationships with their unborn child.

“Each script is written as a message from bubs to their mother, family and community about their need for safety and curiosity about the world.

“The positive indicators coming from the Early Years initiatives included improvement in the rates of women carrying their babies to full term, improved ante natal and Maternal and Child Health Service attendance, as well as increased breast feeding and immunisation rates.”

FINANCIAL SERVICES REPORT

The year 2015-2016 has been a very tough and busy year for the financial services team.

Trudi Louchard – Financial Services

A NEW ACCOUNTING SYSTEM IS PROVING ITS BENEFIT, PROVIDING BETTER REPORTING AND WITH THE BOLT-ON BUDGET SYSTEM (POWERBUDGET), IT GIVES EASIER ACCESS FOR MANAGERS TO THEIR PROGRAM BUDGET, IMPROVING THE OVERALL EFFICIENCY, USEFULNESS AND TRANSPARENCY OF THE SYSTEM.

New procedures are in place to improve efficiency and transparency. Standard procedure now involves everything done by the department being scrutinized by an outside person.

This has not only strengthened the internal processes of the department to ensure the best and most efficient processes are in use, but also ensures the transparency of all operations.

One Health Buronga opened in August 2015 and continues to develop and grow. I would like to personally thank Tim Layton and Sandra Ball, without whose help, One Health Buronga would not be where it is today.

One Health Buronga has provided the Buronga/Gol Gol communities with access to locally-based doctors, allied health and medical services for the first time. The clinic now has close to 2100 active patients on its books, from as far away as Robinvale.

The Buronga pharmacy is now open in the business space adjoining the clinic, providing a one-stop-shop for the health needs of the Buronga/Gol Gol community.

This is the first social enterprise venture that has been fully-funded by MDAS. This has been a highly exciting venture for MDAS.

It has been a year of great activity, achievements and outcomes which certainly could not have been achieved without the effort of the entire team.

The finance team consists of Jessica Lambert, Kerrie Burton and Eddie Hayden. Thank you all for your continued support during this up and down year.

FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS

.....

Mallee District Aboriginal Services Ltd.

ABN: 54 334 685 198

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016

| | Note | 2016 | 2015 |
|---|----------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | \$ | \$ |
| Revenue | 2 | 18,979,009 | 17,559,655 |
| Other income | 2 | 7,089,506 | 6,410,629 |
| Employee benefits expense | | (13,818,933) | (11,766,273) |
| Program administration expenses | | (4,772,758) | (4,405,050) |
| Client costs & program development / delivery | | (4,049,551) | (3,975,508) |
| Depreciation expense | | (1,215,012) | (1,161,903) |
| Occupancy costs & utilities | | (1,080,468) | (969,756) |
| Motor vehicle expenses | | (518,547) | (380,144) |
| Travel expenses | | (482,459) | (579,203) |
| Grant returns | | (283,166) | - |
| Repairs & equipment replacement | | (159,094) | (304,195) |
| Interest expense | | (65,999) | (23,817) |
| Other expenses | | (886,430) | (1,541,497) |
| Net current year deficit | 3 | <u>(1,263,902)</u> | <u>(1,137,062)</u> |
| Other comprehensive income: | | | |
| Other comprehensive income | | - | - |
| Total other comprehensive income | | - | - |
| Total comprehensive income for the year | | <u>(1,263,902)</u> | <u>(1,137,062)</u> |
| Total comprehensive income attributable to the entity | | <u>(1,263,902)</u> | <u>(1,137,062)</u> |

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Mallee District Aboriginal Services Ltd.
 ABN: 54 334 685 198
 STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2016

| | Note | 2016 \$ | 2015 \$ |
|--------------------------------------|------|-------------------|-------------------|
| ASSETS | | | |
| CURRENT ASSETS | | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 4 | 1,334,732 | 1,381,906 |
| Trade and other receivables | 5 | 383,116 | 608,974 |
| Other assets | 6 | 252,437 | 354,143 |
| Financial assets | 7 | 430,506 | 477,093 |
| TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS | | <u>2,400,791</u> | <u>2,822,116</u> |
| NON-CURRENT ASSETS | | | |
| Trade and other receivables | 5 | 250,898 | 250,898 |
| Property, plant and equipment | 8 | 22,268,824 | 22,023,721 |
| TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS | | <u>22,519,722</u> | <u>22,274,619</u> |
| TOTAL ASSETS | | <u>24,920,513</u> | <u>25,096,735</u> |
| CURRENT LIABILITIES | | | |
| Trade and other payables | 9 | 1,303,674 | 1,452,591 |
| Short-term provisions | 10 | 660,191 | 677,614 |
| TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES | | <u>1,963,865</u> | <u>2,130,205</u> |
| NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES | | | |
| Long-term provisions | 10 | 155,446 | 147,426 |
| Borrowings | 11 | 1,798,500 | 552,500 |
| TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES | | <u>1,953,946</u> | <u>699,926</u> |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | | <u>3,917,811</u> | <u>2,830,131</u> |
| NET ASSETS | | <u>21,002,702</u> | <u>22,266,604</u> |
| EQUITY | | | |
| Retained surplus | | 21,002,702 | 22,266,604 |
| TOTAL EQUITY | | <u>21,002,702</u> | <u>22,266,604</u> |

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF CERTIFICATION

.....

Mallee District Aboriginal Services Ltd.

ABN: 54 334 685 198

DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

In accordance with a resolution of the directors of Mallee District Aboriginal Services Ltd the directors declare that:

1. The financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 5 to 20, are in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012* and:
 - a. comply with Australian Accounting Standards, the *Corporations Regulations 2001* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Regulations 2013*; and
 - b. give a true and fair view of the financial position of the company as at 30 June 2016 and of its financial performance for the year ended on that date.
2. In the directors' opinion there are reasonable grounds to believe that the entity will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.



Keith Hampton (Director)

Dated this 8th day of November, 2016

INDEPEDENT AUDIT REPORT



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF
MALLEE DISTRICT ABORIGINAL SERVICES LIMITED
ABN 54 334 685 198

Report on the Financial Report

We have audited the accompanying financial report of Mallee District Aboriginal Services Limited (the company), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2016, the statement of operations and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, and the directors' declaration.

Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Report

The directors of the company are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations), the *Corporations Act 2001* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012* and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Independence

In conducting our audit, we have complied with the independence requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012*. We confirm that the independence declaration required by the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012*, which has been given to the directors of Mallee District Aboriginal Services Limited, would be in the same terms if given to the directors as at the time of this auditor's report.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial report of Mallee District Aboriginal Services Limited is in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2016 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Corporations Regulations 2001* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

Chan & Naylor Southern Audit

Philip Shugg
Principal

Dated this 8th day of October 2016
126 Lime Ave., Mildura, Vic., 3500

Grow and Protect Your Wealth

Chan & Naylor Southern Audit Pty Ltd.

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ABN: 62 104 381 919

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National Property, Business, Tax Accounting & Wealth Advisory Group

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AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION


.....



AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION
TO THE DIRECTORS OF MALLEE DISTRICT ABORIGINAL SERVICES LIMITED
ABN 54 334 685 198

In relation to our audit of the financial report of Mallee District Aboriginal Services Limited for the financial year ended 30 June 2016, and in accordance with the requirements of Subdivision 60-C of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission Act 2012 or any applicable code of professional conduct.

Chan & Naylor Southern Audit


Philip Shugg
Principal

Dated this 8th day of October 2016
126 Lime Ave., Mildura, Vic., 3500

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OUR PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

MDAS is grateful for the ongoing support of our important financial partners and supporters.

CURRENT MAJOR FUNDING BODIES ARE:

Victorian Department of Human Services
Victorian Department of Health
Victorian Department of Justice
Federal Department of Social Services
Federal Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
Federal Department of Health

OTHER FINANCIAL SUPPORTERS INCLUDE:

Bendigo Health Care Group
Brotherhood of Saint Laurence
Loddon Mallee Murray Medicare Local
Mallee Family Care
Mildura Rural City Council
Vic Health
Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service

OUR PARTNERS

MDAS has formal Memorandums of Understanding with:

Sunraysia Community Health Services
Mildura Base Hospital
Mallee Family Care
Lower Murray Medicare Local
Maari Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation
Loddon Mallee Aboriginal Reference Group
Monash University
Rural Workforce Agency Victoria
Tip Toe Podiatry
Take Two Berry Street
Koori Justice Unit
Sunraysia Community Health Services

MDAS is a member of the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO)



THANK YOU TEAM!

**AND WELL DONE TO OUR
ENTIRE TEAM (AS AT 30/6/16)
FOR ANOTHER YEAR OF HARD
WORK AND PROGRESS...**

Jamie-Lee Alderton
Narelle Anderson
Fredrick Apthope
Joseph Azzarelli
Ryan Bailey
Mary Baker
Sandra Ball
Helena Baxter
Cheryl Benham
Deborah Berg
Jennifer Berry
Ceciline Biles
Yasmin Birnie
Jennifer Blackman
Samantha Brennan
Terrance Brennan
Bradley Britten
Ruth Broughton
Allison Buchanan
Kerrie Burton
Eswari Byka
Wade Canny
Jane Capogreco
Lisa Carter
Kelvin Cattlin
Brylie Cattlin
Michelle Chapman
Andrew Charles
Sue Charles
Alisha Charles
Ethan Chilly
Matthew Chilly
Rupert Clarke
Indi Clarke
Robert Connelly
Alva Connelly
Karley Connelly
Carol Cook
Danae Coote
Julia Coshan
Joshua Crase
Jody Croft
Kim Cross
Katherine Crouch
Nicole Davis
Adam De Lacy
Lakshman Doddamaani

Alana Doe
Danielle Dougherty
Pearl Dunn
Leroy Eggmolese
Maria Fargas
Sherryl Farrow
Angelika Fevaleaki
Valentina Fifita
Michelle Gadsby
Chamika Gamage
Carla Germane
Noel Giddings
Marissa Gilbert
Stephan Gocol
Kristy Gordon
Graham Gordon
Jacintha Gosman
Michelle Gray
Tiffany Griffin
Brady Hall
Laura Hallett
Djallarna Hamilton
Ross Hampton
Keith Hampton
Kirsty Hampton
Tamara Handy
Maresha Handy
Michael Harradine
Joshua Harris
Edward Hayden
Skye Hayden
Briana Hayden
Ross Hensgen
Jan Herrmann
Karyn Hilton
Angela Imms
Rose Indich
Tamara Jackson
Charlotte Jecklin
Tamika Jenkins
Brendan Johnson
Marlaina Johnson
Diane Jones
Derik Jones
Mandeep Kaur
Pettina Kelly
Nathan Kelly
Casey Kennedy
Leah King
Harold Kirby
Georgia Kirby
Nickki Kirby
Delureen Kirby

Jade Klabe
Emily Knights
Terrence Kuchel
Shanice Kuchel
Jessica Lambert
Melanie Lane
Victoria Laurie
Jennifer Laurie
Timothy Layton
Kylie Lewis
Trudi Louchard
Jessica Macdonald-O'Dwyer
Elisha Mangal
Jonty Marciano
Aseel Marioud
Kelly Masters
Amanda McCole
Pamela McCormack
Leanne McDermott
Lisa McDonald
Rhonda McInnes
Jason Menz
Elissa Mewburn
Luke Milne
Tyrone Mitchell
Jaharyl Mitchell
Joanne Mitchell
Jacinta Molloy
Mark Morgan
Travis Morvell
Daen Murray
Damien Murray
Tanya-Maree Nagas
Jane Neyland
Anne Ottaway
Jason Pappin
Manu Paul
Corey Payne
Shiloh Peila
Gregory Pepper
Ada Peterson
James Peterson
Emma Philp
Taya Philp
Caterina Pickup
Badrika Piyumal
Kathy Potter
Sage Press
Karla Raymond
Paul Roberts
Letitia Robinson
Meredith Rowney
Kerry Russell

Bobbi-Jean Sailor
Darlene Sanders
Glenn Sandow
Everlyn Saunders
Melissa Scarr
Mereana Senior
Koha Shanahan
Margaret Sharman
Alexander Shaw-Rose
Dharminder Singh
Tenealle Skerry
Desmond Smith
Kane Smith
Travis Smith
Jane Smith
Robyn Smythe
Simone Spencer
Raelene Stephens
Andrea Stewart
Leon Stizza
Simon Stockman
Malinda Summerfield
Kelly Taliloa
Hine Taurima
Leanne Taylor
Russell Taylor
Anthony Taylor
Zanele Thebe
Jonathon Thomas
Darelene Thomas
Terry Thomas
Sharlee Towle
Richard Vaughan
Melanie Wade
Della Walker
Tmara Walker
Wayne Walsh
Tracy Watson
Patrica Watson
Raelene Wattata-Drummond
Harold Webster
Elisha Whitford
Zachary Wilksch
Amanda Williams
Justine Williams
Rebecca Wilson
Kristy Winter
Nathan Yates
Elite Zahinda

OUR SERVICES

HEALTH PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

GP
Nurse
Aboriginal Health Workers
Outreach workers
Chronic disease management
Maternal child health nurse
Health checks
Transport

SPECIALIST SERVICES

Psychiatrist
Nephrologist
Drug and Alcohol worker
Psychologist
Maternal and child health nurse
Dietician
Podiatrist
Cardiologist
Urologist
Paediatrician
Optometrist
Cardiologist
Respiratory specialist
Audiologist
Physiotherapist
Personal trainers

CLINICS

Well women's clinic
Immunisation clinic

TACKLING SMOKING AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES SERVICES

Quit Smoking Support
Boot camps
Community gym

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL WELLBEING TEAM

The "Go" Program
Bringing them home program
Drug & Alcohol counselling
Gamblers Help
Koori Women's Diversion

WIIMPATJA HEALING CENTRE

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

AGED AND DISABILITY

Home and Community Care
Disability
Community Based Respite
National Jobs Creation Package

CHILDREN'S PLACEMENT SERVICES

Aboriginal Children Specialist Advice
Support Service (ACSASS)
Home Based Care
Kinship Care
Aboriginal Family Led Decision Making
Cultural Support Planning
Therapeutic Foster Care
Therapeutic Residential Care
Therapeutic Residential Case Management

FAMILY SERVICES

Integrated Family Services
Aboriginal Stronger Families
Family Preservation and Restoration
Parents Under Pressure

YOUTH SERVICES

Koori Night Patrol
Soccer Club
Community Development Project
Youth Justice
Early School Leavers
Emerging Leaders Program

FAMILY VIOLENCE

Meminar (Family Violence Refugee)
Men's Case Management
Time out Services
Men's Behaviour Group Change

HOMELESSNESS

AND HOUSING SERVICES

Crisis Support
Transition Support
Aboriginal Tenants at Risk of Eviction
Koori Private Tenancy Worker
Community Housing

EARLY YEARS SERVICES

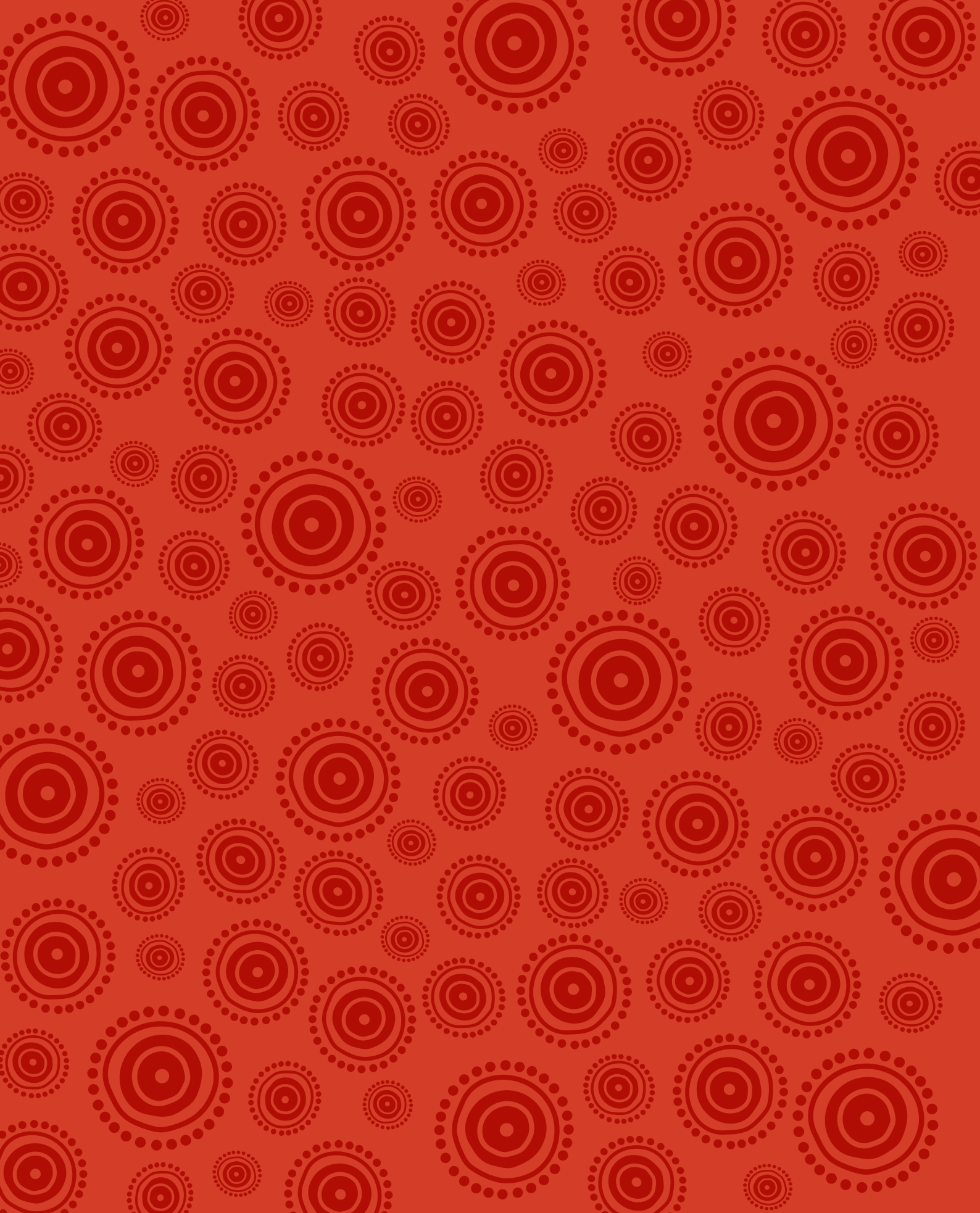
Maternity Services
Maternal and Child Health Services
Family Support Services

- In Home support
- Home Based Learning
- Cradle to Kinder

Early Intervention and Early Learning Services

- Supported Playgroups
- Circle of Security
- Collaborative Therapy

HIPPY (Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters)
Koori Preschool Assistant Program



*Generations of vibrant,
healthy and strong
Aboriginal communities*

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