

ANNUAL REPORT

2019



MDAS
MALLEE DISTRICT ABORIGINAL SERVICES



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WARNING: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are warned this document may contain images of deceased persons

Photography courtesy: NewsAlert PR, Luke Gange, Sunraysia Daily, Admedia Australia, Lisa Milne, Jacinta Martin, Belinda Day, Russell Murphy and MDAS Staff, Mildura, Swan Hill, Kerang and Robinvale.

ABOUT US

MDAS acknowledges all the First Nations Peoples of the Mallee region, as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of their Country . We pay our respects to all their Elders past, present, future and the connection they hold within their Country. We acknowledge all the traditional owner mobs in the Mallee that MDAS provides services to.

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

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) 5412 6004

Robinvale

77 Perrin Street, Robinvale

Phone (03) 4013 2000

• 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.

HOW WE WORK

The MDAS Core Business Model has been developed to underpin the key operational functions of MDAS.

Our business model is depicted as the “Helping Hand of MDAS”, where the person is at the centre of our service delivery, surrounded by the community.

MDAS provides service delivery in a holistic manner to meet all needs including: Person-Centred Ages and Stages; Soul & Culture; Family, Children & Youth; Social and Emotional; Body Health/Housing; Environment/Self Determination.

The MDAS vision is aimed at assisting clients and community to be empowered and achieve the self-determination that can create lasting change.



Person Centred
Ages & Stages



Soul | Culture



Family | Children | Youth



Social & Emotional



Body Health | Housing



Environment
Self Determination

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



KEITH HAMPTON

Chairperson

Board member since 2000; manager of the Wiimpatja Healing Centre since 2011. Prior experience with the Department of Primary Industries and working with Koori trainees in horticulture and labouring.



JOSH KIRBY

Board Member

Board member since 2015; Previously served Balranald Land Council, Dareton Youth Centre, Swan Hill Aboriginal Cooperative and Bendigo and District Aboriginal Cooperative.



PAM MCCORMACK

Secretary

Board member since 2011; Team Leader, Customer Service Officer; mother of three.



KIEAMINDA CHARLES

Board Member (Swan Hill)

Board member appointed 2019; Mutthi Mutthi person; Aboriginal Discovery Ranger at Yanga National Park & Mungo National Park.



MELANIE LANE

Board Member (Kerang)

Board member since 2017; Certificate 4 ATSI Primary Health Care Practice; Board member Kerang District Health; Corporate Services Manager Swan Hill & Kerang/Aboriginal Health Practitioner Kerang; Community Facilitator MDAS Kerang; LMARG member.



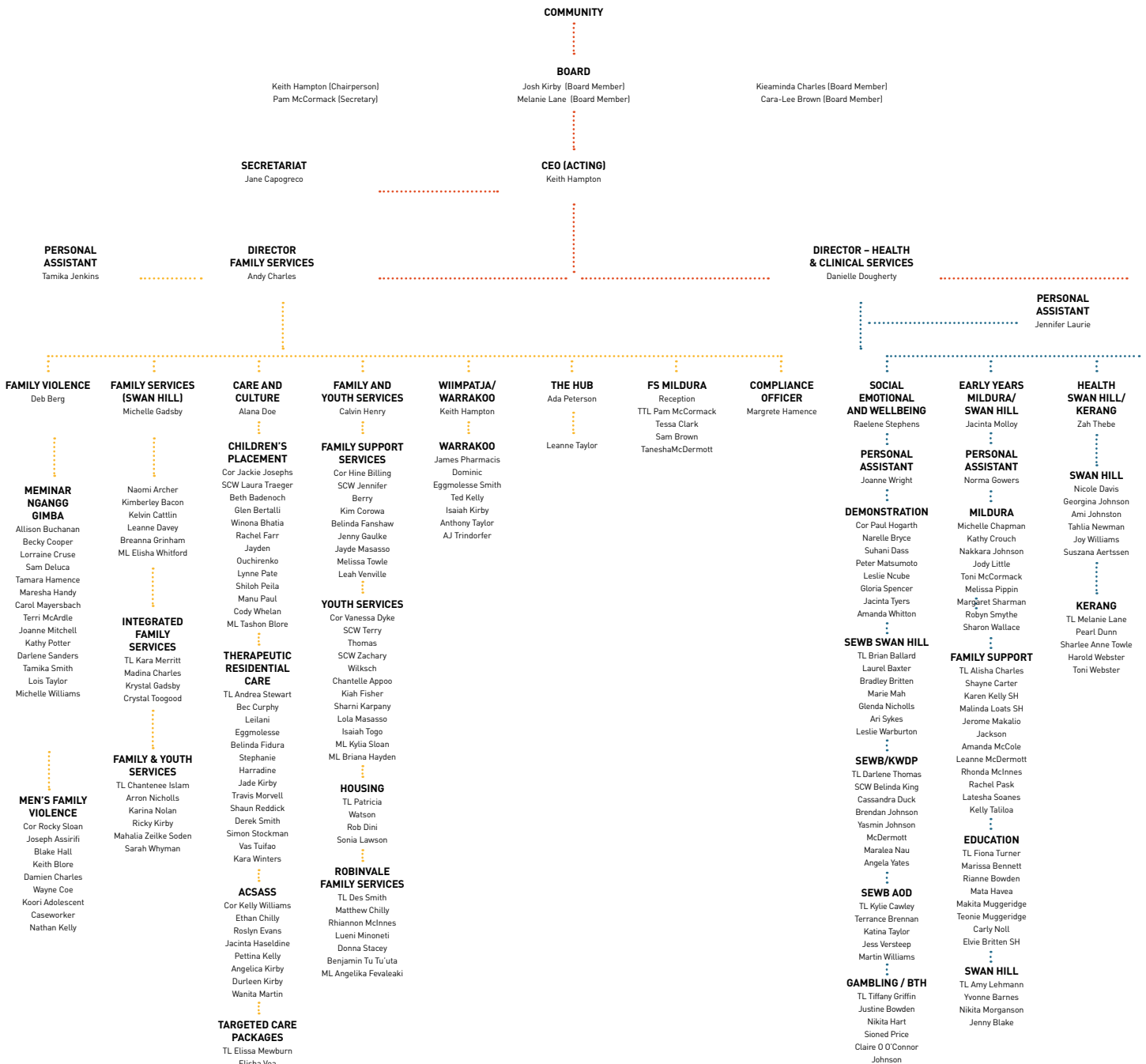
CARA-LEE BROWN

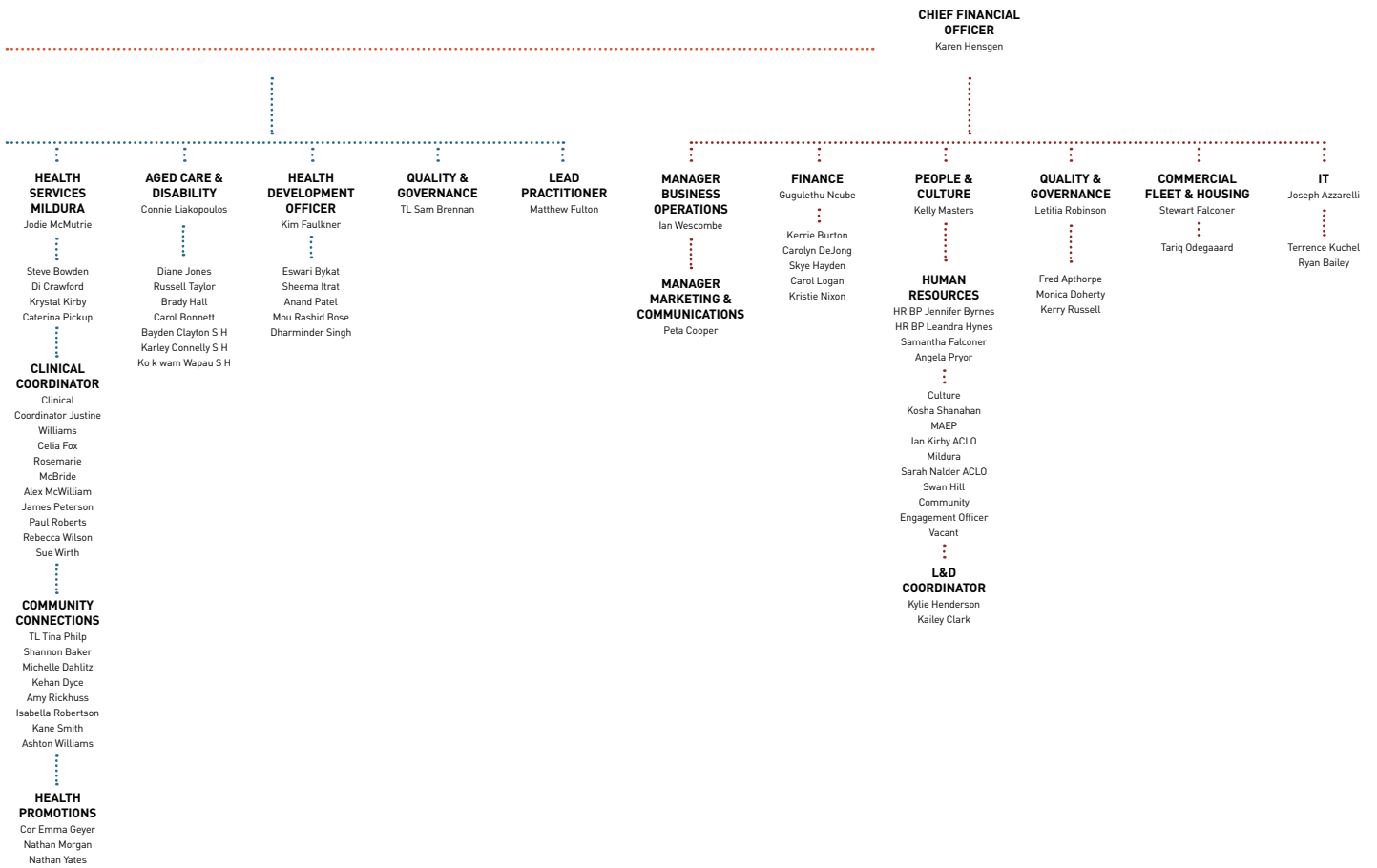
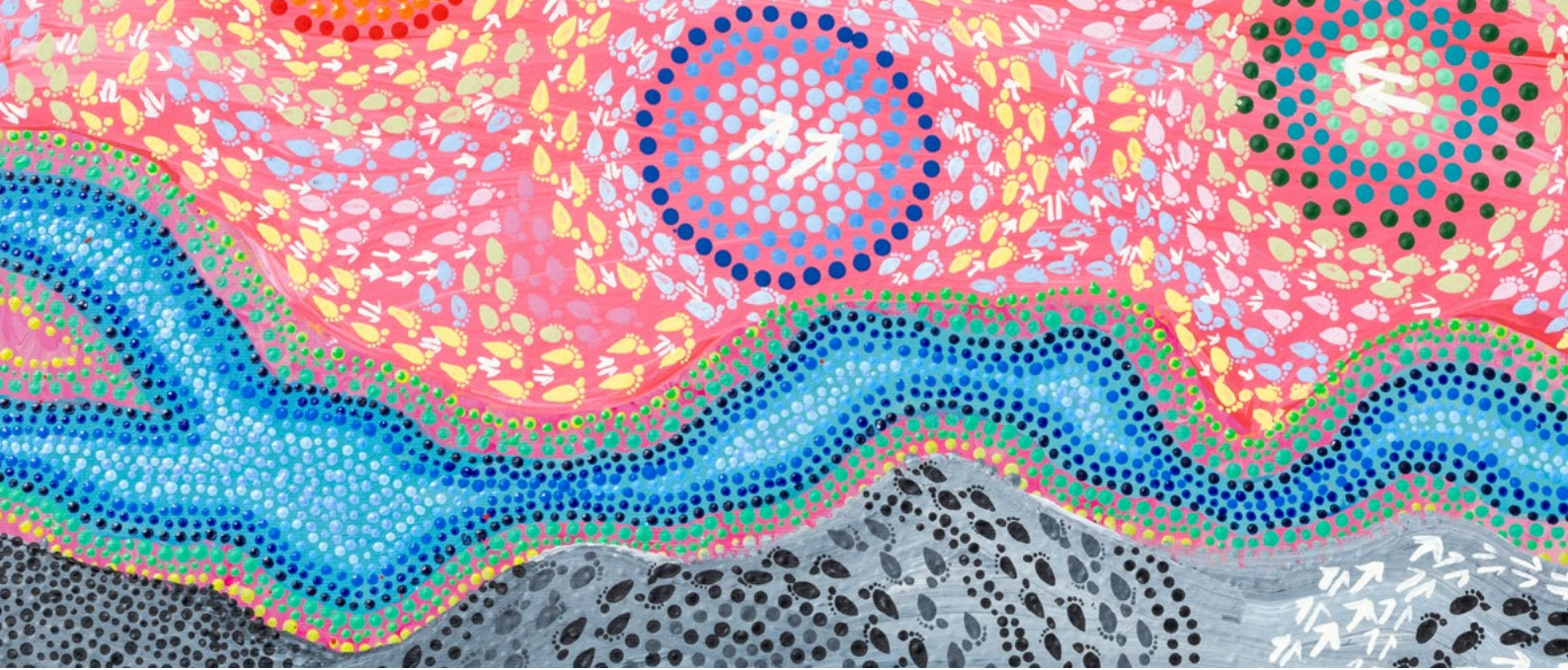
Board Member

Board member since 2019; Bachelor Social Work (Hons); Social Worker with the Department of Human Services; mother of four children.

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:





KEY MILESTONES IN 2018 – 2019

JULY 2018



Support for NAIDOC celebrations continued to strengthen across the Mallee. Flag raising ceremonies for NAIDOC Week 2018 were well attended in Mildura, Swan Hill, Kerang and Robinvale. NAIDOC 2018's theme was "Because of her, I can...". It celebrated the contributions that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women have made – and continue to make – to communities, families, history and to our nation. NAIDOC continues to be a great opportunity to bring our whole community together and recognise how important our traditions are and what an important part Aboriginal culture plays in what Australia is and can be.

THE RATE OF BREAST SCREENING AMONG MALLEE KOORI WOMEN IS ABOUT 30 PERCENT – COMPARED TO THE STATEWIDE RATE OF 54 PERCENT

AUGUST- SEPTEMBER 2018



Breast Screen Victoria's big pink bus was a feature of the MDAS "Women's Business" day at Mildura, in an effort to increase the low breast screening rates among local Koori women.

The rate of breast screening among Mallee Koori women is about 30 percent – compared to the Statewide rate of 54 percent. Women's Paps and Pamper days had been held previously, but this year the day brought together local Aboriginal women for lunch, pampering and a laugh with special guest Deadly Funny winner, Denise McGuinness – and for breast screening. The days are aimed at fun and socialising for local women, but always carry an underlying health message, this year around breast screening. At Swan Hill and Kerang, health teams handed out the goodies during September, for a "September Spring Screening" campaign. It aimed to encourage women reluctant to undertake intimate medical check-ups to come forward and reconnect with MDAS health and understand that screening is much easier than in the past, and our amazing staff make sure you feel comfortable, not embarrassed.

Our Mildura men got out on Country as well as the golf course, as part of their second Mildura Koori Men's Health Day. The first MDAS Man Up Day in 2017 was a hit with the men, combining nine holes of golf with health information and checks. Man Up 2.0 expanded the concept, to include a cultural tour, as well as presentations from health experts. It's all aimed at having a bit of fun, getting blokes together and getting some information to them about physical and mental health programs. Guest speakers included a Prostate Cancer Nurse, Diabetes Educator, Drug and Alcohol Counsellor and Mental Health Team clinician.

OCTOBER 2018



Alarming new figures showed gambling activity and harm from gambling at record levels in the Mallee.

The Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation data showed

the biggest-ever monthly losses from electronic gaming machines. It prompted MDAS to take the lead on organising region-wide community forums on the issue. The MDAS forums were held to facilitate community discussion and awareness in Swan Hill, Mildura and Robinvale. The forums were headlined by comedian Kevin Kropinyeri who shared his own family's experiences with gambling.

MDAS clinician Rae Stephens was recognised nationally for her innovation and leadership in the development of alcohol and drugs programs and services.

Rae is the Social and Emotional Wellbeing Manager at MDAS and was honoured with the Appreciation Award at the National Indigenous Drug and Alcohol Awards. The Appreciation Award recognizes a non-Indigenous person who has made an important commitment and contribution to reducing the harmful effects of drug and alcohol abuse among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over at least five years. An experienced nurse and midwife, Rae is the driving force behind the MDAS Social and Emotional Wellbeing Hub – a Victorian-first initiative that is now the benchmark for SEWB services to Koori communities across the State – and the MDAS Family Wellbeing Program, among other initiatives. She is also a valued mentor for many emerging leaders among her Koori staff.



NOVEMBER 2018



A research project began working to improve the care of Aboriginal people and their families after a cancer diagnosis.

The project is a partnership between Monash University

and MDAS, funded by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services. MDAS Researcher Samantha Brennan worked with community members who had a diagnosis of cancer, or who have had a family member with a diagnosis of cancer either currently, or in the recent past, to share their stories in an effort to improve how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Victoria are supported through their cancer diagnosis and treatment.

MDAS Health Swan Hill boosted its community health credentials with a national award of accreditation, demonstrating its commitment to quality and safety within its practice.

MDAS Swan Hill received the important recognition from Australian General Practice Accreditation Limited (AGPAL), the leading not-for-profit provider of general practice accreditation services within Australia. It shows the MDAS Swan Hill practice makes a significant investment and commitment to quality on a day-to-day basis, across all levels of the practice team and represents a major achievement for our practice.

THE MDAS FAMILY WELLBEING PROGRAM EXPANDED DURING THE LATTER PART OF 2018 TO INCLUDE YOUTH, ELDERS, SCHOOL STUDENTS AND WOMEN IN MILDURA'S EAST END COMMUNITY.



The last of our Mallee-wide Deadly Choices roadshows was held in Swan Hill and Kerang during November and December. A “deadly” fun and active community day challenged community members to make healthy choices for themselves and their families. Roadshow events were held in Mildura, Swan Hill and Kerang during the campaign, to focus on the benefits of stopping smoking, eating good food and exercising daily. A ‘deadly choice’ is a healthy choice and it’s a positive program that focuses on the plus side of making those choices.

DECEMBER 2018



Mildura’s Aboriginal community was the latest to benefit from a national initiative to improve the way everyday medications are used. As part of a plan to embed 22 pharmacists in

Aboriginal community-controlled health services across Australia, experienced pharmacist Kerryn Woodward began work at MDAS Mildura. She provides expertise, important guidance and information to other clinical staff and community members in a culturally-appropriate way, on the use of medications.

JANUARY 2019



The MDAS Family Wellbeing Program expanded during the latter part of 2018 to include youth, Elders, school students and women in Mildura’s East End community. This successful 10-week program continues to go from strength to strength, offering an innovative, supportive approach to tackling life’s challenges.

Kerang’s Aboriginal community was given access to a Foodbank to help ease the struggle of feeding the mob when times get tough. The Foodbank Victoria service was located at MDAS Kerang for people to access non-perishable groceries when they are finding it difficult to make ends meet. It’s one small way we help the families and young people struggling in the community. Members of the local Aboriginal community are able to visit MDAS in Kerang any weekday and select what they need from the items available.

MILDURA’S ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY WAS THE LATEST TO BENEFIT FROM A NATIONAL INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE THE WAY EVERYDAY MEDICATIONS ARE USED.



MDAS clinician Zanele (Zah) Thebe won a State-wide achievement honor within her native Zimbabwean community. Ms Thebe has worked at MDAS Swan Hill and Kerang for eight years and won the Zimbabwean Achievers' Awards Community Champion. Zah is originally from Zimbabwe but worked in New Zealand for eight years before moving to Swan Hill. The nurse, dual diagnosis clinician and Family and Cognitive Behavioural therapist, leads the MDAS Social and Emotional Wellbeing team at Swan Hill and during 2019 became Swan Hill Health Manager.

FEBRUARY 2019

Staff at MDAS got into the spirit of the Heart Research Australia awareness day by wearing red on Heart Health Day. Heart disease is still the leading cause of death in Australia – but it's also a disease that is largely affected by lifestyle. The day aimed to focus on the fantastic programs at MDAS that highlight lifestyle change. Heart disease is an umbrella term for a range of conditions that affect the heart, including: coronary artery disease; heart rhythm problems (arrhythmias); and heart defects a person is born with (congenital heart defects).

MDAS RECEIVED THE TICK OF APPROVAL IN TWO MAJOR ACCREDITATION ASSESSMENTS ENDORSING THE LEVEL AND STANDARDS OF ITS SERVICES TO COMMUNITIES.

MARCH 2019



MDAS received the tick of approval in two major accreditation assessments endorsing the level and standards of its services to communities in Mildura, Swan Hill, Kerang and Robinvale. Every three years, organisations funded to deliver services to clients for the Department of Health and Human Services are required to meet both the Department's accreditation review, and assessment against a department-endorsed independent review body. MDAS was assessed against 177 standards in an exhaustive process, that measures accountability against a set of service quality standards for all service providers. The measures are in place to guarantee people's rights, wellbeing and safety are promoted and upheld, that people have access to transparent, equitable and integrated services and that they are able to make their own decisions and be actively involved as valued members of the community. MDAS also had a VIP visitor in March, with the Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Nigel Scullion touring the site and learning about MDAS services.

MDAS rolled out the welcome mat and fired up the barbecue to mark national Close the Gap Day. Mini health-checks, giveaway bags and an all-day barbecue were all on offer at the MDAS Health carpark with the goal of reaching community members who might not be engaging regularly with health services.



MDAS Early Years Mildura moved into a new building in March 2019. As the Early Years team and program continued to grow the team needed more space. So the Early Years

Hub was developed just a few steps up the road in the Old CFA building, beside the gym, providing plenty of space for staff, families and fun!

APRIL 2019

The MDAS Robinvale team moved into new headquarters in the town's main street and held a community day to celebrate.

77 Perrin Street was transformed into office space, with meeting areas and separate offices for client confidentiality. The original MDAS office was some distance from the town centre, and not convenient for community to reach on foot.



MAY 2019



MDAS was at the forefront of Australia's first comprehensive guide to plan to improve aged care outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders in future. The Federal

Minister for Health and Aged Care Ken Wyatt launched the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Aged Care Action Plan, which is the first guide to help families and aged care recipients, as well as providers, to meet the needs of First Australians in both residential and home care situations. MDAS Director of Health Services Danielle Dougherty

represented Victorian and Loddon Mallee Aboriginal communities on the ATSI Diversity Framework Working Group, which has worked on the plan since November 2017. Ms Dougherty now sits on the National Advisory Group for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Aged Care which has responsibility for rolling out the Aged Care Action Plan.



Mallee families were invited to share their experiences with autism, as part of an innovative project underway by MDAS.

The project is headed by MDAS lead practitioner

Kathy Crouch. While education and understanding of autism has progressed significantly in the past 20 years, there's little documented about the experience of Aboriginal people in relation to autism. MDAS asked Aboriginal community members about their experiences of having a loved one seek support for autism, getting a diagnosis and accessing follow-up support.

JUNE 2019

In preparation for the beginning of nominations and voting in the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria an Assembly Election Officer for North

West Victoria began work from MDAS. Sarah Nalder is Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer at MDAS, but took up the election officer role to help community



enrol, run and vote. Sarah is pictured enrolling MDAS Mildura Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer Ian Kirby.

OUR NAIDOC ACHIEVERS IN 2018

Every two years, Mildura's Koori community recognises the contributions of its leading citizens in an awards night ceremony during NAIDOC celebrations.

About 160 community-members attended the NAIDOC Ball and awards night to celebrate and honor community achievers, mentors and emerging leaders.

AUNTY BEV PETER AWARD – COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE AWARD

Sponsor: Department of Justice and Regulation

WINNER: TERRY BRENNAN



Terry Brennan is a proud Kamilaroi man who was born in Moree NSW in 1971 but moved with his family to Mildura when he was 11. Terry is father to his only son Zackery and a grandfather to Mason, however for the past 18 years he has also been a

respected step-father to 6 children and 7 grandchildren with his long-term partner Jenene. For the past 10 years Terry has committed himself to supporting his community around the effects of drug and alcohol and the impact it has on the community. Terry has suffered significant trauma in his own life which saw him struggle to complete his education and opted to gain an apprenticeship in building. He went on to complete his chosen trade and was then employed with SJ Weir for a considerable time erecting buildings and homes throughout Mildura. Terry's life was travelling well and it was not long before he started a family, but then the relationship broke down and the fact that his only child was no longer living with him took its toll. Terry found comfort in the use of Alcohol and other substances to numb the pain of his loss. Terry has now turned his life around and worked really hard to overcome his drinking and drug use and is a testament that if someone believes in you and supports you then we can come back from anything.

In 2008 Terry started out as a volunteer with the BACCUS program as a CJP worker supporting Indigenous men, women and children who came into contact with police. No matter what time of the day or night it was, Terry was always there making sure our mob were safe and taken care of. Terry has since been employed full-time with MDAS as a Drug and Alcohol worker. He completed his Diploma in AOD last year and is now a qualified Drug and Alcohol Counsellor. Terry was also involved in the National Empowerment Program, an initiative around suicide in local communities throughout Australia. His passion for this came due to his brother Michael who committed suicide in 2004. Terry went on to become a Team Leader at the Wiimpatja Healing Centre at Lake Victoria and played a major role in the success of men completing the program and is now a Senior AOD caseworker with the Social and Emotional Wellbeing team. Without strong Warriors like Terry stepping up to the plate and giving back to the community, we would still have considerable struggle in empowering our men, women and children to overcome their own experiences around the impacts of trauma.

LIFE TIME ACHIEVEMENT & HONOR ROLL

Sponsor: Mallee District Aboriginal Services

WINNER: LAURIS MCCORMACK (1969 –2015)



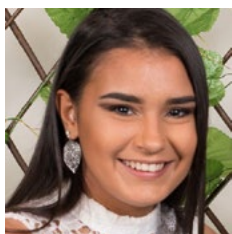
Lauris began work as a trainee at the Mildura Aboriginal Cooperative in health services. It was work she loved and was a natural for and she spent 18 years there, including in the senior role of Health Practice Manager.

Lauris was always advocating for her people within her community and took on a leadership role and always aimed to Inspire her community. Approaching health issues by empowering Aboriginal people and communities was Lauris' aim, including giving them the tools so they could progressively take control of their future. She could see the best in her clients and believed of the good in everyone, strong in culture, gentle soul with a big heart for helping her Aboriginal community at the grass roots level.

YOUTH AWARD

Sponsor: Yuranga Mildura Local Aboriginal Network

WINNER: TYLAH KELLY-CARR



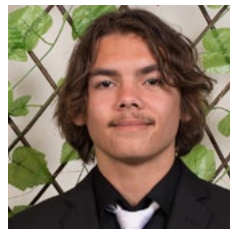
Tylah is a proud Wemba Wemba woman very involved with her culture. Tylah is a keen sportswoman having played, or plays Touch Football, Rugby League, Australian Women's AFL Football and Netball. Whilst at secondary school she contributed a lot of support and

effort to Chaffey Secondary College and Mildura Senior College Koorie Girls' Academies (KGA) as a member of the academies. She loves her role at the school and being an Aboriginal person and supporting her people at Ranfurly Primary school. In this role she plays a part in the 'Girls On Country Program', a program designed to connect the Koorie girl students back to their culture.

SPORTS PERSON AWARD

Sponsor: Mallee Sports Assembly

WINNER: KOBE BROWN



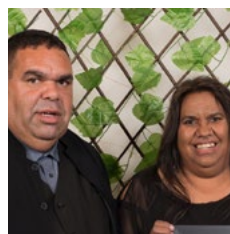
As well as being an outstanding footballer at Mildura Football Club, Kobe makes a significant contribution to the club and sets a great example to his peers through his willingness to help out in non-football areas. The strength of any community sporting organisation

is established by the helpers and volunteers who make themselves available. Kobe is always eager to do his bit in the canteen, running water for the junior grades or helping out the senior team when he is unable to play due to his representative commitments. Kobe recognises that, in part, his achievements are made possible through his association with a strong and positive local sporting club and we feel that this will stand him in good stead as his sporting career progresses.

VOLUNTEER AWARD

Sponsor: Commonwealth Bank

WINNER: COOMEALLA LAKERS BASKETBALL CLUB (RUSSELL & LEANNE TAYLOR)



The Coomealla Basketball Group is made up of many volunteers who work tirelessly on funding, coaching, scoring, transporting to and from games, supervising and supporting teams through the wins and losses.

The Coomealla Basketball Club prides itself on encouragement, fun, sportsmanship, team building, self-esteem, wellbeing and healthy choices on and off the court. Also, taught to have respect for yourself, your teammates and the teams that you are playing against. This year more of the younger generation are stepping up and assisting with coaching and scoring of teams throughout all age groups.

PARTNERSHIP / ORGANISATION AWARD

Sponsor: Mildura Rural City Council

WINNER: SUNRAYSIA FOOTBALL AND NETBALL LEAGUE



Sunraysia Football and Netball League initially committed to an official three-year deal with MDAS to host an Indigenous Round and is still continuing to make this an ongoing event in their yearly fixture. This has made a significant impact on the

sporting community in the way which all Indigenous senior footballers and netballers can be a part of a day. They have the opportunity to not only show case their sporting ability but more importantly to join in a day which shares and celebrates the richness of our Indigenous culture. It is also a significant event as all community take part in the day and feel proud of what the league is achieving with the right cultural guidance. It's an opportunity for community to be passionate and proud about their identity and heritage on such a significant day. This is also a great opportunity to break down negative barriers that Indigenous people face on a day to day basis. (Nathan Yates represented SFNL)

TRAINEE / APPRENTICE

Sponsor: Victorian Aboriginal Employee Association

WINNER: KADIESHA YATES



Kadiesha completed her VCE a few years ago after almost giving up a few times but continued with constant encouragement from family and teachers and support staff. An opportunity came up for her in the dental industry as a trainee dental

assistant with Sunraysia Community Health and she took it with open arms. Now she has completed it and is employed as a full time Dental Assistant. Kadiesha's future goal is to do further training to take the next step to become a Dental Nurse. By Kadiesha's persistence and willingness to complete her schooling and traineeship, this has given her confidence within herself and the belief that you can achieve anything you put your mind to.





MDAS AT WORK

Mallee District Aboriginal Services has a proud tradition of challenging, questioning and innovating to bring about results and change within our communities.

We are noted and respected as an organisation that does not accept the status quo – but works proactively to find new ways to break cycles of behaviour, to support our people, families and communities and to bring the wider community along with us on our journey.

The following pages show MDAS at work – stories and case studies** that demonstrate the effectiveness of our programs and our willingness to lead.

** Names have been changed

FINDING THE “RIGHT FIT” - MALLEE ABORIGINAL EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

.....

Work should be accessible and culturally safe for everyone – and through work, we contribute to our own wellbeing and that of our community.

.....

MALLEE ABORIGINAL EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (MAEP) IS MDAS' COMMITMENT TO FINDING SUSTAINABLE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR COMMUNITY.

MAEP, through coordinator Kosha Shanahan, supports people who are unemployed, including candidates who experience multiple barriers to finding employment (for example, drug and alcohol issues, mental and physical health issues, family violence and a lack of literacy and numeracy).

MAEP offers intensive assistance and the opportunity to be linked into a holistic range of services to increase the likelihood of a successful transition from unemployment to long-term sustainable work.

IAN'S STORY

.....

Ian Kirby came to MAEP with an extensive resume

MAEP often works with people who are new to the workforce and need to create a resume that identifies their skills and potential rather than their experience. Ian's resume was diverse and we worked to fine tune his resume to showcase the skills specific to the work that he was wanting to apply for.

Ian had identified his passion space

Often MAEP involves having 'career counselling' talks with participants to help them really evaluate what type of work will bring them joy. Alternatively, some people just want a job...and an income. Ian knew the skills that he had collected over the years and was so comfortable sharing his experiences that it was obvious his work was fulfilling -- it was easy to share these stories and help reword them into 'application' forms.



Ian is a 'mature' participant

We are here for anyone, not just Trainees, School leavers and long-term unemployed participants. Often, we speak with parents and grandparents about what we can do to help their young ones...and I find myself also talking to them about what they might like to be filling their days with. I'd love for more people to see Ian's story and come down for a yarn for themselves.

A story worth celebrating

Ian was applying for various positions – but we're fortunate he has ended up in the team here at MDAS! Specifically, in the People and Culture Team, as our Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer. He's been a pleasure to work with as a participant, and now as teammates. Ian is a calm and quiet man - when he speaks it's always worth listening! I have enjoyed building a friendship with Ian and admire his love of sharing Aboriginal cultural knowledge.

MENERA STATION: A PLACE THAT'S 'GOOD MEDICINE' FOR COMMUNITY

Menera Farm, located between the Swan Hill and Kerang communities is breaking new ground with a vision for a sustainable farming model incorporating a sense of “place” for the local mobs.



MENERA STATION, AT MELLOOL, IS LEASED FROM THE INDIGENOUS LAND CORPORATION BY MDAS ON BEHALF OF THE SWAN HILL AND KERANG COMMUNITIES.

The 1455-hectare freehold station is on Wamba Wamba country on the NSW side of the Murray River, 25 kilometres from Swan Hill, and is operated as a sustainable farming enterprise.

But it's also the location for an increasing number of community activities. More than 100 people attended the first community day at the farm -- including Elders from as far away as Tasmania who were moved and healed by getting back on Country.

It's the location for regular boys' and girls' cultural camps when young people from Swan Hill and Kerang learn traditional ways like dance, spear throwing, food gathering, witchetty grub hunting and art.

More than 1000 hectares of Menera is under irrigation and the property is currently producing irrigated, dryland crops, running cattle, and sheep under a share-farming agreement. The share farmer partners provide employment



Auntie Olive who travelled from Tasmania for the Menera Community Day, with Auntie Vera

and skills development opportunities for community members and work in partnership with MDAS justice programs to provide pathways and skills development for clients.

“On home Country, it's a feeling I can't describe. It makes me emotional now, to talk about it”

THE VISION IS COMING TO FRUITION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FARMING MODEL PROVIDING POSITIVE COMMUNITY AND PROGRAM OUTCOMES

STRONG PARTNERSHIPS FOR OUR MOST VULNERABLE – THE ORANGE DOOR

.....

The Orange Door Mallee opened its doors on May 31, 2018.



WHAT HAPPENS AT THE ORANGE DOOR?

The Orange Door is free and you don't need a referral. Your safety is the priority.

Workers at The Orange Door are experienced and trained to look out for and address risks. They will listen to you to understand what is making you feel unsafe. They will give you advice and support in making decisions and managing any risks.

.....

THIS INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP AND ITS CONSULTATIVE APPROACH IS CHANGING THE FAMILY VIOLENCE NARRATIVE IN THE MALLEE, PARTICULARLY FOR ABORIGINAL FAMILIES.

The Orange Door is a free service for adults, children and young people who are experiencing or have experienced family violence and families who need extra support with the care of children and keeping the perpetrators in view.

To make it easier for people to be safer and supported, The Orange Door brings together workers from:

- Specialist family violence services
- Family services
- Aboriginal services
- Services for men who use violence

Networking is a key part of The Orange Door strategy for building stronger communities. The voices of the Mallee's Aboriginal community contribute to the design of what services are needed to support Aboriginal people experiencing family violence.

A strong and experienced group of Aboriginal practitioners at The Orange Door enhance cultural awareness and understanding of Aboriginal clients coming through the door and include an Aboriginal Practice leader and two Aboriginal Practitioner positions (one in Mildura and one in Swan Hill). In addition, an Aboriginal Advisory Group underpins a cultural awareness framework at The Orange Door that ensures the hubs are Culturally Safe and welcoming. An Acknowledgement to Country Plaque is on display, framed flags, paintings by Aboriginal Artists, framed art around the importance of our Culture and keeping our culture, art and language, "alive and thriving".

Partners at The Orange Door Mallee are MDAS, Mallee Domestic Violence Service, Sunraysia Community Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services Victoria and the Mallee Accommodation and Support Program. Positions in the Orange Door Mallee are funded by Family Safety Victoria.

FOCUSSING ON THE FUTURE – TARGETED CARE PACKAGES

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Targeted Care Packages (TCPs) are a Victorian State Government initiative, to create a more flexible Out Of Home Care (OOHC) system to better respond to individual needs of children.

IN PARTICULAR, TCPS AIM TO ENABLE CHILDREN TO MOVE FROM RESIDENTIAL CARE WITH THE GOAL OF SAFE, HEALTHY AND STABLE LIVING ARRANGEMENTS WHERE THERE IS THE CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN AND ENJOY THE THINGS THAT EVERY CHILD OR YOUNG PERSON NEEDS FOR HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT. THERE HAVE BEEN MANY YOUNG PEOPLE AND SUCCESS STORIES AT MDAS SINCE THE INTRODUCTION OF TARGETED CARE PACKAGES.

JOYCE'S STORY

Unlike many of the young people MDAS works with, Joyce had a relatively positive start to her early life.

However, Joyce suffered a devastating loss with the passing of a parent at the age of 6 – then her remaining parent at age 8.

Joyce found some stability in the care of her grandmother, but sadly, when she was 11, Joyce's grandmother also passed away.

At this time, there were many Family and Community Services reports, all with similar themes and concerns for Joyce's welfare and care, while she moved back and forth across the NSW-Victoria border.

At the age of 16, Joyce presented to Police in Mildura after the accommodation she had been staying at no longer had power. Joyce came to the attention of Child Protection (DHHS) and from this point was engaged with multiple MDAS Services – Health Services, Youth Services and eventually the Residential Care Service when there were no placement options available.

At this time things began to change. Joyce advocated for her voice to be heard and MDAS supported her efforts to help Joyce exit residential care and identify possible options and supports under her Targeted Care Package.

Three weeks later, the MDAS emergency accommodation was identified as a supported option for Joyce to make an immediate transition from Residential Care.

Since exiting Residential Care and having significant supports (primarily in-service hours rather than funds) Joyce has achieved a long list of her goals.

Her many achievements have included: passing the Learners' Permit Test; returning to fulltime education; obtaining a transitional housing property; continuing to build independent living skills; and getting to the second round of interviews for a Government-based traineeship.

Joyce now lives in her own transitional housing property and has successfully graduated from Foundation VCAL at the Dulka Yuppata Unit at SuniTafe. She is moving onto mainstream Intermediate VCAL with a focus on work experience and employment in the coming year.

Through her own perseverance and self-determination Joyce has demonstrated that, regardless of the challenges they face, young people can achieve their goals and ambitions with motivation, a safe and appropriate mentor and a little support.

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JOYCE IS NOW LIVING IN HER OWN TRANSITIONAL HOUSING PROPERTY, HAS A JOB AND IS TICKING OFF ITEMS ON HER LONG LIST OF GOALS

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OPENING THE DOOR FOR BETTER OUTCOMES IN JUSTICE AND MENTAL HEALTH

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Mildura Aboriginal Mental Health Consortium (Demonstration Project)

MILDURA RECORDS HIGH RATES OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT PEOPLE IN CONTACT WITH THE JUSTICE SYSTEM - COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS ORDERS ARE AMONG THE HIGHEST IN VICTORIA (90 TO 115 ABORIGINAL CLIENTS PER QUARTER FROM MILDURA COURT).

A Demonstration Project, coordinated by MDAS, is testing a new mental health treatment model, focussing on Aboriginal people in contact with the criminal justice system. The model is designed for people with moderate to severe mental illness who fall between primary and tertiary mental health care services.

The demonstration project combines the key strengths of each of the partner organisations (MDAS and Mildura Base Hospital Mental Health Services) to increase engagement with clients and streamlining access to mental health treatment. The Demonstration Project is showing encouraging signs with increasing community engagement with clinical mental health services. This is the result of a more culturally-appropriate approach, streamlined access and improving partnerships between case managers and support organisations.

“MARK’S” STORY

‘Mark’ is 26 and lives with his partner and three small children.

As a child, he was moved from home to home as a ward of the state. Both his biological parents have hearing loss and Mark suffered with anxiety attacks that were initially overlooked by health services. Mark felt that his symptoms had subsided until a home invasion where he was attacked with a machete and a baseball bat. It increased his anxiety and led to isolating behaviour and difficulty venturing out of home.



Mark managed his past trauma with alcohol, cannabis and methamphetamine misuse. In 2018 Mark self-referred to MDAS, because he was struggling to manage his

anxiety and avoiding going out with his family. Mark was supported with GP appointments, psychiatric treatment and ongoing reviews which allowed steady improvement over time. He asked for support to cease cannabis use and has done so with only one minor relapse. But the most significant improvement in Mark’s wellbeing came after his partner was flown out of the area due to pregnancy issues. Mark had to care for his children and support his partner in an unfamiliar town with minimal support from services.

The ongoing support, his growing skills (e.g. learning and implementing techniques to manage uncomfortable situations) and his increasing self-confidence allowed Mark to find employment at a solar farm. He was able to address and rectify outstanding fines and to buy gifts for his children and partner and still have savings. Mark has been able to make improvements to his yard by putting in gardens and landscaping, he’s bought a good second-hand vehicle and he’s followed up on obtaining his full licence.

Mark’s greatest motivator is his children and being able to enjoy social events with them and his partner. Over time his personal relationships have improved through being able to provide additional support to his partner with their children and by being able to do activities outside home. Mark achieved part-time employment, which has led to a recent full-time position.

CHANGING LIVES RIGHT FROM THE START – EARLY YEARS SERVICES

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.

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. OUR INNOVATIVE "WONDERING FROM THE WOMB" APPROACH EXTENDS THAT DISCUSSION TO INCLUDE THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE YET-TO-BE-BORN CHILD.



DEE'S STORY

Dee grew up in out-of-home care and is now a young Aboriginal mum with two children.

Dee loves her children dearly and wants the best for them. Her hope is that

they are happy and settled and strong and that she protects them and helps them to be connected in their family and community. She wanted them to have a father who supported the whole family and was loving and affectionate. These were her ideals for her babies and herself.

Unfortunately for Dee, fear, drugs and anger got in the way of her relationship with her partner and with her kids. Situations got violent and people got badly hurt. It also meant her kids had to go into care to be safer for a while.

Dee felt as if she wouldn't cope...that maybe she had no future. She loved her children. She loved their father. But she hated herself and it almost killed her.

Dee disappeared from services and supports for a while, avoiding anything that asked her to feel, to focus or to consider herself as valuable in any way. But she also got pregnant again and possibly this was a game changer. Could Dee love herself enough that her unborn baby could begin life with the hope and care and health needed? Dee re-engaged with MDAS Early Years. She accepted midwifery and case support.

As her belly got bigger, her trust for her Early Years team did too. It was not always easy, but Dee kept Baby in mind and kept trying. When Baby Zahra was born, Dee stayed connected to all of the resources Early Years and other parts of MDAS offered. She accepted case work. She completed her Baby's First Yarn over several sessions with her support team. And she listened. And she watched. And she began to heal as Zahra shared the love and the optimism Dee had feared she would never have again.

Mum still has Zahra with her. She engages with her Early Years support team, through play groups and case work and therapeutic yarning. She talks about her past, her fears and her dreams. Dee talks about getting her family back together, all of her children with her again - strong in community and connected to our supports.

DEE FOUGHT OFF THE FEARS OF ANOTHER TRAUMATIC CYCLE. SHE WAS BRAVE AND WONDERED WHAT THE NEW BABY MIGHT HELP HER CREATE... IN HERSELF AND IN HER FAMILY



CULTURAL CONNECTIONS A PATHWAY TO HEALING – WIIMPATJA HEALING CENTRE

Wiimpatja Healing Centre is recognised as one of the most effective programs of its type offering intensive rehabilitation programs of up to three months, with an underlying healing principle of men’s healing through reconnection with country and culture.

WIIMPATJA MEN’S HEALING CENTRE IS ON REMOTE, WARRAKOO STATION, 100 KILOMETRES WEST OF MILDURA. IT IS A REHABILITATION PROGRAM THAT PROVIDES ABORIGINAL MEN WITH AN ALTERNATIVE TO INCARCERATION AND ALLOWS CLIENTS TO WORK ON THEIR HEALING THROUGH ATTENTION TO SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING.

The program helps clients reconnect with culture and country, while undertaking individual practical programs to develop skills and build resilience. Programs include Alcohol and Other Drugs programs, counselling, wellbeing, life and work skills, health and farm work activity.

A major success this year has been the recruitment of an on-site nurse. The nurse works intensively with clients on their health issues, is on-site five days a week and forms a key link between the program and the MDAS Health Service.

Many referrals are from corrections, courts and justice with a small number of self-referrals. We were fortunate the program was this year funded by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet with client referrals from across Victoria and NSW.

In 2018-19 we received 61 referrals, the largest number ever received, with only six clients not completing.

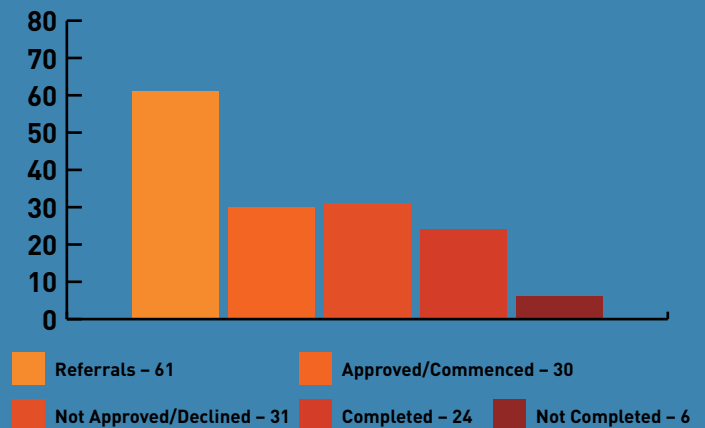
The program performance clearly demonstrates that this service is essential to Aboriginal men in need of rehabilitation. The program continues to act as a key driver in assisting men to transition back into community with their families and as an avenue for reducing the re-engagement with the Justice system.

Despite the internal challenges with recruitment, infrastructure and remoteness, it is evident that the success of this program is built around a strong service delivery model with a major focus being the Aboriginal content in service delivery.

The program continues to deliver excellent outcomes for those Aboriginal men who are serious about dealing with their rehabilitation issues.

The continued support from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet will enable MDAS to implement a further improved service delivery model into the future. This improved model will ensure the continuation of the excellent outcomes for those Aboriginal men requiring rehabilitation services that are culturally appropriate to ensuring they have an opportunity to reconnect with their families, community and Aboriginal culture.

WHC Client Data - 1st July 2018 - 30th June 2019







CHAIRMAN AND ACTING CEO'S REPORT

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Keith Hampton Chairman and Acting CEO



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MALLEE DISTRICT ABORIGINAL SERVICES HAS CONTINUED TO EVOLVE DURING 2018-19, BOTH IN TERMS OF OUR STRUCTURES AND PRACTICES – BUT ALSO IN OUR MATURITY AND OUR RESILIENCE.

MDAS has in place strong and robust structures and, more importantly, our organisation has matured over the past seven years, to a point where we are no longer about any individual or group of individuals but are now squarely focussed on the collective: “we” and “us”.

This is the way to future success for MDAS, and I am pleased to be leading an organisation and team that is so clearly focussed on the belief that, as community, our future is in our own hands if we continue to work together.

It has been a year of strong achievement, as you will read in the pages of this report. We are continuing to grow, we are providing new facilities and programs, and we are always trying new things and innovating. This focus is what will give us the tools to achieve our vision for the Mallee – and that is “generations of vibrant, healthy and strong Aboriginal communities”.

Our community has increasing confidence in the quality and growing number of services MDAS provides and this is evidenced through the continued growth in our client base. Our people are voting with their feet.

Our business structures are strong and accountable. This is demonstrated by the innumerable accreditations, both organisation-wide and service-specific, which we undergo each year. These measure our performance against a “best practice” model and I am pleased to report

that MDAS has received some important accreditations in 2018-19. The most rigorous of these is undoubtedly the review of our entire organisation under QIP National Standards in February this year. We were also successful in a review against Department of Health and Human Services standards, also in February and received accreditation of our medical services in Mildura and Swan Hill against the National AGPAL benchmarks in December 2018.

All of these assessments and reviews provide assurance to the community and to our stakeholders that MDAS is working effectively and appropriately and that our clients are at the centre of all that we do.

While, at all times, we have one eye on meeting our performance obligations in light of accreditation standards, we also have a community obligation to maintain and offer a service that is culturally appropriate.

If anything, this message has become even clearer in recent years. As we have ensured our services are operated in a culturally safe way, traffic through each of our centres in Mildura, Swan Hill, Robinvale and Kerang has grown. Services to support our communities only work, and are only taken up, if community members feel “safe”, respected and heard. Providing a range of services which are culturally appropriate is often a challenge as we also work to operate within our accreditation obligations. But both requirements must be met, and we are doing this successfully.

With this in mind, it is more important than ever to listen to community and this year we have put in place more direct methods of hearing and responding to what the community is telling us. We are pleased to have introduced Aboriginal Liaison Officers at both Mildura and Swan Hill during 2018-19, as well as implementing the role of a Community Engagement Officer. These people are the link between the working arm of MDAS and the communities we work for, in Mildura, Robinvale, Swan Hill and Kerang.

A key piece of work done during the year has been the implementation of our new Strategic Plan.

The work MDAS is doing to establish credentials as an organisation for the future is being noticed and independently endorsed by external organisation and stakeholders.

For example, the exhaustive Menera Financial Assessment (by consulting firm SED for the Indigenous Land Corporation) was a whole of organisation review. The review gave a vote of confidence in MDAS structures and operations, noting that “the primary reasons for this improved position are more than an improvement in financial performance. They also reflect positive structural and cultural changes now embedded within the organisation”.

The review noted practices including:

- A focus on training and board development training to set the culture and tone of the organisation;
- Leadership from the board and CEO to apply resources to the financial governance of MDAS;
- Development of a clear and focussed strategic plan for the future;
- Evidence of planning with clear reference of actions to strategic decisions undertaken from FY207 2 to FY 207 7 and an audit trail of organisational investments made to deliver the five year master plan; and so on.

We have a wonderful leadership team in our organisation which is working so hard to build partnerships, create working relationships and change perceptions of our community and culture. Great progress is being made and I encourage you all to be part of the solution and part of the future.

We have an opportunity to remain moving forward over the next year and solutions to our problems will continue to come from within. The pathway ahead is challenging but it's exciting in terms of improving outcomes and opportunities for our mob.

I welcome everyone to get on board and be part of building our proud, healthy and strong community for the future.

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WE HAVE A WONDERFUL LEADERSHIP TEAM IN OUR ORGANISATION WHICH IS WORKING SO HARD TO BUILD PARTNERSHIPS, CREATE WORKING RELATIONSHIPS AND CHANGE PERCEPTIONS OF OUR COMMUNITY AND CULTURE. GREAT PROGRESS IS BEING MADE AND I ENCOURAGE YOU ALL TO BE PART OF THE SOLUTION AND PART OF THE FUTURE.

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HEALTH, CLINICAL SERVICES AND EARLY YEARS REPORT

Danielle Dougherty

Director – Health, Clinical Services and Early Years



I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT 2018-19 HAS CONTINUED TO MARK STRONG PROGRESS AND EXPANSION IN THE QUALITY AND RANGE OF HEALTH AND CLINICAL SERVICES MDAS PROVIDES TO ALL OF OUR COMMUNITIES – AND THAT COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT WITH OUR SERVICES CONTINUES TO GROW.

The past year has again been challenging, as we work to recruit and train the clinicians and practitioners we require to service a client base that is not only expanding, but is more sophisticated in the level of types of services it requires.

This has been a year of consolidation for Health and Clinical Services, with few new funding agreements. However, we are grateful for the continued investment and support of Government and stakeholders in our programs, and their willingness to come in behind us as we continue to try new approaches and methods to breaking old cycles of harm.

It has been a welcome period of settling for our program areas after several years of rapid growth and expansion. Our priority this year has been on strengthening the quality of our services and focussing on service delivery. With this in mind, we prioritised achieving our vision for a fully-integrated, seamless service for our clients – in embedding a “no wrong door” approach across all of our MDAS programs.

Reaching new clients and the next generation of young people is an ongoing priority. With this in mind, our regional roll out of the “Deadly Choices” initiative to Mildura, Swan Hill, Robinvale and Kerang has been a major step forward under the LMARG Healthy Mob strategy and continues to bring many new faces into our clinics.

We are proud of the improvements we have made this year to care for people with a chronic illness, by successfully implementing Integrated Team Care, with the support of the Murray Primary Health Network.

Early Years remains the number one goal for both MDAS and LMARG being the first priority in both the current MDAS strategic plan and the LMARG Korin Korin Balit Djak strategic plan.

Our Early Years Services are the focus of strong investment – and continue to experience substantial growth. Our Early Years team in Mildura moved into the old CFA building (which is now known as the Early Years Hub) to meet the need for more space for staff and program delivery. Our Early Years team continues to attract interest from the academic community and presented at several conferences this year, on our innovative Wondering from the Womb program and our Indigenous-specific Autism research initiative. The team also partnered with the Royal Women’s Hospital this year in a project on Newborn Behavioural Observations, that Early Years now calls Baby’s First Yarn. The project focussed on making the NBO more culturally safe and on ways to embed this work into everyday practice. The NBOs, or Baby’s First Yarn, are designed to encourage attachment and bonding.

Our Social and Emotional Wellbeing team continues to innovate in tackling the persistent challenges in mental health, Alcohol and Other Drugs, Gambling and for the Stolen Generations. Client engagement by the team has grown by 20 percent this year. The Family Wellbeing Program has continued to grow and reach new communities and clients, and the Mildura Aboriginal Mental Health Demonstration Project



has taken shape over the past year. This program is now making a real difference in supporting clients to address their SEWB issues and to support their diversion from the Justice system.

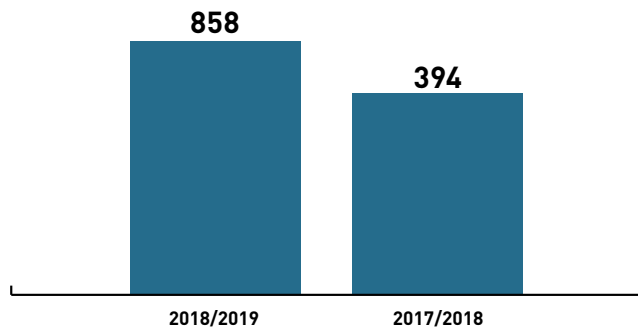
Our Aged and Disability Services have moved to a site at 116 Orange Ave where renovations have been completed to make the space welcoming.

The launch of the National Disability Insurance Scheme in the Mallee prompted investment from Victorian State Government to help Aboriginal people to access this system

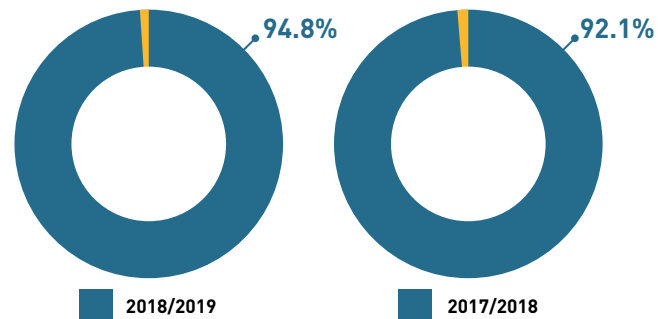
and MDAS was pleased to receive a grant to support this transition. MDAS continues to pursue approval to become an Aged Care Package provider. The Australian Government's Aged Care reforms have been implemented and MDAS is a part of a nationwide Navigator Pilot to support Aboriginal people over the aged of 50 to access the My Aged Care Portal and receive services.

The year was one of significant achievement and we will continue to build on these objectives throughout the year ahead.

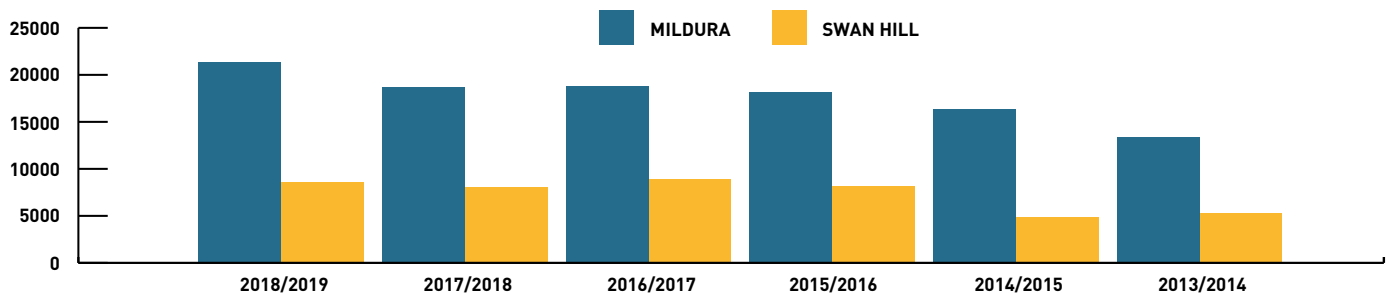
ABORIGINAL HEALTH CHECKS (ALL AGES)



% OF CHILD IMMUNISATIONS UP TO DATE



ATSI EPISODES OF CARE IN FINANCIAL YEAR



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

Andy Charles

Director – Family and Community Services



OUR MDAS FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES TEAM HAS CONTINUED TO GROW DURING 2018-19 YEAR AND HAS FOCUSED ON IMPROVING THE HOLISTIC NATURE OF OUR SERVICE DELIVERY AND REACHING OUT TO MORE COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN MILDURA, SWAN HILL, ROBINVALE AND KERANG.

I am constantly amazed by the commitment and the skills of our team who collaborate together and with outside agencies to provide wraparound services and supports to Aboriginal people, families, children, youth and Elders.

The number of clients and hours of support continues to increase but this has been a year of consolidating our services.

A requirement for mandatory qualifications for Therapeutic Residential Carers over the past 18 months meant upskilling and recruiting. As a result, staff are very professional in all dealings and interactions with clients as well as internal and external stakeholders. Therapeutic support is consistently very busy and recruitment is difficult. At times we must cap numbers as a result and there is an active hold list of young people waiting for service.

In Children's Placement Services this has been a year of significant change as we work towards getting new contracted cases across from DHHS in line with the planned transition of placement services to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (due to be completed in 2021).

Our Aboriginal and Child Specialist Advice Service is working to identify ways to introduce and strengthen the circuit breakers for families before the possible removal of children. We are leading Victoria in Aboriginal Family Led

Decision-making Programs, but we want to have engagement happening sooner, with families under stress, rather than when things hit crisis point.

At the same time, we put significant effort into Kinship Reunification to help parents who have had children removed. MDAS and Bendigo District Aboriginal Cooperative are the only ACCOs that offer this service. This is the only support for parents in this space, so we work hard with these families to reunify children with parents and home where it is safe and possible to do so.

We continue to put significant effort into the Foster Care space. The team has conducted recruitment and training for potential Carers and working to lift its profile through advertising and outreach at places like Mildura Centro, Mildura Show, Cinema and TV advertising.

During the year, the Men's Family Violence Team rolled out the 'Perpetrator Intervention' trial project. It was extremely successful and is now a continually funded position within MDAS. Our Cultural Healing Program is an addition to men's case management and has been running fortnightly with up to eight men attending. The program uses culture to heal and educate around changing behaviours to promote healthy relationships.

Another success was the Family Violence team obtaining a pilot program for 'Adolescent Family Violence'. A caseworker was recruited to provide assertive outreach to young Aboriginal people and their families. The focus is on the young person's relationship with their family and community, recognising that behavioural change can only occur through individual support delivered within the broader family and community context.



Meminar Ngangg Gimba refuge has remained almost continually full again this year, with alternative accommodation being sourced from time to time to keep women and children safe. Meminar has engaged three Elders who attend fortnightly to mentor clients and staff as well as engage in regular cultural activities. Outreach services to Swan Hill fortnightly and Robinvale have been consistently delivered throughout the year.

MDAS led a series of TV advertisements during the year to reflect on the impact of family violence on young children. "Free from Violence" provided funding for the creation and delivery of the advertisements and a second campaign focussing on adolescent children is now underway. Feedback is very positive on the impact of the ads.

The housing team is currently working with over 120 clients and faces difficult challenges due to the shortage of affordable housing in the area and the nightly rate of motels and caravans continuing to rise. The team has built a strong relationship with Sun City caravan park, which has allowed us to provide many clients with emergency accommodation.

Family services currently has eight staff members which are proud to have supported over 50 families for the course of the year through our Family Preservation, Integrated Family Services and Stronger Families programs.

We continue to invest in our next generation. MDAS Youth Services hosted the Too Deadly Leaders' Workshop during the year, with approximately 40 youth aged between 10 and 15. The event was supported by community Elders and the

Department of Justice and Community Safety and inspired our young leaders to release their "warrior within" through Youth Ambassador, Shantelle Thompson (three times World Jujitsu Champion); to reflect on Aboriginal Symbols in Art and develop their basketball skills and teamwork.

The MDAS Youth Hub located at 21 Pine Ave host programs including Koori Connect, tutoring, Koori kids club, Youth Club and family/child access. We're pleased to be upgrading this space, with new resources and furnishings, including desks and chairs suitable to a school setting as well as new computers. The rear of the Youth Hub has been cleaned up and will be concreted in 2019-20 for the installation of a basketball ring. The youth currently accessing the Hub are very excited to see the improvements.

Koori Connect has recently undergone an evaluation which led to the decision to appoint a Koori Connect mentor. The decision is reflected in the higher than average attendance rates currently being maintained by the students.

Thank you, as always, to every member of our team within Family Services across the Mallee. All of this work could not be done without your tireless dedication and passion for helping community. I am proud of how you continually strive to achieve positive outcomes with families, children and young people no matter how complex, dire or difficult the situation at times may appear.

SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING REPORT

Raelene Stephens
 Manager – Social and Emotional Wellbeing



THE MDAS SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL WELLBEING (SEWB) TEAMS IN MILDURA AND SWAN HILL OFFER INTENSIVE SUPPORT TO CLIENTS IN FACING CHALLENGES IN THEIR LIVES THAT IMPACT ON THEIR HEALTH AND WELLBEING.

Our SEWB team has grown by 30 percent over the past 12 months with a large focus being on recruitment, training and succession planning. We are proud that two thirds of our 36-member SEWB team identify as Indigenous (23 Indigenous identified Staff and 13 non-Indigenous staff).

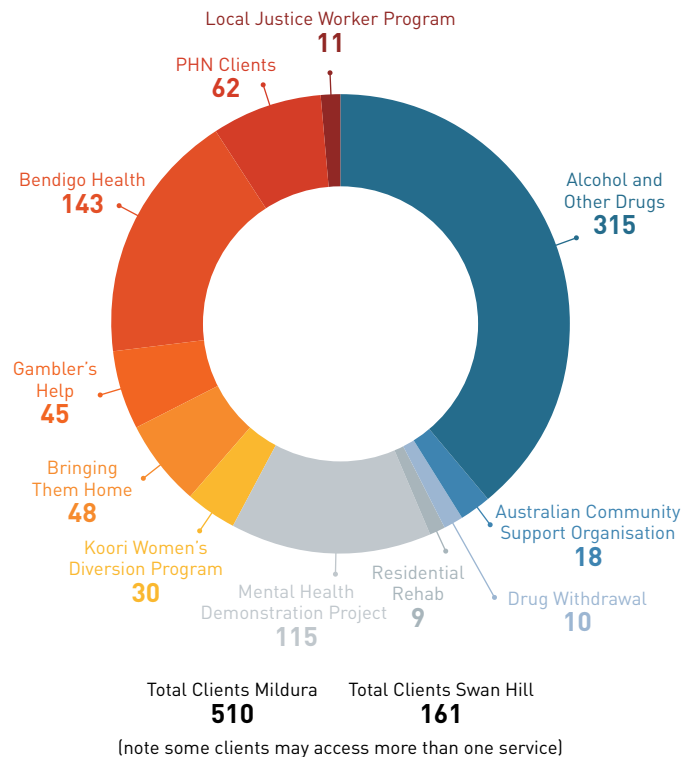
Our goal and focus in SEWB is to engage, support and strengthen Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people affected by Social and Emotional Wellbeing issues in order to improve their health, wellbeing and participation in the community. We look at the wellbeing of the whole person and we work collaboratively both within and outside of MDAS in meeting that goal. For example, 90% of the SEWB clients engaged with AOD services have had a completed health check.

A significant community touchpoint this year has been our Bringing Them Home and Gambler’s Help workers delivering the Family Wellbeing program to the community as part of a Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation prevention grant.

Family wellbeing is an Aboriginal Empowerment program, with topics covered in Stage One including:

- Qualities of a leader
- Basic human needs
- Understanding relationships
- Conflict resolution
- Understanding crisis
- Understanding beliefs and attitudes

The program introduces money and gambling in the sessions, however, particularly regarding school-aged participants, the goal is to strengthen community so there isn’t the need to turn to negative coping such as gambling or AOD misuse, and the onset of Mental Health issues. The program has been delivered to groups of Elders, school students, through headspace, and the East End Community House as well as in Swan Hill.



Another significant step forward has been the innovative work of our Mental Health Demonstration Project. MDAS is the lead agency in this partnership between MDAS and Mildura Base Hospital Mental Health Services. It capitalises on the strengths of each of the partner agencies in working with clients who are in touch with the justice system. The goal is to improve engagement and retention and to reduce the risk of clients slipping through service gaps. The project recorded 115 referrals this year – up from 74 last year. (See separate case study elsewhere in this report). This year has also been characterised by a steady increase of Primary Health Network clients and 62 clients were seen or contacted by our PHN workers in Mildura and Swan Hill. They had an average age of 14 and anxiety was one of the main issues

they were dealing with. Our workers were able to conduct some interventions in the form of education and provided general counselling in order to identify and learn some relaxation strategies.

2018-19 has been a year of change, growth and challenge. I am proud of the commitment and dedication of all of our team in providing services that are respectful, supportive and culturally appropriate.

We can all take some pride that our services are making a real difference to vulnerable clients, families and communities who encounter multiple and persisting challenges to their health and wellbeing.

DAN'S STORY

Issues for our Social and Emotional Wellbeing clients are often complex and inter-related, requiring the support of multiple services. It is also common for clients to engage, then remove themselves from supports during the process. Dan's story is one such example:

Dan came to MDAS Social and Emotional Wellbeing through the justice system after an attempted arm robbery. The attempted robbery was an attempt by Dan to maintain his substance abuse and gambling habits. Dan's initial engagement was sporadic. His reluctance to engage placed him at high risk of reoffending and incarceration. Over a four-month period, the MDAS Mental Health caseworkers continually followed up with Dan and offered support and although he began to engage, this was still irregular. MDAS provided support for Dan on other issues in his life and that built rapport and trust. Dan began contacting MDAS when he experienced issues, and it led into opportunities to discuss broader issues contributing to his continual contact with services.

Providing general support opened up additional opportunities for discussions relating to gambling and other issues. These general discussions led to Dan developing some insight into his past behaviours and how they were not constructive to his wellbeing. Dan's insight reached the point where he began observing the same negative behaviours in other people he associated with. He began thinking more about what he could achieve and distancing himself in these relationships. Over the following five months with support from MDAS, Dan began putting processes in place to reduce and eventually stop his gambling. This led to him beginning a relationship, obtaining his own accommodation, engaging in training and, finally, obtaining employment. Dan has maintained his abstinence from gambling for five months and continues to progress and take on beneficial behaviours to continually improve his life.

PEOPLE AND CULTURE REPORT

Kelly Masters
Manager – People & Culture



AT MDAS WE ARE COMMITTED TO INVESTING IN OUR OWN STAFF TO “GROW OUR OWN SUCCESS” - SECURE AND BUILD THE QUALITY SKILLED WORKFORCE NEEDED TO STRENGTHEN OUR ORGANISATION FROM WITHIN AND TO SUPPORT OUR PEOPLE AND OUR COMMUNITIES.

We believe investing in our staff is empowering our community and advancing our shared future.

It is not only the ongoing shortage of skilled practitioners in health, family services, social and emotional wellbeing and administration areas that motivates this decision. The investment in an individual also has flow-on benefits in so many ways.

In strengthening our workforce and building succession planning through upskilling, we are also supporting the individual to reach their goals, we are helping them to create resilience in their family unit, we are strengthening community capacity and we are creating role models to inspire others.

The decision to study or return to study is a big commitment, particularly when many staff have full time work commitments and a busy home life. MDAS has worked hard to put in place support networks to enable student success: teachers; external student support; inhouse support through mentoring; and the flexibility from managers to allow students to manage the balance between study commitments and daily working life.

MDAS currently has 120 staff studying nationally-accredited training from Cert level to Master’s degree.

We also supported 19 trainees in the 2018-19 financial year who are currently studying across all program areas in the organisation. The commitment to their studies is not only an asset to their own drive to succeed but to external mentors, teachers and in-house support. We have some real talent among our trainees and the goal for us is that they stay at MDAS and strive to become future leaders – hopefully on the table at management and executive level.

COURSES IN WHICH STAFF ARE ENROLLED INCLUDE:

- Bachelor of Health Services and Master of Social Work
- Advanced Diploma of Leadership and Management
- Dual qualification - Diploma of Mental Health and Diploma of Alcohol and other Drugs
- Diploma of Leadership and Management
- Diploma of Community Services
- Diploma of Alcohol and other Drugs
- Graduate Certificate in Client Assessment and Case Management
- Certificate IV Leadership and Management
- Certificate IV in Community Services (Traineeship and non-traineeship)
- Certificate IV in Child Youth and Family Intervention
- Certificate IV in ATSI Primary Health Care Practice
- Certificate IV in Training Assessment
- Certificate III in Community Services (Traineeship).
- Certificate III Business (Traineeship and non-traineeship)



MALINDA LOATS

Swan Hill Early Years Family Support Worker Malinda Loats began her journey to a Bachelor of Education, Early Childhood nearly 20 years ago. In 2018, with the support of MDAS, she graduated!

“It was something I wanted to do, but there were a few times along the way when I got off track just because of other things going on in life. Once I started working at MDAS, that’s when I started thinking about it again. Health Director Danielle Dougherty suggested it and I have had amazing support from everyone around me. It’s tough! I have four children myself and my husband and family supported me incredibly. But everyone at MDAS was so supportive. My colleagues would encourage me if I was struggling, I had mentors within the Early Years team who were just so helpful every time I came up against a challenge – and my managers allowed me the flexibility for study and for me to do placement. I could not have asked for more backing or encouragement... and I made it. I’m very proud and I hope there are young people around me who will think: “I can do that too!”

120 STAFF (NEARLY HALF OF OUR WORKFORCE) ARE CURRENTLY UNDERTAKING FURTHER TRAINING

EARLY YEARS REPORT

Jacinta Molloy Manager Early Years



EARLY YEARS IN MILDURA AND SWAN HILL IS DRIVEN BY A COMMON GOAL – TO ENSURE A SAFE BASE AND A SENSE OF PLACE IN THE COMMUNITY WHERE ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER FAMILIES CAN COME TO AND LEARN AND THRIVE.

The team is not afraid to innovate in pursuit of delivering the best outcomes for our families and our children – and the year 2018-19 has been particularly satisfying and exciting in that regard.

The linkages with Midwifery and Maternal and child health nursing are strong and build through internal complex care meetings, shared team meetings and training and our community focus.

This year the Early Years team received funding for groundbreaking Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) research. This project is hearing and documenting the lived experiences of Aboriginal families who have loved ones with autism. This is crucial knowledge. Early identification and support can be life changing and one of the goals of this project is to reduce fear, shame, burden and isolation for families navigating this experience. This is research that is at the forefront of learning more from the community – we are hearing both from families and from services about struggles, gaps and possible improvements for Aboriginal families living with autism.

Our goal is to co-create frontline training support that bridges gaps between community and professional understandings of the autism world and enrich the strengths of Aboriginal families who share their wisdom in this area. To date, literature on how autism is understood in Aboriginal families is very limited and this 12-month MDAS research

project will significantly add to this information, potentially leading the way in improving understanding and support for our community, hopefully improving early identification, intervention and celebration for many of our families.

The concepts that underpinned the innovative MDAS Wondering from the Womb project (yarning with Baby and keeping Baby in mind before birth) have been extended to our Newborn Behavioural Observations Project (NBO). NBOs are now known in Early Years as “Baby’s First Yarn”, holding the elements of curiosity, wonder and sharing personal narratives in mind. Baby’s First Yarn works on the attachment between baby, mother and father and carries on the Yarning from Wondering from the Womb. For Baby’s First Yarn a graphic representation of baby’s communication is developed in conjunction with a local artist to be presented to the parents on the day of the yarn.

NBOs gradually made their way into common practice during the year. There has been a slow but meaningful change in staff awareness, understanding and practice which will become a gold standard in early intervention as we develop the supporting processes and resources around this exciting progression. Such is the beauty of this work that leading international expert on implementing Newborn Observation, Prof Kevin Nugent, has personally taken an interest in what MDAS is doing in this area and seeks out updates and reflections from our team.

The HIPPY team for the first time has four tutors and a current four-year-old cohort of 26 children - a 60 percent increase. All four tutors are now studying Certificate 4 Community Services at TAFE. The team employed three



Aboriginal trainees Shayne Carter, Toni McCormack and Elvie Britten who are contributing, learning and teaching and are a huge asset to Early Years.

Playgroups at both sites are thriving, with big numbers and happy families. For NAIDOC, the Elders and playgroup families from Mildura combined to make and decorate outfits for the NAIDOC March. A NAIDOC Disco at the Swan Hill resort was organised at the request of Early Years families and had 30 families participate. Families enjoyed the opportunity to dress their children up and have fun together. The children danced, laughed and loved the 'light up' dance floor.

The Family Support staff have again been working hard with over 100 families receiving support throughout the year, an increase of around 40%. This wrap around support often includes assistance with the internal and external service systems parenting support with a strengths-based focus.

We have again committed to Circle of Security with the intention to have all Early Years staff trained in this program.

Our clinical team of Koori Maternity Services and Maternal and Child Health have continued to provide high quality evidence-based ante and postnatal care and education.

Our immunisation rates in the 0-5 years age are close to 100%. More than one hundred and twenty women have been provided with antenatal care during the year which is a twenty percent increase on 17/18. Aboriginal Health checks have also been a focus for the team.

Our Koori Pre-School Assistant continues to educate and support Early Years services by delivering culturally appropriate education programs across the region. Our KPSA is engaged at kindergartens in the Mildura Local Government Area, attending services in an area bordered by Werrimull, Merbein, Nangiloc and Murrayville.

It has been a big year in logistical terms, with a massive move by the Mildura Early Years team into the new Early Years Hub – the former CFA building. Playgroups, HIPPY, family support and capacity building groups are now all housed under one roof, which is great for team support and cohesiveness. The availability of reflective space is also effective in keeping Early Years working as a holistic service.

Thanks to the entire Early Years team for another year of hard work and innovative thinking, flexibility and mutual support as we have rolled out some exciting new projects and have navigated some significant milestones as a service.

SWAN HILL FAMILY SERVICES REPORT

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Michelle Gadsby

Manager – Family Services Swan Hill



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THERE HAVE BEEN SOME EXCITING CHANGES AND SOME MAJOR MEASURES OF PROGRESS FOR THE SWAN HILL FAMILY SERVICES TEAM IN 2018-19.

Perhaps most notably, with headspace moving away of the MDAS site to its own premises, MDAS Family Services was able to move into the wing formerly occupied by headspace. It was a major relief to have extra room for new staff and so we could take the opportunity we have been waiting for, to implement some exciting new programs – and which we have progressed this year!

This year our team worked with 37 families with a priority on a holistic approach. We provide advocacy and referral support, help with budgeting, practical assistance with transport to and from appointments, support in engaging with schools or other appointments. We deal with the complexity of family issues such as a history of family violence or alcohol and drug use, custody issues, parenting skills support.

We have also supported 76 housing clients in Swan Hill with emergency and long-term housing assistance, advocacy and referral, through public, private, emergency and Aboriginal housing. We work with clients who are at risk of eviction or homeless, as well as clients in housing which is not secure or appropriate. Emergency accommodation may include measures such as a caravan park or motel, while we work out longer-term arrangements. Assistance provided this year has included support and advocacy in housing applications and rental arrears issues.



As a result of increased funding and program delivery, it's been a busy year for recruitment. Recruiting is always a challenge and while we have had successes this year, we also continue to invest in the skills and knowledge of our team.

We have six Family Services staff currently engaged in formal study through SuniTAFE. This is a great investment in the future but we are already seeing the benefits flow through in the increased capacity of our team.

Effort has also been underway this year to have more regular contact between all MDAS sites with increased attention and commitment to peer support meetings. This is a big plus for our Swan Hill team through the development of better synergies and skills. The team building and peer support not only strengthens relationships between staff who work long distances from each other, but it also facilitates seamless program delivery for clients who move across the Mallee.

REPORTS



A major initiative this year has been in the expansion of our Youth Hub. This is an important focus for the future and we are proud to now have 67 youth registered with our programs. Youth activity involves not only weekly Youth Hub after school programs, but also the opportunity to be involved in our boys' and girls' camps and Menera Station. The Youth Camps are held over school holidays with a focus on connecting youth to Culture. The "vibe" around these camps, and the leadership they are developing is exciting and encouraging. There were eight (four boys' and four girls') camps with a total of 112 youth attending.

The feedback on our efforts in this space is our greatest reward. Not only from youth but from their parents and carers, who are telling us that without the Youth Hub and the Camps the young ones would be "mucking up, sitting at home on the PlayStation or doing nothing".

Thank you to all of our team for work this year – we can look forward to the year ahead with excitement and positivity.

SWAN HILL HEALTH AND CLINICAL SERVICES REPORT

Zah Thebe

Manager – Health Services and Clinical Services Swan Hill



I AM FORTUNATE TO HAVE BEEN APPOINTED TO LEAD THE MDAS SWAN HILL AND KERANG HEALTH TEAM THIS YEAR – AND I INHERIT A TEAM OF PRODUCTIVITY AND ENERGY.

And when I speak of productivity, it is in both the quantitative and qualitative sense. Our team is working hard to reach more community members, and to ensure their engagement with our Swan Hill and Kerang clients is ongoing and meaningful...to improve health outcomes.

The launch of Deadly Choices in Kerang and Swan Hill has had a marked and positive effect on the community's willingness to consider their own health in a proactive way, which can only bring long-term benefits to the individual, their family and community.

Our team completed 437 Health Checks this financial year – an increase of nearly 70 percent. Despite having some difficulties with GP recruitment this year, our figures have more than doubled, to 2206 GP appointments. I can only expect and hope this will continue to grow with ongoing, secure GP and registrar services now in place and soon to be available to our communities.

In an effort to improve care for our clients with Chronic Diseases, we have introduced an Integrated Team Care model, with the support of a coordinator and outreach worker.

Pharmacy services and advice to community members has also been strengthened, with the appointment of a visiting pharmacist on a regular basis.





A new Fluoride Varnish program was introduced into local schools for the first time through a LMARG (Loddon Mallee Aboriginal Reference Group) project. It target young people under 18. Good dental health contributes to reduced risk of a range of serious health problems such as heart attack, stroke or poorly controlled diabetes.

This year we have also been part of collaborative meetings with Swan Hill District Health, in a joint effort to improve the health of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. This is an ongoing initiative which can only improve the quality of care, interactions and engagement of our community members with appropriate health services when required.

We continue to work closely with partners and other community agencies to ensure the community has access to the services and supports required.

We were proud during the year to receive the tick of approval for our assessment under the Department of Health and Human Services and independent review body QIP endorsing our standard of service to our communities.

Our community events were highly successful. These included major Community Days, attended by around 150 people. Other events included NAIDOC celebrations, the Fluoride Varnish project in schools, an RU OK Day community event, Overdose Day event, Heart Week promotions, a Hepatitis Talk and Elders' lunches.

We welcomed the Royal Commission for Mental Health Victoria visit, during which we held a welcome to country and meeting at MDAS.

KERANG REPORT

Melanie Lane
Aboriginal Health Practitioner Kerang



EXTREMELY BUSY – BUT EXTREMELY REWARDING IS THE BEST ASSESSMENT OF THE 2018-19 YEAR AT THE KERANG MDAS SITE.

This year has been notable for the long list of community events we have coordinated and participated in, with the goal of reaching more of our community, and improving the understanding of community members about how they can benefit from MDAS services.

Major events this year included the Kerang Deadly Choices Roadshow event, the Community Days (two of these) and our two combined Kerang Swan Hill community days at Menera Station. In addition, we held our annual NAIDOC celebrations, our HIV Awareness event, the Fluoride Varnish program for school students (for the first time), a Christmas community event, a Women’s Health day, Heart Health, Biggest Morning Tea, Reconciliation and Easter community celebration.

During the year, we formalised two important new partnerships in our community. For the first time we established Memorandum of Understandings with Northern District Community Health and Kerang and District Health. Although we have worked closely for many years, this is the formalisation of our partnership in ensuring cooperative efforts and getting the best health outcomes for our Aboriginal community.

Outreach this year also included a major undertaking at Kerang Technical High School, with the eight-week Deadly Choices Education Program, which has had some great spinoffs.

Thank you to our Kerang team for the hard work involved in organising, coordinating and ensuring these events are a success. The reward for us has been that we are not only seeing more community members engage with our services – but they are engaging more often and in a more meaningful way. We are certainly seeing increasing numbers of Indigenous and non-Indigenous clients through our doors.

This big program of events and community activity is also bringing about some unexpected but positive outcomes.

Fun and social community events are an opportunity to open people’s eyes about the breadth of services available through MDAS – and increase the understanding of just how many health and family programs are available that can potentially assist them.

Deadly Choices has been a huge success in this regard. There has been a big increase in the number of health checks this year, and that’s now being followed through by people coming in for their follow up health check nine months later.

As well, people are initially interested in getting the fabulous free T Shirt for doing a health check – but then find out there are so many other services they can use, such as the GP and visiting specialist health services, as well as social and family supports, such as Elders’ groups or youth programs. They are often surprised about how many of their needs can be met locally once they get to know MDAS.



Programs such as the Fluoride Varnish project, which treated dozens of school students, also reach the families as well as the kids. So we are finding that increasingly these programs lead to engagement beyond the child – that their families start to engage as well.

As well as finally completing my Aboriginal Health Practitioner qualifications this year, other highlights for the year have been Close the Gap conference in Cairns, as well as ongoing input to national policy through the Lung Cancer Advisory structures of Cancer Australia.

As always, our great outcomes are only possible because of the terrific team we have at the Kerang site, as well as the support of the Swan Hill team. Thank you to everyone for a great year, and I look forward to an even more successful 2019-20.

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THE REWARD FOR US HAS BEEN THAT WE ARE NOT ONLY SEEING MORE COMMUNITY MEMBERS ENGAGE WITH OUR SERVICES – BUT THEY ARE ENGAGING MORE OFTEN AND IN A MORE MEANINGFUL WAY.

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ROBINVALE REPORT

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Angelika Fevaleaki
Services Coordinator Robinvale



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THE HIGHLIGHT OF 2018-19 WAS THE ROBINVALE FAMILY SERVICES TEAM MOVING INTO NEW PREMISES AT 77 PERRIN STREET.

A community celebration in May marked the opening of the new building, which was transformed to include meeting areas and separate offices for client confidentiality.

The new premises has a fantastic location, right in the middle of town and readily accessible and central for community members to get to on foot, rather than some clients having to get taxis or a lift to come and see our staff.

FAMILY SERVICES

Client numbers fluctuate from 15 to 20 clients and our three workers provide different service delivery for each family facing life issues as well as past traumas. Our services focus on the family as whole – both advocacy and referral support as well as making sure family is being supported appropriately through the right avenues. Some families may need assistance with helping to budget finances, transport to and from appointments, advocacy with the school or other appointments regarding health or housing. Others may have more complex issues that are traumatic - exposure to family violence, history of family violence or AOD use. Work includes issues surrounding custody of children as well as helping to upskill parenting and accessing external funding to help families with paying utilities bills, buying furniture, school camps, school uniform, sporting and recreation pursuits.



HOUSING

Client numbers fluctuate throughout the year between 10 and 15 housing applicants being supported with advocacy and referral, through public, private,

emergency and Aboriginal housing. We assist clients to access short term emergency living, e.g. caravan park or motel for a few nights, until longer term options can be worked out. We help those at risk of eviction or homeless – supporting with swag to take if needed. We assist with housing applications, advocate and refer for rental arrears issues and we're proud to have been able to support five families through the year for successful housing applications.

YOUTH

Our MDAS team has both a female and male support worker and our diversion clients fluctuate between five and ten clients – assisting young people at risk of entering the justice system. We have had a maximum of two young people at any one time on Youth Justice Community Based Orders this year. Our work in this space supports youth on justice orders to help prevent ongoing criminal activity and to provide advocacy between police, justice, parents and the young person. Our indicative number is five YJ clients for the Robinvale area and we assist with coverage of Swan Hill area also. A significant portion of our work is in supporting young people through the school, assisting with tutoring, advocacy between school, parents and young person.







CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT

Karen Hensgen Chief Financial Officer



2018-19 MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

- \$6.9 million Net Profit. Change in Accounting policy resulting in recognition of \$5.7 million of grant funding income which is restricted for FY 2020 program delivery. Adjusted Net Profit (excluding FY 2020 grant funding) is \$1.2 million compared to \$1.9 million FY 2018.
- Investment of \$1.8 million in land and buildings to deliver and manage growth and new services delivery for both family services and social and emotional wellbeing programs.
- Repayment of \$2.4 million of bank debt and improvement debtor management practices.
- Improvements in financial performance monitoring through development of new budget reporting framework and tools.
- Organisational feasibility study completed June 2019 illustrating an evaluation of strategic opportunities in organisational self-sustainability through its ability to leverage off properties.
- Research and evaluation of sustainable commercial social enterprises opportunities for Board strategic planning.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

Commercial Properties

MDAS completed a situation analysis of the organisation as part of a Feasibility Study including a property profile and a profile of program delivery. The study highlighted Infrastructure used for service delivery is supported through ownership of 15 commercial properties in Mildura, Swan Hill, Kerang and rural New South Wales.

This Feasibility Study was part of the First Mortgage and Community Infrastructure Program (FMCIP) and developed as an evaluation of strategic opportunities in organisational self sustainability arising from removal of first mortgages on three properties owned by MDAS.

The Feasibility Study demonstrated self-sustainability and strong governance for MDAS through the profiles of organisational structure, program delivery, infrastructure assets, and most especially through the detailed financial model which provided a 10-year projections based on achievement of sustainability and financial stability

MDAS Housing

Identified as a key priority in the 2018-2021 strategic plan MDAS continues to improve the standard and access of the MDAS housing portfolio through the following initiatives:

- Regular housing inspections by property agents improving rental management, collection and tenant response.
- Investment in a four-unit residential complex to provide transition housing options for Aboriginals at risk.
- Major improvements and renovations to existing housing stock to improve energy efficiencies and reduce Occupational Health and Safety risks.
- Building a new two-bedroom unit to complement existing purpose-built dwellings.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Our financial position and stability continue to improve through increased budget monitoring and delegation of budget management within departments. Investing time into training and supporting Managers to understand and monitor budgets has improved awareness and confidence to make timely decisions on resource allocations. A new Executive budget reporting framework provides additional control and budget oversight to improve performance management.

Table 1 - Five Year Financials Summary

	FY 2019 (\$'000'S)	FY 2018 (\$'000'S)	FY 2017 (\$'000'S)	FY 2016 (\$'000'S)	FY 2015 (\$'000'S)
Government Grant Revenue	31,364	23,780	20,347	18,980	17,560
Rebates and refunds	1,622	2,033	1,588	1,107	819
Other revenue	1,658	1,725	1,297	1,210	1,182
Total revenue	34,645	27,539	23,231	21,297	19,561
Expenses	(27,774)	(25,591)	(23,424)	(22,560)	(20,698)
NET OPERATING RESULT	6,871	1,948	(193)	(1,264)	(1,137)
Current Assets	10,982	10,709	5,935	2,401	2,822
Non-Current Assets	26,061	24,680	21,958	22,216	22,275
Current Liabilities	3,236	6,319	4,226	1,964	2,130
Non-Current Liabilities	415	2,659	2,636	1,954	700
NET EQUITY	33,392	26,412	21,031	20,699	22,267

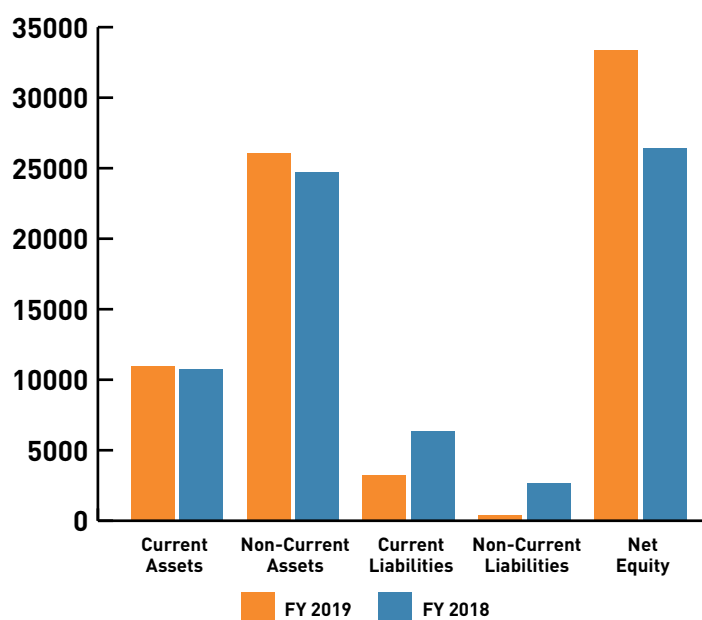
Operating Position

We returned a net profit of \$6.9 million in FY 2019 compared to \$1.9 million in FY 2018. The introduction of a new accounting policy this year has moved grants restricted for FY 2020 program delivery from a current liability to income. When net profit is adjusted for this carry over grants (\$5.7 million) profit is reduced to \$1.2 million, a reduction of \$750,000 profit compared to FY 2018 net profit.

Our total revenue adjusted for FY 2020 income in advance (\$5.7 million) has increased 5% compared from FY 2018. The adjusted income increase is consistent with the moderate increase in the growth in program activities compare FY 2018. Total expenditure has increased 9% compared to FY 2018 and is supported by an increase in positions filled and new positions.

MDAS will continue to monitor all income received in advance and carry forward grants to future reporting periods for management reporting purposes to ensure timing differences are not influencing the financial performance and cash flow management.

Balance Sheet Overview



Liquidity

The only significant change to the balance sheet is the increase in current liabilities due to the change in accounting policy resulting in restricted future year grant funding being recognised as income. This change has directly impacted the current ratio result of 3.4 improving significantly over the 2018 ratio of 1.7. This illustrates the company's ability to meet current commitments is very good.

Assets and Equity

Strong management of cash flows has enabled repayment of all bank debt \$2.4 million and investment into a commercial buildings, vacant land and residential housing. The objective of the commercial project was to allow for the expansion of Mildura family services and social and emotional wellbeing programs to improve awareness and accessibility of services to the community.

FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS

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Mallee District Aboriginal Services Limited
 ABN 54 334 685 198
 Consolidated Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income
 for the year ended 30 June 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
Revenue			
Government funding	4	31,364,403	23,780,373
Other revenue	4	<u>3,280,499</u>	<u>3,758,175</u>
Total Revenue		<u>34,644,902</u>	<u>27,538,548</u>
Expenses			
Employee benefits expense	5	16,463,574	15,915,879
Client costs and program development / delivery		4,868,908	4,045,169
Depreciation expense	10	682,706	1,005,961
Interest expense		63,201	93,969
Occupancy costs and utilities		1,561,872	1,396,600
Motor vehicle expenses		947,042	625,390
IT costs		541,959	451,963
Travel expenses		624,563	547,252
Grants returns		139,993	2,969
Repairs and equipment replacement		660,570	515,005
Other expenses		<u>1,219,771</u>	<u>990,564</u>
Total expenses		<u>27,774,159</u>	<u>25,590,721</u>
Net current year profit		<u>6,870,743</u>	<u>1,947,827</u>
Other comprehensive income			
<i>Items that will not be subsequently reclassified to profit and loss</i>			
Revaluation of property		-	3,305,424
Revaluation of intangible assets		<u>110,110</u>	<u>126,994</u>
Total other comprehensive income for the year		<u>110,110</u>	<u>3,432,418</u>
Total comprehensive income for the year		<u>6,980,853</u>	<u>5,380,245</u>

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Mallee District Aboriginal Services Limited
 ABN 54 334 685 198
 Consolidated Statement of Financial Position
 as at 30 June 2019

	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
Assets			
Current assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	6	9,520,692	8,828,143
Trade and other receivables	7	626,506	1,090,317
Other financial assets	8	835,214	753,296
Other assets	9	-	37,400
Total current assets		<u>10,982,412</u>	<u>10,709,156</u>
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	10	25,041,713	23,771,132
Intangible assets	11	1,019,410	909,300
Total non-current assets		<u>26,061,123</u>	<u>24,680,432</u>
Total assets		<u>37,043,535</u>	<u>35,389,588</u>
Liabilities			
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	12	1,870,650	5,258,333
Borrowings	13	-	100,000
Provisions	14	1,365,284	960,484
Total current liabilities		<u>3,235,934</u>	<u>6,318,817</u>
Non-current liabilities			
Borrowings	13	-	2,302,500
Provisions	14	415,209	356,732
Total non-current liabilities		<u>415,209</u>	<u>2,659,232</u>
Total liabilities		<u>3,651,143</u>	<u>8,978,049</u>
Net assets		<u>33,392,392</u>	<u>26,411,539</u>
Equity			
Retained earnings		29,324,864	22,454,121
Reserves		4,067,528	3,957,418
Total equity		<u>33,392,392</u>	<u>26,411,539</u>

These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

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Mallee District Aboriginal Services Limited ABN 54 334 685 198 Consolidated Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2019			
	Note	2019 \$	2018 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Grants receipts		26,972,461	26,112,882
Other receipts		4,525,860	3,562,877
Payments to suppliers and employees		(26,537,835)	(24,584,045)
Interest received		96,688	41,332
Interest paid		(63,201)	(93,969)
Net cash flows provided by operating activities	17b	<u>4,993,973</u>	<u>5,039,077</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		148,734	478,970
Proceeds from sale of investments		58,983	153,117
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		(2,106,641)	(725,315)
Purchase of investments		-	(193,259)
Purchase of intangible assets		-	-
Net cash flows used in investing activities		<u>(1,898,924)</u>	<u>(286,487)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities			
Repayment of borrowings		(2,402,500)	(100,000)
Net cash flows used in financing activities		<u>(2,402,500)</u>	<u>(100,000)</u>
Net increase in cash held		692,549	4,652,590
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of financial year		8,828,143	4,175,553
Cash and cash equivalents at end of financial year	17a	<u>9,520,692</u>	<u>8,828,143</u>

STATEMENT OF CERTIFICATION

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Mallee District Aboriginal Services Limited
ABN 54 334 685 198
Directors' Declaration

In the opinion of the Directors of Mallee District Aboriginal Services Limited, the Directors of the group declare that:

1. The consolidated financial statements and notes, as set out on pages 6 to 30, satisfy the requirements of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and:
 - (i) Complying with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the *Australian Charities and Non-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013* ; and
 - (ii) give a true and fair view of the Group's financial position as at 30 June 2019 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
2. There are reasonable grounds to believe that the Group will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the directors.



Keith Hampton
Director

Dated: 12 November 2019

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT



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www.rsdaudit.com.au

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF MALLEE DISTRICT ABORIGINAL SERVICES LIMITED

Opinion

We have audited the consolidated financial report of Mallee District Aboriginal Services Limited, which comprises the consolidated statement of financial position as at 30 June 2019, the consolidated statement of profit or loss, consolidated statement of comprehensive income, consolidated statement of changes in equity and consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the directors declaration.

In our opinion, except for the possible effects of the matter described in the Basis for Qualified Opinion section of our report, the accompanying consolidated financial report of Mallee District Aboriginal Services Limited, is in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Non-for-profits Commission Act 2012*, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 June 2019 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (ii) Complying with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements (including the Australian Accounting Interpretations) and the *Australian Charities and Non-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

We were not appointed as auditors of the company until 10 December 2018. Accordingly, we have not been able to obtain sufficient and appropriate audit evidence in relation to the opening balances as at 1 July 2018 (comparative information presented for the year ended 30 June 2018). Since opening balances enter into the determination of the financial performance and cash flows for the current year, we were unable to determine whether adjustments might have been necessary in respect of the income for the year reported in the statement of comprehensive income and the net cash flows from operating activities reported in the statement of cash flows.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Company in accordance with the auditor independence and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code)* that are relevant to our audit of the financial report. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

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

Richmond Sinnott & Delahunty, trading as RSD Audit
ABN 60 616 244 309
Liability limited by a scheme approved under Professional Standards Legislation



Responsibilities of the Directors 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 and the *Australian Charities and Non-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 gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the committee.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the board director's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the board of directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION

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Information Other than the Financial Report and Auditor's Report Thereon

The Directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the association's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2019, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

RSD Audit

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Katie'.

Kathie Teasdale
Partner
Dated: 12 November 2019

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 Health and Human Services
Victorian Department of Justice and Regulation
Federal Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet
Federal Department of Health
Victorian Responsible Gambling Foundation

OUR PARTNERS ARE

Australian Community Support Organisation Ltd
Bendigo District Aboriginal Co-operative
Bendigo Health Care Group
Mallee Family Care
Mildura Rural City Council
Njernda Aboriginal Corporation
Pharmacy Guild of Australia
QAAMS Program
Rural Workforce Agency Victoria
Swan Hill District Health
Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service
Vic. Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Org. (VACCHO)
Brotherhood of St. Lawrence
Department of Premier & Cabinet
Centre of Excellence in Child and Family Welfare Inc.
Healing Foundation
Indigenous Land Council
Mallee Family Violence Executive
Mallee Child and Family Services Alliance Executive
Sunraysia Community Health Services
Mildura Courts
Department of Education
Sunraysia Institute of Tafe

VICPOL
Chaffey Secondary School
Mallee Sports Assembly
Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency
Haven Home Safety
Mallee Accommodation and Support Program
Centacare
Mallee Domestic Violence Services
Family Safety Victoria
Mallee Sexual Assault Unit

OUR PARTNERS

MDAS has formal memorandum of agreements with:

Swan Hill District Health Services
Mildura Base Hospital
Mildura Base Hospital, Mental Health Services
headspace Swan Hill
headspace Mildura
Monash University
Loddon Mallee Aboriginal Reference Group
Rural Workforce Agency Victoria
Maari Ma Health Aboriginal Corporation
FLO Connect
Red Cliffs Secondary College
Southern Mallee PCP Swan Hill Aboriginal
Mental Health Partnership
TRIO Support Services/ Leaps and Bounds

MDAS is a member of:

Victorian Aboriginal Community
Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO)
National Aboriginal Community
Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO)

THANK YOU TEAM!

**AND WELL DONE TO
OUR ENTIRE TEAM
(AS AT 30/07/19) FOR
ANOTHER YEAR OF
HARD WORK AND
PROGRESS...**

Suzanna Aertssen
Chantelle Appoo
Fredrick Apthorpe
Naomi Archer
Joseph Asirifi
Joseph Azzarelli
Kimberley Bacon
Ryan Bailey
Shannon Baker
Brian Ballard
Yvonne Barnes
Laurel Baxter
Marissa Bennett
Deb Berg
Jennifer Berry
Bert Bertalli
Winona Bhatia
Hine Billing
Jenny Blake
Tashon Blore
Keith Blore
Carol Bonnett
Mou Rashid Bose
Rianne Bowden
Steven Bowden
Justine Bowden
Samantha Brennan
Terrance Brennan
Elvie-Marie Britten
Bradley Britten
Sam Brown
Billie Bryce
Allison Buchanan
Kerrie Burton
Eswari Byka
Jennifer Byrnes
Jane Capogreco
Shayne Carter
Kelvin Cattlin
Kylie Cawley
Michelle Chapman
Andrew Charles
Damien Charles
Alisha Charles
Madina Charles
Ethan Chilly
Matthew Chilly

Kailey Clark
Tessa Clark
Bayden Clayton
Wayne Coe
Karley Connelly
Becky Cooper
Kim Corowa
Di Crawford
Katherine Crouch
Lorraine Cruse
Bec Curphey
Michelle Dahlitz
Suhani Dass
Leanne Davey
Nicole Davis
Sam Deluca
Rob Dini
Alana Doe
Monica Doherty
Danielle Dougherty
Cass Duck
Pearl Dunn
Kehan Dyce
Vanessa Dyke
Leilani Eggmoesse
Dominic Eggmoesse-Smith
Roslyn Evans
Stewart Falconer
Samantha Falconer
Belinda Fanshaw
Rachael Farr
Kim Faulkner
Angelika Fevaleaki
Belinda Fidura
Kiah Fisher
Celia Fox
Matt Fulton
Michelle Gadsby
Krystal Gadsby
Jenny Gaulke
Emma Geyer
Norma Gowers
Tiffany Griffin
Breanna Grinham
Blake Hall
Brady Hall
Margrete Hamence
Tamara Hamence
Keith Hampton
Maresha Handy
Stephanie Harradine
Nikita Hart
Jacinta Haseldine
Mata Havea
Briana Hayden
Skye Hayden
Kylie Henderson

Calvin Henry
Karen Hensgen
Paul Hogarth
Dana Hollis
Lee Hynes
Chantenee Islam
Jerome Makalio Jackson
Tamika Jenkins
Brendan Johnson
Nakkara Johnson
Georgina Johnson
Yasmin Johnson-McDermott
Ami Johnston
Diane Jones
Carolyn de Jong
Jacquelyn Josephs
Sharni Karpany
Pettina Kelly
Ted Kelly
Nathan Kelly
Karen Kelly
Belinda King
Rudolph Kirby
Angelica Kirby
Delureen Kirby
Isaiah Kirby
Crystal Kirby
Ian Kirby
Ricky Kirby
Jade Kirby
Terrence Kuchel
Melanie Lane
Jennifer Laurie
Sonia Lawson
Amy Lehmann
Connie Liakopoulos
Jody Little
Malinda Loats
Carol Logan
Marie Mah
Wanita Martin
Jayde Masasso
Lola Masasso
Kelly Masters
Peter Matsumoto
Carol Mayersbach
Terri McArdle
Rosemarie McBride
Amanda McCole
Pamela McCormack
Toni McCormack
Tanesha McDermott
Leanne McDermott
Rhiannon McInnes
Rhonda McInnes
Jodie McMutrie
Alex McWilliam

Kara Merritt
Elissa Mewburn
Lueni Minoneti
Joanne Mitchell
Jacinta Molloy
Nate Morgan
Nikita Morganson
Travis Morvell
Nakita Muggeridge
Teonie Muggeridge
Sarah Nalder
Maralea Nau
Leslie Ncube
Gugulethu Ncube
Tahlia Newman
Arron Nicholls
Glenda Nicholls
Kristie Nixon
Karina Nolan
Carly Noll
Claire O'Connor-Johnson
Tariq Odegaard
Jayden Ouchirenko
Rachel Pask
Lynnette Pate
Anand Patel
Manu Paul
Shiloh Peila
James Peterson
Ada Peterson
James Pharmacia
Tina Philp
Caterina Pickup
Melissa Pippin
Kathy Potter
Sioned Price
Angela Pryor
Shaun Reddick
Amy Rickhuss
Paul Roberts
Isabella Robertson
Letitia Robinson
Kerry Russell
Darlene Sanders
Kosha Shanahan
Margaret Sharman
Dharminderjit Singh
Kylia Sloan
Rocky Sloan
Derek Smith
Desmond Smith
Tamika Smith
Kane Smith
Robyn Smythe
Teesh Soanes
Gloria Spencer

Donna Stacey
Raelene Stephens
Andrea Stewart
Simon Stockman
Ari Sykes
Kelly Taliloa
Leanne Taylor
Anthony Taylor
Lois Taylor
Russell Taylor
Katina Taylor
Zah Thebe
Terry Thomas
Darlene Thomas
Isaiah-Levi Togo
Crystal Toogood
Melissa Towle
Sharlee-Anne Towle
Laura Traeger
Aj Trindorfer
Vas Tuifao
Fiona Turner
Benjamin Tu'Uta
Jacinta Tyers
Elisha Vea
Leah Venville
Jess Versteeg
Sharon Wallace
Kokwam Wapau
Les Warburton
Patricia Watson
Harold Webster
Toni Webster
Ian Wescombe
Cody Whelan
Elisha Whitford
Amanda Whitton
Sarah-Lee Whyman
Zachary Wilksch
Justine Williams
Michelle Williams
Kelly Williams
Joy Williams
Martin Williams
Ashton Williams
Rebecca Wilson
Kara Winters
Sue Wirth
Joanne Wright
Nathan Yates
Angela Yates
Mahalia Zeilke-Soden

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

Nephrologist
Drug And Alcohol Worker
Psychologist
Maternal And Child Health Nurse
Dietician
Podiatrist
Cardiologist
Urologist
Paediatrician
Optometrist
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

Local Justice Worker Program
Bringing Them Home Program
Drug & Alcohol Counselling
Gamblers Help

Koori Women's Diversion
Wiimpatja Healing Centre
Mental Health-AOD (Youth Specific)
Adult Mental Health
Gambling
Community Prevention Project
Psychiatrist

AGED AND DISABILITY

Commonwealth Home Support Programme (CHSP)
Home and Community Care Program for Younger People (HACC-PYP)

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

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 refuge)
Men's Case Management
Time out Services
Men's Behaviour Change Group
Koori Youth Connect

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 - Cradle to Kinder
Early Intervention and Early Learning Services
Supported Playgroups
Circle of Security
Collaborative Therapy
HIPYPY (Home Interaction Program for Parents and Youngsters)
Koori Preschool Assistant Program



*Generations of vibrant,
healthy and strong
Aboriginal communities*

Mallee District Aboriginal Services Ltd
120 Madden Avenue PO Box 5134 Mildura 3502

www.mdas.org.au